

Water Action Decade Preparatory Process

First Consultation in the Arab Region to prepare for the
2023 Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade
Beirut, 24 February 2020



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة
ESCWA

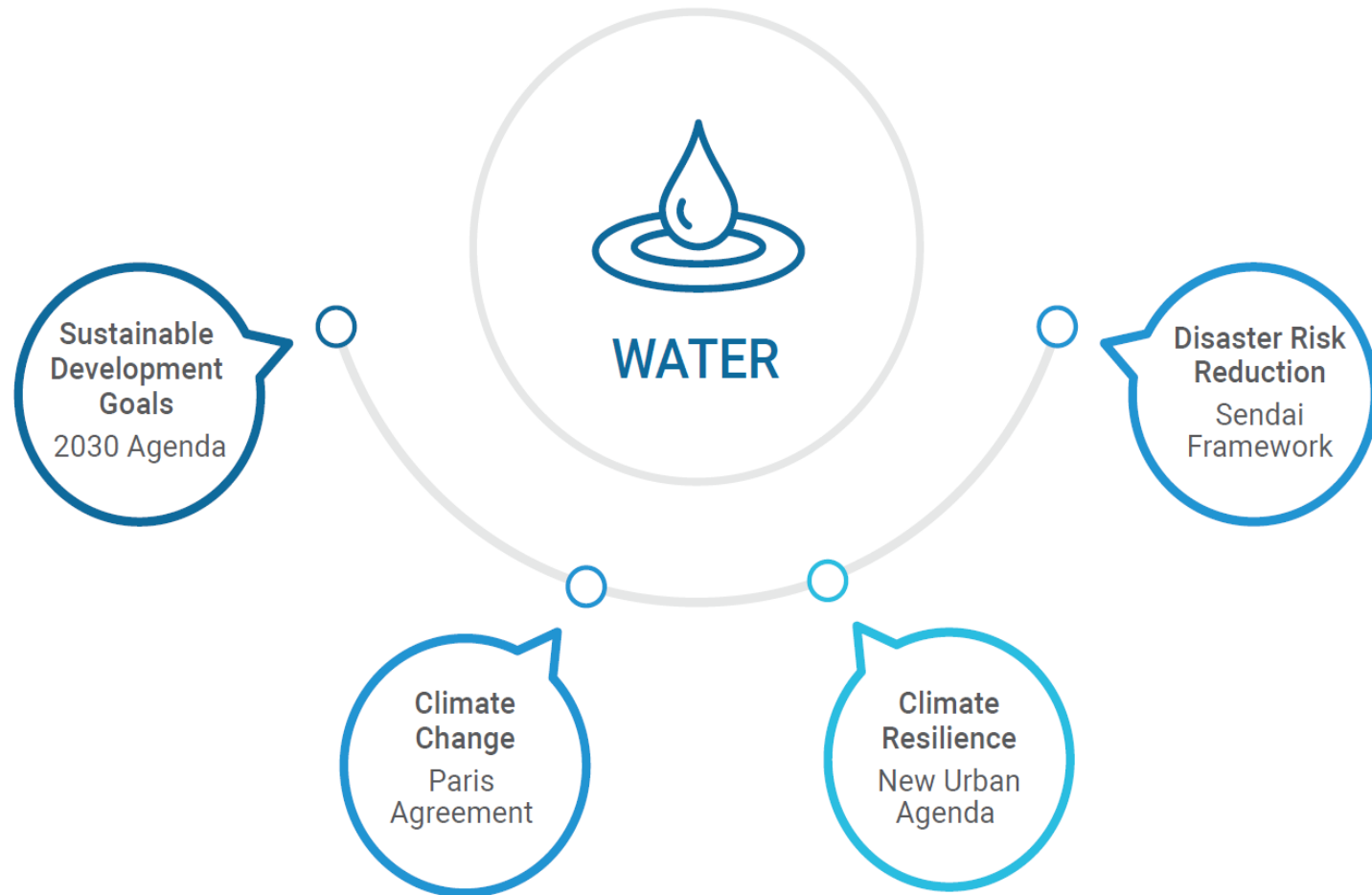
Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



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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



Explicit



Implicit



SDGs interlinked & reference other global processes



Water Action Decade: 2018 – 2028

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

Proclaims the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, to commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2018, and terminate on World Water Day, 22 March 2028;

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.

