



# المجلس العربي للمياه Arab Water Council

## MENA/ARAB REGION CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

### **Theme I** **Global Changes and Risk Management**

#### **Element 1: Adapting to Climate Change**

- Think outside the "water box".
- Increase the flexibility of water management practices.
- Develop national and sub-national adaptation strategies.
- Re-design education and training of water professionals.
- Scale up investment efforts in storage capacity and IWRM.
- Design infrastructure projects in anticipation of climate change.
- Develop long-term scenarios and strategies for action in all planning activities.
- Incorporate climate change assessments in National Water Plans.
- Create an international task force.

#### **Element 2: Water-related Migration, Changing Land Uses, Human Settlements and Water**

- Improve the knowledge base on the change of water-related population dynamics.
- Strengthen institutions and policies, which bolster resilience in populations.
- Increase awareness about the impact of environmental degradation.
- Develop early monitoring systems.
- Improve legal frameworks.
- Provide adequate humanitarian response.

#### **Element 3: Managing Water-related Disasters**

- Integrate water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into national development plans.
- Increase preparedness level of afflicted populations.
- Institute risk management plans/measures.
- Strengthen cooperation and build partnerships between national governments, local governments and civil society.
- Improve monitoring, assessment, data collection and sharing, and research.
- Increase public and private investments in DRR.
- Promote, share and develop technologies.



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#### **Theme II**

#### **Advancing Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

##### **Element 1: Ensuring Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All**

- Develop national and sub-national plans of action.
- Build cross-cutting local, regional and international partnerships.
- Aid informal settlements.
- Devote funds for water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Mobilize resources and build capacity in water and sanitation.
- Use appropriate, acceptable technology.
- Raise awareness on sanitation and hygiene.
- Consider the environmental impacts of sanitation.

##### **Element 2: Water for Energy, Energy for Water**

- Improve the knowledge of the water-energy nexus.
- Enhance the coordination of water and energy policies.
- Conduct water and energy sustainability assessments.
- Anticipate the increase in energy prices in all aspects of water management.
- Develop new technologies in both water and energy sectors.
- Invest in hydropower.
- Conduct more research to better evaluate impacts of biofuels on water resources.

##### **Element 3: Water and Food for Ending Poverty and Hunger**

- Research population dynamics and its relation to agriculture.
- Introduce policies to promote the increase of crop yield per unit area.
- Promote small- and medium-scale agricultural development projects.
- Scale-up the modernization of irrigation and drainage systems.
- Strengthen and support water-related institutions and associations.
- Research, monitor and assess the impact of rising energy costs, and biofuels, on food production, water use and the environment (the water-energy-food nexus).
- Understand the changes in nutrition and diets.
- Re-engineer in the reduction of food losses "from field to fork".

##### **Element 4: Multiple Use and Functions of Water Services**

- Recognize and promote multi-functionality.
- Internalize MUSF in policy and management.
- Introduce broader approaches to Service Oriented Management (SOM).
- Generate a vision and develop policies of MUSF.
- Institutionalize MUSF.
- Promote a multi-sector approach at the local level.
- Reconsider design and technologies to allow for MUSF.
- Diversify the use of irrigation water.



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### Theme III

### Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems to Meet Human and Environmental Needs

#### **Element 1: Basin management and transboundary water cooperation**

- Improve understanding and reinforce cooperation in the transboundary context.
- Improve the legal framework of transboundary waters.
- Increase the number of river basin organizations, their strength and capacity.
- Seek fair, equitable and win-win solutions in negotiations over transboundary water.
- Develop harmonized water management plans.
- Promote IWRM.
- Take into account the interests of stakeholders.
- Promote cross-border research, monitoring and data exchange.
- Share infrastructure and jointly finance.
- Encourage research, education and training on transboundary water cooperation.

#### **Element 2: Ensuring adequate water resources and storage infrastructure to meet agricultural, energy and urban needs**

- Encourage a holistic approach within a sustainable development framework.
- Develop frameworks and approaches to determine and prioritize needs.
- Strengthen the climate change adaptation and storage link.
- Expand storage infrastructure in developing countries.
- Integrate social and ecological sustainability.

#### **Element 3: Preserving natural ecosystems**

- Reduce water footprints.
- Promote ecological corridors.
- Value ecosystem services.
- Rethink the role of ecosystems for agriculture.
- Use ecosystems as a buffer to climate change.
- Balance reduced degradation and increase in ecosystem services.
- Empower those who use ecosystem services.
- Support urban programs for biodiversity, stream restoration and ecosystem enhancement.
- Preserve environmental flows.

#### **Element 4: Managing and protecting surface, ground and rainwater**

- Integrate water quality management.
- Understand groundwater rights, laws and policies and develop new ones where there are gaps.
- Develop policies and institutions to integrate management of surface, ground and rainwater.
- Incorporate ecological approaches into urban water management.
- Upscale good practices in small and medium-scale water resources management.
- Increase the visibility of green water.
- Afford more attention to rainwater.



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### **Theme IV** **Governance and Management**

#### **Element 1: Implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation for Improved Access**

- Recognize the right to water and sanitation in national law.
- Review national laws and policies.
- Allocate resources to support the right to water and sanitation.
- Ensure access to water and sanitation.
- Incorporate the right to water and sanitation in water resources management plans.
- Establish clear roles, responsibilities and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Promote information and training available to all.
- Ensure water and sanitation to all irrespective of housing and land status.

#### **Element 2: Water institutions and water reforms**

- Carry out policy, legal and regulatory reform.
- Couple institutional reform with capacity development.
- Improve the relationship between national and local water institutions.
- Promote standards and harmonize with regulatory instruments.
- Recognize the role of small-scale water providers.
- Strengthen decentralization efforts.
- Develop groundwater regulation.
- Institutionalize pollution prevention.
- Support sub-national governments in confronting global changes.
- Understand the local context and develop local institutions.
- Create effective regulation and monitoring.

#### **Element 3: Ethics, Transparency and Empowerment of Stakeholders**

- Engage with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Define stakeholder participation.
- Promote transparency and prevent corruption.
- Incorporate good governance into water management policies and practices.
- Promote a water ethic.

#### **Element 4: Optimizing Public and Private Roles in Water Services**

- Improve public sector providers/utilities.
- Create adequate legislation.
- Facilitate the choice of the best service providers, regardless of sector.
- Clearly define and formalize roles.
- Raise awareness about public and private roles and public-private partnerships (PPP).
- Ensure public authority efficiency.
- Consolidate direction and control of operators.



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### **Theme V** **Finance**

#### **Element 1: Sustainable Financing in the Water Sector**

- Urgently increase investments and finance.
- Connect political will, finance and capacity development.
- Always couple "hard" investment with "soft" investment.
- Match the capacity to borrow with the capacity to lend.
- Increase aid to the sub-sovereign level by national governments.
- Promote the idea that with water security, investments are safer.
- Encourage sustainable cost recovery.
- Empower local governments in implementing sustainable cost recovery systems.
- Develop good public finance principles.
- Commit ODA to capacity development.

#### **Element 2: Pricing Strategies as a Tool for a Sustainable Water Sector**

- Adopt fair and equitable pricing strategies.
- Set the table for pricing reform.
- Match policy objectives with pricing strategies.
- Promote sustainable cost recovery in pricing strategies.
- Develop pricing strategies that promote water use efficiency.
- Carry out data collection.

#### **Element 3: Pro-poor Financing Policies and Strategies**

- Promote pro-poor financing policies and strategies.
- Recognize the role of small-scale water and sanitation suppliers.
- Utilize and develop adequate low-cost technologies.
- Build on community initiatives.
- Understand the difference/similarities between poor and non-poor.
- Establish an international water supply fund.



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### **Theme VI** **Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development**

#### **Element 1: Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development**

- Share information and knowledge.
- Educate the marginalized.
- Build on existing local knowledge.
- Encourage water sector reform.
- Build learning networks.
- Promote integrated approaches.
- Invest in capacity development.
- Create "learning" organizations.
- Raise awareness – teach water literacy.

#### **Element 2: Water Science and Technology - Appropriate and Innovative Solutions**

- Conserve/reuse/recycle.
- Combine advanced technology with capacity development.
- Promote national and international cooperation.
- Broaden technological choices.
- Support and promote global water science programmes.
- Increase demand-side solutions and related technologies.
- Promote science and technology in tertiary education.

#### **Element 3: Professional Associations and Networks**

- Carry out human resources assessment.
- Support national associations.
- Strengthen umbrella bodies.
- Engage professional associations in policy and investment.
- Promote governments and professional associations working together to develop human resources.
- Create better links between sectors.
- Involve professional associations in national commissions.

#### **Element 4: Data for All**

- Understand and assess vulnerability.
- Put data in the right hands.
- Establish data as a public good.
- Support from the international donor community.
- Include monitoring and assessment in data collection.
- Promote international data exchange.

#### **Element 5: Water and Culture**

- Ensure cultural diversity.
- Recognize, integrate and promote cultural diversities and technologies in water management.
- Embed cultural diversity in water governance.



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- Evaluate the relationship between cultural diversity, biodiversity and water resource management.
  - Protect water and its cultural value.
  - Improve the institutional framework of water and culture.
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