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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade
Beirut, Lebanon, 18-19 May 2022

Agenda

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

8:30 – 9:00

Registration

The meeting will be held at United Nations House in the Main Conference Hall (B1). Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa receipt and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

To participate virtually:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dy4pknA4TGaok4X3rki3AA

Opening Session and Introduction

Moderator:

Ms. Shahira Wahbi, Chief, Natural Resources Sustainability, Partnerships and Disaster Risk Reduction, Economic Sector, League of Arab States

9:00 – 9:30

Opening Statements

- Ms. Maria Selin, Head of Regional Development Cooperation (MENA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) (online)
- H.E. Mr. Djamal Eldine Djaballah, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director, Water, Housing and Disaster Risk Reduction Department, Economic Sector, League of Arab States
- H.E. Mr. Walid Fayyad, Minister of Energy and Water in Lebanon, Chair of the 13th Session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council
- Ms. Rola Dashti, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, ESCWA delivered by Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA

9:30 – 9:45

Keynote presentation on the UN 2023 Water Conference and its preparatory process by the Conference co-hosts

- *Mr. Sanoi Boyzoda, Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (online)*
- *Mr. Pieter Den Dekker, Policy Advisor UN 2023 Water Conference, Water, Inclusive Green Growth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands (online)*

9:45 – 9:50

Review of the Agenda

Session I Regional Progress and Engagement towards the Water Action Decade

- Moderator: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherrane, Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
- 9:50 – 10:05 An overview of achieved progress in the Arab Strategy for Water Security
- *Mr. Ihab Jnad, Director, Water Resources Department, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD)*
- 10:05 – 10:15 2021 Status update on the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Arab region
- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, Coordinator, IWRM for Improved Water Security, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA*
- 10:15 – 10:55 Panel Discussion on key findings and recommendations from Water Action Decade Regional Roadmap events
- 5th Arab Water Forum
 - *H.E. Mr. Hussein Al-Atfy, Secretary General, Arab Water Council*
 - Cairo Water Week
 - *Ms. Eman Soliman, Head of Planning Sector, Executive Director, Cairo Water Week Permanent Secretariat, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt*
 - High Level Event on Water Scarcity
 - *Mr. Tarik Hassan, Climate Change Specialist, Middle East and North Africa Region, UNICEF*
 - 14th Gulf Water Conference
 - *Mr. Waleed Al-Zubari, Vice President and Chairman of Scientific Committee, Water Science and Technology Association (WSTA); Professor, Water Resources Management, the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), Bahrain*
- 10:55 – 11:10 Feedback on the way forward
- 11:10 – 11:40 Coffee Break

Session II Improving access to water supply and sanitation for all

- Moderator: Mr. Khalid AbuZeid, Senior Regional Water Resources Director, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
- 11:40 – 11:50 Arab Snapshot of Water Supply and Sanitation from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)
- *Mr. Chris Cormency, WASH and Climate Change Regional Advisor, Middle East and North Africa Region, UNICEF*
- 11:50 – 12:00 Country intervention: Egypt Decent Life Initiative (*Haya Karima*)
- *Mr. Gamil Helmy Abdul Wahed, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt (online)*
 - *Mr. Sherif El Helli, Coordinator, Decent Life Initiative, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt*
- 12:00 – 12:15 Feedback on the way forward

- 12:15 – 12:25 Managing access to water and sanitation services under conflict
- *Mr. Igor Malgrati, Regional Water and Habitat Advisor for the Near and Middle East, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*
- 12:25 – 12:35 Country intervention: Securing access to water under occupation
- *Mr. Adel Yasin, Director General of Strategic Planning and Information, Water Strategic and Information Directorate, Palestinian Water Authority*
- 12:35 – 12:50 Feedback on the way forward
- 12:50 – 13:50 Lunch at United Nations House Cafeteria (Ground Floor)

Session III Transboundary water cooperation and climate action for water security

