



16 - 18 SEPTEMBER

2024

ABU DHABI, UAE

FOR A WATER-RESILIENT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

# Detailed Program

Supported by:



The League  
of Arab States



The Ministry of Water  
Resources and Irrigation of  
Egypt

Convened by:



Co-located with



World Utilities  
Congress

Brought to you by

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# ARAB WATER COUNCIL

## Board



Ministry of Energy and  
Infrastructure  
UAE



Ministry of Water Resources  
and Irrigation  
Egypt



Ministry of Water,  
Environment and Agriculture  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Ministry of Electricity & Water  
& Renewable Energy  
Kuwait



Ministry of Electricity &  
Water Authority  
Bahrain



Ministry of Regional Municipalities  
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Sultanate of Oman



Ministry of Water  
and Irrigation  
Jordan



Ministry of Energy  
and Water  
Lebanon



Ministry of Energy,  
Mines and Environment  
Morocco



Ministry of Agriculture, Water  
Resources, and Fisheries  
Tunisia



Ministry of  
Water Resources  
Algeria



Ministry of Energy and  
Water Resources  
Somalia



Ministry of  
Water Resources  
Iraq



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Water, Fisheries & Livestock  
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Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries, Environment,  
Territory Planning and Urban  
Comoros



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Corporation  
Qatar



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Water Authority  
Palestine



Ministry of Water Resources,  
Irrigation and Electricity  
Sudan



Ministry of Water &  
Environment  
Yemen



Ministry of Water  
and Sanitation  
Mauritania



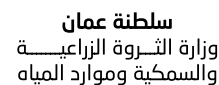
Ministry of  
Water Resources  
Libya



Ministry of  
Water Resources  
Syria

# ARAB WATER FORM

## Session Conveners



# Program at a Glance

## T1: Addressing Regional Emerging Water Challenges

	10:00 - 11:00	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 13:00	13:00 - 14:00	14:00 - 15:30	15:30 - 17:00
Day 1 : 16 <sup>th</sup> Septmeber	Joint Opening of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Arab Water Forum & World Utilities Congress	Exhibition Opening	PL1 : High Level Ministerial Dialogue AWC	Lunch & Networking	PS1: Transboundary Water Resources Management CEDARE, AWC  PS2: Peace, Climate Change and Water Security in the Arab Region CCCCPA	PS3: Climate, Water & Food Security: Adaptation and Resilience Measures UNDP, AWC  PS4: Water & Climate Sustainable Finance GCF
					Exhibition	

## T2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

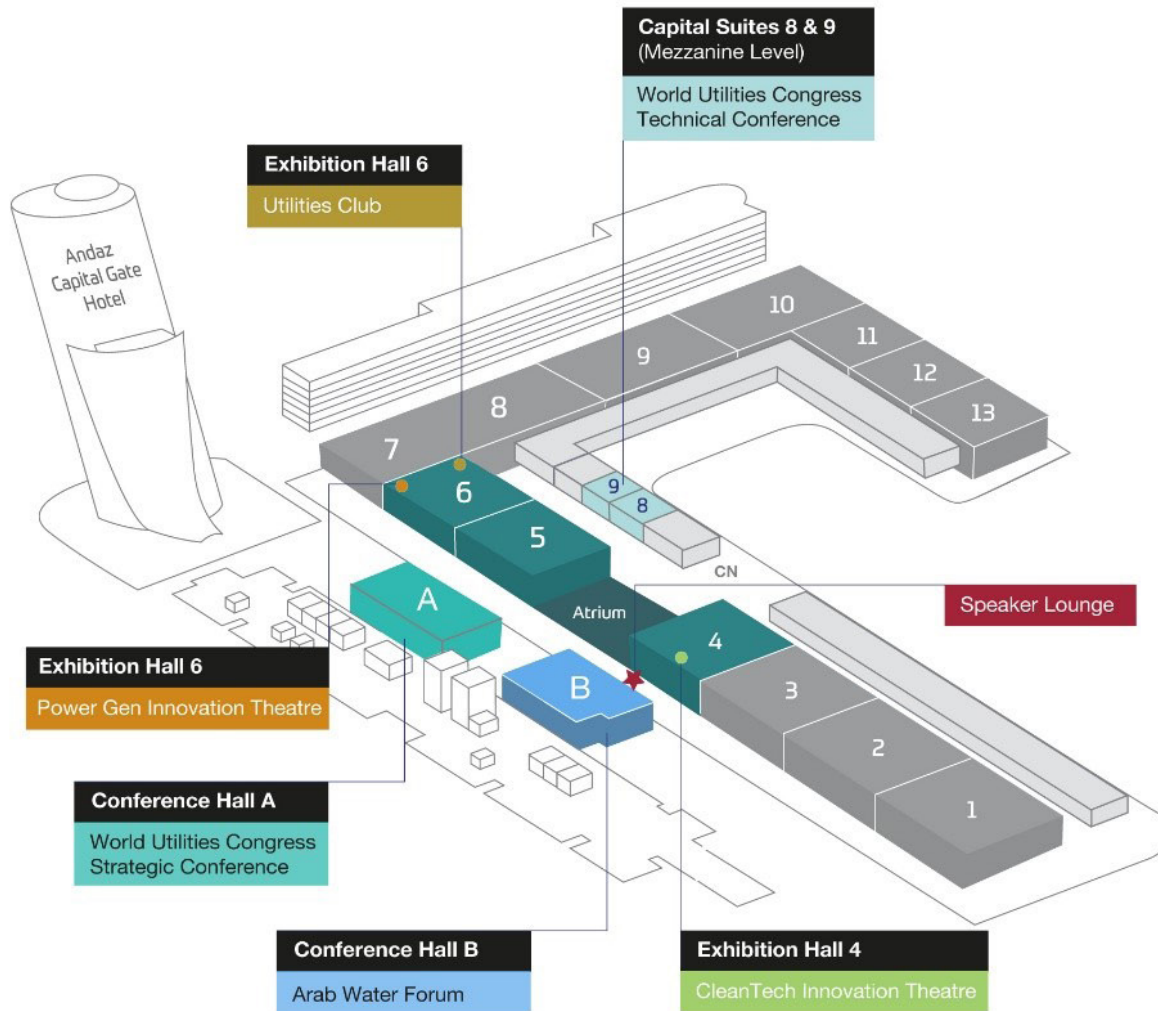
	10:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 13:00	13:00 - 14:00	14:00 - 15:30	15:30 - 17:00
Day 2 : 17 <sup>th</sup> Septmeber	PL2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change AWC	PS5: Circular Water Economy for Climate Security: Initiatives for Smart & Green Transition CIHEAM-Bari  PS6: Role of Non-Conventional Water Resources in the Future of Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change ICARDA, AWC	Lunch & Networking	PS7: WEFE-Nexus Best Practices and Governance UFM, PRIMA  PS8: Digital Transformation & AI for Smart Water Management IWMI	WS1: Disaster Risk Reduction: Loss and Damage in the Water Sector UNDRR  WS2: Nature-based Solutions for Water Resilience ICBA
					Exhibition

## T3: Path Towards a Sustainable Water Future

	09:00 - 11:00	11:00 - 13:00	13:00 - 14:00	14:00 - 15:30	15:30 - 16:30
Day 3 : 18 <sup>th</sup> Septmeber	PL3: Advancing Global and regional Water Initiatives for Sustainable Future AWC	PL4: Youth and Gender Voices on Water Security and Sustainable Future CIHEAM	Lunch & Networking	IPL: Together Towards a Sustainable Future (Interactive Plenary) AWC	Award Recognition & Closing Ceremony
					Exhibition

T	PL	PS	WS	IPL
Theme	Plenary Session	Panel Session	Workshop session	Interactive Plenary session