Midterm Comprehensive Review

In December 2018, the UNGA adopted [Resolution A/RES/73/226](#) to convene the **United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the Water Action Decade** from 22-24 March 2023.

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](#)

Midterm Comprehensive Review: Modalities

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.



WATER ACTION DECADE

2018 - 2028

Water Action Decade – Regional Mandates

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



SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

Officially launched at HLPF in July 2020

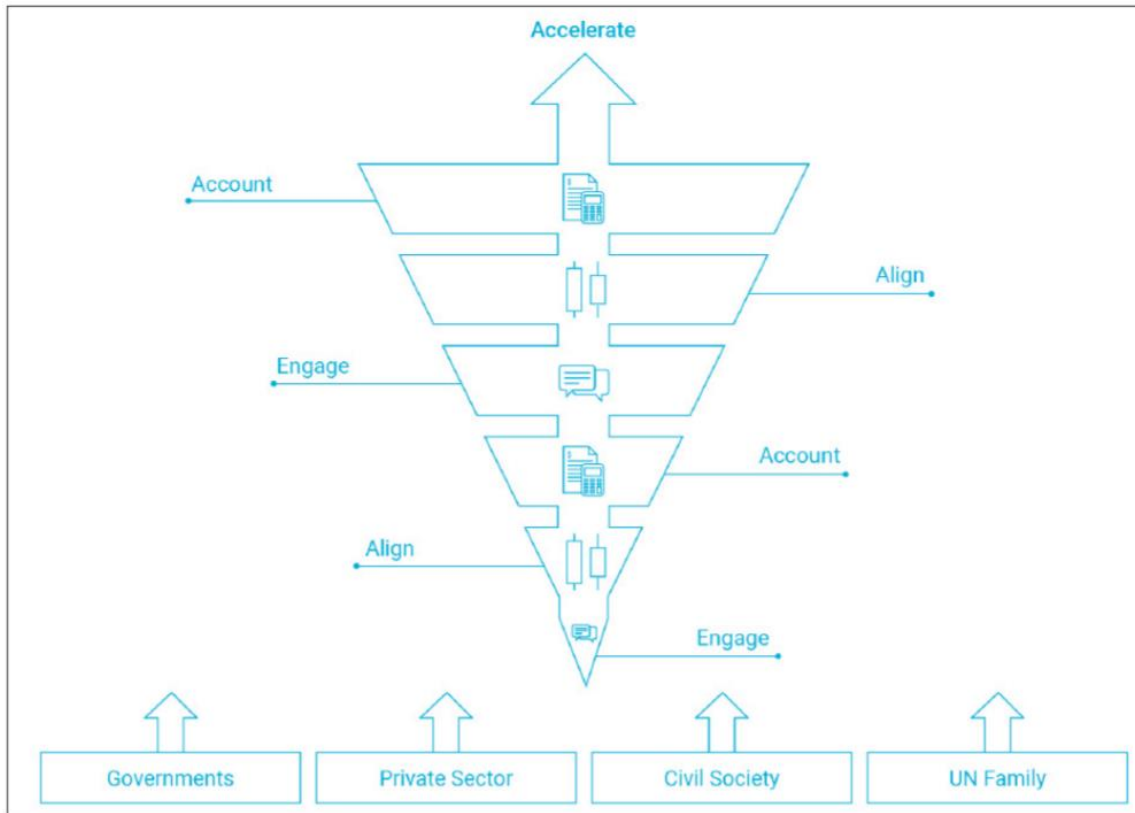


Figure 1: Visualizing the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework action pillars



Figure 2: Visualizing the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework action pillars

The Water Action Decade 2018-2028 midterm review will be a critical milestone for the Global Acceleration Framework

