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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

**Report****Thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources
Beirut, 27-28 June 2019****Summary**

The Committee on Water Resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its thirteenth session in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2019. The Committee considered the items on its agenda, notably the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, the water-energy nexus in the Arab region, and regional cooperation for climate change adaptation in the Arab region. The Committee followed up on the implementation of recommendations issued at its twelfth session, and on progress in implementing the activities set out in the ESCWA programme of work and in the proposed programme plan for 2020 in the field of water resources.

The present report provides a brief review of discussions on each agenda item and the resulting recommendations.

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Introduction

1. The Committee on Water Resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its thirteenth session in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2019, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, concerning the establishment of a committee on water resources in ESCWA, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [1995/26](#) of 24 July 1995.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION

2. At the close of its thirteenth session, the Committee on Water resources made recommendations to member States and to the ESCWA secretariat.

A. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Welcome progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session, which were undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat in the period between the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Committee; and propose holding Committee sessions annually to enhance its work and effectiveness, while taking into account United Nations procedures in implementing the present recommendation.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER STATES

(a) Prioritize implementing policies on the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with national and local needs and specificities in view of water scarcity in the region; and promote the integration of water-related SDGs, targets and indicators in national and sectoral development plans that are directly or indirectly linked to the water sector;

(b) Enhance coherence between policies in the water, energy and food sectors, and coordinate between national institutions responsible for their implementation, while taking into account the impact of climate change and other natural factors on those sectors;

(c) Increase cooperation in sectors related to energy, water and food security by supporting research and development and knowledge transfer, and by localizing new and green technologies in accordance with local circumstances;

(d) Optimize benefits from services offered by the ESCWA Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, including data, analyses, projects and partnerships, and use them as guidance to develop more integrated policies and strategies in the water sector;

(e) Coordinate between the climate change community and the disaster risk reduction community to implement policies and strategies and to prepare regional and national reports, including nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, national reviews under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and voluntary national reviews under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(f) Provide the ESCWA secretariat with information on adopted mechanisms and methods to monitor progress in implementing the water-related SDGs at the national level, along with the names of focal points for global initiatives and mechanisms on monitoring water-related SDG indicators so as to facilitate coordination in data collection, and provide an evaluation of member States' participation in sessions and workshops organized by the secretariat.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARIAT

(a) Continue providing technical support to member States, including advisory services, studies, events, training programmes and regional and national workshops, to overcome the challenges they face in achieving the water-related SDGs; and support Arab countries in exchanging expertise and documenting successful experiences;

(b) Intensify efforts to transform knowledge produced by the ESCWA secretariat through studies and reports into practical interactive tools and platforms, to be used by countries in policymaking and decision-making;

(c) Continue building Arab countries' capacity to face challenges related to groundwater and surface water, including shared/transboundary water resources, by preparing reports and holding training sessions and meetings;

(d) Build the capacity of the State of Palestine to defend the water rights of the Palestinian people;

(e) Promote understanding of the energy-water-food security nexus and of how to integrate it in national policies by preparing analytical studies, disseminating pioneering experiences, and facilitating the exchange of expertise;

(f) Ensure that water-related regional priorities are integrated into global and regional monitoring mechanism for the 2030 Agenda, and in efforts to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda emanating from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

(g) Continue providing technical support to monitor the implementation of SDG 6 and prepare reports thereon, while taking into account national and regional specificities, especially water scarcity; and support member States in preparing mechanisms to integrate SDG 6 targets and indicators in national strategies and plans on water resources, and support related institutional frameworks;

(h) Continue developing the outcomes of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR), including climate forecasts; and support the establishment of disaster loss databases and link them to disaster risk reduction measures resulting from extreme weather events, such as torrents, floods, and sand and dust storms;

(i) Assist member States in preparing proposals for climate change projects for presentation to donors so as to receive the necessary funding for their implementation;

(j) Collaborate with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in preparing a regional assessment report on disaster risk reduction and in monitoring under the Sendai Framework to support Arab countries;

(k) Support member States in their work under the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, participate in Cairo Water Week and in other regional events related to climate change and water, and encourage youth participation therein;

(l) Urge member States to periodically report to the secretariat on their efforts to implement the water-related SDGs, and improve communication with member States to inform them of secretariat activities in the water and climate change fields.