# Floor Plan



**ADNEC CENTRE ABU DHABI, UAE**

**World Utilities Congress & Arab Water Forum Exhibition**  
Halls 4-6 and Atrium

**World Utilities Congress Strategic Conference**  
Conference Hall A

**Technical Conference**  
Capital Suites 8 and 9  
(Mezzanine Level)

**Arab Water Forum**  
Conference Hall B

**Utilities Club**  
Hall 6

**Power Gen Theatre**  
Hall 6

**CleanTech Theatre**  
Hall 4

**Speaker Lounge**

# DAY 1

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024



# Opening Ceremony

Date:	Mon. - Sep. 16 <sup>th</sup>
Time:	09:20 - 10:45
Hall:	Hall A

## Speakers

09:20 - 09:50	Welcome of Ministers to the Ministerial Majlis
09:50-10:00	Take seats at the Opening Ceremony
10:00-10:01	National Anthem
10:02-10:04	Opening Ceremony Video
10:05-10:07	Emcee Welcome Remarks
10:08-10:14	H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei - Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE Keynote Address
10:15-10:21	Jasim Thabet-TAQA, Group CEO - Keynote Address
10:22-10:28	H.E. Professor Mahmoud Abu-Zeid - President, Arab Water Council - Keynote Address
10:29-10:35	H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer - DEWA MD & CEO - Keynote Address
10:36-10:42	H.E. Mr. Loïc Fauchon - President, World Water Council - Keynote Address
10:43-10:45	Emcee Closing Remarks



# Theme 1: Addressing Regional Emerging Water Challenges

## PL1: High-Level Ministerial Dialogue

Day 1, Plenary Session 1

Date: Mon. - Sep. 16<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 11:30 - 13:00

### Convener :



**Moderator:** Mr. Sherif Amer, Lead Anchor at MBC Masr

### Session General Description & Modality:

#### Modality: Moderated Panel

**Description:** Setting the agenda for the Forum, the High-Level Ministerial Panel will advance the dialogue and set the stage for addressing key challenges based on the current political status of the region and generate policies, cooperation, and actions necessary to align SDGs and regional water strategies with water security initiatives in the region.

### Session Objectives:

The High-Level Ministerial Dialogue serves as a platform to underscore and reinforce key political messages, aiming to drive impactful outcome on the main-primary theme of the Forum and provide impetus for subsequent sessions. This session is designed to consider the following aspects: Focusing on topics such as sustainable water management, climate adaptation, technological innovation, and regional cooperation for water security will form the core of the dialogue. Aligning the discussion with the Sustainable Development Goals and the regional water strategies will impart a robust foundation for the dialogue.

### Expected Session Outcomes:

- Highlighting Key Challenges based on the Current Political Status of the Region: Bringing attention to critical challenges grounded in the prevailing political dynamics of the region will provide a contextual foundation for the discussion.
- Showcasing Best Practices: Designating this session as a platform to showcase best practices and success stories in water management throughout the Arab region can stimulate positive competition and mutual learning. It also highlights the potential for innovation and collaboration between countries.
- Policy Recommendations where the Dialogue should aim to generate actionable policy recommendations towards advancing water resilience and prosperity in the Arab region.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
11:30-11:40	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Mr. Sherif Amer, Lead Anchor at MBC Masr</b> <b>Welcome remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Mahmoud Abu Zeid</b>, President of the Arab Water Council</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit</b>, Secretary-General, League of Arab States (Recorded Video)</li> </ul>
11:40-12:10	<b>First Round of Questions</b>	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Eng. Awaidha Murshed Al Marar</b>, Chairman, Department of Energy, Abu Dhabi, UAE</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Yasser Bin Ibrahim Humaidan</b>, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Bahrain</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam</b>, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Aun Dheyab Abdulla</b>, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Farah</b>, State Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Madam ZHU Chengqing</b>, Vice Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China</li> </ul>
12:10-12:40	<b>Second Round of Questions</b>	<b>Moderator/Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Yasser Bin Ibrahim Humaidan</b>, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Bahrain</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Madam ZHU Chengqing</b>, Vice Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Farah</b>, State Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Eng. Awaidha Murshed Al Marar</b>, Chairman, Department of Energy, Abu Dhabi, UAE</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Aun Dheyab Abdulla</b>, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam</b>, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt</li> </ul>
12:40-12:55	<b>Key messages from International Organizations</b>	<b>Moderator/Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amb. AlMotaz Abadi</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nuria Sanz</b>, Director, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo - UNESCO Liaison Office with the League of Arab States</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Manal Benani</b>, Youth Advisor of the Africa Europe Foundation</li> </ul>
12:55-13:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

# Theme 1: Addressing Regional Emerging Water Challenges

## PS1: Transboundary Water Resources Management

Day 1, Parallel Session

Date: Mon. - Sep. 16<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Convener :



Co-conveners:



Moderator:

Prof. Safwat Abdel Dayem, Senior Advisor, AWC

### Session General Description & Modality:

#### Modality: Panel Discussion

Regional collaboration is critical to unlock the best possible solutions to combat climate change. For countries that share resources, it brings forward complex challenges that require strategic considerations to manage transboundary shared water resources. With unprecedented pressures on water availability in the Arab region, there is an increasing need for collaborative and adaptive approaches to transboundary water management and fostering beneficial partnerships. This session seeks to provide a concise yet comprehensive overview of the key issues at the intersection of transboundary water resources and climate-driven water scarcity in our region.

### Session Objectives:

- Develop a new entry point to a dynamic transboundary water resources dialogue in the Arab region with H.L. panel members and audience
- Emphasize the role of LAS and regional organizations in supporting the regional dialogues on transboundary water management
- Highlight the key socio-economic and environmental benefits of transboundary water cooperation, emphasizing shared prosperity,
- Foster a dialogue on the importance of regional collaboration and water diplomacy in addressing transboundary water issues and building resilience
- Develop a clear vision on the status of the basins in relation to the advances in science and water diplomacy as important tools for negotiations
- Explore the roles that stakeholders can play, involving local communities, governments, shared water joint authorities and regional organizations in decision-making processes for transboundary water management

As the session concludes, participants will be invited to engage in a Q&A and open discussion, fostering an interactive exchange of ideas and experiences.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Re-define transboundary water resources management challenges while considering climate change impacts
- Recommend a transboundary water management approach that overcomes the economic, political and climate change challenges in the region
- Highlight the potential economic and financial benefits of transboundary water collaboration.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
14:00-14:05	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Prof. Safwat Abdel Dayem</b> , Senior Advisor, AWC
14:05-14:15	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>Prof. Khaled Abu-Zeid</b> , Senior Regional Water Resources Director, CEDARE
14:15-15:15	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Round 1 & 2 Questions	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Sherif Eissa</b>, Ambassador of Egypt, UAE</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi</b>, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sudan</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Ali Fadhil Hussein</b>, Director General, General Authority for Maintenance of Irrigation and Drainage Projects, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Iraq</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jihad Kanaan</b>, Ministry of Water Resources, Syria</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Ahmed Abouelseoud Ahmed</b>, Senior Management Mentor for Water and Oceans – UNDP-HQ</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Abdin Salih</b>, Director of the Arab Water Academy- Arab Water Council</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Khaled Abu-Zeid</b>, Senior Regional Water Resources Director, CEDARE</li> </ul>
15:15-15:25	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15:25-15:30	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

# Theme 1: Addressing Regional Emerging Water Challenges

## PS2: Peace, Climate Change and Water Security in the Arab Region

Day 1, Parallel Session

Date: Mon. - Sep. 16<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 2

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Convener :



Co-conveners:



**Moderator:** H.E. Amb. Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Director General, CCCPA

### Session General Description & Modality:

#### Modality: Keynote Speech and Moderated Panel

The parallel session will feature **Scripted and Moderated Panel Discussion** (40-minute panel and 20-minute open discussion incorporating planned questions from the audience). This technical session serves as a crucial platform for esteemed experts, policy-makers, and practitioners to engage in a comprehensive dialogue, while shedding light on the complex dynamics of water security, in light of the challenges posed by prolonged protracted conflicts and increased climate change impacts.

