Water Action Decade
Preparatory Process

First Consultation in the Arab Region to prepare for the
2023 Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade
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Water: A Central Role in Global Agendas

• Water issues are addressed in landmark agreements guiding global efforts to achieve sustainable development, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda.

• The central role of water is recognized as a connector and key element to each of these global agendas.
Water-related SDGs

Dedicated

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Explicit

**1 NO POVERTY**

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

**15 LIFE ON LAND**

Implicit

**2 ZERO HUNGER**

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**
SDGs interlinked & reference other global processes
In December 2016, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/71/222 proclaiming the International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development, 2018 - 2028, commonly referred to as the Water Action Decade.

Advance sustainable development and IWRM to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets

Pursued through cooperation and partnerships at all levels, focus on social, economic and environmental objectives

United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/222
Requests the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system to facilitate the implementation of the Decade;
Encourages Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector, to contribute to the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/226**

- *Invites* the organization of activities in support of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels;
- *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other entities of the UN system, to prepare a report to assess progress in the implementation of the first half of the Decade;
- *Decides* that the conference will be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings and informed by existing water-related meetings at the regional and global levels;
- *Encourages* Member States, relevant UN bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the UN system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector, to continue to contribute to the review and implementation of the Decade.
- Requests the Presidency of the UN General Assembly (PGA) to convene a 2021 high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets to support the Decade and inform the HLPF on Sustainable Development on the outcomes.  
  
  **PGA Meeting scheduled for March 18th at UNHQ**
In December 2020, UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/75/212

- Details the modalities of the midterm comprehensive review conference in March 2023.
- Decides that the conference should:
  - Report on progress made in implementing the Decade's objectives,
  - Identify possible obstacles in achieving them
  - Pinpoint innovative ways to support their implementation and accelerate progress.
- Reaffirms that the conference will be preceded by regional and global meetings and that preparations should include a review process.
The Water Action Decade has been well-received by Arab States given the centrality that freshwater scarcity and water security play in advancing sustainable development in the region.

**Arab Ministerial Water Council**
- 10th Session resolution (May 2018) encourages Arab States and stakeholders to share their efforts to advance the water-related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and disseminating their activities on the Water Action Decade knowledge platform.
- 12th session resolution (November 2020) invites Arab States and the Technical Secretariat of the AMWC to engage with ESCWA for the preparatory regional consultations for the 2021 AFSD and follow up on the midterm review of the Decade.

**ESCWA Committee on Water Resources**
- 12th session (March 2017) Committee adopted a recommendation asking ESCWA to support the Water Action Decade.
- 13th Session (June 2019) asks ESCWA to “Support member States in their work under the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Sustainable Development’ 2018-2028, participate in Cairo Water Week and in other regional events related to climate change and water, and encourage youth participation therein.”
Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water for HLPF

The regional preparatory meeting on water issues was convened one week after the launching of the Decade (Beirut, 28-29 March 2018) and informed the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The resulting outcome document consolidated regional views and priorities on water-related issues facing the Arab region.

Arab Priorities on Water for Sustainable Development per Outcome Document:
(1) Strengthening integrated water resources management to cope with water scarcity;
(2) Enhancing cooperation on shared water resources;
(3) Water is a core component of climate change adaptation and natural disaster risk reduction;
(4) Access to water services for all through improving water-related infrastructure.

Means of Implementation
(1) Regional Cooperation
(2) National coherence and coordination across sectors through participatory approaches
(3) Technology transfer
(4) Financing and investment
(5) Capacity development

Source: Outcome Document of the Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and High-Level Political Forum (Beirut, March 2018)
**UN System processes referencing the Decade**

**United Nations System Regional Collaboration Platforms (RCPs)**

- Established in 2020 to support regional-level inter-agency collaboration
- Issue-based Coalitions (IBCs) set-up to address policy priorities in each region
- **IBC on Food Security, Climate Action & Environment**
  - Pillar on Climate Action and Natural Resource Sustainability
  - **Pillar on Water, Food Security and Nutrition**
    - Pillar work plan item proposed by ESCWA includes organization of this consultation to discuss regional preparatory meeting to support the Midterm Comprehensive Review Conference

**UN-Water Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination**

- Provides a platform for pursuing regional-level coordination and collaboration under UN-Water.
- Work plan and budget to support the organization of regional preparatory meetings in support of the Midterm Comprehensive Review in the five regions covered by Regional Collaborative Platforms.
- Regional Discussion Groups are being established in each region. Participants in **Regional Discussion Group for Arab States** contributing through this UN-Water mechanism
The Water Action Decade 2018-2028 midterm review will be a critical milestone for the Global Acceleration Framework.
ROAD MAP TO MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE UN-WATER ACTION DECADE—MARCH 2023

WATER ACTION DECADE 2018-2028

2020
- SAW Finance Ministerial Meetings, Washington
- Regional Forums for Sustainable Development and associated preparatory meetings, Geneva
- UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon
- SAW World Water Congress, Doha
- IWA World Water Congress, Copenhagen
- Conference on the Related Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), Marrakech
- Africa Water Week, Cairo
- IWA World Water Week, Stockholm
- Korea International Water Week, Daejeon
- UN World Water Day, New York
- IWA World Water Congress, Doha

2021
- Regional Forums for Sustainable Development and associated preparatory meetings, Geneva
- High Level Meeting of the President of the General Assembly, New York
- IWA World Water Congress, Copenhagen
- Conference on the Related Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), Marrakech
- Africa Water Week, Cairo
- IWA World Water Week, Stockholm
- Korea International Water Week, Daejeon
- UN World Water Day, New York
- IWA World Water Congress, Doha

2022
- Regional Forums for Sustainable Development and associated preparatory meetings, Geneva
- High Level Meeting of the President of the General Assembly, New York
- IWA World Water Congress, Copenhagen
- Conference on the Related Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), Marrakech
- Africa Water Week, Cairo
- IWA World Water Week, Stockholm
- Korea International Water Week, Daejeon
- UN World Water Day, New York
- IWA World Water Congress, Doha

2023
- Regional Forums for Sustainable Development and associated preparatory meetings, Geneva
- High Level Meeting of the President of the General Assembly, New York
- IWA World Water Congress, Copenhagen
- Conference on the Related Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), Marrakech
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- IWA World Water Week, Stockholm
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CURRENT UN DECADIES

Decade on Sustainable Energy for All: 2014-2024
Decade of Action on Nutrition: 2016 – 2025
Decade on Family Farming: 2019 – 2028
Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: 2021 – 2030
Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: 2021-2030
Decade of Action - Water for Sustainable Development: 2018-2028

www.wateractiondecade.org
First consultation to prepare regional roadmap

Objectives

The aim of this first consultation is to draft a **collaborative road map for Arab regional preparations** leading up to the UN Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade in March 2023.

Specifically, the meeting will discuss how to proceed with:

- organizing the regional preparatory meeting for the global conference
- preparing the regional contribution to the global midterm comprehensive review report
- activating the engagement of regional stakeholders and encouraging the implementation of activities that can explicitly support the Water Action Decade in the region

Participants will be invited to confirm their interest in substantively and financially contributing to this preparatory process during the closing session.