II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. WATER IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. *Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans* (Agenda item 4)

4. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/3](#) on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans, pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session. The Chair of the Committee proposed that member States postpone their comments on items 4 to 6 until after item 6 had been presented.

5. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation in which he noted the significant progress achieved since the previous session, and confirmed continued ESCWA efforts to build capacity and organize consultations with all stakeholders to integrate the SDGs in national policies. He stressed that integration was necessary to increase work efficiency, indicating the absence of a clear institutional framework for SDG implementation, the weakness of joint efforts, and the lack of implementation of common programmes. He said that it was vital to mobilize domestic resources and official development assistance, to monitor progress in implementation, and to enhance accountability. He reviewed various institutional challenges impeding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially policy incoherence, an absence of appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks, weak/substandard disaster risk management, and a lack of awareness.

2. *Progress towards achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region* (Agenda item 5)

6. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/4](#) on progress towards achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region. The representative of the secretariat considered SDG 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and the interlinkages between SDG 6 and other Goals, targets and indicators given the importance of those links in enhancing coordination and integration. He recalled the meetings and events organized by ESCWA in Arab countries in 2017 and 2018 to discuss issues related to SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs. He also indicated ESCWA efforts to enhance sectoral coordination and policy coherence. He reviewed ESCWA future steps in that regard, including collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme-DHI Centre for Water and Environment to prepare a regional report on indicator 6.5.1 on implementing integrated water resources management in the Arab region. He invited countries to identify focal points for the UN Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (UN Water-GEMI).

3. *Energy-water-food nexus in the Arab region* (Agenda item 6)

7. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/5](#) on the energy-water-food nexus in the Arab region. The representative of the secretariat reviewed the requirements for strengthening the energy-water-food nexus, especially applying an interdependent approach in national development plans and programmes, adopting integrated policies, and building on analytical studies based on reliable data. He noted relevant implemented activities, including projects financed by the United Nations Development Account, and projects implemented in collaboration with other international bodies. He reviewed the way forward, including assigning greater attention to the energy-water-food nexus, and building related institutional capacity.

8. In the ensuing discussion, participants said that it was vital to ensure that receipt of reports sent from ESCWA to member States, and to take note of responses and comments thereon. The representative of Jordan said that it was both the secretariat and member States' responsibility to confirm receipt. He stressed the importance of coordination, the need to operationalize member States' role and ensure continual

communication, and the importance of ESCWA pressure to ensure reporting on progress achieved. He said that despite increased awareness on the importance of an interdependent approach in managing and planning the energy and water sectors, member States remained unclear on the possibilities, priorities and objectives of interdependence at the national and regional levels.

9. The representative of Kuwait said that ESCWA reports were considered a reference, stressing the need to further operationalize the Committee's role and include countries in formulating session agendas. The representative of Jordan said that the Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia, prepared in collaboration between the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and ESCWA, was a reference document containing scientific evidence to support ongoing negotiations on sharing water from a transboundary basin between riparian countries in the Arab region. The representative of Kuwait said that it was vital to integrate sustainable development in national development plans. She added that her country had made significant progress under the water-related SDGs, and proposed that a summary of each country's progress be presented.

10. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that there was some confusion in the definition of several SDG 6 indicators, and stressed that it was vital to align global indicator definitions with national and regional contexts, such as the indicator on the management of shared basins that did not take into account the complexities of basins in the Arab region. He expressed his wish that Arab countries would have the capacity to amend such indicators.

11. The representative of the Sudan proposed establishing a ceiling for energy consumption in the water sector. The representative of Egypt suggested that ESCWA develop guiding principles on the energy-water-food nexus and on integrating it in national policies. He expressed his wish that ESCWA play a role in Cairo Water Week. The representative of Qatar requested that ESCWA communicate with countries after each workshop, so as to disseminate outcomes and share information. The representative of Saudi Arabia requested that the secretariat contribute to improving investment and economic conditions.