### Session Objectives:

- Provide a clear understanding of the specific water-related challenges in conflict-affected settings.
- Assess climate impacts on water scarcity and water-related hazards and discuss the challenges that affect adaptation and mitigation efforts to enhance water accessibility.
- Highlight the humanitarian consequences of water-related challenges in conflict zones and propose solutions to alleviate the impact on vulnerable populations.
- Examine approaches and outline recommendations to bridge the gaps between relevant stakeholders to devise holistic and integrated water responses that meet the specific needs of conflict-affected and fragile contexts, and contribute to sustainable peace and development in the Arab region.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Outline how conflicts in the Arab region may hinder investments in water management projects and infrastructure, potentially leading to a shortage of water and deteriorating water quality in affected areas.
- Examine how increased climate change impacts coupled with conflicts aggravate water security challenges and identify options to mitigate their impact.
- Emphasize the key role to be undertaken by regional and global players, including the Arab League, the United Nations organizations and other key partner's institutions, to mediate political conflicts and advance humanitarian solutions to areas in urgent needs like Gaza, Yemen and Somalia.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
14:00-14:05	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: H.E. Amb. Ahmed Abdel-Latif</b> , Director General, CCCPA
14:05-14:15	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam</b> , Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
14:15-15:00	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam</b>, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Farah</b>, State Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Dr. Zeid El Saban</b>, Director – Horn of Africa &amp; Sudan Department, League of Arab States</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Grazia Pacillo</b>, CGIAR Climate Peace and Security Program Director</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jean D'Cunha</b>, Sr. Global Gender, Climate and Migration Specialist</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Micheal Talhami</b>, Senior Advisor, ICRC</li> </ul>
15:00-15:20	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15:20-15:30	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

# Theme 1: Addressing Regional Emerging Water Challenges

## PS3: Climate, Water & Food Security: Adaptation and Resilience Measures

Day 1, Parallel Session

Date: Mon. - Sep. 16<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Convener :



Co-conveners:



**Moderator:** Dr. Bisher Imam , Senior Programme Specialist, Regional Hydrologist, UNESCO

### Session General Description & Modality:

#### Modality: Panel Discussion

In its recent assessment reports the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made clear that if greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current rate, global temperatures will likewise rise at an unprecedented pace, with catastrophic implications for lives and livelihoods across the entire globe. This is particularly important for the Arab region, already the world's most water scarce and food import dependent region, and experiencing an unprecedented surge in food insecurity, water scarcity and climate induced disasters in recent years. To address these trends, countries across the region have enacted enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with greater levels of ambition to achieve low carbon, climate resilient trajectories. To ensure results, they are also finance calling for scaled up levels of private financing to close the finance gap and move from ambition to action.

Countries of the Arab region have made progress in incorporating climate considerations into their national policies, strategies and plans since launch of the Paris Agreement in 2015. Thus far, 20 out of 22 countries have submitted at least one NDC, identifying adaptation and mitigation needs and priorities towards 2030. However, with most of the region highly vulnerable to climate impacts and highly exposed owing to limited adaptive capacity, the region's climate action journey faces considerable obstacles, particularly inadequate financing.

Costed climate finance needs in the region until 2030 are estimated to be at USD 570 billion, across Least Developed Countries, Middle Income Countries and fragile and conflict-affected countries. However, public international climate finance flows to the region from 2010 to 2020 amounted to just USD 34.5 billion, and highly concentrated in Middle Income Countries.

Governments and public funds alone often lack the financial resources necessary to meet ambitious climate goals. Private finance, including investments from businesses, banks, and other non-governmental sources, can significantly contribute to **funding and driving sustainable initiatives**. Private finance is essential to accelerate climate action in the Arab region, bringing necessary scale of investment for climate-related projects such as transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and developing sustainable infrastructure.

Private sector investment has the opportunity to drive research and development, fostering breakthroughs in food, water and clean energy and sustainability, crucial for effective climate solutions. Utilizing blended finance and partnerships, private investment mitigates risk, making climate projects more attractive to investors, stimulating job creation and economic growth in regions lacking opportunities. By integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions, private finance can help **align climate action with broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

### Session Objectives:

- Explore innovative means and solutions to align climate action and private sector climate finance as a way to accelerate the implementation of the NDCs that brings multiple co-benefits across the SDGs
- Stimulate discussions between the private sector and policy-makers on how to scale-up and/or replicate good practices in the region and beyond on scaling-up climate finance
- In-depth discussions on existing and emerging challenges to access finance for climate action in the region
- Demonstrate business models and opportunities for catalytic public-private cooperation and for supporting innovative climate finance solutions.

### Expected Session Outcomes:

- Highlight the intersection of climate, water, and food security issues in the Arab region, exposing the most critical challenges the Arab region faces in adapting to the impacts of climate change,
- Identify the Food Systems Resilience challenges and the measures taken to enhance resilience actions in the Arab region, especially focusing on smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities.
- Identify key barriers hindering effective policy implementation in the region, along with gaps in policy frameworks and governance mechanisms essential for fostering better resilience on community level.
- Identify concrete challenges and good practices on climate-finance solutions for future scaling-up.

### Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
15:30-15:35	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Bisher Imam</b> , Senior Programme Specialist, Regional Hydrologist, UNESCO
15:35-15:45	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>Mr. Ahmad Afaneh</b> , Regional Advisor on Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP
15:45-16:20	<b>Presentations</b>	Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Martina Jaskolski</b>, Climate, Peace, and Security Policy Scientist, MENA Climate Security Hub (CGIAR)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Waleed Abouelhassan</b>, Senior Water Resources Management Officer, FAO</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohie El Din Omar</b>, Research Associate - Irrigation and Water, ICARDA</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Samira El Haouat</b>, Representative of the Director - General of Water Engineering at the Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco</li> </ul>



16:20-16:55	<b>Panel Open Discussion (Q&amp;A)</b>	<b>Moderator/Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ahmad Afaneh</b>, Regional Advisor on Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Martina Jaskolski</b>, Climate, Peace, and Security Policy Scientist, MENA Climate Security Hub (CGIAR)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Waleed Abouelhassan</b>, Senior Water Resources Management Officer, FAO</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohie El Din Omar</b>, Research Associate - Irrigation and Water, ICARDA</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Samira El Haouat</b>, Representative of the Director - General of Water Engineering at the Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco</li> </ul>
16:55-17:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>



# Theme 1: Addressing Regional Emerging Water Challenges

## PS4: Water & Climate Sustainable Finance

Day 1, Parallel Session

Date: Mon. - Sep. 16<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 2

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Convener :



Co-conveners:



**Moderator:** Mr. Rabi Siyam, Senior Manager - Water Utilities, PwC

### Session General Description & Modality:

#### Modality: Keynote Presentation and Moderated Panel

This session focuses on tackling the complex challenges arising at the nexus of water management, climate change, and sustainable finance in the Arab region. With climate change intensifying water scarcity issues, there is a critical need to mobilize financial resources for viable, sustainable solutions to develop actions for disaster risk reduction. The session aims to serve as a dedicated platform for experts, financial institutions, and stakeholders to collectively explore the challenges hindering the financing of sustainable water and climate projects in the Arab world. It also aims at addressing the loss and damage impacts and the different mechanisms and innovative tools to access the loss and damage climate funds to support fragile countries and communities. The session presents an opportunity to investigate a transformative shift towards more sustainable financial practices that supports vulnerable and fragile communities, thereby contributing to the long-term environmental and economic well-being of the region.

