



## Slide 1



# Highlights on the Research and Capacity Development Contribution of AWC/AWA to IDSSD in the Arab Region, with special focus on the Gulf Sub-Region

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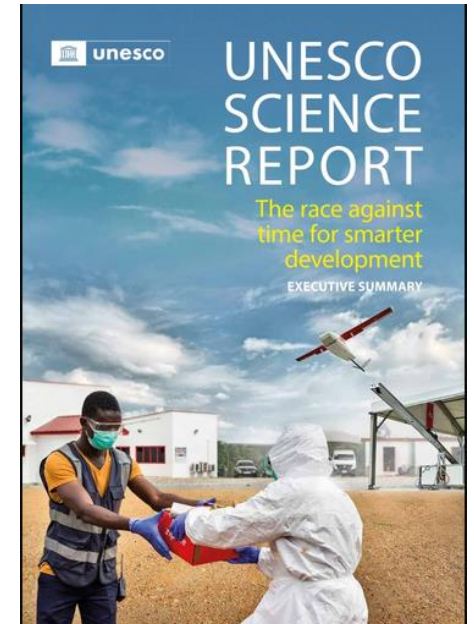
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## Slide 2

### Introduction

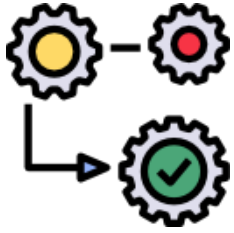
- The UN General Assembly proclaims the years 2024-2033 as “The International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (IDSSD)” to address the complex and intricate global challenges.
- The IDSSD is closely linked to the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to address poverty, inequality, climate change, and other global issues by 2030.
- Scientific cooperation is essential for achieving the SDGs, as highlighted by a report led by UNESCO.



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- According to the UNESCO Science Reports, the African continent and the Arab States make a very modest, if stable, contribution to world expenditure on research and development.
- The Arab Water Council (AWC), in its turn, recognizes the region's water scarcity challenges and works towards capacity building and cooperation with partners like UNESCO and the Water Science and Technology Association (WSTA).
- AWC also recognizes that some of the challenges are more critical e.g. in the Gulf countries sub-region, where special focus should be on expanding the use of NCWR, Agric. & WW reuse, artificial recharge of GW, rainfall harvesting, etc. as a strategic solution to surmount these challenges.

# AWC Work Plan 2023-2025 (Main Pillars) for promoting R & D Priorities



1. Implementing (IWRM), including the Use of the Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWR) and Groundwater Management using Advanced GIS/RS Technologies for Achieving the SDGs
2. Promoting Cooperation & Sustainable Solutions for Transboundary / Shared Water Resources
3. Addressing Climate security and impacts of CC on water resources, food security, social security and ecosystems
4. Promoting Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE-Nexus)
5. Supporting the application of modern technology, innovative solutions & Capacity Development (AGIR / AWA)

# **AWC-Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development Tools**



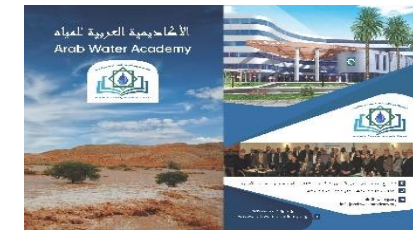
## A Few Words about The Arab Water Academy (AWA)

**Affiliated to AWC  
Established in 2008**



### **Objectives:**

- To support the application of modern technology and innovative.
- To provide Training & Capacity Development programs for leaders, senior professionals, policy-makers, and public and private sectors.
- To provide a continuous learning environment for alumni and other young professionals.



# **The Arab Water Academy (AWA / AWC)** **Training Programs in support of R&D priorities**

AWA is the scientific arm of the Council and a Center for Excellence and capacity building in water-related issues in the Arab region.

- The training programs currently administered by AWA include:
  - Non-Conventional Water Resources;
  - Use of modern science and technology (RS/GIS, AI, water footprint, virtual water, green economy, etc.);
  - Innovative solutions for adapting to CC challenges and DRR.
  - Enhancing the concepts of IWRM implementation;

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# **The Arab Water Academy (AWA / AWC)**

## **Training Programs in support of R&D priorities (cont.'d)**

- Promoting the concept of sustainable development & mechanisms for achieving SDGs;
- Interrelationships between energy, water, food and the environment in a Nexus approach;
- Raising awareness and participation of civil society, women, youth & media in water and environmental issues;
- Hydro-diplomacy and shared water negotiation skills development.
- Securing financial resources for ensuring sustainability of water projects.

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### **CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

- There is a need to identify R&D priorities, and to translate knowledge into real-world action.
- Reducing the current scientific gap needs a comprehensive assessment of the knowledge base and establishing country-wise strategies and plans of action for elimination of these gaps and divides.
- Water scarcity challenges and the current divides could be looked at and treated as an "opportunity" rather than a "constraint".
- Establishment of Regional Centers of Excellence in science, technology, and innovation on river basin level is recommended.
- Raising capacity of the water sector and enhancing regional cooperation is imperative for shaping a transformative and brighter future.



**In Conclusion,**



**I take this opportunity to invite you all  
to be an active part of AWC & AWA  
Family**

**THANK YOU**