- Moderator: Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Agriculture and Livelihoods Development, National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme, ESCWA
- 13:50 – 14:00 Overview on regional transboundary water cooperation: Second regional report for SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary cooperation in Arab States
- *Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*
- 14:00 – 14:10 Country Intervention: Moving forward transboundary water cooperation in Iraq
- *Ms. Ghufraan Dheyab AbdelHussein Al-Mahdawi, Senior Researcher, Planning and Follow-up Directorate, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq*
- 14:10 – 14:25 Feedback on the way forward
- 14:25 – 14:35 Improving resilience of water sector to climate change
- *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA*
- 14:35 – 14:45 Country Intervention: Improving the resilience of the water sector in the face of climate change in Algeria
- *Mr. Zahir Ouhocine, Chief, Office of Groundwater Resources, Directorate of Planning, Foresight and Information Systems, Ministry of Water Resources and Water Security, Algeria (online)*
- 14:45 – 15:00 Feedback on the way forward
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

Session IV Water across sectors for achieving sustainable development

- Moderator: Ms. Domitille Vallee, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO-RNE)
- 15:30 – 15:40 Improving water efficiency across all sectors
- *Mr. Fahid SiTaher, Land and Water Officer, FAO-RNE*
- 15:40 – 15:50 Joint Ministerial Committee for Water and Agriculture
- *Mr. Kamel Mostafa Amer, Head of the Regional Office, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)*
 - *Ms. Shahira Wahbi, League of Arab States*

- 15:50 – 16:40 Panel Discussion: Connecting water across sectors
- *Ms. Nisreen Lahham, Regional Project Manager, ReWater MENA, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) - REWater MENA: safe wastewater reuse practices to improve food safety, health and livelihoods (online)*
 - *Mr. Souliman Kaichouh, Chief, Division for Potable Water Supply, Sanitation and Rainwater Valorization, General Directorate of Hydraulics, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco - Desalination for domestic and agriculture sectors*
 - *Mr. Abdelmenam Mohamed, Regional Coordinator for Science, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) - Connecting water and ecosystems*
 - *Ms. Layale Abi Esber, Climate Change Project Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Unit, UN-Habitat - Water for sustainable cities*
 - *Mr. Khalid Zaabar, Energy Management Director, Société Nationale d'Exploitation et de Distribution des Eaux (SONEDE), Tunisia - Reducing the Water-Energy footprint*
- 16:40 – 17:00 Feedback on the way forward
- 17:00 – 17:15 **Wrap up of first day**
- End of Day 1

Thursday, 19 May 2022

Session V Accelerating progress on water related goals: Finance

Moderator: Mr. Tarek Sadek, Water Resources and Climate Change Officer, CCNRSC, ESCWA

9:00 – 9:10 Finance as an accelerator to progress on water related goals

- *Mr. Amgad Elmahdi, Water Sector Senior Specialist, Green Climate Fund (online)*

9:10 – 9:55 Panel Discussion: Finance for Water

- *Mr. Joel Kolker, Program Manager for Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), The World Bank Group - (online)*
- *Mr. Khaldoun Khashman, Secretary General, Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) – Financing for water utilities*
- *Mr. Nizar Zaied, Global Lead Water, Economic and Social Infrastructure Global Practice, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)*
- *Mr. Mohammad Al Dwairi, Secretary General Assistant for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan – Innovative finance and debt swaps (online)*
- *Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Union for the Mediterranean – Financing for the Mediterranean water sector (online)*

9:55 - 10:10 Feedback on the way forward

10:10 – 10:40 Coffee Break

Session VI Accelerating progress on water related goals: Innovation enablers

- Moderator: Nadim Farajallah, Program Director, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- 10:40 – 10:50 Fostering innovation in the water sector
- *Mr. Kareem Hassan, Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Center*
- 10:50 – 11:35 Panel Discussion: Enabling environment for innovations
- *Ms. Rewa Assi, Program Coordinator, Waterlution: a water learning experience*
 - *Mr. Asaad Saade, Regional Manager, Nestle Waters*
 - *Ms. Amal Talbi, Lead Water Resources Management Specialist, Water MENA Region, The World Bank - Mashreq Waters Knowledge Series*
 - *Ms. Wafa Aboul Hosn, Chief, Economic Statistics, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA - Remote sensing for flood monitoring and disaster management*
 - *Mr. Said Al Sarmi, Meteorological Expert, Department of Meteorology, Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Transport and Communication, Oman*
- 11:35 – 11:50 Feedback on the way forward

