



ESCWA

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

REVIEW OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES SINCE THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AT ITS NINTH SESSION

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Recommendation (a)

التوصية (أ)



Continue to support the work of the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of the AMWC in implementing its programmes, especially in the follow-up of the recommendations and decisions concerning ESCWA activities in the field of climate change, MDGs and shared water resources in the Arab region.

الاستمرار في تقديم الدعم للجنة الفنية العلمية الاستشارية للمجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه لتنفيذ برامجها، ولا سيما تلك المتصلة بمتابعة التوصيات والقرارات التي تُذكر فيها الإسكوا. وتُعنى هذه البرامج بجملة من القضايا، أهمها تغيير المناخ، والأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، والموارد المائية المشتركة في المنطقة العربية، حسب الإمكانيات المتاحة

- AMWC Technical Scientific and Advisory Committee Sessions (Cairo, April 2011, January 2012, January 2013); Executive Bureau Session (Cairo, January 2012)
- **Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region** to Meet the Challenges and Future Needs for Sustainable Development 2010-2030 – Action Plan Working Group (First Meeting in Beirut, 22 March 2011) & drafting of action plan
- **RICCAR** reporting on AMWC IWRM project on “Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources in Arab Region”
- **MDG+ Initiative**
- **Legal Framework for Shared Water Resources in the Arab Region**
- Arabic-English “**Glossary of Shared Water Resources**: Technical, Socio-Economic and Legal Terminology” (ESCWA-BGR Cooperation)

Recommendation (b)

التوصية (ب)



Provide the members of the Committee on Water Resources with copies of the different AMWC decisions concerning ESCWA; and provide member countries with soft copies of the reports prepared by ESCWA on the follow-up to the Council decisions within an appropriate time frame.

تزويد أعضاء لجنة الموارد المائية بنسخ عن جميع قرارات المجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه التي تشير إلى الإسكوا؛ وتزويد البلدان الأعضاء بنسخ إلكترونية عن التقارير التي تعدّها الإسكوا حول متابعة قرارات المجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه التي توزّعها السكرتاريا الفنية للمجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه، وذلك ضمن إطار زمني مناسب؛

- **Arab Ministerial Water Council Third Ministerial Session (Cairo, June 2011)** resolutions sent with Interim progress report (covering period from April 2011 to September 2011) – sent November 2011
- **Arab Ministerial Water Council Fourth Ministerial Session (Baghdad, May 2012)** resolutions discussed during mid-Committee Session inter-governmental consultation with delegated representatives on the sidelines of the water-energy nexus consultation (Beirut, June 2012)

Recommendation (c)

التوصية (ج)



Continue to participate in regional and international coordination mechanisms such as UN-Water and make the necessary preparations for the regional coordination mechanism and its related working groups in order to enhance the coordination of the programmes and activities of the water resources sector in the region.

استمرار المشاركة في آليات التنسيق العاملة على الصعيد الإقليمي والدولي، ولا سيما لجنة الأمم المتحدة المعنية بالموارد المائية، والتحضير لآلية التنسيق الإقليمي وما يتصل بها من مجموعات عمل، وذلك بغرض تحسين تنسيق البرامج والأنشطة المتصلة بقطاع الموارد المائية في المنطقة

- UN-Water **Senior Programme Managers Meeting** (on the sidelines of Stockholm World Water Week in August 2011 and August 2012)
- **UN-Water Task Force to Improve Regional-level Coordination**: ESCWA & ESCAP Co-Chairs
- UN-Water/World Water Assessment Programme: **World Water Development Report 4** (released at World Water Forum; Marseille, March 2012)
- **UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) – Thematic Working Group on Climate Change**: RICCAR; UNFCCC/COP-18 Joint UN-LAS Hikma Hours Event
- **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**
 - Moving towards a green economy
 - Institutional framework for sustainable development
 - Integrating sustainable development into policy making;

Recommendation (d)

التوصية (د)



Enhance the work of ESCWA and respond to the needs of the member countries in the field of water resources through participating in the international and regional forums such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; the Sixth World Water Forum (Marseille, 2012); Stockholm World Water Week; Arab Water Forum; and the meetings of the AMWC to raise awareness on water issues in the region.

