

## Water and the SDGs: An Arab Perspective

Tuesday 24 April 2018 | 16:00-17:30 | Main Hall | UN House, Beirut

### Background:

The **Ninth Session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council** on 6 July 2017 adopted a resolution on the “Follow-up on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with respect to water,” which requests ESCWA to lead the coordination of regional preparations for the 2018 session of the HLPF through the establishment of an HLPF Working Group. The resolution requested that the Working Group prepare **a roadmap for water-related HLPF preparations**. The roadmap calls for a number of measures, including:

- Organizing an **Arab preparatory meeting** on water to prepare a joint outcome statement for submission to the AFSD;
- Delivering the **joint Arab statement to the AFSD**; and
- Convening **a special session** on Arab regional perspectives on SDG6 at the AFSD-2018.

### Session Objectives:

- Highlight the key messages and outcomes from the “Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and HLPF;
- Exchange perspectives on how best to advance understanding of the ‘human face of water scarcity’, based on a working paper prepared by FAO; and
- Discuss regional priorities and means of implementation at the country level for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Themes of Discussion:

- SDG interlinkages under conditions of water scarcity and climate change;
- Shared water resource management (surface and groundwater resources); and
- Water-related infrastructure and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation services for all in the regional context

### Water Outcome Document Priorities:

- Strengthening IWRM to cope with water scarcity
- Enhancing cooperation on shared water resources
- Water as a core component of climate change adaptation and natural disaster risk reduction
- Access to water services for all through improving water-related infrastructure

### Facilitators:

- **Ms. Carol Chouchani Churfane**, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), UN-ESCWA
- **Mr. Ziad Khayat**, First Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section, SDPD, UN-ESCWA

### Stage Setting:

- **Mr. Omar El Hattab**, Regional Advisor, Middle East and North Africa Office, UNICEF, Jordan
- **Mr. Pasquale Steduto**, Lead, Regional Projects, Near East and North Africa Office, FAO, Egypt

### Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Hssein Elatfy**, Former Minister of Water Resources, Egypt; Secretary General, Arab Water Council
- **Mr. Mohammad Abdellahi Ali**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Mauritania
- **Ms. Amal Hudhud**, Head of Strategic Planning Department and Environment Control Unit, Nablus Municipality, State of Palestine
- **Mr. Hammou Laamrani**, Integrated Expert, Housing, Environment and Water Department; Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, League of Arab States, Egypt
- **Mr. Zaher Sulaimani**, President of the Omani Water Association, Oman