12. The representatives of Mauritania and the Syrian Arab Republic said that the issue of shared basins posed challenges not only for the Arab region but also for neighbouring countries in other regions. The representative of Mauritania said that a study was needed on the size of shared basins in terms of volume and available resources. He also requested that ESCWA identify sources to finance the study.

13. In response, the representative of the secretariat welcomed participants' comments on the documents, and stressed that ESCWA was interested in hearing their responses thereon. She said that there were several reports on measuring energy and water costs and on green finance. She added that ESCWA was providing support in implementing three pilot initiatives aimed at operationalizing the energy-water nexus in projects funded by the United Nations, which required country support through legislation, laws and investment to operationalize the nexus at the national level and to face other challenges. More effective collaboration was also needed.

4. Round-table discussion: Water in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda item 7)

14. Under this item, the Committee considered SDG 6 and held a round-table discussion on the water sector in Arab countries in the light of the 2030 Agenda. It presented key achievements by member States and the major challenges they faced.

15. The representative of Oman said that his country was preparing for Oman Vision 2040, and was working to achieve SDG 6 by focusing on reusing waste water. Oman could provide clean water to 98 per cent of the urban population and 88 per cent of the rural population. It had also enacted legislation to improve financial management, prepared detailed studies on the impact of climate change, and developed national awareness-raising programmes.

16. The representative of Jordan noted a 10-year water sector strategy developed by the Government, stressing the difficulty of long-term planning given the 1.4 million Syrian refugees in the country, which had caused the Government to amend the strategy to align it with the current situation. He said that 95 per cent of the population had been connected to water supply networks in 2018, but water supply was limited. He added that the Government was working on establishing two desalination plants, which required significant funding. He discussed water stress and the difficulties associated with achieving the related indicator, notably the availability of funding for water resources development projects, collaboration between countries in managing shared water resources, and developing clear and amendable agreements with the support of all stakeholders. In response to a question about water quality control and the responsible body, the representative of Jordan said that water quality control was carried out from an operational perspective and that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment shared that responsibility.

17. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that his country's circumstances differed greatly from other countries' given the repercussions of conflict and internal displacement for indicators on water services and sanitation. He explained the national post-conflict plan that comprised four stages, namely relief, recovery, rehabilitation and sustainability. He said that the main objective had changed from providing drinking water to all the population to re-establishing services in safe areas, which contributed to preserving people's dignity. He added that the basis for providing services had also shifted from a per capita share of water to a housing unit share of water. The initiative was being tested to limit irrational water use. He said that there was currently a water deficit, requiring an increase in irrigation efficiency and a reduction in consumption by using drip irrigation in particular. He noted that sustainable development language was relatively new to the Syrian Arab Republic, because of its previous isolation from the outside world.

18. The representative of the Sudan said that his country was suffering from inequality in water distribution. Despite the significant water wealth of 10-40 billion cubed metres of water, its distribution remained unequitable among the population. He said that areas far from the Nile depended on rainwater, which increased their vulnerability to scarcity. He added that the Government was adopting various methods to bridge the gap in water services, including harvesting water resources for more equitable redistribution. He reviewed the greatest challenges in the water sector, notably not involving stakeholders in development plans and displacement.

19. The representative of Iraq said that a committee was being formed to evaluate SDG 6, comprising representatives from relevant Iraqi ministries. The Government, in collaboration with global partners, had prepared a study to develop a roadmap for the water sector for the period 2015-2035. She said that the Government's aim was to ensure clean water for drinking and agriculture, noting that progress was slow given the significant scarcity in the country and infrastructure destruction that the Government was now working to resolve.

20. The representative of the State of Palestine clarified the special circumstances imposed by the occupation, which impeded strategy implementation and achieving sustainable development given the absence of necessary resources and a lack of control over water sources. He said that his country was striving to develop short-term strategies of three years, but groundwater in Gaza was largely unusable which increased the need for desalination and treatment plants that required investment and financing, which posed the greatest challenge. He stressed that it was necessary to strengthen connections and cooperation between Arab countries, especially in exchanging data on available resources in each country.