المساهمة في المنتديات الدولية والإقليمية بهدف تطوير عمل الإسكوا وتلبية اهتمامات البلدان الأعضاء في مجال الموارد المائية، وأهمها مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة للتنمية المستدامة؛ والمنتدى العالمي السادس للمياه (مرسيليا، 2012)؛ وأسبوع ستوكهولم العالمي للمياه؛ والمنتدى العربي للمياه؛ والأسبوع العربي للمياه؛ واجتماعات المجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه، وذلك بهدف رفع مستوى الوعي بقضايا المياه في المنطقة ومساندة البلدان الأعضاء لتحقيق تطلعاتها في هذا الشأن

- National Water Conference (Sana'a, January 2011)
- German-Jordanian Master of Science in the field of IWRM – Advisory Board Member (January 2011; January 2012)
- Second Arab Water Forum (Cairo, November 2011);
- World Water Forum (Marseille, March 2012);
- Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (Cairo, October 2011);
- Third Preparatory Committee Meeting & Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, June 2012);
- Stockholm World Water Week (Stockholm, August 2011; August 2012);
- Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action/Arab Regional Consultation (Amman, October 2012)

Recommendation (e)

التوصية (هـ)



Continue to support the technical cooperation programmes and provide advisory services to member countries upon their request, after they have clearly articulated their needs and prepared the terms of reference in coordination with ESCWA. The need to respond and handle requests in a timely manner was stressed.

الاستمرار في دعم برامج التعاون الفني وتقديم الخدمات الاستشارية للبلدان الأعضاء، على أن تتولى البلدان الطالبة لهذه الخدمات توضيح المهام المطلوبة وإعداد الشروط المرجعية بالتنسيق مع الإسكوا. وتجدر الإشارة إلى ضرورة الإسراع في إرسال الردود والتعامل مع الطلبات، وأيضاً إلى أهمية تجاوب أعضاء اللجنة لتنفيذ هذه التوصية

- To be presented by ESCWA Regional Advisor for Environment and Water in the subsequent presentation.

Recommendation (f)

التوصية (و)



Send a request to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to extend the joint regional cooperation project between ESCWA and the BGR in order to support the work programme of ESCWA for the next biennium.

تقديم طلب إلى الوزارة الاتحادية الألمانية للتعاون الاقتصادي والتنمية لتمديد مشروع التعاون الإقليمي المشترك بين الإسكوا والمعهد الفدرالي لعلوم الأرض والموارد الطبيعية في ألمانيا، وذلك بهدف دعم برنامج عمل الإسكوا المقترح لفترة العامين المقبلين

- The ESCWA-BGR cooperation project was expected to end on 31 March 2012.
- The project phase was subsequently extended twice by BMZ upon request:
 - First extension provided until 30 September 2012
 - Second extension provided until 30 June 2013
- ESCWA-BGR Cooperation currently set to end on 30 June 2013.

➤ *The Committee is kindly invited to express its views on the ESCWA-BGR Cooperation in view of the closing of its current phase, and to suggest potential areas of future cooperation that could assist ESCWA member States.*

Recommendation (g)

التوصية (ز)



Follow up the proposal of the Committee to convene its session annually to activate its role in implementing its programme of work and study the possibility to convene a yearly preparatory meeting until the proposal is endorsed.

متابعة اقتراح اللجنة بشأن انعقاد دورتها سنوياً لغرض تفعيل دورها في متابعة برنامج العمل. وبموازاة ذلك، النظر في إمكانية عقد اجتماع تحضيرى سنوي ريثما يتم إقرار المقترح

- Recommendations of the Committee's 9th Session (March 2011) forwarded to the ESCWA Technical Committee for consideration.
- During the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee (Beirut, 6-7 April 2011), members of the Technical Committee did not agree on the recommendation of the Committee on Water Resources to convene sessions annually due to the logistical and financial burdens that it would entail on both member countries and the ESCWA Secretariat.

Issue might be reconsidered during the recommendations; inter-committee expert group meetings or working groups could perhaps be organized during interim years.

Recommendation (h)

التوصية (ح)



Provide the members of the Committee with a semi-annual electronic report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the planned activities of the Water Resources Section.

تزويد أعضاء اللجنة بتقرير إلكتروني نصف سنوي عن التقدم المحرز في إنجاز الأنشطة المقررة لقسم الموارد المائية

- Semi-annual progress report was prepared by the ESCWA on the achievements of the Water Resources Section from April to September 2011 – sent in November 2011.
- Mid-Session progress report provided to delegated members of the Committee who participated in the Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Water and Energy Nexus in the ESCWA region (Beirut, 27-28 June 2012)
 - Progress report presentation was provided on ESCWA activities undertaken in the field of water resources from October 2011 to June 2012

Recommendation (i)

التوصية (ط)



Continue to support the preparation of the draft legal framework on shared water resources in the Arab region in conformity with the resolutions of AMWC and within the regional cooperation project between ESCWA and BGR.

الاستمرار في دعم إعداد مسودة الإطار القانوني الإقليمي للمياه المشتركة بين الدول العربية تحت رعاية المجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه وبناءً على مقرراته، وذلك بدعم ومساندة مشروع التعاون الإقليمي بين الإسكوا والمعهد الفدرالي لعلوم الأرض والموارد الطبيعية في ألمانيا

- All activities conducted by ESCWA and the ESCWA-BGR Cooperation to support the preparation of the draft legal framework on shared water resources are detailed in the parliamentary document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/5 (Part I) and were and were reported upon earlier during the session.

