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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
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<i>Moderator:</i>	<i>Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States</i>
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Environment Affairs Officer, Secretariat for the Convention on Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water and International Lakes Water, UNECE</i>• <i>Mr. Aurélien Dumont, Project Officer, Groundwater Systems and Settlements Section, International Hydrological Program (IHP), UNESCO</i>
11:35 – 11:45	Discussion
11:45 – 12:00	Country Reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 Iraq <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Abdulrudha Iyssa, Assistant Director, Directorate of Planning and Follow-up, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Mohamed Al Atrash, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Tunisia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Mohamed Lotfi Nacef, Director, Office of Evaluation and Water Research, General Directorate of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia</i>
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
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<i>Moderator:</i>	<i>Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Lessons learnt from the 1 st global exercise on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Discussion
14:30 – 14:45	Egypt Country Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Ragab Abdelazim, First Undersecretary, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Country Interventions from the floor (<i>reporting status, challenges to reporting, assistance required for improving reporting, ...</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Djibouti, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, ...</i>
15 :00 – 15 :15	Coffee Break

Session IV 15:15 – 16:15	Panel Discussion: Opportunities for Improving Transboundary Water Cooperation
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Moderator: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA

- Panellists:*
- Amb. Yasser Srour, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
 - Mr. Abdulrudha Iyssa, Assistant Director, Directorate of Planning and Follow-up, Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq
 - Mr. Metib Saeed Al-Kahtani, General Director, General Directorate of Water Resources. Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia
 - Mr. Mohammad Al-Atrash, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
 - Mr. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla Hamad, Head of Technical Water Resources Organisation, Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity, Sudan

Discussion

Topics for Discussion:

- *What role do bilateral, regional and global cooperation frameworks have in improving transboundary water cooperation?*
- *Can a Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus approach push forward transboundary cooperation in the Arab Region?*
- *How can water diplomacy beyond the shared water basin improve cooperation amongst riparian countries?*
- *Can shared basin climate change adaptation initiatives act as catalyst for cooperation?*

16:15 – 16:30	Closing Remarks
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- Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States
- Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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