

**Kick-off Meeting**  
**For**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Cairo Water Week**

**Nile Ritz-Carlton, Cairo, Egypt**  
**May 13, 2018**

**Final Report**  
**Draft**



**Cairo 2018**  
Water Week

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<b>AWC</b>	Arab Water Council
<b>CEDARE</b>	Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
<b>CWW</b>	Cairo Water Week
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	The Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environmental Facility
<b>GWP</b>	Global Water Partnership
<b>ICARDA</b>	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area
<b>IWMI</b>	The International Water Management Institute
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resources Management
<b>LAS</b>	League of Arab States
<b>MSA</b>	October University for Modern Sciences and Arts
<b>NBCBN</b>	Nile Basin Capacity Building Network
<b>NGO's</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>RAED</b>	Arab Network for Environment & Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Strategic Development Goals
<b>SIWI</b>	Stockholm International Water Institute
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nation Development Program
<b>UNESCO</b>	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>WEF</b>	Water, Energy and Food Nexus

## Annexes

**Annex 1:** Meeting Agenda

**Annex 2:** List of Participants

**Annex 3:** Media Coverage of the meeting

**Annex 3:** PowerPoint Presentations

**Annex 4:** Partnership Form

**Annex 5:** Photo Gallery

## Final Report and Recommendations of Kick-off Meeting for 1<sup>st</sup> Cairo Water Week 2018

Within the framework of the ongoing preparations for the 1st Cairo Water Week (CWW) that will be organized by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation during the period from 14-18 October, 2018 in Cairo - Egypt and under the auspices of H.E. Mr. Abdel Fatah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, a Kick-off meeting was held in coordination with the European Union on May 13, 2018 at the Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel, to officially announce the inauguration of the Cairo Water Week and present information on the main themes and topics, the organization set-up and all other matters related to the CWW.

Cairo Water Week will be an annual event, which aims at promoting water awareness, fostering new thinking around the most pressing water-related challenges and taking actions towards IWRM and conservation. The event will be organized this year under the general theme "**Water Conservation for Sustainable Development**" in cooperation with national, regional and international partners.

Cairo Water Week is targeted to be a platform that drives new partnerships, and co-creates innovative solutions for sustainable development. With more than 500 high-level government officials, water industry Leaders and experts participating, Sponsorship grants the opportunity to engagement with a network of pro-active players in the realm of water sector.

### **Opening Session:**

The Opening Ceremony of the meeting included the speeches of Dr. Pasquale Steduto, Regional Programmes Leader, Near East and North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ambassador Ivan Surkoš, Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt and H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Ati, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt.

In his speech, FAO representative Dr. Pasquale stressed the paramount importance of exchanging knowledge and expertise to make best use of this expertise in meeting all water challenges. He also pointed out that Egypt has a growing population and this

requires increasing water resources, bearing in mind that the irrigation sector consumes 90 per cent of the water.

He said that international conferences in general and the CWW in particular would help build momentum, boost dialogue and promote co-operation beyond boundaries. He also pointed out that FAO spares no effort to offer the required technical support to promote the water situation in Egypt.

Ambassador Ivan Surkoš on his speech said that Egypt's irrigation sector is facing "very tough" challenges, a matter that requires more new initiatives to face them. He said that the CWW would help discover new ideas that can be applied in the water sector in co-operation with the Egyptian government. He pointed out that the water sector is given top priority in the EU projects in Egypt.

Surkoš stressed that water should be available and secured for all and the EU would co-ordinate with the Egyptian government to further boost co-operation in this sphere.

He added, EU actively support the Cairo Water Week activities by launching in that week a high-level multi-stakeholder platform that will hope will help to develop a more structured policy dialogue on key strategic issues, making use of best practices on implementation across water sector at national and EU levels.

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Ati said that water scarcity is a direct result of the growing population along with industrial and agricultural expansion. It is a matter that requires swift action by the whole world.

H.E. pointed out that the globe cannot face such grave water challenges, including providing access to fresh water and adequate sanitation services, without improving the water management systems. He said, by 2050, the majority of the world's countries will resort to reusing water as an inevitable result of the water deficit. Developing countries, especially in Africa, are suffering from water poverty, deteriorating development rates as well as deplorable conditions of water basins and water quality in general due to the lack of technical capabilities.

He refers that Egypt shares the same regional water hurdles especially water scarcity and the alarming effects of climate change, the Minister continued. The adoption of new water management schemes have become a pressing issue since the countries cannot achieve sustainable development and face climate change without smart management of water resources. Such systems should take into consideration the shrinking quality and quantity of water.

He stressed that Egypt, therefore, has decided to adopt a co-operative approach in hope of achieving the sustainable development goals, bearing in mind that water is considered one of the mainstays of national security.

The Minister Speech ended by announcing the inauguration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cairo Water Week as a platform that drives new partnerships, and co-creates innovative solutions for sustainable development.

A press Conference was held after the opening ceremony to officially announce the 1<sup>st</sup> Cairo Water Week. It was attended by a large number of media representative, TV Channels and journalists. (A part of the media coverage is attached with this report)

### **The Plenary Session:**

The Opening session followed by a plenary session started with a presentation by Eng. Ayman Ayad, Sector Manager for Water and Utilities, European Union Delegation to Egypt about the EU Cooperation in the Water Sector in Egypt. The presentation gave an Overview on Water/Wastewater sector - ongoing and future cooperation, the bilateral relations Instruments and challenges. It also represented the EU support mechanisms to water sector and the EU Co-funded Investment Programmes.