Session VII Accelerating progress on water related goals: Knowledge, networks and capacity building

- Moderator: Mr. Waleed Al-Zubari, Professor, Water Resources Management, the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), Bahrain
- 11:50 – 12:00 Water Scarcity Initiative: Regional Collaborative Platform
- *Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Senior Land and Water Officer and Delivery Manager, Water Scarcity Initiative, FAO-RNE*
- 12:00 – 12:45 Panel Discussion: Networking, partnering and building capacities to accelerate progress
- *Ms. Janine Muzau, Policy Officer, Fundamental and International Aspects of Water Management, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) - Bonn Water Dialogues for Results (online)*
 - *Mr. Emad Adly, Regional Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)*
 - *Mr. Bisher Imam, Regional Hydrologist, Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*
 - *Ms. Joanna Doummar, Vice President, Middle East and North Africa, International Association of Hydrogeologists; Associate Professor of Hydrogeology, Department of Geology, American University of Beirut (AUB) - Improving groundwater knowledge*
 - *Mr. Mohamed Wahba, Vice President Honoraria, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID); Chairman, African Regional Working Group (AFRWG) - African Young Water Professionals Forum*
- 12:45 – 13:00 Feedback on the way forward
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at United Nations House Cafeteria (Ground Floor)

Session VIII Regional and country commitments and initiatives

- Moderator: Ms. Shahira Wahbi, League of Arab States
- 14:00 – 14:50 Presentation of Regional and Country commitments and initiatives
- *Mr. Zahir Ouhocine, Algeria - Head of Groundwater Resources Office, Ministry of Water Resources and Security - Strategy for the development of the Water Sector and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (online)*
 - *Mr. Ragab Abdel-Azim, First Undersecretary of the Ministry and Supervisor of Minister's Office, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt - Initiative on rationalizing water use and rehabilitating canals in Egypt*
 - *Mr. Souliman Kaichouh, Chief, Division for Potable Water Supply, Sanitation and Rainwater Valorization, General Directorate of Hydraulics, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco*
 - *Mr. Sobhi Samhan, Director, Research and Development Department, Palestinian Water Authority, Palestine - Promoting research for strategic goals to shift science towards engineering and implementations*
 - *Mr. Mouhammad Ousama Al Akhras, Consultant, Ministry of Water Resources, Syrian Arab Republic*
 - *Mr. Abderrahman Ouasli, Director of Management of the Hydraulic Sector, Office of Planning and Hydraulic Balances, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia*
 - *Mr. Mohamed Almulla, Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates (online)*
- 14:50 – 15:20 Coffee Break

Side Events

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| 15:20 – 16:20 | Side Event 1: Innovating for coping with water scarcity: productivity and sustainability of water in the NENA region, adopting a nexus approach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa</i> <i>Room: MZ conference room</i>
<i>To participate virtually:</i>
https://bit.ly/3yxSunQ | Side Event 2: Arab Regional Groundwater Dialogue in preparation for the 2022 Groundwater Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>ESCWA</i> <i>Room: Main Hall</i>
<i>Note: For virtual participation, Side Event 2 is on the same link as initial event.</i> |
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Session IX Closing Reflections and Next Steps

- Moderator: Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA
- 16:20 – 16:35 Summary of findings and conclusions for the outcome document
- *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA*
- 16:35 – 16:50 Discussion
- 16:50 – 17:00 **Closing Remarks**
- *H.E. Mr. Djamal Eldine Djaballah, League of Arab States*
 - *Mr. Mounir Tabet, ESCWA*
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