



**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

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE WATER RESOURCES SECTOR

Ralf Klingbeil, Regional Advisor Environment and Water

**Committee on Water Resources  
Tenth Session  
Beirut, 20-22 March 2013**



## 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.

- Advisory services rendered in the areas of natural, environmental, water and land resources, resulted in the implementation of key policy and programme recommendations related to improvement in the integrated and sustainable management of these resources, and in mainstreaming the sustainable development approach in national development plans,
- **2011 - 10 countries:** Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen,
- **2012 - 11 countries:** Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates,
- Detailed reports on the activities are found in the respective sections of E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/6 (Part I and II).

# Work Programme



## Expected Accomplishments of the ESCWA Strategic Framework

- 2010-2011: (a) and (c),
- 2012-2013: (a), (b) and (c).

- I. Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate, adopt and implement policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals and addressing climate change challenges, 2010-2011, (a),
- II. Strengthened south-south cooperation in the integrated management of natural resources, with a focus on challenges related to water, energy and climate change, 2010-2011, (c),
- III. Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of member countries to develop and implement national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and action plans for the sustainable management of energy and water resources in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, 2012-2013, (a),
- IV. Enhanced capacity of governments and other public and private stakeholders to incorporate climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans, and to stimulate financial and technical supports for the inclusion of climate change issues into plans and strategies , 2012-2013, (b),
- V. Strengthened capacity in member countries to develop and apply best practices and plans for improving sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood and increasing the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, 2012-2013, (c).

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning (MMAUP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assistance to development of national approach for treated sewage effluent and managed aquifer recharge,</li><li>• Support, participation and contribution to national workshop on utilization of treated sewage effluent.</li></ul>
Electricity and Water Authority (EWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of ToR for consultancy related to non-revenue water,</li><li>• Review of national water conservation and demand management.</li></ul>
Ministry of Works (MoW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of ToR for consultancy related to reuse of treated sewage effluent in managed aquifer recharge.</li></ul>

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Environment (MoE) / Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of draft national adaptation strategy,</li> <li>• Investigation of options for assistance in implementation of adaptation strategy,</li> <li>• Development of work plan for capacity building programme with priority to training on negotiation skills on global climate issues.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigation of means to integrate adaptation to climate change in water resources sector,</li> <li>• Consultation with key experts related to development of adaptation strategies,</li> <li>• Development of knowledge mapping of existing capacities on climate change and explore linkages and cooperation means with other related sectors.</li> </ul>



# Iraq - Jordan - Kuwait



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
<b>Iraq:</b> Ministry of Environment (MoE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support to national consensus building and awareness workshop for “Iraq Drought Risk Management Project” with contributions on<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) water management challenges under drought conditions,</li><li>(ii) regional overview of drought management initiatives.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Jordan:</b> Chamber of Industry (Col)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation and contribution to national training workshop “The Role of Productivity Improvement in Enhancing Competitiveness of Manufacturing Firms in Jordan” with presentations addressing also water issues.</li></ul>
<b>Kuwait:</b> Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization of workshop on “Environmental Indicators and Environmental Performance Index” which also addressed water-related indicators,</li><li>• Presentation of Rio+20 zero-draft outcome document and respective positions of various political groups and countries,</li><li>• Development of matrix for implementation of national environmental strategy with set targets and indicators.</li></ul>

# Lebanon



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation and contribution to three (2011), four (2012) meetings of Water Sector Coordination Group,</li><li>• Comments on National Water Sector Strategy.</li></ul>
Presidency of Council of Ministers (PCM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical review of Economic and Social Reform Action Plan, incl. comments on water resources, water supply and sanitation related issues.</li></ul>
President of Lebanese Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribution to preparation of inter-ministerial action plan for Litani River.</li></ul>
American University of Beirut (AUB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of research proposal “An Integrated Solution to the Solid Waste, Quarry Rehabilitation and Excavation and Construction Debris Problem in Lebanon”.</li></ul>
American University of Technology (AUT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribution to water seminar lecture series with presentation on “Challenges to Water Resources Management in the Middle East”.</li></ul>

