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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Improved Groundwater Management in the Arab Region through Enhanced Data and Information Access and Innovative technologies
Cairo, 30-31 October 2023

Draft Agenda

Monday, 30 October 2023

11:00-11:30 **In-person Check-in**
The workshop will be held at AlQahira C Ballroom, The Nile Ritz-Carlton hotel, Cairo, Egypt. Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa receipt and airline ticket stub to the workshop.

Opening Session and Introduction

Moderator Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Sustainable Development Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

11:30-11:40 **Opening Statements**

- *Mr. Naser Edin Obeid, Director General, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)*
- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, Coordinator, IWRM for Improved Water Security, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA*

11:40-11:55 Tour de Table

11:55-12:00 Review of Workshop Objectives and Agenda

- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*

12:00-12:15 Groundwater in the “Arab Water Security Strategy” Action Plan

- *Mr. Bisher Imam, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States*

Session I Regional and Global Groundwater Knowledge Frameworks

Moderator Mr. Ihab Jnad, Director, Water Resources Department, ACSAD

12:15-12:30 Improving Groundwater Management in the Arab Region

- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*

12:30-12:45	The Global Groundwater Information System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Claudia Ruz Vargas, Senior Groundwater Specialist, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) (Online)</i>
12:45-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:30	The Arab Groundwater Knowledge Platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Tracy Zaarour, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA</i>
14:30- 14:45	Discussion

Session II	Arab Hydrogeological Map Update, National Monitoring Systems and Data Dissemination Systems
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Moderator	Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA
14:45-15:10	Arab Hydrogeological Map Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Ihab Jnad, ACSAD</i>
15:10-15:30	Discussion
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-16:30	Presentations by National Teams on their National Monitoring Systems and Data Dissemination Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Iraq</i> • <i>Oman</i> • <i>United Arab Emirates</i> • <i>Tunisia</i> • <i>Yemen</i>
16:30-16:45	Discussion
16:45-17:00	Group Photo

Tuesday, 31 October 2023

Session III	Use of Innovative Technologies for Groundwater Management
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Moderator:	Ms. Sara Hess, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
11:30-11:45	GRACE Groundwater Subsetting Tool - Analyzing Groundwater Resources Using Data from the GRACE Mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Sarva Pulla, Lead Consultant, ArchGeo LLC</i>

11:45-12:00	Assessment of Groundwater Storage Change and Recharge Using GRACE Data in West Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Norman Jones, Professor and Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Brigham Young University</i>
12:00-12:15	Discussion
12:15-12:30	The Global Gravity-Based Groundwater Product (G3P) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Elie Gerges, Groundwater Specialist, IGRAC (Online)</i>
12:30-12:50	Presentation of Potential Pilot Study Areas for GRACE Applications by National Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i> • <i>Palestine</i>
12:50-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:20	Quantifying Groundwater Use for Irrigation in Arid Regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Hadi Jaafar, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Agriculture, American University of Beirut</i>
14:20-14:35	Discussion
14:35-14:50	Jordan Case study in Using Remote Sensing for Crop Assessment on Groundwater Abstraction
14:50-15:10	Presentation of Potential Pilot Study Areas for Estimating Groundwater Used for Irrigation from Remote Sensing by National Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Libya</i> • <i>Tunisia</i>
15:10-15:20	Discussion

Session IV	Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Groundwater Resources
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Moderator	Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA
15:20-15:35	Overview on the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Tracy Zaarour, ESCWA</i>
15:35-15:55	Manual on the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Groundwater Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Mazen Naaman and Mr. Mahmoud Al-Sibai, Water Resources Department, ACSAD</i>
15:55-16:10	Discussion
16:10-16:45	Previous Case Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beni Amir Aquifer in Morocco</i> <i>Mr. Abdelkader Larabi, Senior Professor, Mohammed V University of Rabat, Director, Regional Water Centre of Maghreb</i>

- Eocene Aquifer in Palestine
Ms. Tracy Zaarour, ESCWA
- Dibdibba Aquifer in Iraq
Mr. Mazen Naaman, ACSAD and Mr. Maitham Ali AlKhudhair, Director General of the General Groundwater Authority, Iraq

16:45-17:05 Presentation of Potential Pilot Study Areas for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Groundwater Resources by National Teams

- *Jordan*
- *Morocco*
- *Sudan*
- *Tunisia*

17:05-17:20 Discussion

Session V	Summary Reflections and Next Steps
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Moderator Mr. Hammou Laamrani, ESCWA

17:20-17:30 Summary of Key Next Steps

- *Mr. Ihab Jnad, ACSAD*
- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*