



## Meetings of the High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee 26-27 October 2021

### Concept Note

#### **Background:**

The High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee (HLJTC) is the technical arm of the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States. After its establishment by the resolution of the joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial meeting on 4 April 2019, which resulted in the adoption of the 2019 Cairo Declaration, the first meeting of the HLJTC was held in October 2019 and requested partner organizations, FAO and UNESCWA, to assist in (i) operationalizing the 2019 Cairo Declaration by developing a plan of action for the period 2021-2025 and (ii) developing guidelines for sustainable allocation of water resources for agriculture.

The second meeting of the HLJTC was held virtually in October 2020 whereby a draft plan of action to implement the 2019 Cairo Declaration was presented and discussed with member countries. The HLJTC requested the joint secretariat and partner organizations to consolidate the countries' feedback on the action plan and prepare a revised version to be reviewed in the next meeting of the HLJTC. Once approved by the committee, the action plan will be raised to the next meeting of the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council for possible endorsement. Furthermore, on 27 January 2021, an expert meeting was organized by the technical secretariat and the contents of the draft action plan were presented based on comments made by member countries and it was discussed by experts nominated from the Arab Ministries responsible for Water and Agriculture. The meeting resulted in a modified version of the action plan that will be presented to the HLJTC.

On the guidelines for sustainable allocation of water resources for agriculture, FAO and UNESCWA, in collaboration with the joint secretariat, established a working group with external senior consultants to prepare the requested guidelines. The draft guidelines will be presented and discussed during the upcoming HLJTC meeting and raised to the next Joint Ministerial Council meeting for possible endorsement.

In addition to these two documents, the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the HLJTC will include the introduction of the use of non-conventional water resources for agriculture, identified in the first meeting of the HLJTC as a crosscutting theme between water and agriculture sectors to be jointly explored and addressed.





To prepare for this agenda item, partner organizations will collaborate in preparing a background paper to identify the status of practice and areas to move forwards on this issue.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the meeting of the High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee is to:

- Review the revised version of the action plan to implement the 2019 Cairo declaration;
- Review the draft guidelines for sustainable allocation of water resources for agriculture;
- Discuss and identify the council's agenda directions for the use of non-conventional water resources for agriculture in the Arab region.

The recommendations of the HLJTC on the three documents will be presented in the Second Meeting of the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council to obtain the directions and course of action on these issues through a resolution from the council.

### **Format and dates of the meeting:**

The meetings of the High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee and the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council will be organized ***virtually*** within the Cairo Water Week 2021, which will be organized during the period of 24-28 October 2021.

The meeting of the HLJTC is scheduled for 26 October and will cover two 1.5-hour online sessions.





## Draft Agenda: Third meeting of the High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee

**Meeting Moderators: Dr. Hammou Laamrani, Joint Technical Secretariat**

**Dr. Kamel Amer, Joint Technical Secretariat**

Day 1: High Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee meeting 26 October 2021, 12 PM (Cairo time)		
Time	Agenda Item	Moderator/Speaker
20 minutes	Opening Session and welcoming remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council, League of Arab States;</li> <li>- Representative of the Arab Organization of Agriculture Development;</li> <li>- Representative of The Republic of Mauritania - Current Chair of the General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD);</li> <li>- Representative of the State of Qatar - Current Chair of Arab Ministerial Water Council.</li> </ul>
10 minutes	<b>Presentation 1:</b> implementation of the HLJTC second meeting recommendations	- Joint Technical Secretariat of the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council
20 minutes	<b>Presentation 2:</b> Guidelines on Sustainable Allocation of water resources for Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Frank Van Steenberg, Senior consultant-FAO</li> <li>- Mr. Nadim Farajalla, Senior consultant-UNESCWA</li> </ul>
25 minutes	Discussion	- Member countries
15 minutes	Committee Recommendations on the first and second presentations	- Member countries
15 minutes	<b>Break</b>	
15 minutes	<b>Presentation 3:</b> Draft Action plan for the implementation of the 2019 Cairo Declaration	- Mr. Waleed Zubari, Senior consultant-FAO
10 minutes	Discussion	- Member countries
10 minutes	Committee Recommendations on the third presentation	- Member countries
10 minutes	<b>Presentation 4:</b> The use of Non-Conventional water resources for agriculture	- FAO/ESCWA
15 minutes	Discussion	- Member countries
10 minutes	Committee Recommendations on the fourth presentation	- Member countries
20 minutes	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative of FAO</li> <li>- Representative of UNESCWA</li> <li>- Representative of the State of Qatar - Current Chair of Arab Ministerial Water Council.</li> <li>- Representative of Mauritania - Current Chair of the General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.</li> </ul>

