

National Model United Nations

Week B

March 24 – March 28, 2013



**Economic and Social Commission for
Western Asia
Documentation**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Committee Staff

Director Sonia Mladin

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Agenda

1. Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity
2. Promoting Sustainable Energy Production for Socio-Economic Development
3. Countering Socio-Economic Marginalization to Strengthen Post-Arab Spring Democracies

Resolutions adopted by the committee

Document Code	Topic	Vote (Y/ N/ Abstention/ Non-Voting)
ESCWA 1/1	Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity	16/0/0/0
ESCWA 1/2	Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity	15/1/0/0
ESCWA 1/3	Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity	15/0/1/0

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Summary Report

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items: (1) Promoting Sustainable Energy Production for Socio-Economic Development; (2) Countering Socio-Economic Marginalization to Strengthen Post-Arab Spring Democracies; and (3) Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity.

The session was attended by representatives of 16 Member States of the ESCWA and 1 observer for OXFAM.

After a discussion on the setting of the agenda which resulted in topic order 3-1-2, meaning the first to be discussed was Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity, the delegates divided themselves up into 4 separate working groups.

Through negotiation and debate in formal and informal session, these working groups proceeded with the drafting of preambular and operative clauses for four different working papers. After discussions with the chair, two draft resolutions were accepted by the dais and two other working groups debated a possible merger of their work which finalized with a third draft resolution being accepted on the fourth day of session.

Draft Resolution (DR) 1/1 discussed the establishment of a fund that provides loans to members of ESCWA for water management projects. DR 1/2 referred to the establishment of awareness campaigns regarding sustainable water usage as well as institution building and reformation. DR 1/3 mentioned an integrated approach which is complemented with a legal framework mechanism regarding sustainable water management.

The delegates participated in the voting procedures on 3 draft resolutions. Resolution ESCWA/1/1 passed by acclamation, while ESCWA/1/2 passed with only 1 objection and ESCWA/1/3 passed with only one abstention. During voting procedure there were two other motions to adopt DR 1/2 and DR 1/3 by acclamation, but both motions failed. Motions to divide the question were raised for clause 1 in DR/1/2 and clauses 7, 8 and 10 in DR 1/3. Only the first motion for division of the question passed, while the rest failed. The Annex that was passed highlighted the importance of creating the ESCWA Sustainable Water Development Loan Program that would operate under the purview of the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources.

After all three resolutions were passed, the Commission moved on to discuss the next topic on the agenda. Delegates gave speeches related to sustainable energy production. However, some delegations felt this topic was not as relevant to them and moved to adjourn debate on this topic in order to discuss post-Arab spring democracy building. This motion failed and after a short suspension the Commission continued with the Speakers' List on the subject of energy production.

Throughout the session delegates collaborated and worked well with full consensus being strived for during discussions on both topics. However, due to time restraints discussion on the second topic was adjourned until next year's session.

Code: ESCWA/1/1

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subject: Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity



1 *Recognizing* the importance of water resources towards the primordial sector of agriculture in the
2 region, as highlighted for all Member States in the Economic and Social Commission for
3 Western Asia (ESCWA) E/ESCWA/SDPD/Technical paper.2 which presents the water resources
4 issues in the ESCWA region,
5

6 *Recalling* the approach of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) outlined by the
7 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in their A/RES/58/217, Water for
8 Life Decade, and its suggestion towards water management, development and production
9 affirmed by ESCWA Resolution 244 (XXII) on Cooperation between ESCWA Member
10 Countries with Respect to Shared Water Resources and the Arab Network for the Integrated
11 Management of Water Resources,
12

13 *Restating* the General Comments No. 15 on the right to water adopted by the UN Committee on
14 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, E/C.12/2002/11, which affirms the human right to water
15 entitling everyone to “sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for
16 personal and domestic use,”
17

18 *Reminding* that the General Comments No. 12 on the right to food, E/C.12/1999/5, notes the
19 importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for agriculture to realize the right to
20 access to food,
21

22 *Deeply concerned* by the issues highlighted by the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the
23 Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab
24 Region in the report E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/1 which states that the misuse of water in
25 agriculture increases pressure on scarce water resources,
26

27 *Supporting* the ongoing work of ESCWA on Water Resources towards documenting, collecting
28 and reporting data focused on the topic of water,
29

30 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*
31

- 32 1) *Calls* for the recognition of water management and productivity in agriculture as a
33 priority of the ESCWA Committee of Water by making the year 2015 the Year of Water
34 in Agriculture through:
35
- 36 a) Working towards managing the funding of the committee to focus its attention on
37 agriculture;
38
 - 39 b) Encouraging the organization of a forum for Water in Agriculture which would
40 regroup different stakeholders such as agricultural workers, land owners, researchers
41 and investors as well representatives of the Member States;
42

- 43 c) Prioritizing the topic of water in agriculture in the agenda setting at the next session
44 of ESCWA and throughout the year 2015;
- 45
- 46 d) Increasing awareness of the topic outside and inside of the ESCWA region with the
47 purpose of increasing investments in the field of sustainable agricultural water
48 practices;
- 49
- 50 2) *Recommends* collaboration with ESCWA Committee on Water and the Water
51 Development and Management Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the
52 United Nations, as well as the Arab Water Council in order to assure food security with
53 proper water management in agriculture,
54
- 55 3) *Further proclaims* the importance of involving the community in the implementation of
56 the IWRM projects and proposes that Member States increase collaboration with local
57 leaders in promoting best practices in water management for agriculture,
58
- 59 4) *Proposes* an intensification of ESCWA Member States' collaboration within the region
60 and outside on resource sharing on the subject of water management such as:
61
- 62 a) Research and development;
- 63
- 64 b) Technology in irrigation, filtration, conservation and collection of water;
- 65
- 66 c) Assessment techniques to identifying the exact need of water in the region;
- 67
- 68 d) Project Management;
- 69
- 70 5) *Encourages* Member States to adopt sustainable and efficient irrigation techniques such
71 as but not limited to drip and sprinkle, mountain pools infrastructures, rain water
72 harvesting, reuse of treated water for irrigation purposes, and the utilization of natural
73 and artificial wetlands as a means for secondary water treatment to limit the
74 contamination of the soil,
75
- 76 6) *Urges* Member States to reduce the misuse of pesticides and fertilizers in order to curb
77 the negatives effects on the overall water quality for industrial and domestic use,
78
- 79 7) *Further reminds* that IWRM in the field of agriculture should focus on small-scale
80 projects and on reducing the demand for water,
81
- 82 8) *Further requests* Member States with transboundary water resources, underground
83 aquifers as well as surface waters, to collaborate in a more equitable manner for the
84 benefit of agriculture productivity and efficiency,
85
- 86 9) *Asks* the Secretariat to evaluate the implementation of this resolution and produce a report
87 to the commission at the next session in 2014 as well as the session in 2016.

Code: ESCWA/1/2

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subject: Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity



- 1 *Draws attention to* the actions and accomplishments of the Arab Fund Embodiment of Joint Arab
2 Action by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and their role in providing
3 funds for several programs for the development of the Arab States,
4
5 *Recognizing* E/ESCWA/27/4 (2012) which stresses the need for participation and social justice
6 to achieve sustainable balance and development,
7
8 *Keeping in mind* the Oudin Santini Law (2009) which proposed a plan to use a fraction of the
9 local budget to fund international development to work toward the objective of completing
10 A/RES/65/1 and more specifically Millennium Development Goal 7,
11
12 *Appreciating* A/RES/59/228 (2005) and its actions toward the development and contribution to
13 technologies regarding water and sanitation,
14
15 *Supporting fully* A/RES/64/292 (2010) and its declaration that all humans have the right to water
16 and sanitation,
17
18 *Reconfirming* ESCWA/RES/83/7 (2007) which encourages Member States to work regionally to
19 protect shared water resources,
20
21 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*
22
23 1) *Recommends* water production projects that are headed by Non-Governmental
24 Organizations and third-party agencies to consult with local representatives to ensure the
25 projects benefit all stakeholders by:
26
27 a. Making the projects long term and sustainable;
28
29 b. Promoting transparency and the correct distribution of funds;
30
31 c. Remaining politically neutral when working in a conflict zone.

