Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and High Level Political Forum

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Means of Implementation

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1. Regional cooperation

- Region-specific indicators and harmonized methodologies.

- Unified Key Performances Indicators for the Arab Region

- A common understanding about cooperation on shared water resources management and water scarcity.

- The Arab Water Security Strategy should be updated.

- Due to strong groundwater-dependence of most Arab States, groundwater quantity and quality monitoring as part of the SDG indicator methodologies.

- Virtual water and water footprints.
2. National coherence and coordination across sectors [through participatory approaches]

- Promote high-level national coordination among competing sectors.

- Consider the interlinkages that exist across the SDGs, and particularly those related to the water-energy-food security and climate change nexus.

- Mainstreaming water-related considerations and priorities in national development plans.

- Promote national high-level dialogue between water and agriculture sectors, to prioritise water for drinking water, domestic use and subsistence farming where suitable.

- Legislative development

- Participatory approaches
3. Technology transfer and investment

- Non-conventional water resources.

- Irrigation efficiency and modernizing water-saving irrigation techniques

- National and regional knowledge hubs for technology development and transfer

- Remote sensing and smart ICT (Information, Communication, Technology).

- Energy-efficient technologies

- Appropriate technologies for wastewater treatment
4. Financing

- Mapping development funds and donors available in the Arab region
- Reviewing tariff strategy for water and sanitation in order to have cost recovery for this sector, as well as take into account all levels of consumers
- Integrating water priorities into national development plans targeted for funding
- Enabling environment to encourage private sector and PPP involvement
- Improving on capital spending responsibilities
- Creating resource mobilization strategy to implement the action plan of the Arab Water Strategy
- Creating cost estimate of the SDG 6 7
5. Capacity building

- Enhancing the capacity of regional and national Arab institutions
- Awareness raising.
- Encouraging the adoption of standard international water balance structure and terminology.
- Negotiating shared waters treaties.
- Mainstreaming SDG indicators in national monitoring systems.
- Supporting awareness raising on water conservation measures.
- Improving the capacity of national institutions to understand, apply and interpret SDG6-related indicator methodologies.