21. The representative of Qatar said that his country had been implemented sustainable development frameworks in the water and climate change fields since 2008, and had developed strategies comprising 26 initiatives. He added that drinking water was sourced fully from the sea, and that Qatar was attempting to optimize benefits from natural resources by making groundwater safe to drink.

22. The representative of Kuwait said that her country was committed to SDG 6. Water provided across the country, except in uninhabited areas, met World Health Organization standards. She added that the greatest

challenge was managing water demand, since national consumption levels were the highest globally. Kuwait was working on organizing effective awareness-raising campaigns to rationalize water use.

23. The representative of Egypt said that a major challenge for his country was the gap between available resources and water needs, noting that the agricultural sector was the biggest water consumer in the country. He also said that there was a lack of data in the field. He noted that the Government had required all coastal cities to desalinate seawater to provide their populations with water, and was working on involving farmers in adopting modern irrigation systems, disseminating pioneering experiences, and raising awareness to rationalize water use in agriculture, which had achieved the desired results. He indicated a bilateral cooperation mechanism with the Sudan on shared water resources from the Nile. In response to questions from Committee members, he said that his country was now treating 60 per cent of waste water, which was mixed with fresh water in accordance with Egyptian water treatment law and used for irrigating orchards. He added that the Ministry of Housing was responsible for desalinating seawater.

24. The representative of Saudi Arabia reviewed his country's efforts to achieve SDG 6 targets. He said that Saudi Arabia had taken several steps to that end in the past years, including the recent adoption of a water strategy 2020-2030 that comprised 10 programmes, and was binding for all workers in the sector and its affiliated organizations. He added that the strategy guaranteed sufficient amounts of high-quality water, improved water demand management and water preservation, ensured water sector competitiveness and the sector's readiness in emergencies, and set out regulations. Nevertheless, the country still required around 10 billion cubic metres of water to meet its population's needs, so the specialized ministry had adopted an integrated plan to balance supply and demand, comprising all available water sources including ground and surface water, desalinated water and dam water.

25. The representative of Mauritania said that his country was abundant in water, but its large area hampered infrastructure projects and weakened the capacity to connect the population to water supply and sanitation networks. He noted that the Government had developed a sectoral plan as part of a national strategy aimed at achieving development and prosperity for all. It had also succeeded in implementing a project to drain rainwater. He said that the main challenge was the ever-expanding population, which increased pressure on infrastructure, especially sanitation projects that required significant financing.

B. REGIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARAB REGION

1. *Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies: an integrated approach to climate change* (Agenda item 8)

26. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/6](#). The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies and on the integrated approaches and partnerships that it had adopted to broaden ESCWA work in the field of climate change by building Arab countries' capacity to tackle the impact of climate change so as to achieve sustainable development. She said that the Centre unified all dimensions of ESCWA work in the field of climate change under a common umbrella. Several activities had been implemented to support the Centre, including technical and advisory missions, meetings and workshops, funded from extrabudgetary sources and the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation. She reviewed planned activities, especially participating in global and regional forums and holding meetings and workshops in collaboration with global, regional and national partners.

27. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Saudi Arabia said that many workshops were being held. When holding a session, it was necessary to inform stakeholders of the list of participants, plans and expected benefits. The representative of Jordan commended RICCAR, and invited countries to benefit from it in collaboration with ESCWA to support national water management strategies.

28. In response, the representative of the secretariat agreed that many workshops were being held. ESCWA had organized several workshops consistent with the periodic outcomes of global negotiations. She said that the selection of participants in training workshops depended on the topic. For example, the secretariat had invited representatives of environment and foreign ministries to capacity-building workshops on climate change negotiations, because they represented their countries at global negotiations. Regarding RICCAR, the representative of the secretariat thanked the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for its financial support, and confirmed that the secretariat was assisting countries in downscaling RICCAR outputs through national training sessions.

2. Linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction in the Arab region
(Agenda item 9)

29. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/7](#). The representative of the secretariat presented the similarities and differences between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, indicating the various linkages between them and noting a specialized study conducted by ESCWA in that field. He stressed that those linkages, in addition to political and financial support, were vital to achieving integration. He discussed a comprehensive survey of national strategies conducted by ESCWA under RICCAR. He said that the Arab Climate Outlook Forum played a key role in conducting seasonal forecasts, and in liaising with various sectors to discuss the impact of climate change on each of them. He concluded with several recommendations, notably enhancing coordination and consistency between disaster risk reduction communities and adapting to climate change.

30. The representative of Egypt said that it was important for countries to benefit from activities implemented by ESCWA, and stressed that it was vital to communicate via one focal point. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that disaster risk reduction was a cross-sectoral issue. The representative of Saudi Arabia said that it was necessary to focus on certain Arab countries with regard to torrents and floods, and expressed his wish that greater attention be given to sand and dust storms. Representatives agreed that it was vital for ESCWA to disseminate as per the institutional status of each country, and for member States to intensify communication efforts.

31. In response, the representative of the secretariat proposed that a committee be established, tasked with tackling all aspects of disaster risk reduction.

C. PROGRESS ACHIEVED SINCE THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

*1. Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources
at its twelfth session*
(Agenda item 10)

32. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/8](#) on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its twelfth session, held in Aman from 22 to 24 March 2017. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation covering the training programmes, workshops and expert group meetings organized by ESCWA pursuant to Committee recommendations, and global, regional and national measures taken by ESCWA under the MDG+ Initiative. She also noted ESCWA efforts in building capacity for climate change negotiations, in implementing programmes under the Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement, and in preparing related reports. She said that ESCWA had contributed to preparing the Secretary-General's Plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, supported a regional initiative on the water-energy-food nexus, and launched the RICCAR website and a related data portal. The Chair of the Committee proposed that comments be postponed until after item 11 had been presented.

2. *Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work*
(Agenda item 11)

33. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/9](#) on the implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work in the field of water resources. The representative of the secretariat reviewed key activities implemented by ESCWA to achieve expected accomplishments under subprogramme 1 for the bienniums 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, including organizing expert group meetings, preparing thematic reports, aligning national plans with the SDGs by applying the water-energy-food nexus, and building member States and civil societies' capacity to adapt to climate change and natural disasters. She noted that support had been given to intergovernmental processes at the regional and global levels, to water-related forums, and to field projects under RICCAR. She also indicated that various technical cooperation activities and advisory services had been provided.

34. In the ensuing discussion, the Chair of the Committee and participants commended ESCWA efforts, and thanked the secretariat for the success of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources.

D. PROGRAMMATIC ISSUES

1. *Proposed programme plan for 2020 in the area of integrated natural resource management for sustainable development*
(Agenda item 12)

35. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/10](#). The representative of the secretariat said that the main objective of the proposed programme plan for 2020 was to support member States in achieving water, energy and food security, and to take appropriate measures to combat climate change. She noted that the secretariat would work with member States to improve natural resources management, attract potential financing, build capacity to develop integrated policies, and advance sustainable agriculture by facilitating intergovernmental meetings and expert group meetings, generating and transferring knowledge, and providing technical services. She said that ESCWA would begin preparing the programme plan for 2021 in September 2019, and invited Committee members to propose priority areas under subprogramme 1 on the integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development.

36. In response, participants commended ESCWA activities and efforts, and expressed their appreciation for the content of the presentation.

2. *Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources*
(Agenda item 13)

37. The fourteenth session on the Committee on Water Resources will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut in 2021. The ESCWA secretariat will communicate with stakeholders to determine a specific date.

3. *Other matters*
(Agenda item 14)

38. No other matters were raised under this item.

4. *Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its thirteenth session*
(Agenda item 15)

39. At its closing session, the Committee adopted the recommendations issued at its thirteenth session.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. DATE AND VENUE

40. The thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources was held at the United Nations House in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2019.

