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Transboundary Hydro-Governance and the MENA Region Online Workshop Preliminary Programme Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid 14-16 July 2020

Context: Despite global calls to accelerate water resource governance, the Middle East water situation continues to deteriorate following from the pressures of growing populations, increasing demand, and exacerbating factors such as the impact climate change which all contribute to make water management more difficult. Despite the international communities political commitment to achieve a water specific Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)¹, a 2018 UN synthesis report on SDG6 stated that “the world is not on track”.² The report identified that to be successful SDG 6 needs to (i) **Adapt to country contexts;** (ii) **Create multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthen regional integration;** and (iii) **Implement integrated water resources management (IWRM).** In the transboundary context, SDG 6.5 target highlights the need to implement IWRM at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation. Further, SDG 6.5.2 provides an indicator to check progress against the “proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation”. Looking to regional processes, the League of Arab States Water Ministerial Council have called to “Establish the principles of integrated water resource management as a key element in water policies in Arab States” as one of the specific objectives of the *Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region to Meet the Challenges and Future Needs for Sustainable Development (2010-2030)*.

The goal of this Workshop is to build the participants’ knowledge and capacity to promote the implementation of IWRM at the transboundary level, with a focus on international water law and negotiation discussions, and case-studies.

Workshop objectives: To equip water professionals with **legal** knowledge required to appreciate global governance instruments and international legal principles relevant to transboundary waters; and to provide the **negotiations** understanding required to effectively assess cooperation with colleagues from neighbouring countries, regional counterparts and development in water governance at the international level. The training will be delivered in an engaging and interactive manner with regional and world-class experts listed in Annex I.

Participants: Water professionals, academics, researchers, etc. from the Mashraq region with a priority to those who participated in February 2020 workshop entitled **Transboundary Hydro-Governance and SDG 6**.

¹ With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States agreed to a set of transformative goals and targets including the creation of a water specific Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) entitled “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.

² *The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation*.

Workshop Hosts: Dr. Sa'eb Khresat (President of JUST), Prof. Mark Zeitoun (University of East Anglia), Prof. Suhil Kiwan (Acting Director of the Water Diplomacy Centre), and Eng. Enas Albakri (Regional Program Coordinator).

Hydro-Governance Expert Team for Online Workshop: Mr. Fuad Bateh (Legal/Negotiations), Dr. Abdullah Droubi (Technical), Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economics Officer with UN ESCWA (Governance), Dr. Shaddad Attili, Minister with the PLO's Negotiations Affairs Department (Negotiations), Ms. Sara Datturi, Environmental Affairs Officer with UNECE Water Convention Secretariat (Legal/Governance), Dr. Mara Tignino, Reader Faculty of Law and Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva (Legal), Dr. Ana Cascao (Negotiations/Governance), and Dr. Muna Dajani with the London School of Economics (Communications).

Tuesday 14 July 2020

09:30 *Welcome remarks* (Dr. Saeb Khreshat, President of JUST)

09:40 *Open Hydro-governance and the MENA Workshop* (Prof. Suhil Kiwan, Director of WDC)

09:50 *"Get to Know Each Other" Ice-breaker Exercise* (Mr. Fuad Bateh)

10:15 *Transboundary cooperation for reducing Climate Change impacts using IWRM principals* (Dr. Abdullah Droubi)

BREAK [10 MINUTES]

11:15 *Shared Water Cooperation in the Arab Region* (Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Officer, UNESCWA)

BREAK [10 MINUTES]

12:15 *Hydro-Diplomacy: Lessons Learned from Assymetrical Negotiations* (Dr. Shaddad Attili, Minister at PLO Negotiations Affairs Department; Former Palestinian Minister of Water)

12:45 *Daily Summary & Introduce Sessions for 2nd Day* (Mr. Fuad Bateh)

Wednesday 15 July 2020

09:30 *Welcome and Introduce Sessions* (Mr. Fuad Bateh)

09:40 *Global Water Governance: Core Principles of International Water Law and International Instruments* (Ms. Sara Datturi, Secretariat of UNECE Water Convention)

BREAK [10 MINUTES]

11:00 *The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure* (Dr. Mara Tignino, Faculty of Law and Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva)

BREAK [5 MINUTES]

11:30 *Transboundary Water Negotiations: From Academic to Real Life Negotiations (Dr. Ana Cascao)*

