Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on Pursuing Improved Shared Water Resources Cooperation within the Framework of Global and Regional Agreements
Beirut, Lebanon, 6-7 December 2018

AGENDA

Thursday, 6 December 2018

8:30 – 9:00  Registration

The meeting will be held in Committee Room 1 at the United Nations House. Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

9:00 – 9:30  Opening Statements

Moderator:  Mr. Ziad Khayat, First Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA, Lebanon

- Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Officer-in-Charge, Sustainable Development Policies Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Lebanon

- Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Integrated Senior Expert, Department of Environment, Housing and Water Resources, League of Arab States, Egypt

Tour de Table

Review of the Agenda

Session I  Water Security in the Arab Regional Context

Moderator:  Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA

9:30 – 9:45  Arab Water Security Strategy for Sustainable Development 2010-2030

- Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States

9:45 – 10:15  Conceptual framework for moving towards water security in the Arab Region

- Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA

10:15 – 10:45  Discussion

10:45 – 11:15  Coffee break
### Session II  
**Global and Regional Reporting on Transboundary Water Cooperation**

#### Moderator:  
*Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States*

**11:15 – 11:35**  
Global Reporting on progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation, SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with an insight from SDG Indicator 6.5.1 on transboundary implementation of IWRM
- *Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Environment Affairs Officer, Secretariat for the Convention on Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water and International Lakes Water, UNECE*
- *Mr. Aurélien Dumont, Project Officer, Groundwater Systems and Settlements Section, International Hydrological Program (IHP), UNESCO*

**11:35 – 11:45**  
Discussion

**Country Reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2**

**11:45 – 12:00**  
*Iraq*
- *Mr. Abdulrudha Iyssa, Assistant Director, Directorate of Planning and Follow-up, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq*

**12:00 – 12:15**  
*Jordan*
- *Mr. Mohamed Al Atrash, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan*

**12:15 – 12:30**  
*Tunisia*
- *Mr. Mohamed Lotfi Nacef, Director, Office of Evaluation and Water Research, General Directorate of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia*

**12:30 – 12:45**  
Discussion

**12:45 – 13:00**  
Group Photo

**13:00 – 14:00**  
Lunch Break

### Session III  
**Improving Process of Reporting on Transboundary Water Cooperation**

#### Moderator:  
*Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA*

**14:00 – 14:15**  
Lessons learnt from the 1st global exercise on SDG Indicator 6.5.2
- *Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE*

**14:15 – 14:30**  
Discussion

**14:30 – 14:45**  
*Egypt Country Reporting*
- *Mr. Ragab Abdelazim, First Undersecretary, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt*

**14:45 – 15:00**  
Country Interventions from the floor (*reporting status, challenges to reporting, assistance required for improving reporting, …*)
- Djibouti, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, …

**15:00 – 15:15**  
Coffee Break
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<th>Session IV</th>
<th>Panel Discussion: Opportunities for Improving Transboundary Water Cooperation</th>
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<td>15:15 – 16:15</td>
<td>Moderator: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA</td>
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<td>Panellists:</td>
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<td>• Amb. Yasser Srour, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt</td>
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<td>• Mr. Abdulrudha Iyssa, Assistant Director, Directorate of Planning and Follow-up, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq</td>
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<td>• Mr. Metib Saeed Al-Kahtani, General Director, General Directorate of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>• Mr. Mohammad Al-Atrash, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan</td>
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<td>• Mr. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla Hamad, Head of Technical Water Resources Organisation, Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity, Sudan</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Topics for Discussion:</td>
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<td>• What role do bilateral, regional and global cooperation frameworks have in improving transboundary water cooperation?</td>
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<td>• Can a Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus approach push forward transboundary cooperation in the Arab Region?</td>
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<td>• How can water diplomacy beyond the shared water basin improve cooperation amongst riparian countries?</td>
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<td>• Can shared basin climate change adaptation initiatives act as catalyst for cooperation?</td>
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<th>16:15 – 16:30</th>
<th>Closing Remarks</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States</td>
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<td>• Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA</td>
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16:30 End of Day 1
Friday, 7 December 2018
Closed Meeting by Invitation Only from the League of Arab States
Second Meeting of the Committee for the Draft Guidance Principles for Shared Water Cooperation between Arab States

Session I
Draft Guidance Principles for Shared Water Cooperation between Arab States

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Statement
- Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Integrated Senior Expert, Department of Environment, Housing and Water Resources, Economic Sector, League of Arab States

The Draft Guidance Principles for Shared Water Cooperation between Arab Countries: Recap of first meeting
- Ms. Raya Stephan, International Transboundary Water Expert/ESCWA Consultant, France

Discussion

Session II
Discussions on the Draft Guidance Principles for Shared Water Cooperation between Arab States

Facilitator: Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States

9:30 – 10:00 Discussion of draft items
10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break
10:30 – 13:00 Continued discussion of draft items
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 15:45 Continued discussion of draft items
15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

Session III
Moving Forward and Conclusions

16:00 – 16:30 Facilitator: Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States

- Discussions on next steps
- Preliminary conclusions of the Committee on the Draft Guidance Principles for Shared Water Cooperation between Arab States

16:30 End of Meeting