



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Regional workshop

Enhancing transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region - progress, challenges and opportunities

3-4 March 2020, Beirut

Programme

Day 1 – Tuesday 3 March 2020

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00-9:40 **Opening session**

Moderator: Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

- Ms. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- Mr. Peter Kovacs, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of Interior, Hungary
- Ms. Roula Majdalani, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster Lead, ESCWA

Tour de Table

Presentation of the workshop's objectives, Moderator

With the support of:



9.40-12:30 Session 1. Transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region: progress and challenges

Objectives of the session:

- i) Provide an updated snapshot of the status of transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region and of implementation of SDG 6 on water, specifically its target 6.5 on implementing IWRM at all levels;
- ii) Showcase good practices and lessons learnt from successful cooperation over the management of transboundary surface and groundwater in the MENA region and beyond, highlighting the benefits of cooperation.

Moderator: Ms. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med

- 9.40-10.40
Overview of transboundary surface water and groundwater resources in the MENA region, and progress in cooperation
 - Highlights on the status of transboundary water cooperation for surface water and groundwater resources in the MENA region
Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA
 - Progress on IWRM and transboundary water resources management in the MENA region: Regional baseline for SDG Indicator 6.5.1 and 6.5.2
Mr. Gareth James Lloyd, Deputy Chief Manager, UNEP-DHI Centre
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE
Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA
 - Interventions by countries and discussion

10:40-11:00 *Coffee break*

- 11.00-12:30
How do riparian countries benefit from successful transboundary water cooperation?
 - Introduction to the benefits of transboundary water cooperation
Ms. Diane Guerrier, Secretariat of the Water Convention
 - Review of examples of transboundary water cooperation: Experience-sharing from the MENA region, focusing on (1) benefits of cooperation; (2) conditions for effective cooperation; (3) needs to be addressed to improve cooperation:
 - Transboundary water cooperation in the Orontes River basin
Mr. Jihad Kanaan, Director of International Waters and Dams, Ministry of Water Resources, Syria
 - Bilateral and regional cooperation in the Nile Basin
Ms. Tahani Sileet, Head of Central Department for External Cooperation, Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt

- Cooperation for the management and utilization of groundwater resources in Al-Sag/Al-Disi layer between Jordan and Saudi Arabia
Mr. Adel Al-Obeiaat, Director of Policies and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
- **12:30-13:00**
What are the persisting and emerging challenges in the region and how can they be overcome?

Moderated interactive discussion

Family Photo

13:00-14:15 *Lunch break*

14:15-15:30 ***Session 2. Data and information exchange for effective management of transboundary waters***

Objective of the session:

- i) Develop strategically good approaches to the exchange of data and information, as well as to monitoring in transboundary basins, on the basis of the water management issues at stake.*

Moderator: *Mr. Younes Touitha, Technical Infrastructure Expert, Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)*

- How to approach data and information exchange, monitoring and assessment in transboundary basins?
 - Methods for monitoring and assessing transboundary waters
Mr. Jos Timmerman, Waterframes, The Netherlands
 - Data and information exchange in the North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS)
Ms. Hayet Ben Mansour, Director for Surface Waters, General Directorate for Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia
 - Disruptive technologies for improved water resources management
Ms. Amal Talbi, Lead Water Resources Management, Middle East and North Africa (MNA) Unit, Water Global Practice, The World Bank
- Information and data exchange for transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region
Group discussion introduced by Mr. Jos Timmerman

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-17:30 Session 3. Managing water scarcity – Water and adaptation to climate change

Objective of the session:

- i) *Share experiences on how to improve water management in order to increase resilience to climate change impacts and coping with water scarcity, in particular through cooperation*

Moderator: Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Water Convention Secretariat

- Regional projections: how will climate change affects transboundary water resources
 - Highlights from the Regional Initiative for Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab region (RICCAR)
Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief Water Resources Section, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability, ESCWA
- Panel discussion: Water and climate change adaptation in transboundary basins - good practices and lessons learnt from the MENA region and beyond
 - RICCAR case study from the Medjerda river basin
Ms. Marlene Tomasziewicz, Regional Advisor for GIS for Climate Change Analysis, ESCWA
 - Case study from the Water Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP)
Ms. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med
 - Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins under the Water Convention
Mr. Jos Timmerman, Waterframes, The Netherlands and Ms. Diane Guerrier, Water Convention secretariat
- How can climate change adaptation be used as a catalyst for cooperation in transboundary basins?
Plenary discussion

**Evening: Dinner offered for all guests* (restaurant to be announced)*

Day 2 – Wednesday 4 March 2020

9:00-12:00 **Session 4. The role of international water law in supporting transboundary water cooperation**

Objectives of the session:

- i) *Understand how international water law, and the Water Convention in particular, can contribute towards strengthening transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region;*
- ii) *Review interest and progress of countries in the region so far in acceding to it.*

- 9:00-9:50
The Water Convention: an opportunity for the MENA region?

Moderator: *Mr. Hussein El Atfy, Arab Water Council*

- International water law as a tool to strengthen cooperation - Focus on the Water Convention: an opportunity for the MENA region?
Ms. Diane Guerrier, Water Convention secretariat
- Benefits of implementing the Water Convention: perspective of a Party
Mr. Peter Kovacs, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention
- Frequently asked questions about the Water Convention
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Water Convention secretariat

- 9:50-10:35
Acceding and implementing the Water Convention: progress in the MENA region

Moderator: *Mr. Peter Kovacs, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention*

Panel discussion with representatives of MENA countries engaged in accession process:

- Mr. Adel Al-Obeiaat, Director of Policies and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
- Ms. Hayet Ben Mansour, Director for Surface Waters, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries and/or Mr. Wissem Moatemri, Deputy Director for Partnerships for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tunisia
- H.E. Mr. Hassan Janabi, Ambassador of Iraq to Turkey, Former Minister of Water Resources, Iraq

Discussion/Reactions

10:35-11:05 *Coffee break*

- 11:05-12:15
Opportunities for strengthening transboundary water cooperation - reflexions on the role of international water law

Moderator: *Mr. Peter Kovacs, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention*

Panel discussion with experts:

- Mr. Mohamad Abu Setteh, Vice-Chair of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) (tbc)
- Mr. Shaddad Attali, Advisor, Negotiation Department, Former Water Minister and Head of Palestinian Water Authority, State of Palestine
- Mr. Hassan Al-Janabi, Ambassador of Iraq to Turkey, Former Minister of Water Resources, Iraq

Discussion/Reactions

12:15-16:15 *Session 5: Tools and approaches for improving transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region (Part 1 and Part 2)*

Part 1: 12.15-13.15
Good practices for water allocation in transboundary basins

Objectives of Part 1:

- i) *Discuss existing approaches and methodologies for water allocation in the MENA region*
- ii) *Draw lessons learned on sustainable and equitable transboundary arrangements on water allocation*

Moderator: *Mr. Maged Ibrahim, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)*

- Water allocation in transboundary context: gathering experience worldwide for the Global Handbook
Mr. Peter Kovacs, Chair of the Expert Group on Water Allocation under the Water Convention, Ministry of Interior, Hungary
- Interactive discussion in groups about experiences on water allocation in the MENA region
Groups focusing on: (1) limiting withdrawals; (2) optimizing water storage (from national to transboundary); (3) groundwater; (4) institutional framework
- Next steps and call for inputs
Mr. Peter Kovacs and Secretariat of the Water Convention

13:15-14:30 *Lunch break*

Part 2: 14:30-16:15
The Water-Food- Energy-Ecosystem Nexus approach

Objective of Part 2:

- i) *Discuss how to effectively engage with economic sectors using water and impacting on water resources by applying an intersectoral “Nexus” approach*

Moderator: *Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Union for Mediterranean (UfM)*

- Introduction on the Nexus approach and its benefits for transboundary water cooperation, findings from the 1st nexus roundtable in the MENA
Ms. Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med

- Experience sharing of nexus approaches application in transboundary basins from the region and beyond:
 - Nexus Dialogue Programme-Mainstreaming the Nexus Approach at the Niger Basin Authority
Ms. Nisreen Ellahham, Advisor, GIZ
 - Nexus assessment in the North Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS) basin
Ms. Hayet Ben Mansour, Director for Surface Waters, General Directorate for Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia
 - Facilitating intersectoral cooperation and integrated planning in transboundary basins - impacts of Nexus assessments in transboundary basins
Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Water Convention secretariat

- Interactive discussion

16:15-16:30 *Conclusions & Next Steps*

- Mr. Ziad Khayat, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Ms. Anthi Brouma, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)