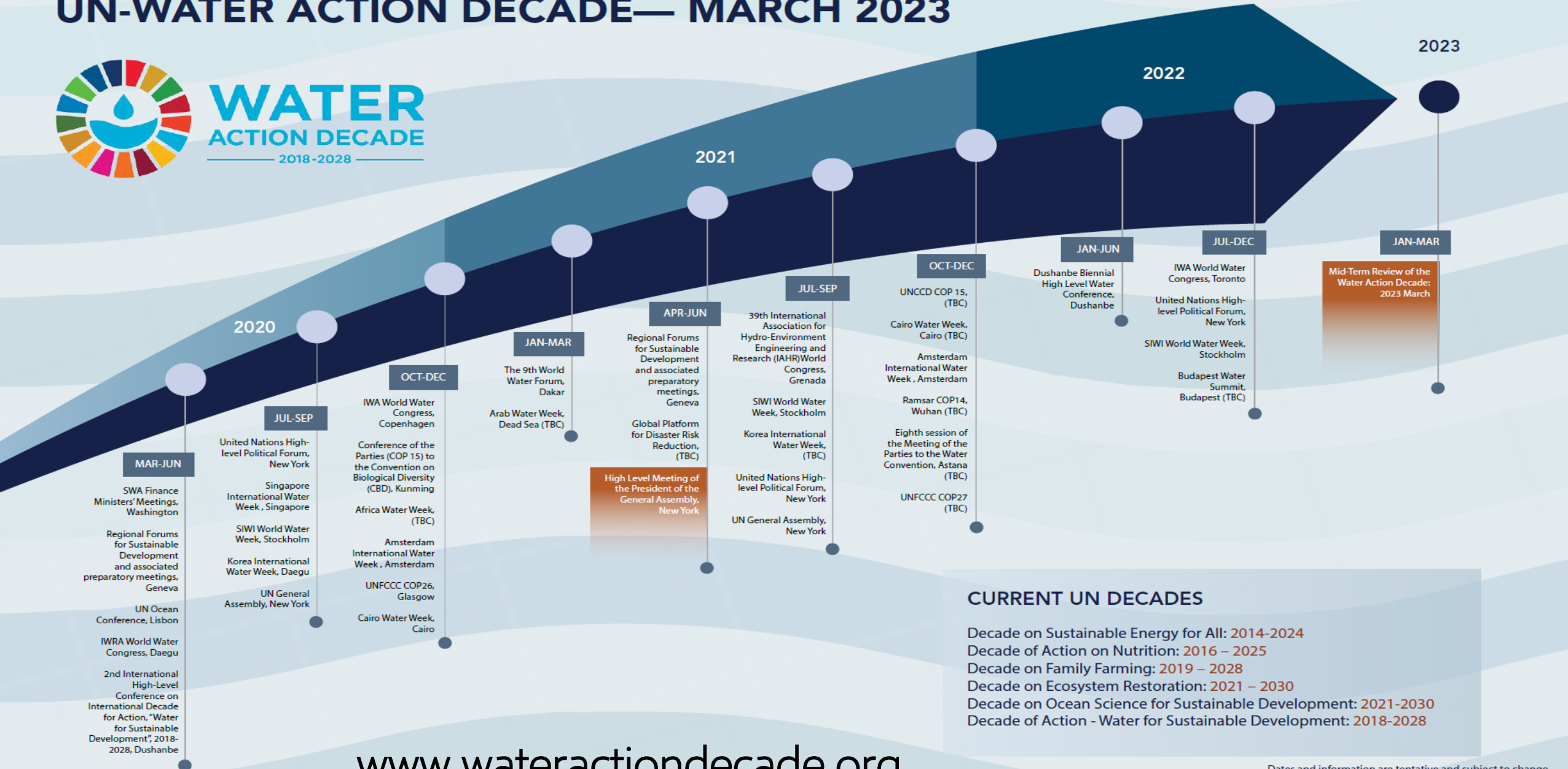
UN-Water, SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (July 2020)

<https://www.unwater.org/publications/the-sdg-6-global-acceleration-framework>

ROAD MAP TO MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE UN-WATER ACTION DECADE— MARCH 2023



WATER
ACTION DECADE
2018-2028



CURRENT UN DECADES

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

Dates and information are tentative and subject to change

Version: February 2020; Art design: UNU-INWEH and UN-Water

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.



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WATER ACTION DECADE

2018 - 2028

Thank You

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<https://www.unescwa.org/Consultation-Comprehensive-Review-Water-Action-Decade>

<http://arabsdggateway.unescwa.org/>

<https://www.sdg6data.org/>