Reporting on the SDGs in the Arab Region

Regional Workshop on Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs in the Arab Region: Transboundary water cooperation SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.2
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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly states that the SDGs are **universal, indivisible, integrated and people-centered** (in preamble & paras. 5, 18, 55, 71)

The 2030 Agenda affirms the Human Right to Water & Sanitation by aspiring for all, namely:

"A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene, and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy".
Regional Stories and Specificities:
Demonstrates importance of Regional Reporting relative to Global Reporting

All 17 SDGs are Water-related
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
The global mechanism for tracking the 2030 Agenda

2020: Review Year
All Goals under review along with Means of Implementation

HLPF established in 2012 from RIO+20 process & then supported 2030 Agenda monitoring and reporting
Arab Forum for Sustainable Development: Regional preparatory forum for the HLPF

2014, Amman
2015, Manama
2016, Amman
2017, Morocco
2018, Beirut: Natural Resources, Future Generations & the Common Good

March 2018: Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 AFSD and HLPF
March 2019: Regional Consultation on Climate Change for the 2019 AFSD and HLPF
March 2020 - Regional Consultation on the Environment (and were held before prior AFSDs as well)

5. The considerable challenges, some of them chronic and deeply rooted, confronting the countries and peoples of the region are holding back progress. Among the most critical are: increasing poverty; the lack of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth; the proliferation of conflicts, which is crippling the potential for economic and social growth; high unemployment, in particular among young persons; the yawning gaps in developmental equality between regions and social groups; and the lack of gender equality. There is a need for institutions able to meet the needs of all social groups and regions.

Further challenges are posed by climate change and the scarcity of natural resources, such as water.
Countries will benefit from in-depth technical examination of specific concerns especially as implementation challenges, technology gaps, level of development, cultural issues and thematic networks are often common across countries within a region.

Opportunity to review progress against specific regional priorities such as water – although generally covers all SDGs, not only those in thematic focus for that HLPF session, thus provides opportunity for highlighting integration across SDGs at country-level.

FUR and support for VNRs being provided by ESCWA for Arab States, and includes consultations on mainstreaming water issues highlighted in 2030 Agenda in VNRs and national development strategies and plans.

2016: Egypt and Morocco
2017: Qatar and Jordan
2018: Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Sudan, UAE
2019: Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Oman, Tunisia
Lack of disaggregated data (sex, age, urban/rural) also remains a challenge

Source: ESCWA, Unit on the 2030 Agenda, Workshop on Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region, 10-11 October 2019
March 2018: Launch of International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development

- Advance sustainable development and IWRM
- Energize implementation
- Mobilize action

2021: High Level Meeting on the Water Action Decade (UNHQ)

2021/2022: Regional and Thematic Preparatory Meetings for the Mid-Term Comprehensive Review (Arab Prep Meeting in Q4, 2021)

2022/2023: UNSG Report on the Water Action Decade

22-24 March 2023: UN Conference on the Mid-Term Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action (UNHQ)

Other MEAs also relevant, such as Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
UN Secretary General calls for:

- **Global action** to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals;

- **Local action** embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and

- **People action**, including by youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations.

**Means of Implementation:**
- Technology
- Finance
- Capacity Building
- Partnership
- Data
Thank you

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