



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



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

CONCEPT NOTE

5th Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment

Making finance work for WASH services

Imperial Ballroom, Triumph Luxury Hotel, Cairo (Egypt)

14th –15th October 2024

BACKGROUND

Achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (“water security” in short) is a common goal and challenge of the countries around the Mediterranean as well as in the rest of the European Union and Africa. Achieving water security requires a financially sustainable water sector. In the Mediterranean region, the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water approved in Malta in 2017 mandated the development of a Water Agenda and a Financial Strategy for Water, which were elaborated and endorsed in 2018. In order to help countries achieve the objectives of the Financial Strategy for Water, the UfM decided to launch an annual series of conferences focused on water finance and investment.

The first Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investments was organized in Rome (Italy) in December 2019, with a focus on public-private partnerships and the financial sustainability of the water sector. Following a pause in 2020 due to Covid-19, the series re-launched in 2021 in partnership with the EU Delegation in Egypt. Since then the conferences have taken place in Cairo (Egypt) in the framework of Cairo Water Week. The second conference focused on strengthening water investment policies. The third conference took place in 2022 and focused on water, climate and finance. The African Development Bank joined the partnership in 2023, when the fourth conference focused on water finance and the water-energy-food-ecosystem (WEFE) nexus. In June 2024, the UfM Regional Platform on Water supported a focus on WASH finance for the fifth edition of the conference.

This year Cairo Water Week will be organized in parallel with Africa Water Week. On this occasion, the annual conference on water finance and investment intends to provide a contribution to both events.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the annual conferences is to support progress towards achieving water security in the Mediterranean and Africa by providing a high-visibility platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss how to further improve water finance and investment policies.

The specific objectives of the 2024 Conference are:

1. To seek high-level guidance for adopting a strategic approach to WASH finance and investment.
2. To identify the opportunities for investing in WASH while providing the largest impact.
3. To explore the scope for generating more internal resources in the WASH sector while ensuring affordability of WASH services.

With financial
support from:



In partnership
with:





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



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

4. To identify the benefits and challenges of developing WASH finance strategies, and the role of public finance.
5. To discuss how enhance engagement of the private sector in WASH finance and investment.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The 5th Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment is targeted towards high level officials from Mediterranean and African countries in charge of water-related investment and finance policies, as well as representatives from national, regional and international stakeholders including: public agencies responsible for WASH-related investments; regulators of water supply and sanitation services; public and private providers of water and sanitation services; domestic and international financiers; water users; research centres; international agencies with an interest in water supply and sanitation issues; and other development partners.

The number of participants will be limited to a maximum of 100 participants on-site and a maximum of 120 participants on-line.

CONFERENCE OUTCOME

As in previous years, the UfM Secretariat, in consultation with the co-organizers, will prepare and publish a Policy Brief reflecting the conclusions and recommendations of the conference.

The conclusions and recommendations from the conference will contribute to the development of the UfM Recommendations on Water Finance that will be submitted for endorsement at the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water

DATE AND PLACE

The Conference will take place at the Triumph Luxury Hotel in Cairo (Egypt) on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15st of October under a hybrid format. The exact meeting room and on-line platform details will be communicated to registered participants in due course.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The organising committee is composed of:

- *Almotaz Abadi*, Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM
- *Roberto Martin Hurtado*, Senior Water Economics Advisor, UfM
- *Samira Shaban*, Project Analyst, UfM
- *Ayman Ayad*, Sector Manager for Water and Social Infrastructure, EU Delegation to Egypt
- *Patrick Wegerdt*, Team Coordinator, Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation, DG Environment, European Commission
- *Ousseynou Guene*, Manager for the North Region, Water and Sanitation Department, AfDB
- *Alba Serna*, Senior Water and Sanitation Engineer, AfDB
- *Ghada Mostafa*, Water and Sanitation Expert, AfDB

With financial
support from:



In partnership
with:





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



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT

- *Samaa El-Baroudy*, General Director for Strategic Cooperation Department, Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
- *Mai Mohamed Afifi*, General Director for International Cooperation, Holding Company for Water and Wastewater, Egypt

With financial
support from:



In partnership
with:





