



# streaming the Outcome of the UN Summit on Groundwater into the Arab Strategy for Water Security

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# Overview

- Regional Coordination on Groundwater in the Arab Region
- UN Summit on Groundwater and Call for Action
- Regional Expert Group
- Outlines of Cooperative Work towards Sustainable Governance of Groundwater in the Arab Region
  - Governance
  - Data and Information
  - Capacity Building
  - Shared/TB Aquifers
  - Science and Policy Making

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# Reginal Coordination

- May 2022, Special Session in preparation for COP27 and UN Summit on Groundwater, (Mid-Term Review SDG6, ESCWA)
  - **Enhancing Knowledge:** Improving knowledge and information about groundwater systems.
  - **Continued Development:** Continuing to develop the necessary monitoring systems to enhance the management of groundwater resources in a sustainable manner.
  - **Strengthening Management:** Strengthening the management of groundwater, especially for non-renewable groundwater resources.
  - **Scientific Studies:** Conducting scientific studies to assess the impacts of climate change on groundwater in the region and enhancing regional cooperation, among other things.
  - **Regional Cooperation:** Enhancing regional cooperation for the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers.



# Reginal Coordination

- COP27: Regional Dialogue Towards the UN Groundwater Summit
  - **Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:** Despite the existence of legal and regulatory frameworks for water management in most countries of the region, they lack clarity regarding groundwater.
  - **Governance Challenges:** Governance is hampered by challenges related to implementation, institutional capacities, and social and economic considerations.
  - **Groundwater in Agriculture:** The use of groundwater in agriculture is linked to the livelihoods of rural communities, in addition to the complexity and cost of monitoring water levels and water quality.



# Arab Ministerial Council 14<sup>th</sup> Session (Nov. 2022)

- The Arab Water Council, through paragraph 7 of Decision 263-DA(14) M.W.C.M. (dated November 30, 2022), tasked UNESCO, ESCWA, and FAO in partnership with the Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and ACSAD to

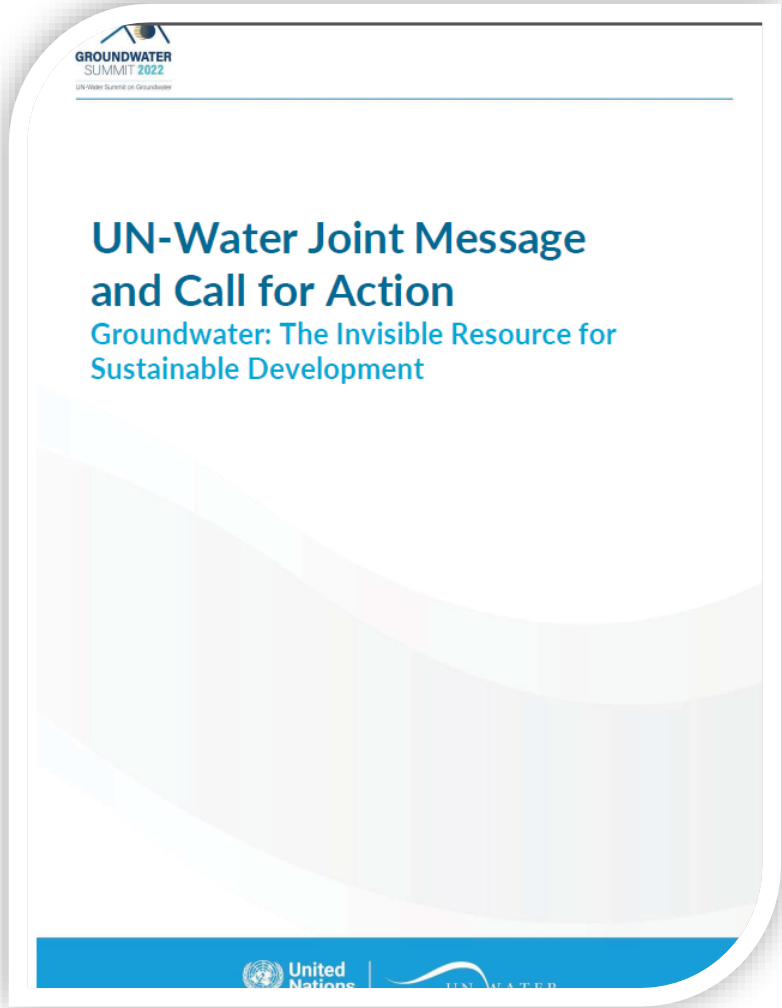
**1.Reporting on The UN Summit Outcomes:** prepare a report on the outcomes of the United Nations Summit on groundwater, particularly focusing on the Arab region. This report will be presented during the Council's fifteenth session.

