



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# Preparing Evidence-Based Project Pipelines for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water

**GCF Regional Dialogue for MENA Session**  
**27 June 2024 | 9:00 to 10:30**  
**Rabat, Morocco**

## Concept Note

Despite significant water scarcity and water security challenges facing the Arab region, the water sector receives only a small share of climate finance flows. The sector also remains underfunded relative to the articulated needs of Arab States. Climate finance flows to the water sector and for agricultural water resource projects are also largely debt finance, although a small uptick in grant financing by multilateral development banks has been observed in recent years. While most climate finance for water projects support adaptation goals, an increasing number are contributing to mitigation efforts and the achievement of co-benefits.

To strengthen regional capacity to access climate finance for the water sector, the Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water (AIM Climate Finance for Water) was launched by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), League of Arab States, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Government of Sweden as a Water Action Decade commitment at the UN 2023 Water Conference (New York, March 2023) in the presence of Arab water ministers. The Arab Ministerial Water Council further called on Arab States to benefit from the capacity development and technical support offered by the initiative during its 15th Ministerial Session (Riyadh, November 2023).

This session will provide an overview of climate finance flows to the water sector in the Arab region and share regional experiences developing evidence-based project pipelines for mobilizing climate finance for water and sanitation projects and agricultural water resources. Focus will be placed on approaches for informing and mainstreaming water sector needs into nationally determined contributions and action plans, as well as lessons learned from coordinating and preparing climate resilient water projects across sectors and at the national and regional levels. The session will also feature knowledge resources and technical assistance provided by the initiative partners that can inform the development of evidence-based projects.

This session is organized within the framework of the Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water by ESCWA, League of Arab States, GCF, IsDB, FAO and the Government of Sweden.

Zoom connection

<https://gcfund-org.zoom.us/j/93856076374>

Meeting ID: 938 5607 6374 Passcode: 11111

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## Agenda

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9:00 – 9:05	<b>Introduction and Overview: Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water</b>
	Mr. Ziad Khayat, Coordinator, Integrated Water Resources Management for Water Security, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:05 – 9:15	<b>Climate finance flows for water in the Arab region</b>
	Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies; Cluster Lead, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:15 – 9:25	<b>Mobilizing climate finance for the water sector</b>
	Mr. Amgad El Mahdi, Regional Manager for Middle East and North Africa, GCF
9:25 – 10:25	<b>Roundtable:</b> <b>Climate finance needs for the water sector and agricultural water resources in NDCs and national action plans</b> <b>Project preparation and coordination for mobilizing climate finance funds for water</b>
	Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Senior Land and Water Officer and Delivery Manager of the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Chokri Mezghani, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Tunisia</li> <li>• Mr. Kaid Al-Darwish, General Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Water and Environment, Yemen (online)</li> <li>• Mr. Mokhtar Radi Salem, Director, Regional Groundwater Studies Department, Ministry of Water Resources, Libya (online, tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Walid Hakiki, Head of the Planning Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt</li> <li>• Mr. Souliman Kaichouh, Head of the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Sanitation and Rainwater Valuation, General Directorate of Water Engineering, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco</li> <li>• Ms. Rehab Yasin, Director of Strategic Planning Department, Palestinian Water Authority, State of Palestine</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>
10:25 – 10:30	<b>Closing remarks</b>
	Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Director, Housing, Water Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction Department, League of Arab States, Egypt Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA