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## Transboundary Hydro-Governance and the MENA Region Online Workshop Preliminary Programme Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid 23-25 February 2021

*Context:* Despite global and regional 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. In the face of the international communities political commitment to achieve a water specific Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)<sup>1</sup>, a 2018 UN synthesis report on SDG6 stated that “the world is not on track”.<sup>2</sup> 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 region-specific 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 Mashreq region with a priority to those who participated in November 2020 workshop entitled **Transboundary Hydro-Governance and SDG 6**.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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”.

<sup>2</sup> *The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation*.

*Hydro-Governance Expert Team for Workshop: Dr. Chadi Abdallah (Knowledge/Technical), Mr. Fuad Bateh (Legal/Negotiations), Dr. Muna Dajani (Communications), Ms. Sara Datturi (Legal/Governance), Mr. Ziad Khayat (Governance), Dr. Susanne Schmeier (Legal/Governance), and Dr. Mara Tignino (Legal).*

## **Tuesday 23 February 2021**

**10:00** *Welcome remarks (Dr. Saeb Khreshat, President of JUST)*

**10:10** *Open Hydro-governance and the MENA Workshop (Prof. Suhil Kiwan, Director of WDC)*

**10:20** *“Get to Know Each Other” Ice-breaker Exercise (Mr. Fuad Bateh)*

**10:30** *Shared Water Cooperation in the Arab Region (Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Officer, UN ESCWA)\*<sup>3</sup>*

**BREAK [10 MINUTES]**

**11:30** *Global Water Governance: Core Principles of International Water Law and International Instruments (Ms. Sara Datturi, Secretariat of UNECE Water Convention)*

**BREAK [10 MINUTES]**

**12:30** *Sub-regional Initiatives of Hydro-governance*

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

**13:20** *Daily Summary & Introduce Sessions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Day (Prof. Kiwan)*

## **Wednesday 24 February 2021**

**10:00** *Welcome and Introduce Sessions (Mr. Bateh)*

**10:10** *Consultations on the new Water Diplomacy Centre (Prof. Kiwan)\**

**BREAK [5 MINUTES]**

**11:00** *Legal and institutional mechanisms for water cooperation in transboundary basins – with a particular focus on basin organizations (Prof. Schmeier, IHE Delft)*

**BREAK [10 MINUTES]**

**12:00** *The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure (Dr. Mara Tignino, Lead Legal Specialist, Platform for International Water Law, Geneva Water Hub and Reader, Faculty of Law and Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva)*

**BREAK [5 MINUTES]**

**13:00** *Daily Summary & Introduce Session for 3<sup>rd</sup> Day (Prof. Kiwan and Mr. Bateh)*

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<sup>3</sup> Asterisk “\*” indicates the lectures shall be offered in Arabic, but all presentations shall be made available in English.

## **Thursday 25 February 2021**

For references visit <https://sites.uea.ac.uk/watersecurity/research/current-projects/yarmouk-basin-baseline-study> , and also review:

Zeitoun, M., Abdallah, C., Dajani, M., Khresat, S., Elaydi, H., Alfarra, A. (2019) [The Yarmouk tributary to the Jordan River I: Agreements impeding equitable transboundary water arrangements](#). Water Alternatives 12(13): 1064 - 1094

Zeitoun, M., Dajani, M., Abdallah, C., Khresat, S., Elaydi, H. (2019) [The Yarmouk tributary to the Jordan River II: Infrastructure impeding the transformation of equitable transboundary water arrangement](#). Water Alternatives 12(3): 1095 - 1122

**10:30** *Welcome and Introduce Sessions (Prof. Kiwan and Mr. Bateh)*

**10:40** *The Application of Modern Technology to the Yarmouk Basin (Prof. Abdallah)\**

**BREAK [10 MINUTES]**

**12:00** *Knowledge production and dissemination: communication toolbox for transboundary hydro—governance in the Yarmouk Basin (Dr. Muna Dajani)\**

**BREAK [10 MINUTES]**

**13:00** *Participants Discussion on Transboundary Hydro-governance and Cooperation in the Mashreq Region – Example the Jordan River Basin (Mr. Bateh et. al.)*

**13:15** *A New Vision of Water Management in the Yarmouk Basin (Prof. Mark Zeitoun)*

**14:00** *Workshop Summary (Prof. Kiwan and Mr. Bateh)*

**14:15** *Closing Remarks (Dr. Khreshat and Prof. Zeitoun)*

**14:30** *Finish Online Workshop*

## BIOGRAPHIES OF LECTURERS

**Dr. Chadi Abdallah** is an associate Researcher and Geologist holding a PhD in GIS and RS of natural resources (Paris VI University-France), a Post-doc in Radar Interferometry (University of Missouri-USA), and a Professor Degree (Lebanese University, 2016). Researcher at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Remote Sensing Center (1998-Present). Principle Investigator on several projects related to natural disasters, water information management, modeling and decision-making; assessment, monitoring and management of natural resources and sustainable development. Deputy Director and responsible of the Early Warning System platform, CNRS-L. Has fourteen years of teaching experience in Hydrology, geology GIS and Remote Sensing. Chair of the Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group for DRR, Adjunct Researcher at AUB and the University of Missouri Columbia-USA.

**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. 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 Associate 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.

**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 guidelines. Previously, he worked for the UNDP as project manager for a groundwater assessment of Lebanon project. He holds degrees in Hydrogeology from the University of British Columbia in Canada and the American University of Beirut.

**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.

**Prof. Susanne Schmeier** is an Associate Professor at IHE Delft, focusing on water and environmental conflict and cooperation, with a particular interest in the legal and institutional mechanisms for governing shared resources sustainably. Prior to joining IHE Delft, she worked for the Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the World Bank, the Mekong River Commission and other international and regional organizations.

**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.

**Prof. Mark Zeitoun** is co-founder of the [Water Security Research Centre](#), and Professor of Water Security and Policy at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia. His research follows three streams: i) development of theory and case-based research on international transboundary water management; ii) examination of the influence of armed conflict on water and other essential urban services, and iii) water security and management in development, post-conflict, and conflict contexts. This stems from his work as a humanitarian-aid water engineer, and advisor on water security policy and transboundary water negotiations throughout the Middle East and Africa.