### Session Objectives:

- Present a comprehensive analysis of the financial barriers, risks, and opportunities associated with water and climate initiatives.
- Identify innovative financial mechanisms, investment strategies, and public-private partnerships, MDB financing tools that can facilitate the implementation of sustainable adaptation and resilience projects.
- Initiate a regional dialogue on cooperation and solidarity in addressing different climate funds mechanisms, transboundary issues, and providing ideas on other mechanisms and innovative tools to support vulnerable countries to access climate funding including the loss and damage fund.
- Develop actionable solutions that can overcome financial hurdles and ensure the resilience of water resources and the fragile communities in the face of climate challenges in the Arab world.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Identified Sustainable Finance Mechanisms that support water and climate adaptation initiatives.
- Fostering public-private partnerships, mobilizing climate finance, and encouraging investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies.
- Identifying existing financing tools and mechanisms along with strategies for countries, regional institutions and NGO's access them
- Exploring methods to establish climate-resilient standards, and promote the adoption of innovative financial instruments for climate adaptation projects.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
15:30-15:40	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Mr. Rabi Siyam</b> , Senior Manager - Water Utilities, PwC
15:40-15:50	<b>Keynote Speech &amp; Interaction with the Panel</b>	<b>Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin</b> , Water Resources Management Senior Specialist in the Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF
15:50-16:30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prof. Walid Abderrahman</b>, Vice President, Arab Water Council</li><li>• <b>Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin</b>, Water Resources Management Senior Specialist in the Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, GCF</li><li>• <b>Prof. Vinay Nangia</b>, Research Team Leader - Soil, Water, and Agronomy, ICARDA</li><li>• <b>Mr. Omer Shaikh</b>, Director, PwC Middle East</li><li>• <b>Mr. Semih Ozkan</b>, Executive Director, EMEA - Energy, Power, Renewables, Metals &amp; Mining, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank</li></ul>
16:30-16:45	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
16:45-17:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

# DAY 2

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September



## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### PL2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

Day 2, Plenary Session 2

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

#### Convener :



**Moderator:** Dr. Walid Abderrahman, Vice President , AWC

#### Session General Description & Modality:

The Session will address an exhaustive overview of new and innovative approaches for climate adaptation and water resources management in the Arab Region. Against the backdrop of an escalating global interest in sustainable energy paradigms, the discourse is geared towards a comprehensive exploration of the transformative capacities inherent in renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies, and how far can it be adopted in the region with all the challenges including cost competitiveness, scaling-up production and sustainability. The anticipated insights from distinguished panelists are expected to serve as guidance for fostering collaborative endeavors at the intersection of environmental sustainability and energy innovation and will trigger the further discussions that will take place in the parallel sessions. To adapt to the changing climate conditions and water scarcity facing our region, several countries have successfully expanded the use of circular economy and WEFE nexus approaches including nature -based solutions and non-conventional water resources management practices. The session will showcase several innovative approaches, success stories and best practices from the Arab region, emphasizing creative and adaptive measures in response to water-related challenges.

#### Session Objectives:

- Address innovations and sustainability in the water and energy Sectors highlighting the role of renewable energy and green hydrogen.
- Discuss different innovative approaches for nexus implementation and the role of renewable energy and green hydrogen for sustainable adaptation and resilience.
- Showcase success stories and best practices from across the Arab region, emphasizing creative and adaptive measures in response to water-related challenges. Examples from UAE, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Oman among others, will be presented and discussed among the panel.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

### Highlight and demonstrate key innovative approaches including:

- Off-Grid Renewable Energy Solutions
- Overview of the intricate interplay between green hydrogen production and its ramifications for climate adaptation and water resources management in the Arab Region
- Smart Water Distribution Systems: Utilizing renewable energy
- Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus Management: Emphasizing interconnectedness and success demonstrations.
- Community-Based Green Energy Initiatives
- Emphasize the potential for creating a more secure and ecologically reliable future through (WEFE) the water, food, energy an ecosystems solution in an integrated manner and effective manner.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
10:00-10:05	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Walid Abderrahman</b> , Vice President , AWC
10:05-10:15	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Eng. Mohamed Bin Seliman AlFahamy</b>, General Administration for Water Resources Regulation Department, Ministry of Environment Water &amp; Agriculture, Saudi Arabia</li></ul>
10:15-10:40	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Andy Biffen</b>, Asset Development Executive Director, Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Yasser Nagi</b>, Managing Director, WILO Middle East in UAE &amp; Group Director Middle East and North Africa</li><li>• <b>Mr. Ahmed Al Shamsi</b>, CEO, SWS-UAE</li></ul>
10:40-11:15	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Eng. Mohamed Bin Seliman AlFahamy</b>, General Administration for Water Resources Regulation Department, Ministry of Environment Water &amp; Agriculture, Saudi Arabia</li><li>• <b>Mr. Andy Biffen</b>, Asset Development Executive Director, Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Yasser Nagi</b>, Managing Director WILO Middle East in UAE &amp; Group Director Middle East and North Africa</li><li>• <b>Mr. Ahmed Al Shamsi</b>, CEO, SWS-UAE</li><li>• <b>Dr. Jihad Mahamid</b>, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan</li><li>• <b>Eng. Ali bin Mohammed Al Abri</b>, Undersecretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources, Oman</li></ul>
11:15-11:25	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11:25-11:30	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>





## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### PS5: Circular Water Economy for Climate Security: Initiatives for Smart & Green Transition (Smart Water Management for Climate Resilient Agriculture)

Day 2, Parallel Session

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 11:30 - 13:00

Convener :



Co-conveners:



Moderator:

Dr. Roula Khadra, Science Coordinator, International Officer, Water Resources Management, CIHEAM-Bari

#### Session General Description & Modality:

**Modality: Interactive Session**

**Short Presentations and Moderated Discussion Panel**

The short presentation session provides an interactive space where three young professionals will deliver 5-minute presentation on innovative solutions addressing water-related issues. Key topics include precision agriculture, water adaptive management techniques, best management practices simulation, data integration, automation and apps development for sustainable agriculture. Following these presentations, the session will feature a 30-minutes moderated panel discussions in three rounds. Panelists will address the findings of the presentations and share their experiences regarding technical aspects and sustainability measures on these topics. The session will conclude with an open Q&A with the audience directed to the panel.

#### Session Objectives:

- Showcase smart solutions for enhancing water conservation and management.
- Explore how technology can be harnessed to optimize water use and reduce environmental impact.
- Propose policy recommendations for decision makers regarding sustainable land and water resource management.
- Discuss potential investment opportunities and public-private partnerships to enhance collaboration in water management.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of innovative solutions for sustainable land and water management strategies.
- Identifying opportunities for adopting innovative solutions in both private and public sectors.
- Initiating discussions on potential public-private partnerships to enhance collaboration in water management.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
11:30-11:35	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Roula Khadra</b> , Science Coordinator, International Officer, Water Resources Management, CIHEAM-Bari
11:35-11:55	<b>Presentations:</b> Showcase innovative approaches	Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Aymen Sawassi</b>, Water Management and Modeling Expert, CIHEAM-Bari</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Bilal Derardja</b>, Consultant and Researcher, CIHEAM-Bari</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mosaad Daoud</b>, Entrepreneur - Chief Executive Officer, AgriKemet</li> </ul>
11:55-12:10	<b>commentator's reflection on the presentations</b>	Commentators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Bisher Imam</b>, Senior Programme Specialist, Regional Hydrologist, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Abed Ezz El Regal</b>, Chairman &amp; CEO, ABU QIR Fertilizers</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Hebah Abbas</b>, Technical Advisor, Kuwait Water Association</li> </ul>
12:10-12:45	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Round 1 & Round 2 Questions	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Bisher Imam</b>, Senior Programme Specialist, Regional Hydrologist, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Abed Ezz El Regal</b>, Chairman &amp; CEO, ABU QIR Fertilizers</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Hebah Abbas</b>, Technical Advisor, Kuwait Water Association</li> </ul>
12:45-12:55	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
12:55-13:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### PS6: Role of Non-Conventional Water Resources in the Future of Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change

Day 2, Parallel Session

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 2

Time: 11:30 - 13:00

Convener :



Co-conveners:



Moderator:

Dr. Walid Abderrahman, Vice President , AWC

#### Session General Description & Modality:

##### Modality: Presentations and Moderated Discussion Panel

In the face of water-related challenges, the exploration and utilization of non-conventional water resources have emerged as beacons of success. Over the years, various initiatives and projects have demonstrated the potential of non-conventional water resources in not only mitigating water scarcity but also fostering adaptation and resilience. Success stories in the Arab Region showcase innovative approaches and sustainable practices that have paved the way for a more secure water future. This session will focus on the latest global innovations in non-conventional water resources uses including ground water advanced technologies, desalination technologies, alongside other NCWR experiences from the Region. The session also will highlight and showcase the latest innovative and affordable wastewater treatment technologies. The second part of the session will focus on moderated panel discussion aimed at exploring the key ideas presented and highlighting further experiences on these topics and how to upscale low cost-effective technologies ensuring sustainability measures of using NCWR.

#### Session Objectives:

- Share experiences, knowledge, and success stories related to NCWR in the Arab Region.
- Raise awareness about the importance of diversifying water resources to enhance adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change and population growth.
- Identify potential collaboration opportunities and partnerships to promote the effective implementation of NCWR technologies in the water resources and agriculture sectors.
- Highlight cutting-edge technologies and innovations in the field of NCWR, emphasizing their feasibility and efficiency in the Arab context.
- Encourage the adoption of best practices and up-scaling methods and the integration of new technologies to optimize the use of NCWR.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Promote knowledge and best practices regarding innovative, effective projects, technological advancements, and sustainable strategies concerning non-conventional water resources and their uses by different sectors.
- Develop well-informed policies and strategies recommendations for incorporating non-conventional water resources into national and regional adaptation plans.
- Emphasize the importance of having applicable legal frameworks, investment incentives, and capacity building to successfully execute these techniques.
- Identify Research and Innovation Pathways and stimulating additional research and innovation in the area of low-cost-effective technology for nonconventional water resources upscaling.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
11:30-11:35	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Walid Abderrahman</b> , Vice President , AWC
11:35-12:15	<b>Presentations</b>	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Vinay Nangia</b>, Research Team Leader - Soil, Water, and Agronomy, ICARDA</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Khaled Al Qureshi</b>, Chief Executive Director, Saudi Water Partnerships Company</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Shiqiang WU</b>, Vice President of Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute (NHRI), MWR, China &amp; <b>Dr. Chen XIE</b>, Deputy Division Chief, Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute (NHRI), MWR, China – Presentation on “<b>Technology and practice of Non-conventional water resources utilization in China</b>”</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohamed Gad</b>, CEO, Technical Development Solutions (TDS) – Presentation on “<b>A Case for Flood – MAR to convert flood risks into Groundwater Recharge Opportunities</b>”</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Eldukheri</b>, Director General, AOAD/<b>Dr. Kamel Amer</b>, Head of the Middle Regional Office, Water Resources Expert, AOAD</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohammed Dawoud</b>, Advisor Environment Quality, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi</li> </ul>
12:15-12:55	<b>Panel Open Discussion with Q &amp; A from the Audience</b>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Vinay Nangia</b>, Research Team Leader - Soil, Water, and Agronomy, ICARDA</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Khaled Al Qureshi</b>, Chief Executive Director, Saudi Water Partnerships Company</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Shiqiang WU</b>, Vice President of Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute (NHRI), MWR, China</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Chen XIE</b>, Deputy Division Chief, Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute (NHRI), MWR, China</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohamed Gad</b>, CEO, Technical Development Solutions (TDS)</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Eldukheri</b>, Director General, AOAD/<b>Dr. Kamel Amer</b>, Head of the Middle Regional Office, Water Resources Expert, AOAD</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohammed Dawoud</b>, Advisor Environment Quality, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi</li> </ul>
12:55-13:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### PS7: WEFE-Nexus Best Practices and Governance

Day 2, Parallel Session

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

#### Convener :



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

#### Co-conveners:



**PRIMA**  
PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA



#### Moderator:

UFM, Ms. Doha Al Zamel

#### Session General Description & Modality:

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus is an integrated approach that emphasizes the interconnections between water, energy, food, and ecosystems. This holistic framework is vital for sustainable development, particularly in regions facing resource scarcity and environmental challenges. Despite the increasing recognition of the WEFE Nexus, there remains a need to showcase successful practices, share best practices, and explore effective governance models that can be replicated or adapted in different contexts. Despite localized initiatives demonstrating success, the broader adoption of these practices faces significant barriers. Technical, financial, regulatory, and institutional challenges hinder the widespread scaling of the WEFE Nexus framework. This panel aims to identify these obstacles and provide practical, actionable solutions from diverse stakeholders. Additionally, it will emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and integrated governance in scaling WEFE Nexus practices effectively.

#### Session Objectives:

- Address and discuss key challenges in scaling-up successful WEFE Nexus practices
- Showcase Successful WEFE-Nexus Practices: Highlight case studies and projects that have successfully implemented the WEFE-Nexus approach to address resource management challenges
- Share Best Practices: Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences on best practices in WEFE-Nexus implementation, focusing on innovative solutions, stakeholder engagement, and technology adoption.
- Explore Governance Models: Discuss effective governance frameworks that support the integration and management of the WEFE-Nexus, emphasizing policy coherence, cross-sectoral collaboration, and institutional capacity building.
- Examine existing policies and governance frameworks related to the WEFE Nexus in Arab countries.
- Emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration, including gender perspectives, in addressing WEFE Nexus

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Successful operationalization of WEFE Nexus is emphasized with focus on integrating policies, strategies, and practices from the region
- Showcasing the successful best practices in handling data and Knowledge Management, Stakeholder Engagement from diverse sectors, including government agencies, businesses, local communities, and non-governmental organizations with attention to gender diversity and inclusion.
- Technological Innovations and Cross-Sectoral Investments are highlighted as key and essential interlinkages within the WEFE Nexus approach implementation.
- Identifying gender-specific gaps and opportunities in current WEFE Nexus policies and practices, promoting gender equity in resource management.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
14:00- 14:10	<b>Opening &amp; Welcome</b>	<p>Opening and setting the scenes: <b>Moderator Eng. Doha Zamel, UFM</b></p> <p>Welcoming Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amb. Motaz Abadi</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, Water, Environment &amp; Blue Economy - Union for the Mediterranean (UFM)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Huseein El-Atfy</b>, Secretary-General, AWC</li> </ul>
14:10- 14:15	<b>Keynote speech</b>	<b>Prof. Fadi Comair</b> , Professor of applied hydrology, IWRM, and infrastructure at EEWRRC, CYI
14:15- 14:55	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amb. Motaz Abadi</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, Water, Environment &amp; Blue Economy - Union for the Mediterranean (UFM)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Arash Nejatian</b>, ICARDA, UAE</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohamed Moustafa Al-Mulla</b>, Ministry of Energy &amp; Industry, UAE</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Fadi Comair</b>, Professor of applied hydrology, IWRM, and infrastructure at EEWRRC, CYI</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Amel Azab</b>, Water Resources Management &amp; Capacity Development Expert, Deputy Technical Director, AWC Technical Department, AWC</li> </ul>
14:55- 15:10	<b>Presentations</b>	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Arwa Abdelhay</b>, Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the German Jordanian University - Presentation on <b>BONEX project</b></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Samar Morkos</b>, Research Assistant, Project Coordinator, The Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) - Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Zhenxin Bao</b>, Professor, Nanjing Hydraulic research institute (NHRI), MWR, China – Presentation on <b>“Water-energy-food-ecological linkage in the Yellow River Basin under climate change”</b></li> </ul>
15:10-15:25	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Feedback from the panelists and the audience</b>
15:25-15:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### PS8: Digital Transformation and AI for Smart Water Management

Day 2, Parallel Session

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 2

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Convener :



Co-conveners:



**Moderator:** Dr. Mariangel Garcia, Research Group Leader, Water Futures data and Analytics, IWMI

#### Session General Description & Modality:

##### Modality: Interactive Session

Digitalization is revolutionizing water management in the Arab region, transforming the way water resources are managed, monitored, and utilized. This session explores the transformative potential of digital technologies and AI in enhancing water management techniques, showcasing efficiency gains and sustainability benefits. Discussions will include user-centric strategies, cybersecurity, optimizing decision-support systems, water distribution, and maintenance forecasting ultimately contributing to more effective and efficient water management practices.