1 *Calls for* the creation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
2 (ESCWA) Sustainable Water Development Loan Program, which would operate under
3 the purview of the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources, to function as a fund
4 providing loans for large scale water development projects within Member States:
5

6 a. While recognizing that Member States have different capabilities and can have
7 economic, social, or political issues which may lead to unequal pledges to the
8 program, with emphasis on the need for special attention to least developed Member
9 States and those in heavy conflict;
10

11 b. With all Member States meeting once every 5 years to decide the contribution of
12 funds by:
13

- 14 i. Establishing fundraising goals;
- 15 ii. Ranking all Member States' average GDP per capita since the previous
16 meeting and;
- 17 iii. Distributing the sum based upon the aforementioned rankings;
- 18 iv. Distribution should take into account that some Member States facing
19 immediate political instability may temporarily be unable to contribute;
20

21 c. With funding targeting projects such as but not limited to:
22

- 23 i. Desalination plants;
- 24 ii. Cost-intensive irrigation projects;
- 25 iii. Sewage and water treatment facilities;
- 26 iv. Maintenance or upgrade of existing facilities and;
- 27 v. The implementation of multiple interconnected smaller scale projects for
28 the purpose of providing water accessibility;
29

30 d. In accordance to Islamic banking principles of limited interest rates on loans;
31

32 e. While suggesting public-private development partnerships to ensure both profitability
33 and efficiency;
34

35 f. Establishing the criteria for loan approval as:
36

- 37 i. Economic feasibility of the project;
- 38 ii. Sustainability of the project;
- 39 iii. The general positive impact the project has on the environment;
- 40 iv. The general positive impact the project has on the local populace.

Code: ESCWA/1/3

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subject: Towards Sustainable Water Management, Development, and Productivity



1 *Acknowledging* that water is a vital human right and a necessity as mentioned in
2 A/RES/64/292, The Human Right to Water and Sanitation, which states that every person
3 has the right to potable drinking water,
4

5 *Applauding* A/RES/66/288, The Future We Want, for encouraging international
6 cooperation to reduce water pollution and increase water quality,
7

8 *Realizing* that direct investment, be it from regional Member States or otherwise, relies
9 heavily on risk management in the region and will only operate under conditions which
10 will provide a stable atmosphere for investors to work as stated in ECOSOC/RES/2011/9,
11 Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,
12

13 *Recognizing* that the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts
14 on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region, under the
15 Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is an outcome of a
16 collaborative effort between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,
17

18 *Bearing in mind* the recommendations made in the E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/8/Report
19 during the Ninth Session of ESCWA,
20

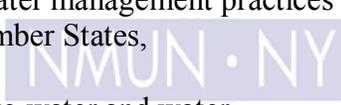
21 *Deeply concerned* with the lack of capacity in addressing water consumption patterns,
22 both agriculturally and domestically, that has prevented the ability to implement
23 sustainable water resource management programs and acknowledges the importance of
24 projects undertaken by ESCWA Member States towards sustainable water development
25 as mentioned in E/ESCWA/27/4(Part1), The Role of Participation and Social Justice in
26 Achieving Sustainable and Balanced Development,
27

28 *Realizing* the efforts conducted by Member States to conserve and utilize wetlands as
29 means for secondary water treatment as mentioned in the Ramsar Convention on
30 Wetlands (1971),
31

32 *Referring to* A/RES/55/196 International Year of Fresh Water which calls upon Member
33 States to spread awareness about the importance of fresh water at domestic regional and
34 international levels,
35

36 *The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*
37

38 1) *Approves* the establishment of key indicators of progress which will assess the
39 results of water sustainable programs that are discussed in the proposal of a
40 framework within ESCWA's Report on Shared Water Resources
41 E/ESCWA/SDPD/2011/IG.1/8/Report,
42