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



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, 14 th October 2024	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:30	<p>Session 1. Opening <i>Facilitator: Samira Shaban Pina, Project Analyst, UfM</i> <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasser Kamel, Secretary-General, UfM • Christian Berger, Head of Delegation, EU Commission in Egypt • Abdourahmane Diaw, Country Manager for Egypt, AfDB • Hani Sewilam, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
9:30-11:00	<p>Session 2: High Level Panel: Adopting a strategic approach to WASH finance and investments <i>Facilitator: Roberto Martin Hurtado, Senior Water Economics Advisor, UfM</i> <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuel Sapiano, CEO Water and Energy Agency, Malta • Mamdouh Raslan, Chairman, Holding Company for Water and Wastewater, Egypt • Almotaz Abadi, Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM • Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director General for Environment, EU Commission • Mtchera Johanes Chirwa, Director for Water and Sanitation OIC, African Development Bank <p><i>Questions:</i> -Why do we need to adopt a strategic approach to WASH finance and investments? - What issues should a strategic approach to WASH finance and investments consider?</p>
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-13:00	<p>Session 3: Investing in WASH <i>Chair: Samaa El-Baroudy, General Director for Strategic Cooperation, Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt</i> <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ylber Mirta, Head of Water Department, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia • Marwan Bardawil, General Director, Institutional Support Programme, Palestinian Water Authority • Mohsen Abdelgid, Head of Financial and Commercial Sector, HCWW, Egypt • Alain Meyssonier, President, Mediterranean Water Institute, IME • Christian Walder, Water Sector Engineer, European Investment Bank <i>(online)</i> <p><i>Questions:</i> -What are the needs and opportunities for investing in WASH infrastructure, service delivery and governance? -How can governments ensure that resources invested in WASH provide the largest impact?</p>

With financial support from:



In partnership with:





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



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 4: Generating internal financial resources: WASH tariffs and affordability</p> <p><i>Chair: Samuel Blazyk, Chief Program and Coordination Officer, African Water Facility</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ines Trindade, Director of Direct Management Department, ERSAR, Portugal (online) • Federico Vallés Figueras, Senior Manager of Strategic Planning, Canal de Isabel II, Spain (online) • Huriye Incecik Ceylan Section Manager, Policy Development and International Relations, General Directorate of Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye • Ibrahim Hassan, General Manager of the Commercial and Marketing Sector, HCWW, Egypt • Oliver Loebel, Secretary General, EurEau (online) • Armin Bigham Ghazani, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE (online) <p><i>Questions:</i></p> <p>-What is the scope for raising additional revenues from WASH tariff reforms and improved bill collection?</p> <p>-How can affordability concerns be addressed?</p>
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	<p>Session 5: Developing WASH finance strategies and the role of public finance</p> <p><i>Chair: Ayman Ayad, EU Delegation in Egypt</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catarina Fonseca, Associate, IRC • Alex Simalabwi, Executive Secretary, AIP High Level Panel Secretariat • Jorio Abdeslam, Head of the Infrastructure Sectors Division, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco • Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, Water Integrity Network (online) • Amgad Elmahdi, MENA Regional Manager, Green Climate Fund. • Clémence Vidal De La Blache, Director of the AFD Cairo Office, French Development Agency (AFD) <p><i>Questions:</i></p> <p>-What are the benefits and challenges of developing WASH finance strategies?</p> <p>-What successful innovations can be found in WASH finance strategies?</p> <p>-What should be the role of public finance?</p>
18:30-22:00	CWW High-Level Gala Dinner (by invitation)

Tuesday, 15 th October 2023	
8:30-10:30	Special Event. Financing the WEF E Nexus: Launch of the AfDB's Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Framework Special initiative (See separate agenda.)
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	Session 6. Engaging the private sector in WASH finance and investment

With financial support from:



In partnership with:





	<p>Chair: Alba Serna, AfDB</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salam Ababneh, Project management engineer, Strategic Planning Directorate, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan • Besma Oueslati, Director of PRIMEA, Directorate General for Financing Investments and Professional Organizations, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia • Atter Hannoura, Director of the PPP Central Unit, Ministry of Finance, Egypt • Aude Farnault, Policy Analyst, Water Team, OECD (online) • Ali Awdeh, Director of Research Department, Union of Arab Banks • Sue Barrett, Director of Infrastructure for Europe, Middle East and Africa, EBRD <p>Questions:</p> <p>-What are the opportunities for the private sector to engage in WASH finance and investment?</p> <p>-What are the main challenges for the private sector to engage in WASH finance? How can those challenges be overcome?</p>
12:30-13:00	<p>Session 7. Closing</p> <p>Facilitator: Roberto Martin Hurtado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Rosendahl, Head of Regional Development Cooperation MENA, Sweden • Ayman Ayad, EU Ayman Ayad, EU Delegation in Egypt • Alba Serna, Senior Water and Sanitation Engineer, AfDB • Samira Shaban Pina, Project Analyst, UfM • Mai Mohamed Afifi, General Director for International Cooperation, HCWW, Egypt • Samaa El-Baroudy, General Director for Strategic Cooperation, Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:30 – 18:00	2nd Meeting of the UfM Working Group on Water Finance and Investment (By invitation. See separate agenda.)
19:30-22:00	Dinner hosted by UfM (by invitation)

With financial support from:



In partnership with:

