



# 4<sup>th</sup> Arab Water Forum

## "Sharing Water ... Sharing Destiny"

26 - 28 November 2017 - Cairo, Egypt

## Second Announcement

In an endeavor to organize another successful event in the series of tri-annual Arab Water Fora, the progress of arrangements undertaken by the Arab Water Council (AWC) for the convention of the Fourth edition of the Arab Water Forum (AWF4) is well under way. The 4th Forum will be convened in Cairo, Egypt, during the period 26-28 November 2017, under the patronage of the League of Arab States and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. Through the active engagement and cooperation of many stakeholders since the Kickoff Consultation Meeting in April 2017, AWC was able to make achievements at every step towards the 4th Forum and is pleased to issue and disseminate the second announcement with updated information and tentative overall program.

Your participation is highly valued to ensure a successful Forum that hopefully will lead to effective and lasting progress in achieving sustainable development for the well-being and prosperity of the regional and global communities.

## Main Themes and Sessions

In line with the global focus areas, five water-related themes were selected to form the main stream of discussions at the AWF4. These, in total, will cover a number of critical topics that aim at achieving a secure Arab water future in compliance with the Global Sustainable Development Goals. These themes are: Water and Sustainable Development; Water, Food, Energy and Climate Nexus; Water Quality and Ecosystems; Sustainable Solutions for Shared Water Resources; Water and Science, Technology and Innovation.

The main themes will be covered in two Plenary Sessions and 17 Special Sessions specified as follows:

## I. Plenary Sessions (PS):

### PS1: Water and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Progress in the NENA Region

The session will provide clear indications on what are the limiting factors in accelerating the achievement of SDG 6, Target 4, meanwhile suggesting solutions for mitigating/removing these factors for achieving more tangible results. It will further highlight how achieving progress towards SDG 6 targets can support other related SDGs that are critical for the region.

**Convener:** FAO

**Co-Conveners:** ESCWA, WFP, LAS, AWC

### PS2: Water, Food, Energy and Climate: Smart Solutions for the Arab Region

In Progress

**Convener:** GIZ

**Co-Conveners:** AWC, LAS

## II. Special Sessions (SS):

### SS1: Role of Media in Raising Awareness on Water Resources Management

The session will highlight the role of media in raising awareness on water resources management issues using various available tools and will provide suggestions on how to increase the effectiveness of this role in areas of optimal use of water resources and conservation in both quantity and quality (eg: expansion of the use of social media, the use of modern mobile applications, public advertisements on the roads ... etc.).

**Convener:** MWRI-Planning Sector

**Co-Conveners:** LAS, AWC – AWA, EU, AWC Youth Network, HCWW

### SS2: Arab Region in the 8th World Water Forum: Towards Active Participation

LAS Regional Coordinator and the World Water Council representative will update the participants on the latest progress regarding the organization of the 8th World Water Forum (WWF8). They will answer all questions regarding the roles and contributions of the Arab Region in the various processes of the WWF8.

**Convener:** LAS, WWF8, WWC

**Co-Convener:** AWC

### SS3: Regional Water Security in the MENA Region

The session will focus on water security in the MENA region. Issues such as sustainable water management, delivery of services and water-related risks such as climate change, transboundary water management and water in fragile settings, will be addressed through the session deliberations.

**Convener:** WB

**Co-Convener:** CMI

### SS4: The Regional Environmental Center (REC) activities in the MENA Region

The session will provide an overview on the WATER SUM project success and achievements. It will further open a broad discussion platform on common challenges and needs in the MENA region, with special focus on IWRM, including adaptation to climate change and SDG 6 to identify and cluster modalities and prospects for future collaboration.

**Convener:** REC

### SS5: Arab State of the Water & Sustainable Development

The session will provide an update on the state of Arab water according to the latest changes reported by the focal points in the Arab countries. Available data and information on the state of water resources and water services in the region will further be linked to their impact on sustainable development and the achievement of SDG 6 targets.

**Convener:** CEDARE

**Co-Convener:** AWC, OFID

## **SS6: The Debate of Equating Improved Irrigation Efficiency to Water Saving**

The session will shed light on the major findings on irrigation technology and water savings. It will provide insights on how possibly a balance between sustainable supply and consumption of water can be restored, and what are the conditions for taking advantage of the various benefits of hi-tech irrigation without jeopardizing sustainability.

**Convener:** FAO

**Co-Conveners:** AWC, IWMI

## **SS7: Arab Water under Occupation... The main challenge to achieve SDGs**

The main objective of the session is to discuss and develop effective mechanisms capable of ending the systematic Israeli policies which continue to confiscate, drain and exploit the water resources in the occupied Arab territories (Palestine, the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and southern Lebanon). It will also focus on the importance of providing support by the Arab and international communities regarding the water rights of the Palestinian people, at a time when the world is calling for the sustainability of the right to water.

**Convener:** PWA / LAS

## **SS8: Climate Change and Water: Impacts and Adaptation Measures**

The session will share experience from the Regional Initiative for “The Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR)”, and the national efforts on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies and measures in Egypt (as case study) within the scope of achieving the sustainable development agenda in the Arab region and at the national level. The session is expected to help understand the impacts and vulnerabilities of key sectors to CC on the Arab region, build knowledge of the science-policy interface in development of adaptation policies, and link scientific and research outputs of climate change impact assessment in Egypt to policy-making.

**Convener:** ESCWA

**Co-Convener:** NWRC

## **SS9: Promoting the Use of Non-Conventional Water in the Arab Region**

The session will provide clear indications on the scope of work and specific activities that could be implemented during the second phase of the initiative on “Promoting the use of non-conventional water resources in the Arab Region”. It will also identify the main actors, sponsors, targeted groups, etc. The outcome will help AWC and its partners to proceed with implementation of the second phase according to the preferences and commitments expressed in this session.

**Convener:** AWC

**Co-Conveners:** UNESCO, FAO

## **SS10: Shared Waters in the Arab Region: Potential Transboundary Impacts & Cooperation Opportunities**

In Progress

**Convener:** CEDARE

**Co-Conveners:** LAS, AWC

## **SS11: From Traditional Knowledge to Innovation: Role of Modernization in Improving Water Use in Agriculture**

The objective of the session is to communicate and discuss ways of utilizing traditional and indigenous knowledge of water management in agriculture to modernize current technologies and practices in order to meet the challenges of water scarcity and food security in dry areas. Furthermore, the session will discuss innovative approaches to increase water efficiency and productivity in agriculture and challenges facing the Arab countries in this regard.

**Convener:** ICARDA

**Co-Conveners:** FAO, AWC

### **SS12: The Use of Solar Energy for Development of Mega Projects**

During the session, the potentiality of Egypt in using solar energy in the irrigation sector will be highlighted. It will further present the efforts exerted by the government of Egypt in coordination with FAO and the African Development Bank.

**Convener:** FAO

**Co-Conveners:** MWRI, ADB

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### **SS13: Scaling-up the Safe Use of Recycled Water in the Arab Region**

This participatory session will discuss promising solutions to upscale the safe use of recycled water in the Arab region, with a focus on reuse for agriculture and aquaculture. The recommendations from the session will aim at informing the ongoing regional efforts to reach SDG targets 6.3 on water quality and 6.4 on water scarcity and water use efficiency. One of the expected main outcomes of the session is to present success stories and innovative ideas to bring solutions with potential at scale.

**Convener:** IWMI

**Co-Conveners:** ICARDA, FAO

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### **SS14: Shared Water and Water Security in the Arab region**

The session will shed light on some of the challenges in achieving water security in the region in a shared water context while highlighting available facilities and tools for mitigating these challenges for improved water security. It will further discuss how cooperation on shared water can support achieving water security in this region.

**Convener:** ESCWA

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### **SS15: The Regional Knowledge Hub: An Advanced ICT Platform to Address CC Impacts**

The session will update the participants on the Advanced Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform and the Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH) that will be made available to countries to address relevant assessments for water resources management under various climate change scenarios.

**Convener:** FAO

**Co-Conveners:** ESCWA, GIZ, ICBA, USAID

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### **SS16: IWRM as a Tool for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region**

This session will discuss whether IWRM concept is applied in Egypt in particular, and within the Arab Region at large, and to which extent. It will also assess current situation of the different irrigation districts, administrative entities and Water Users' Associations, and analyze the contribution of EU support (and other IFI's) in the implementation of IWRM concept. Furthermore, it will identify the lessons learned from the application of IWRM and the performance of these organizations in this context, paying particular attention to the results of the concept implementation against its objectives, key lessons and recommendations in order to improve current and future action.

**Convener:** EU

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### **SS17: Desalination Industry: Management and Regulations in Arab Countries**

The session aims at discussing the best ways to reach feasible applications for water desalination, highlighting the nature of potential desalination implementing agencies and the financing methods. Considering the involvement of the private sector as an investor is one of the solutions to be adopted by different countries. The session will present some of the experiences of the Arab region, especially the Gulf countries, that highlight the most important challenges which require redefining the relationship between all parties in this industry, namely the public sector as owner, the legislative agencies as regulator, and the investors as developers and operators of the stations. The meeting is expected to conclude with recommendations on the development of a guiding model that will serve as a roadmap for activating the application of desalination technologies, with an eye towards rendering the desalination technique an attractive industry for investors.

**Convener:** ARWADEX

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### **SS18: Use of Remote Sensing in Integrated Water Resources Management (Case Study: Egypt)**

Dissemination of results and findings of the GEF funded project "Regional coordination for Improved water resources management and capacity building program". The project introduced to the Egyptian community operational systems to monitor and manage water resources in Egypt. This includes Ground Water monitoring in the NSAS using GRACE data, Evapotranspiration calculation using ETWatch-Egypt and Land Information System for different water-related applications. The objective of project sessions in the AWF is to present the findings and the recommendation to use these introduced systems.

**Convener:** NARSS, WB

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## **III. Special Meetings (SM):**

### **Three Special Meetings will also be organized on the occasion of the Forum**

#### **SM1: High-Level Dialogue on Water in Sustainable Development (By Invitation)**

The dialogue will provide an Arab shared vision and propose an integrated approach for accelerating the achievement of SDG 6, target 4. It will further provide insight on the contribution of the Arab region in the Political Process of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

**Convener:** AWC

**Co-Convener:** LAS

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#### **SM2: Promotion of Integrated Investments in the Water Sector in the Arab Region**

The objective of the meeting will be to exchange views on the proposed next steps to be taken in the framework of this high-level initiative and in particular in the Water Sector in Egypt and within the Arab Region, in view of the great investment/interest given to this sector from all development partners. The meeting will also discuss possible venues and means for cooperation, and potential areas of co-finance in the water sector.

**Convener:** EU

**Co-Convener:** LAS

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#### **SM3: SDG-Climate Nexus Facility (By Invitation)**

This meeting aims at demonstrating the SDG-Climate Nexus Facility objectives and goals to undertake activities using a nexus approach in order to bottom up local actions under the SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to bring about clear co-benefits for core related SDGs. It will mainly focus on exchanging ideas and thoughts with all development partners in the region on the proposed next steps to be taken in the framework of the facility, while exploring different opportunities for partnerships and mobilization of financial resources.

**Convener:** AWC

**Co-Conveners:** WFP, UNDP, UNEP, UNISDR

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## Fine Art Gallery and Cultural Contests

Four contests will be organized for paintings, caricature, photography and short films, besides stereotypes as sculpture artworks and earthenware under the main theme “Sharing Water ... Sharing Destiny”. The contests aim at increasing awareness on water issues especially among youth and children.

The Terms of participation in the contests are announced by the organizing committee and are posted on the Forum website ([www.arabwaterforum.org](http://www.arabwaterforum.org)) together with the Subscription Form. Interested participants are kindly requested to complete the Contests Subscription Form to be submitted to the following address: [contests@arabwatercouncil.org](mailto:contests@arabwatercouncil.org) Prizes and Recognition Certificates will be awarded by the Arab Water Council to the winners in a special celebration during the 4th Arab Water Forum. Winners from outside Cairo, Egypt, will bear the cost of their travel and accommodation during their stay for receiving their awards, otherwise their awards will be mailed to their addresses.

## Arab Water Expo

The Third Arab Water Expo is one of the major activities to take place simultaneously with the Forum days. The Exhibition is a unique opportunity for all public and private institutions in the water sector and related businesses and industries, research centers, international bodies and non-governmental organizations to display and present their projects, programs and products.

The scope and areas of participation will include, but not restricted to: Irrigation and drainage water, drinking water, sanitation; Water quality measurements; Water purification, treatment and desalination technologies; Water equipment; Research and development, other water-related fields.