#### Session Objectives:

- Explore the potential digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance water management techniques, showcasing exemplary methods, acquired knowledge, and innovative solutions that utilize top-edge technology and AI to enhance the efficiency of water resources management in the Arab region.
- Analyze user-centric strategies, promotional campaigns, and community engagement methods to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of digital transformation efforts.
- Investigate the crucial elements of cybersecurity and data protection while using digital solutions for water

#### Expected Session Outcomes:

- Present projects case studies and optimal approaches from the Arab region that illustrate the efficient utilization of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in water management are show cased.
- Discuss and share valuable information gained from the application of digital and AI technologies in the field of water management.
- Highlight the ways in which these technologies can improve decision-support systems, optimize the distribution of water, and forecast maintenance requirements are presented.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
14:00-14:10	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Mariangel Garcia</b> , Research Group Leader, Water Futures Data and Analytics, IWMI
14:10-15:20	<b>Videos &amp; Interview:</b> Showcasing Demonstrations & Interaction with the Audience	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Vinay Nangia</b>, Research Team Leader - Soil, Water, and Agronomy, ICARDA - Video on <b>“More Crop Per Drop: De-risking Smallholder Farming with Affordable Precision Farming”</b></li> <li>• <b>Eng. Samer Muhandes</b>, Product Manager, Autodesk, UAE - Video on <b>“Interactive Machine Learning Deluge”</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. Hazem Gouda</b>, Associate Professor, University of Wollongong in Dubai, Faculty of Engineering and Information Science - Video on <b>“Leveraging AI and Digital Transformation for Sustainable Urban Water Management: Enhancing Green Spaces and Flood Resilience”</b></li> <li>• <b>Mr. John Wendelbo</b>, CEO and President, Flow Science Inc. &amp; <b>Dr. Amr Refay</b>, Director of Technical Services, El Refay for Engineering Services, Certified Associate (partner) of FLOW-3D - Video on <b>“AI driven automation and optimization for CFD &amp; Water Infrastructure applications”</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sajid Pareeth</b>, Director, Water &amp; Climate Solutions Education &amp; Culture</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Amro Asmael</b>, Group Marketing Director, Baynunah Water generation Technologies</li> </ul>
15:20-15:30	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>



## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### WS1: Disaster Risk Reduction: Loss and Damage in the Water Sector

Day 2, Interactive Workshop

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Convener :



Co-conveners:



Moderator:

Dr. Amel Azab, Water Resources Management & Capacity Development Expert -  
Deputy Technical Director, AWC

#### Session General Description & Modality:

##### Modality: Interactive Workshop

Water-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and storms account for 90 percent of all natural disasters globally. As climate change amplifies these events, managing their risks becomes increasingly challenging. The UN 2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda emphasized the crucial role of water in sustainable development, resulting in the System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, launched on July 16, 2024, at the UN High-Level Political Forum. This strategy supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, focusing on universal water and sanitation access.

To effectively manage water-related risks, we must enhance data collection, standardize loss reporting, and improve data accessibility. Integrating this data into our disaster risk reduction strategies is essential, alongside supporting evidence-based policy development and building community capacity. Robust data will help refine our strategies, identify vulnerable areas, and create policies that reduce risks and strengthen resilience. The Workshop provides a unique platform through scenario-based exercises, fostering a participatory approach to simulate real-world disaster situations and enhance collaborative problem-solving and decision-making skills.

## Session Objectives:

- Highlight the concept of loss and damage, examining economic, social, and environmental impacts through international and regional case studies,
- Discuss and formulate strategies for integrating disaster risk reduction considerations into water sector policies, planning, and decision-making processes.
- Highlight different local frameworks, strategies, and national plans for climate DRR from some countries in the region.
- Showcase successful community-based approaches and innovative technologies for disaster risk reduction from different countries,
- Explore early warning systems to support decision-making in disaster risk reduction.
- Examine opportunities for countries to access climate funds for and loss.

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- **Enhanced Understanding of Loss and Damage:** Participants gained a deep understanding of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of water-related disasters through international and regional case studies.
- **Showcasing Local Frameworks and National Plans:** Highlighted various national frameworks, strategies, and national plans for climate disaster risk reduction from countries in the region, providing valuable insights and best practices.
- **Promotion of Community-Based Approaches:** Showcased successful community-based approaches and innovative technologies for disaster risk reduction, encouraging their adoption and adaptation in different contexts.
- **Exploration of Early Warning Systems:** Explored the role of early warning systems in supporting decision-making for disaster risk reduction, emphasizing their importance in mitigating the impacts of water-related disasters.
- **Access to Climate Funds:** Explored opportunities for Arab countries to access climate funds for addressing loss and damage, providing guidance on navigating funding mechanisms and applications.
- **Networking and Partnerships:** Fostered networking and partnerships among participants, facilitating ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing to support disaster risk reduction efforts.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker/ Panelist
15:30-15:35	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	Moderator: <b>Dr. Amel Azab</b> , Water Resources Management & Capacity Development Expert - Deputy Technical Director, AWC
15:35-16:10	<b>Presentations</b>	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Stefan Uhlenbrook</b>, Director Hydrology, Water and Cryosphere, Services Department from World Meteorological Organization (<b>Recorded Presentation</b>) on the “<b>Importance of Effective Early Warning Systems to avoid Loss and Damages</b>”</li> <li>• <b>Saira Ahmed</b>, Programme Management Officer (Risk Knowledge &amp; Analysis, UNDRR-ROAS (<b>Recorded Video</b> on “<b>Santiago loss and damage</b>”)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Chadi Abdallah</b>, Researcher, CNRS Lebanon and Chair of ARAB STAG – Presentation on “<b>Challenges in Collecting and Managing Loss and Damage Data for water-related hazards</b>”</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jean D’Cunha</b>, Sr. Global Gender, Climate and Migration Specialist – Presentation on “<b>Gender perspective on loss and damage for water-related hazards</b>”</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ayman Omer</b>, Senior Field Programme Officer, FAO regional office – Presentation on “<b>Regional Priority 4: Building Resilience to Multiple Shocks and Crises in Near East and North Africa</b>”</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Fatmah Alhantoubi</b>, Head of Environmental Protection Department, Fujairah Environment Authority – Presentation on “<b>Addressing and Mitigating Water and Flood Disasters Resulting from Climate Change</b>”</li> </ul>
16:10-16:45	<b>Panel Discussion:</b>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Mohammed Goda</b>, Director of Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, Government of Sudan</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ahmed Hassan</b>, Director of Hydrology and Water Resources, Government of Somalia</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Mohamed Al-Ouran</b>, Chief Executive officer, Miyahuna, Jordan</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Chadi Abdallah</b>, Researcher, CNRS Lebanon and Chair of ARAB STAG</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jean D’Cunha</b>, Sr. Global Gender, Climate and Migration Specialist</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ayman Omer</b>, Senior Field Programme Officer, FAO regional office</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Fatmah Alhantoubi</b>, Head of Environmental Protection Department, Fujairah Environment Authority</li> </ul>
16:45-16:55	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
16:55-17:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>



## Theme 2: Innovative Approaches for Adaptation and Resilience for Water Scarcity and Climate Change

### WS2:

#### Nature-based Solutions for Water Resilience

Day 2, Interactive Workshop

Date: Tues. - Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 2

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Convener :



Co-conveners:



Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Tawfik, Environmental Policy Researcher

#### Session General Description & Modality:

##### Modality: Interactive Workshop

Nature-Based Solutions (NBSs) to achieve water resilience in water-stressed contexts such as Arab region are becoming increasingly adopted as a replacement for conventional technological and/or infrastructure – based interventions. This is particularly due to the potential long- and medium-term benefits associated with NBSs in terms of operation and maintenance costs as well as the ability of NBSs to combat climate change impacts. However, the wide adoption of NBSs in the water sector requires the identification of key challenges, providing potential solutions and knowledge exchange of lessons learnt from successful case studies.