**2.Coordination with Regional and International Organizations:** The Council also instructed coordination with regional and international organizations to integrate the United Nations' groundwater recommendations into regional action plans, aligning with the Arab Water Security Strategy and the priorities of Arab countries.

**3.Drafting an Initial Regional Action Plan:** An initial draft of a regional action plan for sustainable and prudent groundwater management in Arab countries will be prepared in the form of series of policy paper addressing policy and decision maker.



# The UN-Water Summit on Groundwater



**139**

countries

**18**

ministers

**800**

attendants in person

**3,500**

attendants online

**246**

speakers

**42 %**

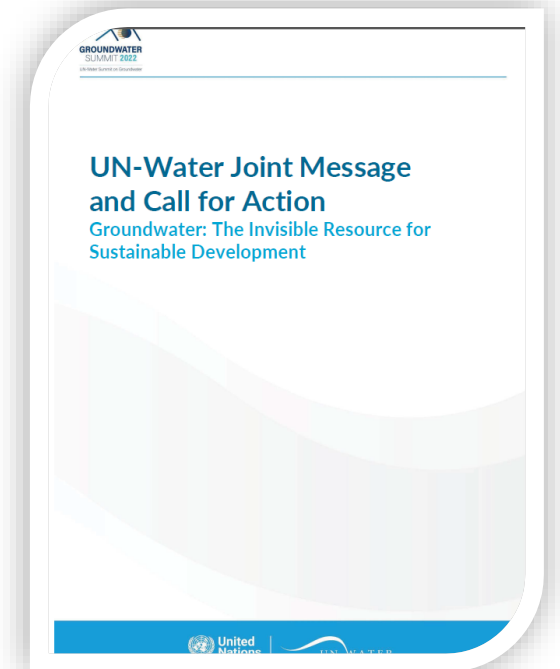
of speakers were  
women

# The UN-Water Joint Call for Action

The United Nations Commission on Water issued a joint letter and call to action *Groundwater: The Hidden Resource for Sustainable Development*

*The message called on the countries of the world to:*

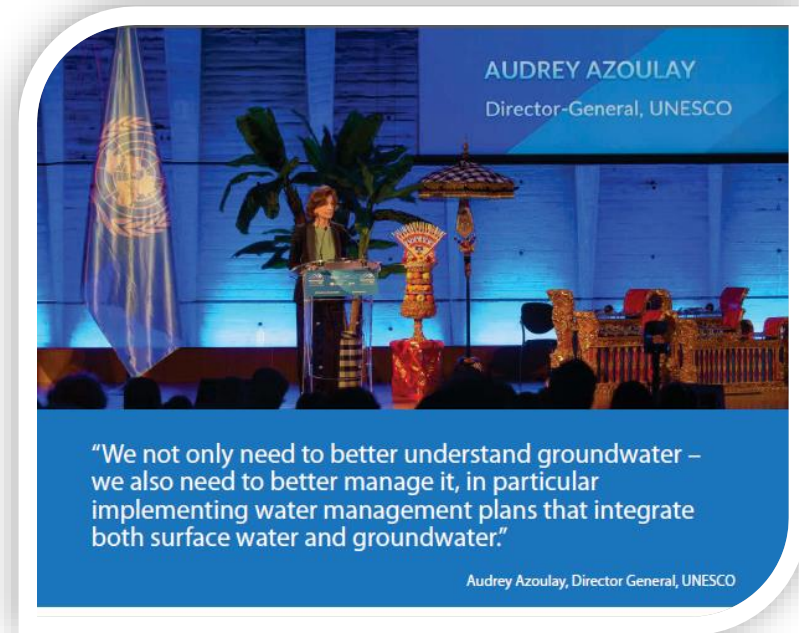
- **Enhance Financing** the management, development and sustainable use of sustainable groundwater;
- **Collect and exchange** data and information on groundwater ;
- **Strengthen** human and institutional capabilities;
- **Benefit from** innovations in groundwater management and expand their scope; and
- **Strengthen** groundwater governance....



