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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on Coordinating Responses to Climate Change
and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region

Beirut, 19-20 December 2017

Agenda

Tuesday, 19 December 2017

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration**

*Please bring your passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub with you to the meeting.
The meeting will be held at the United Nations House in the Mezzanine (MZ) conference room.
Pedestrian access to the building is provided through the Gibran Garden.*

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening Statements**

Moderator: *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA*

- Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief of Office, Regional Office for Arab States, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Tour de Table

Review of the Agenda

- *Mr. Tarek Sadek, Water Resources and Climate Change Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA*

Session I Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Frameworks

Moderator: *Mr. Youssef Zidi, Director, General Directorate of Environment and Quality of Life, Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia*

9:30 – 9:45 ESCWA Water Development Report 7: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region
- *Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA*

9:45 – 10:00 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): Global agenda and regional initiatives
- *Mr. Fadi Jannan, UNISDR*

- 10:00 – 10:15 Similarities and Differences across the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Agendas
- *Ms. Souraya Zein, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA*
- 10:15 – 10:45 Discussion
- 10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

Session II Assessment Tools and Databases from the Climate Change and DRR Communities

- Moderator: *Ms. Luna Abuswaireh, Director General, Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Lebanon*
- 11:15 – 11:45 Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR): Integrated assessment methodological framework
- *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA*
- 11:45 – 12:00 Extreme Climate Indices: Historical trends and future projections from RICCAR
- *Mr. Ihab Jnad, Director, Water Resources Department, Arab Center for the Study of Arid and Dry Lands (ACSAD), League of Arab States, Syrian Arab Republic*
- 12:00 – 12:30 Discussion
- 12:30 – 12:50 A New Methodology for Disaster Loss Accounting in the Arab Region
- *Mr. Fadi Jannan, UNISDR*
- 13:50 – 13:10 Discussion
- 13:10 – 13:20 RICCAR Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH)
- *Ms. Joelle Comair, Water Resources Expert, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA*
- 13:20 – 13:30 Discussion
- 13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

Session III Examining Extreme Climate Events, Hazards, Hotspots and Vulnerability

- Moderator: *Mr. Ihab Jomaa, Head, Department of Irrigation and Agro-Meteorology, Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), Lebanon*
- 14:30 – 14:45 Vulnerability of the Agriculture Sector and Human Settlements to Climate Change in the Arab Region
- *Mr. Ihab Jnad, ACSAD*
- 14:45 – 15:00 Impact of Flash Flooding and Protection Measures in Egypt
- *Ms. Karima Mahmoud Attia, Director, Water Resources Research Institute, National Water Research Center, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt*
- 15:00 – 15:15 Discussion
- 15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:00	A Stochastic Approach for linking RICCAR Climate Extreme Indices and Disaster Frequency Projections and Development of Data Layers: Lebanon case study - <i>Mr. Chadi Abdullah, National Council for Scientific Research, Lebanon</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Discussion of proposed methodologies and ways forward
16:30	End of Day 1

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

Session IV Forging Bridges across the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Communities

Moderator:	<i>Mr. Qusai Abdullah Mohamad Abusini, Head of Operations Section, National Center for Security and Crises Management, Amman, Jordan</i>
9:00 – 9:15	Mapping Linkages across the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a Water Perspective for Informing the Science-Policy Interface - <i>Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA</i>
9:15 – 9:30	The Post-2015 Integration Agenda: Common challenges and opportunities from a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) perspective - <i>Mr. Fadi Hamdan, Managing Director, Disaster Risk Management Centre, Lebanon</i>
9:30 – 9:45	Discussion
9:45 – 10:00	Gender Mainstreaming within the context of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management - <i>ESCWA Center for Women (tbc)</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Facilitated Exchange: Bridging terminologies and understanding across the climate change and disaster risk reduction communities - <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break

Session V Means of Implementation at the Global, Regional and Country Levels

Moderator:	<i>Mr. Meshari Alfaras, Head of Plans and Information Division, Kuwait Fire Service, Kuwait</i>
11:00 – 11:15	Means of Implementation for achieving Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals - <i>Ms. Souraya Zein, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA</i>
11:15 – 11:30	The Role of Science and Technology in Reducing Disaster Risk: Insights into the work of the UNISDR Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction - <i>Mr. Fadi Hamdan, Managing Director, Disaster Risk Management Centre, Lebanon</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Discussion

- 11:45 – 12:00 Integration of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Management in Algeria
 - *Mr. Djillali Benouar, Professor, University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene, Algeria*
- 12:00 – 12:15 Climate Proofing of Built Environments: Urban storm water drainage systems
 - *Mr. Ali Karnib, Professor of Engineering, Lebanese University, Lebanon*
- 12:15 – 12:30 Discussion
- 12:30 – 12:45 Disaster Preparedness and Response in Sudan
 - *Ms. Hafsa Ahmed, Head of Risk Management and GIS Unit, Humanitarian Affairs Commission, Sudan*
- 12:45 – 13:00 Disaster Risk Reduction in Mauritania
 - *Mr. Mohamed Lemine Abdel Kader, Regulation Director/National Sendai Focal Point, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania*
- 13:00 – 13:15 Discussion
- 13:15 – 14:15 Lunch Break

Session VI Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

- Moderator: *Ms. May Juboori Daood Thabit, Senior Biologist, Ministry of Health and Environment, Iraq*
- 14:15 – 14:30 Capacity Building and Raising Awareness to Support Disaster Risk Reduction in Egypt
 - *Mr. Khaled Farouk, Information and Decision Support System, Cabinet of Ministers, Egypt*
- 14:30 – 14:45 Capacity Building to Support Climate Change and DRR Policymaking in the Arab region
 - *Mr. Abdel Moniem Sanad, Assistant President for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, League of Arab States, Egypt*
- 14:45 – 15:00 Science-Policy-Community interface: Capacity building for managing natural disasters of flash floods in Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Yemen.
 - *Mr. Abdelaziz Zaki, Science National Professional Officer, Water Program, Science Sector, Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States, UNESCO, Egypt*
- 15:00 – 15:15 Discussion
- 15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break

Session VII Proposed Policy Measures, Conclusions and Way Forward

- Moderators: *Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA and Mr. Fadi Jannan, UNISDR*
- 15:30 – 16:15 Discussion of Policy Options for Linking Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Communities in the Arab Region and at the Country Level

- Adopting an intersectoral approach and institutional settings at the national level for risk assessment, management and implementation of policy measures
- Establishment of a single online databases and development of a comprehensive risk assessment process
- Establishing common regional scientific and technological platforms for addressing CC and DRR and developing capacities on development of advanced techniques (e.g. GIS, remote sensing, early warning systems, etc.)
- Mobilizing financial resources including public and private funds, innovative sources of finance and global funds, insurance, official development assistance (ODA), etc.
- Capacity development to support CC and DRR policies in the Arab Countries

16:15 – 16:30 **Conclusions and Way Forward**
 - *Ms. Carol Chouchani, ESCWA*

16:30 – 16:45 Discussion

16:45 – 17:00 **Closing Statements**
 - *Mr. Fadi Jannan, UNISDR*
 - *Ms. Roula Majdalani, ESCWA*

17:00 End of Meeting