#### Session Objectives:

- Showcase best practices
- Facilitate knowledge exchange, exploring upscaling strategies, highlighting environmental and societal benefits, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration
- Identify barriers and solutions, inspiring innovation, and creating networking opportunities among diverse stakeholders.
- Advance the understanding and implementation of NBS for sustainable and scalable environmental solutions through working groups and interactive exercises.
- Discuss in depth the following:
  - ▶ Key policy and institutional challenges towards the adoption of NBSs in the water sector (water services, and irrigation water management),
  - ▶ Financing instruments to facilitate NBSs adoption at rural and urban contexts,
  - ▶ Stakeholders' engagement approaches to facilitate NBSs adoption,
  - ▶ Lessons learnt from across and beyond the Arab region in the successful adoption of NBSs

## Expected Session Outcomes:

- Understand of potential nature-based solutions to address water scarcity and enhance resilience to climate change
- Highlight challenges and opportunities associated with implementing NBS for water resilience
- Insights gained from successful case studies and best practices
- Actionable policy recommendations and roadmap for future implementation of NBS

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
15:30-15:35	Opening and Welcome	<b>Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Tawfik</b> , Environmental Policy Researcher
15:35-15:45	Mentimeter Activity	<b>Moderator</b>
15:45-16:10	Speeches/Short Presentations	<b>Presenters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Stephan Fragaszy</b>, Al Murunah Project Lead, International Researcher, IWMI (<b>Recorded Video</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Khalil Ammar</b>, Program Leader Sustainable Natural Resources Management, ICBA</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Khaled Abu-Zeid</b>, Senior Water Resources Director, CEDARE</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Maha Al-Salehi</b>, Manager at Nature Conservation and Economy, Emirates Nature WWF</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Abdoul Aziz Niane</b>, Director of ICARDA's Office in the GCC</li> </ul>
16:10-16:45	Working Groups Discussion	<b>Participants will work in groups to identify:</b> <b>Group 1:</b> Key policy and institutional challenges towards the adoption of NBSs in the water sector. <b>Group 2:</b> Financing instruments to facilitate NBSs adoption at rural and urban contexts <b>Group 3:</b> Stakeholders' engagement approaches to facilitate NBSs adoption
16:45-16:55	Presentation of Working Groups Recommendations	<b>By the Group Representatives</b>
16:55-17:00	Wrap-Up	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

# DAY 3

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September



## Theme 3: Path Towards a Sustainable Water Future

### PL3: Advancing Global and Regional Water Initiatives for a Sustainable Future

Day 3, Plenary Session 3

Date: Wed. - Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 09:00 - 11:00

#### Convener :



**Supporting Moderation:** Dr. Amel Azab, AWC  
Dr. Roula Khadra, CIHEAM-Bari

#### Session General Description & Modality:

##### Moderated Panel

This session will highlight various existing global and regional water initiatives. It will feature insightful presentations from international and regional partners and interactive panel discussion. The session aims to elucidate a path forward, identifying future opportunities, and formulating actionable strategies and partnerships for a resilient water future in the Arab region.

#### Session Objectives:

- Provide a holistic overview of key initiatives at both international and regional levels, shedding light on successful initiatives, and collaborative opportunities.
- Explore concerted efforts undertaken globally and within the Arab region to establish a resilient framework for water management under climate stresses.
- Highlight the path towards a resilient water future in the context of global water agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Water Decade, and the SENDAI framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Conference of the Parties (COP29).

#### Expected Session Outcomes:

- Highlighting a set of clear and actionable policy recommendations addressing key challenges in water management and proposing strategies for enhancing water sustainability in the Arab region.
- Establishment of new collaborative partnerships among regional and international partners, including government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and private sector representatives, highlighting possible strategies for enhancing private sector engagement in water management,
- Development of regional action plans that outline specific initiatives and projects aimed at advancing water sustainability in the Arab region.



- Identification of research priorities and areas where innovation is needed to address water sustainability challenges in the Arab region.
- Contributing significantly to existing and expected future advancing initiatives for sustainable water management in the Arab region, fostering collaboration, and aligning regional efforts with global sustainability goals.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
9:00-9:10	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Supporting Moderation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Roula Khadra</b>, Senior Co-coordinator, International Officer - Sustainable Water &amp; Land Management in Agriculture, CIHEAM-Bari;</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Amel Azab</b>, Water Resources Management &amp; Capacity Development Expert - Deputy Technical Director, AWC</li> </ul>
9:10-10:00	<b>Initiatives Presentations</b>	<b>Presenters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Marco Riccardo Rusconi</b>, Director, Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Italy</li> <li>• <b>Amb. Almotaz Abadi</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mary Mathews</b>, Senior Technical Advisor on Water and Oceans – UNDP-HQ</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nuria Sanz</b>, Director, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo, UNESCO Liaison Office with the League of Arab States/<b>Dr. Bisher Imam</b>, Senior Programme Specialist, Regional Hydrologist, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ghislain Juvanon</b>, Chief Operating Officer, Amiantit</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Hussein El-Atfy</b>, Secretary-General, AWC</li> </ul>
10:00-10:45	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Marco Riccardo Rusconi</b>, Director, Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) – Italy – one water Approach and the Euro-Mediterranean Forum 2025</li> <li>• <b>Amb. Almotaz Abadi</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mary Mathews</b>, Senior Technical Advisor on Water and Oceans – UNDP-HQ</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nuria Sanz</b>, Director, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo, UNESCO Liaison Office with the League of Arab States</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ghislain Juvanon</b>, Chief Operating Officer, Amiantit</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Hussein El-Atfy</b>, Secretary-General, AWC</li> </ul>
10:45-10:55	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:55-11:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderators</b>



## Theme 3: Path Towards a Sustainable Water Future

### PL4: Youth and Gender Voices on Water Security and Sustainable Future

Day 3, Plenary Session 4

Date: Wed. - Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>

Hall: Hall B – Track 1

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

#### Convener :



#### Co-conveners:



**Moderator:** Dr. Manal Benani, Youth Advisor of the Africa Europe Foundation

### Session General Description & Modality:

#### Interactive Panel Discussion

Diverse voices are critical to ensure a sustainable future in water security. With women, youth and children, and marginalized communities impacted most due to climate challenges, their voices are critical in the decision-making processes addressing climate change and ensuring equitable water management.

The session will spotlight their perspectives on climate advocacy and innovative solutions, featuring a diverse pool of panelists reflecting their visions. Insights from working groups will be integrated in the discussion. The session will culminate in a youth and gender declaration for policy change, encapsulating the discourse's key outcomes, and displayed for all participants.

Dialogue and multi-actor collaborations at territorial, national, and international levels are essential to sustainably and equitably guarantee water security. Therefore, it is crucial to include the voices of women, youth, children, and marginalized communities – often the most affected by climate challenges – in decision-making processes addressing climate change and equitable water management. In addition, young people are valuable providers of innovative solutions and disruptive practices likely to accelerate the necessary environmental and social transitions, but they still remain insufficiently known and valued.

The session will spotlight their perspectives on climate advocacy and innovative solutions they develop in particular in the field of Green and blue transformation, featuring a diverse group of panelists reflecting their visions. Insights from the working groups will be incorporated into the discussion. The session will culminate with a declaration on youth empowerment and the integration of a gender perspective for political change, summarizing the main conclusions and presented to all participants.