Numerous interested national, regional and international exhibitors have already registered for their stands in the exhibition. A few more booths are still available for booking on “first-come, first served” basis (see Expo layout at the Forum website: [www.arabwaterforum.org](http://www.arabwaterforum.org)). The Exhibition Halls will be at Al-Saraya Hall (- 4 level) of the InterContinental City Stars Hotel, Cairo, Egypt.

Exhibitors are kindly invited to fill-in the **Exhibition Reservation Form** and submit it by email to AWC Exhibition Officer ([exhibition@arabwatercouncil.org](mailto:exhibition@arabwatercouncil.org)). The completed Form is to provide information about the exhibitor, his products and expected displays in both English and Arabic, to be included in the “Exhibitors’ Directory.”

### Expo Coordinator and Contacts:

Mr. Mohy M. El-Serafy

General Coordinator of the Exhibition  
Arab Water Council

Cell No. : 01221370470 – 01200080094 -  
01270000593

Email : [exhibition@arabwatercouncil.org](mailto:exhibition@arabwatercouncil.org)

## Registration

Registration for attending the Forum is now open for all. The Registration Form can be downloaded from the Forum website([www.arabwaterforum.org](http://www.arabwaterforum.org)), filled-in and sent back to the organizing committee by e-mail([awf4@arabwatercouncil.org](mailto:awf4@arabwatercouncil.org)) or fax (+202-22600683).

### Registration Fees:

AWC MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
US \$ 450	US \$ 550
YOUTH	ONE DAY REGISTRATION
US \$ 120	US \$ 250

### Registration Fees Include:

- Access to Official Events (Opening & Closing Ceremonies)
- Access to Forum Sessions
- Daily lunch and Coffee Breaks
- Participants’ Kit

## Venue

The venue for the Forum is the 5-stars InterContinental City Stars Cairo Heliopolis Hotel. The hotel is located 15 minutes from Cairo International Airport. For more details about the facilities of the hotel please visit

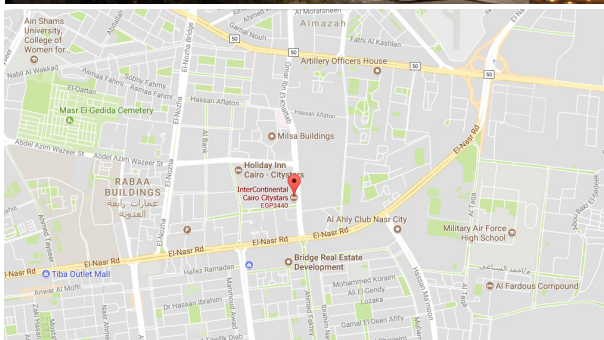
([www.citystars.com.eg](http://www.citystars.com.eg))

Hotel address:

InterContinental City Stars Cairo Heliopolis  
Omar Ibn El-Khattab St., Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt  
P.O. Box 1026 Heliopolis Bahary, Cairo, Egypt

Tel: (+202) 24800100

Fax: (+202) 24800200



- The hotels are located at the Venue complex
- Above rates are per room per night on bed and breakfast basis & inclusive of taxes
- The Organizing Committee can assist participants in booking other hotels upon request

### Hotel Booking:

Hotel Booking request & payment to be sent directly to: Mr. Moustafa Ibrahim at:

[moustafa.ibrahim@ihg.com](mailto:moustafa.ibrahim@ihg.com)

Please send a copy of the reservation request to the AWC Secretariat for follow-up at:

[awf4@arabwatercouncil.org](mailto:awf4@arabwatercouncil.org)

## Airport Transportation

Meet Assist and transfer from/to Airport is provided through the Forum Organizers. To book your transfers, kindly send your flight data and requested service to:

Mr. Ahmed Mohsen:

[amohsen@arabwatercouncil.org](mailto:amohsen@arabwatercouncil.org)

Rate:

One way transfer Airport /Hotel or Hotel / Airport with meet & assist per person: USD 40

## Contacts

### 4th Arab Water Forum,

The Organizing Committee

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Website: [www.arabwaterforum.org](http://www.arabwaterforum.org)

## Accommodation

Block reservations are made at the InterContinental City Stars and Stay Bridge Suites Hotels at the following special rates:

### InterContinental City Stars

Classic Single: USD 165

Classic Double: USD 185

### Staybridge Suites Cairo

Classic Single: USD 120

Classic Double: USD 130