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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation and Data and Information Exchange
Beirut, Lebanon, 30-31 May 2023

Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 30 May 2023

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
The meeting will be held at United Nations House in the Mezzanine Hall (Mz). Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa receipt and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

Opening Session

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

09:00 – 09:20 **Opening Statements**

- Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Mr. Aurélien Dumont, Associate Project Officer, Division of Water Science, Groundwater Section, UNESCO
- Ziad Khayat, Coordinator, IWRM for Improved Water Security, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

09:20 – 09:45 Tour de Table

09:45 – 09:50 Review of the Agenda

Session I Transboundary Water Cooperation and SDG 6.5

Moderator: Ms. Raya Stephan, International Water Law Expert

09:50 – 10:05 Overview of SDG indicator 6.5.2: key components of the indicator and their relevance to progress transboundary cooperation

- *Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE consultant, Law professor, Northumbria University*
- *Mr. Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO*

10:05 – 10:25 Global and regional experience from past two reporting exercises on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and acceleration needs

- *Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE, Northumbria University*
- *Mr. Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO*
- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*

- 10:25 – 10:40 Discussion
- 10:40 – 10:55 SDG Indicator 6.5.1: Main Results, Transboundary Aspects and Regional Report
- *Mr. Paul Glennie, Senior Technical Advisor, UNEP-DHI Centre (online)*
 - *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*
- 10:55 – 11:25 Coffee Break
- 11:25 – 12:00 National experience from past two reporting exercises on SDG indicator 6.5.2
- *Jordan*
 - *Mr. Basim Hasan, Head of SDG Division, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan*
 - *Iraq*
 - *Ms. Hamdiea Al-Khafaji, Senior Chief Engineer, Head of Water Control and Hydrological Analyses Department, National Center for Water Resources Management, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq*
 - *Egypt*
 - *Ms. Marwa Khattab Gomaa, Senior Engineer, External Department, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt*
- 12:00 – 12:15 Discussion

Session II Benefiting from the Reporting Exercise to Accelerate Transboundary Cooperation in the Arab Region

Moderator: Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA

- 12:15 – 12:30 Benefits of coordination of the reporting on Indicator 6.5.2 between riparian countries
- *Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE, Northumbria University*
 - *Mr. Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO*

- 12:30 – 13:30 Member countries interactive dialogues
- *Objective and format of the dialogues (Participants will be divided into small groups which rotate to give a chance for riparian countries to explore opportunities to coordinate with neighboring countries when completing the SDG indicator 6.5.2 national report and to exchange on lessons learned from previous rounds; Countries are encouraged to bring a draft completed SDG indicator 6.5.2 template or one from last cycle to guide discussions)*

13:30 – 13:45 Reporting back and group discussion

13:45 – 14:45 Lunch at United Nations House Cafeteria (Ground Floor)

Session III Improving transboundary data availability, access and exchange

Moderator: Mr. Yusuf Al-Mooji, Water Expert

- 14:45 – 15:00 Regional assessment and knowledge sharing in the Arab region: The Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia and the Arab Groundwater Knowledge Platform
- *Ms. Tracy Zaarour, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA*

- 15:00 – 15:15 Challenges and good practices about the exchange of data and information on transboundary groundwater
- *Mr. Arnaud Sterckx, Researcher, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) (online)*
- 15:15 – 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break
- 15:45 – 16:00 Modern Science in Hydro-diplomacy
- *Mr. Hadi Abd Sater, Geoscientist/Research Assistant, Remote Sensing Center, Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research*
- 16:00 – 16:15 Technological Disruption of Transboundary Water Data and Information
- *Mr. Nagaraja Rao Harshadeep, Global Lead (Disruptive Technology), Lead Environmental Specialist, Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy Global Practice, The World Bank (online)*
- 16:15 – 16:30 Discussion and Wrap Up of Day 1
- End of Day 1

Wednesday, 31 May 2023

Session IV Monitoring and data exchange: global instruments and guidance

- Moderator: Mr. Wael Mualla, Professor of Water Engineering, Civil and Environment Engineering, International University for Science and Technology, Arab Syrian Republic
- 09:00 – 09:20 Monitoring and data exchange under the two United Nations global water conventions and the law of transboundary aquifers. Key provisions, similarities, differences and complementarities
- *Ms. Raya Stephan, International Water Law Expert*
 - *Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE*
- 09:20 – 09:35 Guidelines for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters under the Water Convention: Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters and the process to develop a new tool on Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data sharing
- *Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE*
- 09:35 - 09:50 Discussion
- 09:50 – 10:05 Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters: focus on groundwater
- *Mr. Arnaud Sterckx, IGRAC (online)*
- 10:05 – 10:20 Knowledge and data exchange in the North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS)
- *Mr. Aissa Hlaimi, Coordinator of the North Western Sahara Aquifer System Coordination Unit, Tunisia*

10:20 – 10:35	Discussion
10:35 – 11:00	Coffee break

Session V	Strengthening legal and institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and data and information exchange
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Moderator:	Mr. Hammou Laamrani, ESCWA
11:00 – 11:15	Development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE, Northumbria University</i>
11:15 – 12:15	Working group discussions on challenges and opportunities to strengthen cooperation on monitoring, assessment and data exchange on transboundary water including strengthening legal and institutional arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What challenges and opportunities exist for the development of cooperation in the field of monitoring, assessment, and data exchange in your shared basin/aquifer?</i> • <i>What are the existing legal, institutional or other arrangements for monitoring, assessment and data exchange on transboundary water in your shared basin/aquifer? How can these be strengthened and if absent how can these be created?</i> • <i>How to best use the Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters and the Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation to improve monitoring, assessment and data and information exchange in your shared basin/aquifer?</i> • <i>What steps are required to enhance the data collection, processing and exchange for surface water resources (water quantity, water quality) in your shared basin?</i> • <i>How to improve collaboration for groundwater monitoring development in your shared aquifer system?</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Plenary discussion on recommendations of working groups
12:30 – 12:45	Group Photo
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch at United Nations House Cafeteria (Ground Floor)

Session VI	Climate change adaptation in transboundary surface and groundwater basins
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Moderator:	Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA
13:45 – 14:05	Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Marlene Ann Tomaszkiwicz, Climate Change and Geospatial Data Analysis Expert, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA (online)</i>
14:05 – 14:25	Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary basins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE</i>
14:25 – 14:40	Discussion
14:40 – 14:55	Increasing Watershed Resilience to Climate Change: Case studies from Algeria and Lebanon

- *Ms. Maya Atie, Climate Change and Water Expert*
- *Ms. Sara Hess, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA*

14:55 – 15:15 Impacts of climate change on groundwater: Case study from Palestine
 • *Mr. Muath Abusaada, Water Expert*

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 16:15 Plenary discussion on supporting climate change adaptation in transboundary basins in the Arab region

Session VII Closing Reflections and Next Steps

Moderator: Mr. Hammou Laamrani, ESCWA

16:15 – 16:30 Summary of next steps related to strengthening arrangements for transboundary water cooperation, data and information exchange and climate change adaptation and closing remarks

- *Mr. Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO*
- *Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE*
- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*