12:30 *Daily Summary & Introduce Session for 3rd Day (Mr. Fuad Bateh)*

Thursday 16 July 2020

09:30 *Welcome and Introduce Sessions (Mr. Fuad Bateh)*

09:40 *Consultations on the new Water Diplomacy Centre (Prof. Suhil Kiwan)*

10:10 *Sub-regional Initiatives of Hydro-governance*

- *Case study of the North West Sahara Aquifer System (Mr. Fuad Bateh)*

BREAK [10 MINUTES]

10:50 *Knowledge production and dissemination: communication toolbox for transboundary hydro—governance (Dr. Muna Dajani)*

BREAK [5 MINUTES]

11:25 *Transboundary Water Governance: What can the water politics of the Nile teach us about challenges and solutions? (Dr. Ana Cascao)*

BREAK [10 MINUTES]

12:25 *Workshop Summary (Mr. Fuad Bateh)*

12:40 *Closing Remarks (Prof. Mark Zeitoun, UEA)*

13:00 *Finish Online Workshop*

BIOGRAPHIES OF LECTURERS

Dr. Shaddad Attili is a Minister at the PLO's Negotiation Affairs Department and served as Palestinian Minister of Water heading the Palestinian Water Authority between April 2008 to August 2014. He is also former Deputy Secretary General of the Environmental and Water Division of the Union for the Mediterranean. He has led Palestinian water negotiations in bilateral and regional projects and water arrangements. Dr. Attili obtained a PhD in Science and Industrial Technology from Orleans University after receiving an MSc in Industrial Geology from Al Yarmouk University. In 2013, Dr. Attili was awarded the Legion of Honor award by France.

Mr. Fuad Bateh consults regularly for a variety of organizations and institutions working in development, law and negotiations related to environment and water resources. Throughout 2019, he led negotiations on behalf of the Chair of the Group of 77 at the United Nations on the intergovernmental conference to elaborate an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Previously, he served as the Water Governance and Infrastructure Advisor to the Office of the Quartet; Advisor on Environment and Water to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean; Advisor to the Palestinian Minister of Water working on multilateral negotiations and water sector reform; Legal Advisor to the Palestinian Chief Negotiator and negotiations team; and also for the International and Environmental Law unit of the World Bank.

Dr. Ana Elisa Cascão is currently advisor to GIZ/NBI Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin. Just previously she was an independent consultant working in the field of transboundary water management and cooperation. She has led major Applied Research, Capacity Building, and Advisory Services in transboundary river basin in the Middle East/North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa regions, as Programme Manager at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). With a PhD in Geography from King's College London, she has authored several academic publications, with her latest book entitled *The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the Nile Basin: Implications for Transboundary Water Cooperation* (Routledge, 2017), and is currently working on *Water Security in the Nile Basin: Understanding and Expanding the solution space*.

Dr. Muna Dajani holds a PhD in Geography and Environment from the London School of Economics. Her research examines water struggles in agricultural communities and the linkages with politics of belonging and recognition. She has contributed to numerous studies on the hydropolitics of the Jordan and Yarmouk River Basins in addition to her interest in topics related to water, energy and climate justice. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at Lancaster Environment Centre as part of Transformations to Groundwater Sustainability (T2GS) project which comparatively explores promising grassroots initiatives of groundwater governance around the world.

Ms. Sara Datturi is an Environmental Affairs Officer with the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat. She holds an MSc in Land and Water Management from Wageningen University. Previously, Ms. Datturi worked on rural development with special attention to agricultural water management/water economics and water policy with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, and as a technical expert in the water sector for the Italian Agency for International Cooperation and Development in Cairo.

Dr. Abdullah Droubi is former director of Water Studies Department at Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands.

Mr. Ziad Khayat serves as Economic Affairs Officer in the Water Resources Section in the Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut. Mr. Khayat has been leading support to Arab States on matters related to transboundary cooperation including the League of Arab States cooperation framework and guideline. Previously, he worked for the UNDP as project manager for the groundwater assessment project of Lebanon. He holds degrees in Hydrogeology from the University of British Columbia in Canada and the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

Prof. Suhil Kiwan serves as the Acting Director of the Water Diplomacy Centre and the Dean of Engineering at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Previously, Prof Kiwan served as the director of the Energy Center at JUST (2009-2012), and then dean of the school of engineering and management of natural resources at the German Jordanian University (2013-2016). Prof. Kiwan is a co-founder of the Desertec University Network and is an expert in renewable energy, energy efficiency systems and sustainable development.

Dr. Mara Tignino is a Reader at the Faculty of Law and the Institute for Environmental Sciences of the University of Geneva and the Lead Legal Specialist of the Geneva Water Hub's Platform for International Water Law. Dr. Tignino acts as a legal adviser for States and expert for international and non-governmental organisations. She holds a PhD in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.