# Themes of the Summit Outcome

Summit's outcomes in mid-May 2023 around the following themes

- Data and information
- Capacity development
- Innovation
- Finance
- Governance
- Groundwater in Africa; and
- Strengthening the science-policy Interface.



***Drew attention to groundwater at the highest international and political levels, guided by the Global Acceleration Framework for Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals.***

***Facilitated partnerships and identified actions towards more responsible and sustainable use and protection of this vital natural resource at the global level.***

***Noted the need for joint work towards sustainable management of shared groundwater***



# Arab Regional Groundwater Expert Group

Virtual meetings on **June 1, 2023, July 6, 2023.**

- Responding to the challenges faced by the Arab region in the field of sound management of groundwater requires a number of policy briefs and consultation with member states to identify work priorities according to the needs of the countries.
- This requires a number of extended and specialized technical dialogues.
- Prepare a briefing paper proposing a number of priorities based on the outputs of the summit and regional developments and challenges facing groundwater in the Arab region so that work can later be done on preparing relevant policy briefs after consulting with member states (**ESCWA**).
- Organize a regional physical meeting to include summit outputs in the executive plan for the Arab Water Security Strategy as soon as its broad lines are set by **ACSAD**, and
- Assign **UNESCO** to organize and support the experts' meeting.”

# Arab Regional Groundwater Expert Group



المجلس العربي للمياه



Arab Water Council



UNITED NATIONS

الاسكوا  
ESCWA



منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتنمية والعلم والثقافة



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



جامعة محمد الخامس بالرباط  
Université Mohammed V de Rabat



هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي  
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI



جامعة السلطان قابوس  
Sultan Qaboos University



International Water  
Management Institute



# Outline of Joint Action: Governance



**Axis -1: Governance: Working to enhance the enabling environment for effective groundwater governance in Arab countries in line with national priorities**

## **Priority Action Areas**

1. Establishing and developing the necessary legislation and legal frameworks for sustainable management of groundwater, guided by national legal frameworks and exchanging experiences among Arab countries.
2. Establishing an institutional framework that contributes to integrated and participatory planning for sustainable groundwater management
3. Strengthening community participation and the participation of water users in groundwater management at the basin level
4. Promoting the interaction between science, policies and practices of groundwater management towards sustainability

# Outline of Joint Action: Data and Information



**Axis-2 Data and information: Strengthening the capabilities of Arab countries in developing and managing information systems to support evidence-based decision-making in the field of groundwater management.**

## **Priority Action Areas**

1. Developing and managing information systems related to groundwater and enhancing the capabilities of Arab countries in this field
2. Using comprehensive information systems and linking them to supporting tools for decision-making
3. Preparing and updating hydrogeological maps and maps of promising areas to serve the purpose of determining water budget

# Outline of Joint Action: Other Axes



**Axis -4: Financing:** Allocating and enhancing the financing necessary to achieve sustainable groundwater management by developing integrated and sustainable financing programs (*integrate with the seventh axis as a main activity within the Work plan of the Arab Strategy*).

