



UN-ESCWA

UNITED NATIONS - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



Existing institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms for climate change adaptation

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Presentation outline

- UN coordination at the Global level
- UN-LAS regional mechanisms
- LAS sub-committee on climate and climate change
- ESCWA regional initiatives
- Regional coordination on Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Resources Sector due to climate change

UN Coordination at the Global Level

- The United Nations coordinates its work under the framework of the Chief Executives Board (CEB). Its decisions are supported through the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and its Working Group on Climate Change.
- Per the Chief Executives Board (CEB) “Acting on Climate Change: The UN System Delivering As One” report (November 2008):
 - The CEB has mandated Regional Commissions , including ESCWA, to serve as **“The Designated Convener for Cross-Cutting Areas of UN Activities supporting Global, Regional and National Actions”**.
 - Under the CEB, a strategic framework detailing UN system activities on climate change will be presented at COP-15 in Copenhagen.

UN Coordination at the Global Level

➤ The UN System-wide coordination on Climate Change focuses on a number of major issues in response to the negotiation process and the broader mandates of the UN system.

Current work focuses on:

- ✓ **Adaptation**
- ✓ **Capacity Building**
- ✓ **Mitigation and Finance**
- ✓ **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)**
- ✓ **Technology Transfer**

UN –LAS Regional Coordination

1. ESCWA leads the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), which was established to coordinate initiatives among the UN system and other organizations in the Arab Region on various topics.

The RCM Thematic Working Group on Climate Change is led by UNEP/ROWA. Its tasks include:

- ✓ Monitoring climate change impacts and vulnerability
- ✓ Supporting national planning for adaptation
- ✓ Enhancing knowledge sharing
- ✓ Streamlining financial and technical support
- ✓ Building capacity in adaptation
- ✓ Supporting efforts to leverage finance for energy efficiency and renewable energy



UN-LAS Regional Coordination



- Arab Governments through CAMRE issued **The Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change** in 2007 which expressed Arab commitment to join the international community in its move towards adaptation to and mitigation of CC

- This has been followed by the drafting of **The Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change for 2010-2020 (AFAPCC)**, prepared under the auspices of the League of Arab States (LAS) CAMRE Technical Secretariat in partnership with ESCWA, the United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA) and Regional Arab Organizations.



AFAPCC is designed for enhancing the Arab Countries' capacity to take appropriate measures for addressing climate change issues while achieving sustainable development targets and MDGs in the Region.

AFAPCC includes adaptation and mitigation programmes covering the following sectors:

**Water, Land and
Biological Diversity**

Transport

Agriculture and forestry

**Population and human
settlements**

Industry

Seas and coastal areas

Energy

Cross cutting issues

LAS Committee on Climate and Climate Change

- UN and LAS organizations, as well as the Arab Member States, are members in the Climate and Climate Change committee of the LAS which is a sub-committee of the Arab Meteorological Committee established through the **Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE)**
- The Committee's 15th meeting (12-14 July 2009), resulted in recommendations to support Arab Governments prepare for the World Climate Conference (WCC-3), IPCC meetings and COP-15.

ESCWA Regional Initiatives

- Fostering partnerships and advising members of the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) on **water resource protection and climate change**



- Launching of the **Working Group on Climate Change** within the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET)

Regional Coordination on Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Resources Sector due to Climate Change

- In support of the ESCWA resolution 281 (XXV) regional coordination was formalized through the **RCM's, Thematic Working Group on CC (November 2008)**.
 - It was agreed that **ESCWA, UNEP/ ROWA, UNESCO and UNDP** would collaborate on a "**Vulnerability Assessment on Water Resources of the Region**".
- Regional collaboration was further reinforced **at the “UN-LAS” Ninth Sectoral Meeting (June 2009)**, which focused on CC and was chaired by ESCWA on behalf of the SG.
 - **The meeting concluded with agreement that UN and LAS specialized organizations would collaborate on the preparation of a vulnerability assessment on the impact of climate change on water and land resources.**

Regional Coordination on Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Resources Sector due to Climate Change

- ESCWA hosted the launching of this collaborative work at an EGM Towards Assessing the Vulnerability of Water Resources to Climate Change in the Arab Region (Beirut, 26-28 October 2009);
- The EGM involved government delegates as well as representatives from the LAS, UNEP/ROWA, WMO, UNISDR, FAO, UNDP, ACSAD, AOAD, AASTMT, ISESCO among other regional organizations.



Regional Coordination on Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Resources Sector due to Climate Change

- The aim of the EGM was:
 - to reach a consensus on the purpose, scope and methods to be adopted for the preparation of a regional vulnerability assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources among regional stakeholders.
 - to agree on a jointly prepared work plan, time line and budget for moving forward with its preparation.

Regional Coordination on Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Resources Sector due to Climate Change

A project concept was agreed to during the meeting based on 4 components:

- (a) **Collection of baseline information**, including the development of an associated knowledge management system;
- (b) **Impact analysis and vulnerability assessment**, which includes model identification and downscaling to the regional level based on regional specificities;
- (c) **Awareness raising and information dissemination** to produce policy-relevant materials, such as a brief on vulnerability hotspots; and
- (d) **Capacity building and institutional strengthening** on a variety of topics, including climate change modeling and vulnerability assessment.

Regional Coordination on Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Resources Sector due to Climate Change

- A project's duration of three years was agreed upon by experts of the EGM.
- A Core Group was identified to follow-up on the meeting outcomes and on implementation of the project activities including representatives from the UN and LAS organizations and from the Governments to further define way forward.

Concluding Remarks

- Exchange of experiences among regional organizations on climate change issues through effective mechanisms is essential to enhance their capacity in serving member countries.
- Arab countries have collectively galvanized their political will and commitment to achieve SD and address CC and this will facilitate implementation of regional activities and operationalization of regional mechanisms

Concluding Remarks (Cont'd)

- National CC Technical/Steering committees and/or focal points established in the Arab countries should be encouraged to actively contribute to regional joint activities/mechanisms. These entities played a key role in development of National Communications reported to the UNFCCC which include valuable information for CC impact assessment at the regional level.

Thank You