Recommendation (j)

التوصية (ي)



Send formal requests to the members of the Committee to nominate national focal points to follow up the preparation of an inventory of shared water resources in the ESCWA region. It is very important that the members of the Committee respond to the requests within two weeks of the date of receipt.

مخاطبة أعضاء اللجنة رسمياً لتعيين نقاط اتصال وطنية تُعنى بمتابعة إعداد دراسة مسح الموارد المائية المشتركة في منطقة الإسكوا، مع الإحاطة بأهمية إنجاز هذه الدراسة. ومن الأهمية بمكان أن يردّ أعضاء اللجنة على الخطاب في فترة لا تتجاوز أسبوعين من تاريخ استلامه

As detailed during the presentation on the *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia* earlier during the session:

- A letter on 5 April 2011 was sent by ESCWA to ministries requesting the nomination of a national focal point to follow-up on the preparation of the ESCWA-BGR Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia. The request was also transmitted to the members of the ESCWA Technical Committee.
- All ESCWA member countries responded over the subsequent months.
- Note: Libya, Morocco and Tunisia were not approached to designate focal points because they were not ESCWA member countries in 2011 and do not have water resources that are shared in Western Asia.

Recommendation (k)

التوصية (ك)



Take into account the close relationship between the integrated management of shared water resources and the issues of Arab food security, energy and green economy when developing future programmes for ESCWA; and pay special attention to the integrated management of shared water resources in view of its importance to Arab water security.

أخذ العلاقة الوثيقة بين الإدارة المتكاملة للموارد المائية وقضايا الأمن الغذائي العربي والطاقة والاقتصاد الأخضر في الاعتبار عند إعداد البرامج المستقبلية للإسكوا، مع إيلاء اهتمام خاص لإدارة الموارد المائية المشتركة نظرا إلى أهميتها بالنسبة إلى الأمن المائي العربي

- Expert Group Meeting on Economic Policies Supporting the Transition to a **Green Economy** in the Arab Region (Beirut, July 2011)
- International UN-Water Conference on “Water in the **Green Economy** in Practice: Towards Rio+20 (Zaragoza, Spain, October 2011)
- International Conference on **Food Secure Arab World: A Road Map for Policy and Research** (Beirut, February 2012)
- Bahrain International **Green Tech** Expo and Forum (Manama, March 2012)
- World Water Day (22 March 2012): **Water and Food Security**
- **Water and Energy** – a couple under stress (Abu-Dhabi, March 2011)
- 10th Gulf Water Conference/WSTA : **Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus** (Doha, April 2012)
- Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, June 2012): **Green Economy** side events
- **Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Water and Energy Nexus in the ESCWA Region (Beirut, June 2012)** * **AMWC Water Security Strategy & Action Plan**

Recommendation (I)

التوصية (ل)



Provide national and regional policymakers with the results of the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region, within the appropriate time frame and geographical context, in order to support drafting appropriate policies at the national and regional levels.

التأكد من توفير نتائج المبادرة الإقليمية بشأن تأثير تغيّر المناخ على الموارد المائية وقابلية تأثر القطاعات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية في المنطقة العربية، وذلك في إطار زمني وجغرافي ملائم وعلى نحو يسمح بدعم إعداد السياسات المناسبة على المستويين الوطني والإقليمي

- Activities under this recommendation are detailed in the parliamentary document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/4, which reports on RICCAR implementation.

To ensure that the RICCAR results are appropriately framed:

- The “**Arab Domain**” was delineated and approved under CORDEX based on internationally vetted protocols.
- The **same Representative Concentration Pathways** (RCP/scenarios) will be used to generate an ensemble of regional climate projections (until 2100) and to reduce uncertainty.
- **Common methods** used during regional climate modeling and regional hydrological modeling to allow for regional dialogue and exchange.
- As outcome of Casablanca Workshop, peer-reviewed Journal of Climatology article on **Arab Climate Indices** approved & can now be used by IPCC to inform AR5.

Include issues related to the vulnerability of the marine environment resources and extreme weather events in the regional initiative.