**Axis-6: Strengthening the interface between science, policy and groundwater management practices towards sustainability,** (*Already integrated through Governance and Capacity Building*)

**Axis-7: Climate Change** (*Already Integrated into Axis 4, Activity 4.1 of the Arab Water Security Strategy*)

# Outline of Joint Action: Shared/TB Aquifers

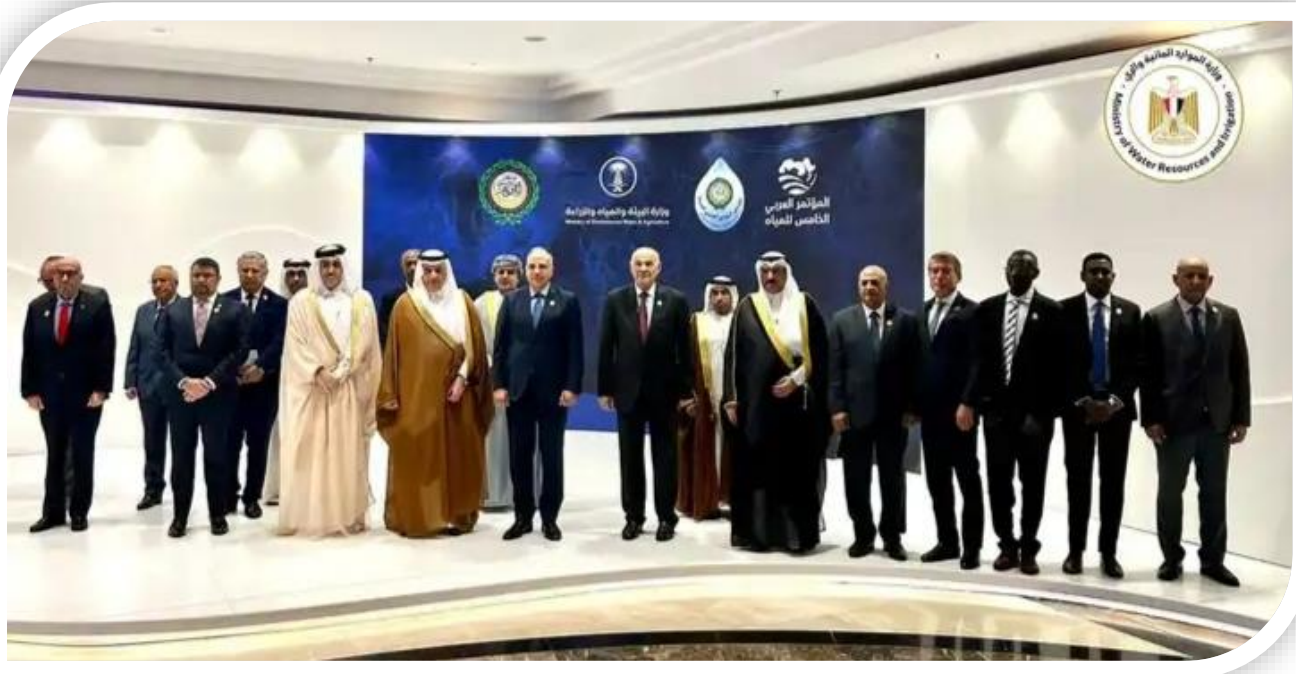


**Axis -5: Shared Aquifers: Improving and developing the management of shared aquifers between Arab countries in a sustainable manner, which contributes to promoting sustainable development**

## **Priority Action Areas:**

1. Developing a compatible (interoperable) program in the field of monitoring, controlling and evaluating the condition of groundwater basins
2. Work to clarify the benefits (economic-social-environmental) in managing shared groundwater basins.
3. Strengthening technical, scientific and technological cooperation in groundwater management
4. Allocate and enhance funding for the management of shared groundwater basins

# 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, Nov. 2023, Riyadh, KSA



EG Recommendations Endorsed  
Team asked to develop 3 PBs

- ***Management of non-renewable groundwater***
- ***Managed groundwater recharge***
- ***Strategies to protect groundwater and the ecosystems dependent on it, including oasis ecosystems***



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# Thank You