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources (MRMWR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in conference “Hydrology, Nature &amp; Engineering” with presentation on “Water, Scarcity, Climate Change in the Middle East: Challenges to Water Management” in connection to World Water Day 2011,</li> <li>• Assistance in developing ToR and review of bids for consultancy on assessment and re-estimation of national water budget,</li> <li>• Contribution to international conference on “Drought Management Strategies in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions”.</li> </ul>
Public Authority for Electricity and Water (PAEW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk study and presentation of appropriate guideline values for boron in drinking water at national stakeholder meeting and MENA Regional Water Safety Plan conference,</li> <li>• Assessment of laboratory quality assurances processes.</li> </ul>
MoCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to SME development, notably in development of green production sectors.</li> </ul>
MECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arab regional preparations for Rio+20.</li> </ul>



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review status of data and information management in water sector and contribution to development of action plan for integrated management of geo-spatial water-related information and database,</li><li>• Intra-governmental workshop on water management information systems and GIS applications resulted in call to establish technical coordination body with regular meetings between respective government institutions,</li><li>• Support to setting up of Palestinian Water Information Center for better internal coordination of water data and information management within water authority and between different Palestinian stakeholders.</li></ul>

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Environment (MoE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance to national preparations for Rio+20 and UNFCCC COP-18,</li> <li>• Contribution to “National Workshop in the preparation for Rio+20” to support preparation of national positions towards Rio+20,</li> <li>• Development of road map for mainstreaming sustainable development in national development strategies,</li> <li>• Coordination with Government of Qatar for organizations of Arab regional Hikma Hours event conducted at UNFCCC COP-18, highlighting regional initiatives focused on climate change with respect to water, health, environmental and economic sectors.</li> </ul>

# Saudi Arabia



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Economy and Planning (MoEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization of “National Workshop on Strengthening Integration of Sustainable Development into National Development Planning”, also addressing water and sanitation sector,</li><li>• Drafting manual / guidance note for development and application of indicators for environmental pillar of sustainable development: “Water and Environment Indicators for Sustainable Development in National Development Planning, Saudi Arabia”,</li><li>• Preparation of draft policy papers for environment and water as part of contribution to development of Tenth Development Plan: “The Future We Want - Water and Sanitation in Saudi Arabia” and “The Future We Want - Environmental Management in Saudi Arabia”.</li></ul>
Ministry of Water and Electricity (MoWE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assistance towards future implementation of a System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water), incl. contributions to draft ToR for consultancy and draft agenda for national training workshop on SEEA-Water.</li></ul>

# The Sudan



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity (MoWRE), <i>formerly Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources (MoIWR)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support to Water Harvesting Unit in developing national approach to water harvesting assessments for future investments in local water infrastructure,</li><li>• Recommendation to further continue ministerial efforts as support function for regional, state-level water harvesting efforts,</li><li>• Support for exchange visit from Sudan to Oman (MRMWR): Knowledge development on water harvesting techniques and groundwater recharge dams used in Oman.</li></ul>

# Syrian Arab Republic



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comments on “The National Strategy Framework for Sustainable Development in the Syrian Arab Republic”, also addressing water resources, water supply and sanitation.</li></ul>
Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), <i>formerly Ministry of Irrigation (Mol)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical support for internal revision of ministry’s organizational structure and name through development of questionnaire for senior staff.</li></ul>

# United Arab Emirates - Yemen



<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Activities, Results and/or Recommendations</b>
<b>UAE:</b> Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparation of short review of laws and legislation in ESCWA member countries concerning water and energy conservation.</li></ul>
<b>Yemen:</b> Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support in implementation of National Conference for Management and Development of Water Resources, incl. review of conference papers, identification of conference concept, objectives and themes, as well as participation in preparation of conference documentations.</li></ul>





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Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization of workshop on “Environmental Indicators and Environmental Performance Index” which also addressed water-related indicators,</li><li>• Presentation of Rio+20 zero-draft outcome document and respective positions of various political groups and countries,</li><li>• Development of matrix for implementation of national environmental strategy with set targets and indicators.</li></ul>

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