The Main Themes and Topics of Cairo Water Week and associated Events have been presented by Dr. Hesham Bekhiet, member of the Scientific Committee and Professor of Hydraulics, Cairo University. The presentation gave more information about the Week and the associated events in addition to the different ways to participate in the week.

The discussions opened after the two presentations to answer the audience questions on the presentations' content.

Then, Dr. Aly ElBahrawy, member of the Scientific Committee and Professor of Hydraulics, Ain Shams University, moderate a panel discussion on the role of the donors and partners in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cairo Water Week. The floor was given to the audience to share their ideas, suggestions and perceptions to support the different activities of CWW. The organizers distributed a form that includes the different ways to support the event and the audiences were asked to fill in the form and discuss it during the session.

## **The outcomes from the Panel discussions and Recommendations:**

The following are some of the points raised and discussed during the session:

- The themes and topics will be updated and based on the partners/conveners suggestions.
- More topics suggested by the participants to be added to the topics list, among them:
  - Water Economics & Institutional And Policy Issues
  - Social Vulnerability
  - Transboundary Issues
  - Integrated Coastal Zone Management
  - Non-Conventional Water Resources
  - Young Professional Network
  - Private Sector Participation
  - Climate Change Nexus
  - Climate change resilience
  - The League Activities to Support Youths.
  - Flood And Drought Risk
  - WEF nexus
- The important role of EU and the need for more investment in the water sector.
- To enhance the role of youth in the CWW and the need to build their capacity on how they will work for sustainable development goals.
- LAS mentioned that the Arab sustainable committee meeting will take place in June 2018, if there is something ready by June about CWW it could be presented to the committee and it is expected that many of the Arab states would participate.
- The importance of the outcomes of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development.
- The need for consultation with agencies due to cost considerations as the CWW is a functions that has regional, international and worldwide dimensions.
- The Ministry of Endowment representative mentioned how his organization deals with water scarcity and public awareness through the speeches of the mass prayers on Fridays.

- **The proposed sessions by the attendees, in a chronological order:**
- The **EU** and **FAO** confirmed their contributions to the CWW different activities.
- **MSA University** could organize a technical session on **Agro Weather Station** as they had a lot of work achieved in this area. They are interested to convene a session under the theme" Science & Technology and Innovation". in addition to participation in the young professional forum
- **AWC** suggested a long list of technical sessions that can be organized. Among the list: social vulnerability, trans-boundary issues, groundwater management, non-conventional water resources, young professional network, private participation, climate change nexus, etc.
- **LAS** may organize a technical session.
- **RAED** would organize sessions on climate change resilience, RAED initiatives, and the league activities to support youths. Also, RAED will coordinate on how **SWIM** can contribute in CWW.
- **CEDARE** showed the interest to act as convener on the topic of flood and drought risk, WEF nexus and non-conventional water resources.
- **NBCBN** showed the willingness to act as a convener of technical sessions on Nile basin related issues, e.g. capacity building and role of networks, ecosystem management,...etc.
- **UNDP/ GEF** project expressed the interest in organizing a technical session on coastal zone management in the delta and may share the Egyptian experience during the Delta Coalition meeting.
- **ICARDA** expressed the willingness to convene a technical session and organize a field trip.
- **The Embassy of France** showed interest in organizing a roundtable forum on sharing experiences on issues related to water management.
- **Italian Embassy** showed interest in presenting an evaluation of implemented projects, especially national mega projects. In addition to sponsoring speakers.
- **Ministry of Housing** will participate in the 4th conference for Ministers of Water in the Islamic states through the panel discussions. Also, the Ministry of Housing and Holding Company for Water and Wastewater will organize a field trip.
- **River Transport Authority** showed the interest to organize a session on River Transport recent projects under the theme" Transboundary Water Governance and Benefit Sharing"

### **Closing:**

The meeting concluded with Dr. Eman Sayed, Head of Planning Sector, and Head of CWW Organizing Committee, thanking the participants and praising their efforts in making the meeting a success. She mentioned the following:

- All ideas, suggestions and proposals would be taken into consideration. The next step will be the coordination with the session conveners regarding their contributions.
- The Organizing Committee received session proposals from other partners and donors who couldn't attend the kick-off meeting (UNESCO, GWP, SIWI, University of Applied Sciences Dresden, IWMI) and will follow up with them in the coming period
- The Organizing Committee will update the topics according to the meeting discussions and waiting to receive the participants' feedback on the way of participating in the CWW within one week.
- A meeting will be organized with the Scientific Committee to finalize the technical arrangements and the tentative agenda of the event.
- A consultative meeting will be held with the session conveners before the event.
- The second announcement include more information will be issued by the end of July 2018.
- The participants are cordially invited to visit CWW website, they could send their suggestions or any comments on the website and it will have full attention.
- The draft of the minutes of meeting will sent to the participants after the meeting, it would be a pleasure to receive their feedback.

She ended her speech by thanking the moderator of the session and the participants, highly appreciating their attendance mentioning that during the coming period the Organizing Committee will coordinate with each one of them in order to make this important event meets all the expectations.