إدراج قضايا تآثر موارد البيئة البحرية وشدة تباين حالات الطقس ضمن المبادرة الإقليمية بشأن تأثير تغيّر المناخ على الموارد المائية وقابلية تأثر القطاعات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية في المنطقة العربية، وذلك وفقاً لما تسمح به الإمكانيات المتاحة

- **Extreme Events:** Based on the recommendation of the Committee and subsequent discussions undertaken during RICCAR EGM 3 (Beirut, July 2011), ESCWA approached the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) with a proposal to expand the scope of the SIDA-funded climate change project that supports RICCAR to include the analysis of extreme weather events as a core component of the integrated assessment.
 - United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was invited to join as a project partner so that disaster inventories and disaster risk reduction experience could also be incorporated into the project.
 - SIDA accepted the proposal and ESCWA and SIDA signed the addendum to the project agreement in December 2011.
- **Marine Environmental Resources:** A Vulnerability Assessment Working Group established and convened its first meeting (Beirut, January 2013)
 - The finalization of indicators remains in progress; however, it should be noted that RICCAR modeling outputs are designed to focus on freshwater resources.

Recommendation (n)

التوصية (ن)



Inform the donors funding regional climate change projects and adaptation strategies in the region of the launching of the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region; and welcome the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to the initiative.

إعلام الجهات المانحة المعنية بتمويل المشاريع الإقليمية في مجال تأثر الموارد المائية وسبل التكيف مع التغير في المنطقة بإطلاق المبادرة الإقليمية بشأن تأثير تغير المناخ على الموارد المائية وقابلية تأثر القطاعات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية في المنطقة العربية؛ وكذلك الترحيب بالدعم المقدم من الوكالة السويدية للتعاون الإنمائي الدولي لهذه المبادرة

- **Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Climate Change**
 - Joint Arab side event at UNFCCC/COP-18 (Doha, Qatar, December 2012)
- **Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region to Meet the Challenges and Future Needs for Sustainable Development 2010-2030 – Action Plan in progress**
- **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020** (CAMRE approved December 2010); *Action Plan under finalization*
- **Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change** (CAMRE approved December 2012)
- **Climate Change and Sustainable Land-Water Management** - organized by the Arab Water Academy and World Bank Institute (Abu-Dhabi, October 2011)
- **GIZ/ACCWaM collaboration and donor support for vulnerability assessment & regional knowledge hub components of RICCAR**
 - GIZ-ESCWA contribution agreement signed October 2012.

Recommendation (o)

التوصية (س)



Continue to monitor and document the progress achieved in implementing the MDGs related to water supply and sanitation; and implement the regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the MDGs related to water and sanitation (MDG+) in the Arab region. This initiative will be implemented in response to the decisions of AMWC and the necessary resources will be mobilized for building capacity, collecting data and developing indicators and its measurement techniques.

متابعة رصد وتوثيق التقدم المحرز في تنفيذ الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية الخاصة بإمدادات المياه والصرف الصحي؛ والتنسيق لإنجاز المبادرة الإقليمية بشأن تطوير آلية لرصد تنفيذ الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية المتعلقة بالمياه والصرف الصحي في المنطقة العربية (MDG+). ويأتي تنفيذ هذه المبادرة استجابة لقرارات المجلس الوزاري العربي للمياه وفي ضوء أهمية بذل الجهود لحشد الموارد اللازمة لتنفيذ المبادرة، لا سيما لبناء القدرات وجمع البيانات ووضع المؤشرات وطرق قياسها

- All activities conducted by ESCWA to support the implementation of the MDG+ Initiative are detailed in the parliamentary document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/3 and were and were reported upon earlier during the session.

Specifically:

- MDG+ **Focal Points nominated from 13 Arab Countries** via the AMWC to ESCWA.
- **Funding from SIDA** for the MDG+ Initiative was secured in December 2011.
- **MDG+ Unit set-up at ACWUA**
- **Training manual prepared** – based on template approved at Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Sharm El Sheik, January 2011)
- Regional **Launching Workshop planned for April 2013** (Beirut).

Recommendations to Member Countries



- (a) **Inform the donors funding national climate change projects**, presently and in the future, of the regional initiative for the assessment of the impacts of climate change on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability in the Arab region, in order to make use of its outcomes;
- (b) **Strengthen cooperation and coordination with government focal points** for the implementation of results and recommendations emanating from intergovernmental meetings and expert group meetings organized by the **Arab Ministerial Water Council** and entrusted to ESCWA to be fully or partly implemented;
- (c) **Inform the government representatives** in the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) of the necessity **to nominate focal points** to follow-up on the implementation of the regional initiative for the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water and sanitation in the Arab region (**MDG+**); and **suggest to establish national teams** representing the different stakeholders to follow up on the implementation of the initiative at the national level;
- (d) **Encourage the parties responsible for mapping and identifying the shared water resources to take advantage of the inventory of shared water resources in the Western Asia** region that is being prepared within the framework of the regional cooperation project between ESCWA and the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR);
- (e) **Facilitate the access of ESCWA to information and data** related to the work of the Committee on Water Resources and the work programme of the Water Resources Section.



Thank you!