

# ESCWA NEWS 1-5 APRIL 2019



**1-4 APRIL**

**CAIRO, EGYPT**

## 2019 Land and Water Days, Near East and North Africa

ESCWA, [FAO](#) and the [League of Arab States \(LAS\)](#) organized the 2019 Land and Water Days with global, regional and country partners to address water scarcity and land degradation. Partners discussed the impact of climate change on natural resources, sustainable agriculture, food security and food systems, and analysed root causes of failure and lessons learnt. ESCWA further shared national reports and publications promoting food and water security and climate change, and conducted a live demo on accessing the [Regional Knowledge Hub for RICCAR](#).

A Joint Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Water Resources was convened at the LAS to discuss challenges facing the region. Attendees agreed on key priorities to institutionalize the regional coordination of water and agriculture policies in line with the 2030 Agenda. The joint "Cairo Declaration for 2019" was adopted, institutionalizing this coordination mechanism, with a roadmap for follow up and review.

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**3 APRIL**

**TUNIS, TUNISIA**

## Tunisia: Accession to COMESA

At the Tunisian Export Promotion Center, ESCWA presented the preliminary results of economic and legal feasibility studies on the country's accession to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa ([COMESA](#)), prepared by ESCWA and [ECA](#).

Officials from the Ministries of Major Reforms, Trade, Commerce, as well as international development agencies and chambers of commerce emphasized the importance of the study in clearly defining the advantages of COMESA membership for the national economy, and the need to support its findings with further in-depth sectoral studies. Logistical considerations will be key in ensuring the success of this agreement and achieving its objectives: this includes the development of maritime and air transport to Eastern and Southern African countries.



**4 APRIL**

**BEIRUT, LEBANON**

## Lebanon: Women's Political Participation and Representation

ESCWA and the National Commission for Lebanese Women ([NCLW](#)) held a consultative workshop to discuss barriers to entry for women in the political sphere. Via teleconference, a Tunisian female Member of Parliament presented her country's Electoral Law for horizontal and vertical parity and shared her personal experience in benefitting from this temporary special measure, a best practice for the region. National political parties explained how they are enhancing women's representation and access to decision-making spheres. The deliberations will inform NCLW's future advocacy strategy and workplan.

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