

MENA FOCUS

Tuesday 30 August & Wednesday 31 August 2016

Coordinator: Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

Session: Strengthening Water Governance through Integrity & Sustainable Financing

Tuesday 30 August, 11:00 - 12:30, NL Pillar Hall / Pelarsalen

Convenors:

- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Background

The crucial role of water for sustainable growth is well acknowledged, including in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With governance seen as the centrepiece of the water crisis, ensuring good governance at all levels is essential for integrated water resources management and the implementation of pro-poor, gender and youth-sensitive policies/strategies. Governance bottlenecks and integrity disparities jeopardise the human right to water and sanitation and hamper the financial sustainability of the water sector and the efforts towards a circular economy with the creation of 'green/blue jobs'.

In view also of the SDGs' implementation in the MENA, efforts towards integrity-focused institutional and regulatory frameworks and cross-sectoral approaches, utilising also the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus lens, represent a solid way towards efficiency and optimisation of resources, investments and the sector's sustainability. Effective water governance that is integrity-bound can assist with overcoming the challenges, and deliver concrete benefits for the citizens and the environment of the MENA and contribute to the regional peace and stability.

The event is supported by Sida, through the UfM-labelled projects, "Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector" implemented by GWP-Med and the OECD, and "Water Integrity for the MENA" implemented by the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI.

Objectives of the session

- Exchange experiences on good water governance and integrity resulting in sustainable growth;
- Present best practices and lessons learnt, good examples as well as failures;



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- Recommend approaches for promoting integrity and good governance;
- Discuss the role of private sector in sustainable growth;
- Highlight the governance enabling environment needed for private sector's involvement and inclusive, pro-poor sustainable development;
- Explore synergies, strengthen cooperation and enhance partnerships among countries/stakeholders to address common challenges;
- Discuss policy messages and ways forward.

Expected outcomes

- Common understanding on the ways governance including integrity, transparency and accountability is linked to sustainable growth;
- Enhanced knowledge of the decision-makers to promote improved water governance at all levels;
- Identified challenges and opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders;
- Common understanding of tools for improving governance including integrity, transparency and accountability at all levels.



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Provisional Agenda

11:00 Welcoming remarks

- Anders Frankenberg, Head of MENA Department, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Water and Environment Division, Union for the Mediterranean

11:15 Facilitated Panel Discussion on Water Governance processes in MENA

Panel members:

- H.E. Mazen Gnaim, Minister, Palestinian Water Authority, Palestine
- Ali Subah, Secretary General Assistant for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
- Ridha Gabouj, General Director of Rural Engineering and Water management, Ministry of Agriculture Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia
- Christian Severin, GEF Secretariat
- Anja Taarup Nordlund, Gender Expert
- Mufleh Al Abbadi, Programme Manager, Water & Climate Change Programme, IUCN ROWA

Facilitators:

- Anthi Brouma, Head of MENA Region, GWP-Med
- James Leten, Programme Manager, Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme, UNDP-Water Governance Facility, SIWI

Issues for reflection:

- Why do challenges to Water governance linger?
- Opportunities and replicable good practices
- Water integrity as key element of good governance
- Changing the norm: institutionalising integrity
- The role of finance
- Which financial model for which purpose
- How to make the most out of gender-sensitive and pro-poor stakeholder engagement
- Impact of socio-economic trends, including demographics, urbanisation and migration
- Linkages and complementarity with regional and global processes

Open Q&A section

12:10 **Insights from ongoing work - Sharing of key findings from two Sida-supported, UfM-labelled projects**

- “Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector” implemented by GWP-Med and the OECD
- “Water Integrity for the MENA” implemented by the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI

Anthi Brouma, Head of MENA Region, GWP-Med

James Leten, Programme Manager, Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme, UNDP-Water Governance Facility, SIWI

12:25 **Wrap-up and key messages**



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