B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

41. In his capacity as Chair of the Committee's twelfth session, the representative of the Sudan opened the session. He welcomed participants and thanked all those who had worked tirelessly to organize the current session. He also thanked Lebanon for hosting the session. He said that the Committee was a platform for partnership and cooperation, and an observatory of information. Committee members had implemented recommendations issued at the previous session, but water resources remained at risk from several natural factors, such as climate change, and non-natural factors, including irrational water use. The current session would focus on tackling those risks. He concluded his statement by thanking all Committee members and ESCWA for their support during his tenure as Chair of the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources.

42. The Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division made a statement on behalf of the ESCWA secretariat. After welcoming participants, she said that 7 of the 17 SDGs were intrinsically linked to water and its management. Managing water resources and providing affordable sanitation services for all were pillars of sustainable development. The Arab region faced various challenges, including depleted renewable water sources as a result of population growth, urbanization and economic activity, reliance on shared water sources that were mostly outside the region, inadequate waste water treatment, and the impact of climate change. She stressed the need for coordination and regional action to face those challenges, and the importance of supporting joint institutional work between the water and energy sectors. She invited Committee members to discuss work priorities so as to achieve sustainable development that left no one behind.

C. PARTICIPANTS

43. Representatives of the following 11 ESCWA member States took part in the session: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The list of participants is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

44. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia provides that member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.* Accordingly, Oman assumed the Chair of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources, given that Iraq was unable to chair. The representative of the State of Palestine and of the Sudan assumed the positions of Vice-Chair, and the representative of Qatar that of Rapporteur.

E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

45. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda of its thirteenth session as set out in document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/L.1](#).

* The Arabic alphabetized list of ESCWA member States is as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Egypt

Mr. Rajab Ali Abdul Azim Mohammed
First Deputy
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

Iraq

Ms. Meaad Hatu Hashim
Assistant Director-General of the Planning
and Follow-up Department
Ministry of Water Resources

Ms. Saria Laith Ibrahim
Associate Chief Engineer
Planning and Follow-up Department

Jordan

Mr. Ali Subah
Secretary-General
Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Kuwait

Ms. Maha Yousef al-Hajiri
Director of the Water Facilities Projects
Department
Ministry of Electricity and Water

Ms. Sara al-Mutairi
Director of the Chemical Works Department
Ministry of Electricity and Water

Mauritania

Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Ali
Chargé d'Affaires
Ministry of Water and Sanitation

Oman

Mr. Rashid bin Yahya bin Hamdan Al-Abri
Assistant Director-General
Directorate General for Water Resources
Assessment
Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water
Resources

Ms. Jokha bint Khamis bin Khalfan al-Hinai
Head of the Water Resources Data Processing
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Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water
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State of Palestine

Mr. Ziad Daraghmeh
Project Manager
Project Management Unit
Palestinian Water Authority

Qatar

Mr. Fahd Yousef Telft
Water Networks Affairs Manager
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation
(KAHRAMAA)

Mr. Musa Ibrahim Ahmed
Water Plant Operation Engineer
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation
(KAHRAMAA)

Ms. Huda bint Abdullah Ahmed al-Kandari
Water Resources Analyst
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation
(KAHRAMAA)

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed Sultan
Geological Engineer
Director of the Water Systems Integration
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Deputy Ministry for Water Affairs
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Mr. Mohammed Abdul Razak
Water Resources Management Adviser
Deputy Ministry for Water Affairs
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Mr. Yousef Abdullah Al Ghamdi
Director of the Water Systems Integration
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Deputy Ministry for Water Affairs
General Directorate of Water Resources
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Sudan

Mr. Abu Obeida Babkir Ahmed Hassan
General Manager of Hydraulic and Water
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Hydraulics Research Center
Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and
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Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Mohammed al-Akhras
Assistant Minister of Water Resources of
Technical Affairs
Ministry of Water Resources

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work	11	E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/9
Proposed programme plan for 2020 in the area of integrated natural resource management for sustainable development	12	E/ESCWA/C.4/2019/10
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