

# **Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) Arab States**

## **WAY FORWARD 2011-2012**

**BEIRUT, 25-26 NOVEMBER 2011**

**Climate Change Working Group**

# CC TWG for the Arab Region

- The Climate Change TWG for the Arab Region was established during the RCM meeting in September 2008. UNEP/ROWA appointed as the TWG Convener
- First Meeting of the TWG held in Cairo on 26 November 2008: the agreed on TOR, identified priority areas of work, assigning agency roles & developed the workplan
- Functions of the TWG (AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL):
  - Coordination and information sharing
  - Capacity Building Support
  - Exploring opportunities for joint programming and implementation joint activities
  - Analysis of the situation with regard to climate change impacts, mitigation, technology transfer, capacity and financial needs, etc.

# CC TWG Members

UNEP

ESCWA

UNDP

UNESCO

WHO (new member)

UNISDR

FAO (new member)

UN-Habitat (suggested)

UNIDO (new member)

WFP (suggested)

World Bank (suggested)

UNU (new member)

WMO (suggested)

League of Arab States (Observer)

# Key Elements of 2011 Workplan

- Core components of the 2011 plan (continuing through 2012):
  - Regional Initiative on the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (UN-LAS initiative, coordinated by ESCWA)
  - Face-to-Face meeting of the CC TWG
  - Mapping of the UN-LAS Agency Activities on CC in the Region (UNEP)
  - Third Climate Change Adaptation Network (UNEP)
  - Training on Climate Change Mitigation Potential (UNEP-ESCWA)

# CC TWG Progress Achieved

- Regional Initiative on the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (UN-LAS Regional Initiative)

Mandate: Arab Ministerial Water Council – 22 Arab Countries

Lead: ESCWA, Co-organizers: UNEP & LAS

UN-LAS Contributors: ACSAD, UNESCO, UNISDR, UNU, WHO, WMO)

## History of Regional Initiative Development

- **First EGM, 26-28 October 2009:** agreed on 4 project pillars: (A) Baseline Review; (B) Impact Assessment & Vulnerability Analysis; (C) Awareness Raising & Information Dissemination; (D) Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening

➤ *Joint Project Proposals submitted to UN Development Account & SIDA*

- **Second EGM, 8-10 November 2010:** Involved additional international & regional institutions, agreed on the implementation of Regional Climate Modeling (based on downscaling), Vulnerability Assessment, Regional Networking & Information Platform, Capacity Building and policy dialogue activities in support of the regional assessment
  - *By end 2010, SIDA approved funding for Regional Initiative (US\$ 3 million)*
  
- **Third EGM, 6-7 July 2011:** Formally launched Swedish Government support (SIDA) for the Regional Initiative. The meeting discussed the parameters of the Arab Domain, which will serve as the common basis for regional climate modeling for the Arab Region both regionally and through CORDEX. Agencies shared their work on climate modeling & vulnerability in the region (UNESCO, WMO, WHO, UNDP, UNU, plus research institutions (SMHI, KAUST, KAU) The meeting also decided to coordinate with climate centres/research institutions on regional climate modeling within the framework of the Regional Initiative.

# CC TWG Progress Achieved – Continued

- 4<sup>th</sup> Thematic Working Group Meeting (Beirut 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011)
  - TWG meeting reviewed the TOR
  - TWG meeting agreed on the work plan 2011-2012
- Preliminary mapping of climate change agency activities completed

## Other activities involving CC TWG members:

- The Second forum on climate change in the near east: climate change, agriculture and food security was organized by FAO in Beirut, 27-29 July 2011
- UNDP Climate Resilience Initiative
- World Bank Report on Climate Change Adaptation

# Challenges & New Developments

- No broad framework for programming climate change activities in the Arab States Region. CAMRE adopted Arab Declaration on Climate Change (2007) issued, but no Arab Framework of Action on Climate Change (AFACC) *yet* endorsed.
- Arab Ministerial Water Council endorsed “Arab Water Security Strategy” + IWRM Implementation Projects in July 2011 – included climate change as key regional priority
- Limited funding for coordination costs and face-to-face meetings
- XB Funding being secured to support regional initiatives.
- Lack of common information sharing platform has limited exchange of information on activities of each agency in the region
- Issue now included in 2012 work plan of TWG to coordinate activities in this area.



# Other Challenges

- Need for re-affirmation of TWG mandate within the context of climate negotiations, including stronger linkages with CEB, UN SG Team on Climate Change (need for vertical linkages)
- Notable turnover of focal points in UN-LAS agencies make it difficult to coordinate and track activities
- Need for stronger commitment and engagement by agencies

# Key Elements of 2012 Workplan

- **Core components of the 2012 plan (including new activities):**
  - Regional Initiative on the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (UN-LAS initiative, coordinated by ESCWA)
    - Fourth EGM on the Regional Initiative (2012)
  - Face-to-Face meeting of the CC TWG (2012)
  - Coordinating an information exchange platform (UNU)
  - Mapping of the UN-LAS Agency Activities on CC in the Region (UNEP)
  - Joint activity on Review of Low Carbon Development Initiatives in the GCC Region (UNDP-UNEP)
  - Third Climate Change Adaptation Network (UNEP, March 2012)
  - Training on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (UNEP, May 2012)
  - Training on Climate Change Mitigation Potential (UNEP-ESCWA 2012)

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□ **THANK YOU**