- 43 2) *Further* recommends the use of integrated resource water management practices
44 which will focus on the allocation of resources in Member States,
45
- 46 3) *Urges* all Member States to cooperate when it comes to water and water
47 technology by engaging in water agreements among Member States by:
48
- 49 a. Hosting annual conferences to promote economic growth through
50 increased sustainable water management practices in the region;
51
 - 52 b. Ensuring efficient water usage between Member States which share a
53 common water source, be it ground or surface water;
54
 - 55 c. Encouraging the establishment of partnerships among Member States in
56 technology sharing;
57
- 58 4) *Encourages* the establishment of an annual forum, commencing on November
59 2014 in Amman, Jordan in collaboration with all ESCWA Member States, which
60 forum will be organized by ESCWA in collaboration with the Arab Water
61 Security and Center of Water Studies and all community stakeholders in order for
62 these two organizations to:
63
- 64 a. Work together to develop the legal framework which is related to
65 promoting and sustaining water developmental programs which would be
66 intended for adoption by Member States of ESCWA;
67
 - 68 b. Provide and set a vision for the region which will further aid in increasing
69 investor confidence through promoting consistency and continuation of
70 economies in the region;
71
 - 72 c. Set future details on location, date, and structure on a rotational basis;
73
- 74 5) *Strongly encourages* the coordination and management of the rate of water
75 consumption by the rewarding through the use of incentives starting with the most
76 vulnerable populations in compliance with efficiency and sustainability standards,
77 recommended in accordance to the regional legal framework administered by the
78 Water Committee of ESCWA,
79
- 80 6) *Recommends* the effective use of water management incentives provided at the
81 discretion of each Member State, including monitoring efforts aimed towards
82 involving civil societies in conjunction with local governments and stakeholders,
83
- 84 7) *Stresses* the importance of developing a transparent system in transferring and
85 sharing information and technology which addresses the region's water crisis by:
86
- 87 a. Enhancing the technical assistance and innovative research in technology
88 that ensure sustainable irrigation practices and projects such as, but not

- 89 limited to, the Decision Support System and adjusting it to the specific
90 needs of each Member State thereby enabling appropriate water usage as it
91 proved effective in Egypt;
- 92
- 93 b. Recommending that ESCWA Member States create a centralized database
94 integrating the assessment of West Asia's water resources and their use in
95 order to identify options to further improve efficiency of water usage;
96
- 97 c. Requesting the in-depth study of the regional water resources in
98 cooperation with the Arab Ministerial Water Council, the Arab Water
99 Security and Center of Water Studies and the Bundesanstalt für
100 Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe prior to drafting the legal framework;
101
- 102 d. Providing technical support in establishing water desalination plants in
103 strategic locations, within specific regions of the ESCWA states, to ensure
104 the supply of water to Member States that lack immediate accessibility;
105
- 106 e. Establishing local Water User Associations which would enable rural
107 communities to actively engage in water management solutions through:
108
- 109 i. Support for the development of micro-programs of local water
110 management, production and conservation;
111 ii. The creation of agricultural education programs with the assistance
112 of Non-governmental Organizations and other relevant United
113 Nations programs with the intent of providing rural farmers with
114 the knowledge of more sustainable agricultural techniques;
115
- 116 8) *Affirms* the establishment of a set of measures with the purpose of exchanging
117 knowledge which addresses water scarcity at both domestic and regional levels,
118 such as:
119
- 120 a. Encouraging Member States to call upon the United Nations Educational,
121 Scientific, and Cultural Organization to bring public awareness to
122 unsanitary drinking water, and mitigate the use of unclean water;
123
- 124 b. Urging Member States to collaborate with organizations such as the
125 United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development
126 Program (UNDP) to bring awareness to water issues in urban areas, and
127 assist in mitigating water waste within urban areas;
128
- 129 9) *Proposes* that Member States focus efforts on the utilization of cost effective
130 Water Waste Treatment Projects which would include:
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- 132 a. The utilization of natural and artificial wetlands as a means for secondary
133 water treatment;
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- b. The usage of sustainable waste water treatment plants for agricultural purposes;
 - c. The use of grey water for non-domestic use which will be considered a new method for the recycling of water;
 - d. The development of sustainable practices such as, but not limited to, rain water mountain pools for agricultural means, which would be built with assistance from the Food and Agricultural Organization and the UNDP;
 - e. The creation of small scale solar powered desalination units for the purpose of increased accessibility for domestic and non-domestic uses provided by Member States, Non-governmental Organizations (NGO), and Inter-governmental Organizations;
- 10) *Welcomes* the involvement of NGOs and other relevant entities which support community-lead initiatives for agricultural and domestic consumption of water in a sustainable and cost-effective manner.