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EU-UFM Water Governance & Business Forum Second Edition

19 October 2020
On-line WebeX/Mixed Meeting

Draft Agenda

09:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcoming coffee (for the physical segment)
10:00-11:30 (physical & hybrid with live streaming)	<i>Official High-Level Opening</i> Moderators: Dr. Ayman Ayad , Sector Manager for Water and Utilities, EU Delegation to Egypt, & Mr. Almotaz Abadi , Managing Director, UfM Secretariat

Welcoming High-Level Speeches (20min)

- **H.E. Ambassador Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, UfM Secretariat
- **H.E. Ambassador Christian Berger**, Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt
- **H.E. Dr. Mohamed Abdelaaty**, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Arab Republic of Egypt

Round of interaction with the high-level speakers (20min)

High-level panel on Regional Cooperation for Water Governance & Sustainable Financing, with emphasis on the financial response to the pandemic and the next steps (40min)

- **Eng. Mohammad Al Dwairi**, Acting Secretary General, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Ms. Heike Harmgart**, Managing Director, SEMED, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- **Ms. Kristina Kanapinskaite**, Head of Division for Lending Operation in the EU Neighbouring Countries – Public Sector South, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- **Dr. Moaed El Sayed**, Royal Scientific Academy of Jordan (tbc)

Closing of Opening Session, objectives and structure of the Day by the moderators (10min)

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Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
Bahrain Water Week



11:45-13:15 (online)	<p><i>Session (2): Sustainable Water Financing & Investments in the Mediterranean in the post-COVID era</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Nuria Hernandez Mora, Consultant to the European Commission, DG Environment</p>
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Objectives of the session:

- *exchange on national and regional financial responses to the pandemic*
- *provide brief updates and discuss planned activities in the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda and Financial Strategy for Water & the EU Green Deal*
- *discuss activities by financial partners that aim to encourage water financing and investments in the region*

Targeted Interventions:

- Food for thought - How can the Financial Strategy be of relevance for tackling the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis? (5min)
Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, UfMS-Water
- The UfM Water Agenda & Financial Strategy: where are we & and where we are going in the post COVID-19 era? (12min)
Dr. Anthi Brouma, GWP-Med/UfM TA Team Leader
- The EU Green Deal in the post-COVID 19 era (12min)
Mr. Andrew Murphy, Senior Advisor, DG Environment, EC

Brief Q&As on the interventions – (15')

Interventions & panel exchanges on ideas and planned activities to enhance the financial sustainability of the water sector in the Mediterranean (30')

- **Mr. Francesco Totaro**, Investment Officer, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- **Mr. Alain Meyssonier**, President, Mediterranean Water Institute (IME)
- **Mr. David Allan**, Associate Director, Sustainable Infrastructure- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- **Prof. Michael Scoullios**, Team Leader, Water and Environment Support (WES) (tbc)

Open discussion and conclusion of the session (15')

13:15-13:45	Break
13:45 – 15:00 (online)	<p><i>Session (3): Innovative financing for increasing the potential of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus market</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med</p>

Objectives of the session:

- *check market sounding for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean region and with a post-COVID-19 outlook*
- *share successful and potentially replicable business cases within the region*
- *create linkages for action with the new EU Green Economy agenda and the ongoing work of financial partners*



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Facilitated panel exchanges (45')

- **Mr. Alex Simalabwi**, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa, Global Head-Climate Resilience, Head-GWP Africa Coordination Unit
- **Ms. Atika Ben Maid**, Programme Manager, French Development Agency (AFD)
- **Dr. Jauad El Kharraz**, Head of Research, Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC)
- **Ms. Sara Datturi**, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Dr. Bernd Manfred Gawlik**, European Commission, DG Joint Research Centre

Discussion (25')

Conclusions and wrap up of Session by moderator (5min)

15:00-15:30
(online)

Session (4): Synthesis and way forward

Brief recap of key highlights & next steps

- **Mr. Almotaz Abadi**, Managing Director, UfM Sec
- **Dr. Ayman Ayad**, EU Delegation to Egypt
- **Dr. Tahani Sileet**, Head of Central Department for External Cooperation, AMCOW TAC, PMU Director & Regional Coordinator-VICMED Project, Director- NBI National Office, Nile Water Sector- Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Arab Republic of Egypt
- **Mr. Vangelis Constantianos**, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med

Closing and Conference Statement

- **Mr. Isidro González Afonso**, UfM Deputy Secretary General
- **Mr. Ibrahim Laafia**, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation in Egypt

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