

Arab Water Experts Network (AWEN)

Background:

Upon the desire of the Arab countries, realizing the vital role of water and the serious challenges facing water sector within the region; The Arab Ministerial Water Council has issued a resolution on June 27, 2019 to establish the Arab Water Experts Network (AWEN) and defined its structure and mandates.

Arab Water Experts Network Objectives:

AWEN acts as an executive arm and professional advisor to the Arab Ministerial Water Council, and a knowledge platform on technical, legal and economic aspects of water management in the Arab region> The work of AWEN will evolve based on the accumulated experience gained through following up on water files in the Arab countries facing different challenges. The network will work towards ensuring efficient, fair and mutual beneficial development, protection of shared water resources, and strengthen regional cooperation.

The Network Mandates:

1. To provide a platform for technical support and legal advice in addition to consultations to AWEN members in a manner that promotes the joint efforts toward achieving water security in the region.
2. To become a Center of Excellence for water-related issues (e.g. information sharing, studies, international treaties and other supporting documents) that can be accessible electronically by member states.
3. To utilize the Arab expertise in the diverse fields of water management within the AWEN activities, formulating working and expert groups with clearly defined mandates, and work on all relevant technical issues arising from the countries.
4. Coordinate technical cooperation among AWEN members related to available procedures, guidelines and conventions (e.g. Procedures for data and information exchange and sharing ...)
5. Set procedures for exchanging and sharing data and information, monitoring water uses, analysis, modelling and assessment, planning support,

forecasting, early warning, and emergency mitigation, notifying and consulting with other members about diversions, water transfers and uses of shared waters; maintaining flows and water-quality.

6. Formulate a platform for water diplomacy and regional cooperation in which Arab State share the benefits of common water resources despite different national interests. It also acts as a regional knowledge hub on water resources management that helps to inform the decision-making process based on scientific evidence.
7. Support in developing and implementing capacity building programs aimed at increasing the negotiating capabilities of Arab countries facing water conflicts, building capacities on regional issues such as mitigation and adaptation to climate change impact in the region.
8. Assessing the water shortage in fragile, conflict and violence countries including the refugee camp and supporting initiatives to improve water sector resilience in the region.
9. AWEN will develop a comprehensive Communication Strategy for communicating all member state at different levels.
10. Contribute to the achievement of peace and stability in the region by promoting dialogue and conflict resolutions among states in order to achieve fair access to water resources and shared water, in accordance with the principles of international water laws and conventions.

Projects:

Projects\Studies	Location	Status
Conduct a Prefeasibility Assessment to Improve Electric Power Supply for the STLVs by installing offshore Floating Solar PV Mounting System	Palestine	To be completed in 2021
Develop an Environmental Assessment for Soil and Groundwater After the Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip	Palestine	To be completed in 2021
Develop an Assessment of the Damages in Water Sector in Gaza Strip	Palestine	Phase I :Assessment Study Completed in

		Oct 2021 Phase II: Pledging (as a support to the Minister water Council) tentatively in Dec 2021
Conduct a Study on Impact of the Annexation of Jordan Valley in water sector	Palestine	Completed in 2020
Supply and install Mobile Wastewater Treatment's Plant for COVID-19 Quarantine Hospital- Dura Public Hospital by Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects	Palestine	Contract signature in Nov 2021
Technical Advisory to the Arab and International Organization to: -Construct Sewage Network east Khanyounis (Agreement signed) (Contract 1) - Construct Palestine on establishing Sewage network in Swedish Village in Rasfah- Gaza Strip (Contract under preparation) (Contract 2)	Palestine	Framework Agreement Signed on Oct 2021 Contract1 – Signed in Oct 2021 Contract2 – under preparation
Organizing session to exchange knowledge related to water resources & water diplomacy, regional cooperation, in cooperation with General Secretariat of League of Arab States in Cairo Water Week 2019	Egypt	Completed 2018-2019
Associated partner in the MEDiterranean pathWAY for innovation CAPitalisation toward an urban-rural integrated development of non-conventional water resources (MEDWAYCAP) – EU Fund	Regional (Jordan, Egypt, Tunis, Greece, Italy, Spain, Palestine, Lebanon)	started
Develop Hydro diplomacy training Course-ongoing preparation for the Training with the CMI (fundraising Phase)	Regional (Iraq , Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt,, Libya,	preparation

	Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, among others)	
Issue a report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation about water rights in occupied Arab areas.	Regional (Palatine, Syria, Lebanon)	In process (1 st quarter, 2022)
Co-organizing the Fourth Arab Water Forum with Technical Secretary of Arab Ministerial Water Council, Arab water authorities and other Arab water organizations affiliated to the ministerial council under the theme “Water for life development and peace”	Arab Region	In progress