## Session Objectives:

- Highlight youth and gender perspectives across all key issues raised during the three days, mainly their vision for climate advocacy, promoting innovative and sustainable solutions developed by scholars and young researchers, and showcasing initiatives and work done towards addressing climate change and water-related challenges.
- Draw upon the insights generated from the side working groups from day 1 and day 2 with emphasis on integrating the contributions of young professionals and maintaining the gender perspective and inputs across the different sessions.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
11:00-11:05	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Manal Benani</b> , Youth Advisor of the Africa Europe Foundation
11:05-11:15	<b>Interactive Mentimeter Poll</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
11:15-11:30	<b>Presentations:</b> Two short presentations, offering key highlights of the three days	<b>Presenters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Doha Zamel</b>, and <b>Ms. Yara El Nagdy</b>, 6<sup>th</sup> AWF Youth and Gender Representatives</li> </ul>
11:30-12:30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Yasmine Seghirate</b>, Administrator at the General Secretariat, CIHEAM</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Abdelaziz Zaki</b>, Science National Professional Officer, UNESCO Regional Office</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Noura Abdelwahab</b>, Senior Gender and Social Inclusion Expert- Water and Climate Change, IWMI MENA Office</li> <li>• <b>Mrs. Rawya Mansour</b>, Founder and Chairwoman of RAMSCO Trade and Distribution</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mosaad Daoud</b>, Entrepreneur - Chief Executive Officer, AgriKemet</li> </ul>
12:30-12:45	<b>Declaration on youth empowerment and the integration of a gender perspective</b> (Declaration will be presented by a group of youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Yasmine Seghirate</b>, Administrator at the General Secretariat, CIHEAM</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Arwa Abdelhay</b>, Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the German Jordanian University</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Aymen Sawassi</b>, Water resources management &amp; modeling expert, CIHEAM-BARI /or <b>Dr. Bilal Derardja</b>, Consultant &amp; Researcher, CIHEAM-BARI</li> </ul>
12:45-12:55	<b>Open Discussion</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
12:55-13:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

## Theme 3: Path Towards a Sustainable Water Future

### Together Towards a Sustainable Future

**Day 3, Interactive Plenary Session**

**Date:** Wed. - Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>

**Hall:** Hall B – Track 1

**Time:** 14:00 - 15:30

#### Convener :



**Moderator:** Dr. Martina Jaskolski, MENA Climate Security Hub (CGIAR)

#### Session General Description & Modality:

##### Interactive Plenary

The future of water management lies in collaborative efforts, sustainable practices, and the integration of diverse voices to drive meaningful change and secure a sustainable water future. This session will identify the international and regional visions and will highlight future cooperation and recommended actions that have been concluded from the forum across three days and highlight the priority areas for action to address water-related challenges, emphasizing collaborative strategies and innovative solutions towards a resilient and secure water future.

This session is a preparatory step for formulating the final recommendations and the way forward agenda of the forum. It will highlight the main visions and actions towards sustainable development and water resilience and prosperity in the Arab region. The future of water management lies in collaborative efforts, sustainable practices, and the integration of diverse voices to drive meaningful change and secure a sustainable water future.

#### Session Objectives:

This session will identify international and regional visions and highlight future cooperation and recommended actions that have been concluded from the Forum across the three days and discuss the way forward towards a resilient and secure water future for the Arab Region, with focus on the following topics:

- International, Regional and Inter-Regional Collaboration
- Integrated and innovative Water Management
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Active Engagement and Cooperation Across Diverse Sectors
- Science and Technology-Driven Solutions

- Water and climate sustainable financing mobilization and investments
- Capacity Building and Awareness
- Governance and Policy Reforms
- Gender and youth inclusion and empowerment

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
14:00-14:03	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Martina Jaskolski</b> , MENA Climate Security Hub (CGIAR)
14:03-14:15	<b>Mentimeter Activity 1</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
14:15-14:25	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>Prof. Safwat Abdel Dayem</b> , Senior Advisor, AWC
14:28 – 14:55	<b>Panel Discussion Round 1</b>  Looking at the Mentimeter responses and at the innovations and messages that stand out for our participants, let's hear how experts relate to the most important innovations from their various fields of expertise	<b>Moderator/Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Emilio Ciarlo</b>, Director General of One Water Committee - Euro-Mediterranean forum, 2025 Italy</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi</b>, Director, ICBA-UAE</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jean D'Cunha</b>, Sr. Global Gender, Climate and Migration Specialist</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Abdel Samie</b>, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Safwat Abdel Dayem</b>, Senior Advisor, AWC</li> </ul>
14:55-15:10	<b>Mentimeter Activity 2</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
15:10-15:20	<b>Panel Discussion Round 2</b>  Moving from ideas to generating real, tangible change in policy and program design, implementation, and management	<b>Moderator/Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi</b>, Director, ICBA-UAE</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Abdel Samie</b>, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jean D'Cunha</b>, Sr. Global Gender, Climate and Migration Specialist</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Safwat Abdel Dayem</b>, Senior Advisor, AWC</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Emilio Ciarlo</b>, Director General of One Water Committee - Euro-Mediterranean forum, 2025 Italy</li> </ul>
15:20-15:30	<b>Mentimeter Activity 3</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
15:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>	<b>Key Messages and Closing by the Moderator</b>

## Theme 3: Path Towards a Sustainable Water Future

### Award Recognition & Closing Ceremony

		Date:	Wed. - Sep. 18 <sup>th</sup>
Hall:	Hall B – Track 1	Time:	15:30 - 16:30

#### Convener :



**Moderator:** Dr. Walid Abderrahman, Vice President , AWC

#### Session General Description & Modality:

The Arab Water Council (AWC) emphasizes the need to drive innovation in water reuse through its Non-Conventional Water Resources Platform (NCWR-PI). It offers a periodic award to recognize exceptional research in the use of non-conventional water resources, aiming to bolster sustainable water security amid climate change and limited water supplies in the Arab Region. As many Arab countries face severe water shortages due to rapid population growth, urbanization, and climate impacts, non-conventional resources like desalinated water and treated wastewater are becoming crucial to national water strategies. The 2024 award, focusing on “Creativity and Innovation in Enhancement of the Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources for Climate Change Adaptation,” seeks to promote cutting-edge research and technology to overcome challenges in this field.

#### Session Objectives:

The award aims at encouraging water researchers and specialists, young scientists and stakeholders in Arab countries and worldwide, to persistently expand their knowledge using state-of-the-art technologies and innovations related to the field of non-conventional water resources.

## Agenda

Time	Session run	Speaker
15:30-16:30	<b>5 mins</b>	Opening Remarks By <b>H.E. Dr. Hussein El-Atfy</b> , Secretary-General, AWC <b>&amp; Announcement of the 3 winners:</b> By <b>Prof. Dr. Walid Abderrahman</b> , Vice-President, AWC & Chairman of the Evaluation Committee
	<b>4 mins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing the 1<sup>st</sup> winner (bio)</li> <li>Inviting the 1<sup>st</sup> winner to give a 3-min presentation of his/her innovation (video recording)</li> <li>Dr. AZ handing the 1<sup>st</sup> winner award</li> </ul>
	<b>4 mins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing the 2<sup>nd</sup> winner (bio)</li> <li>Inviting the 2<sup>nd</sup> winner to give a 3-min presentation of his/her innovation (video recording)</li> <li>Dr. AZ handing the 2<sup>nd</sup> winner award</li> </ul>
	<b>4 mins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing the 3<sup>rd</sup> winner (bio)</li> <li>Inviting the 3<sup>rd</sup> winner to give a 3-min presentation of his/her innovation (video recording)</li> <li>Dr. AZ handing the 3<sup>rd</sup> winner award</li> </ul>
	<b>3 mins</b>	Closing remarks By <b>H.E. Dr. Hussein El-Atfy</b> , Secretary-General, AWC





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