

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

**CENTER OF WATER STUDIES
AND ARAB WATER SECURITY**

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President of the Center

Chahra Ksia

The **22** Arab countries members of the **League of Arab States**, recognizing the essential role of water in sustainable development and the impacts of water scarcity at the local, national and regional levels,

Decided to establish the
Arab Ministerial Council for Water
within the League of Arab States in 2008

This reflects a regional political will to elevate water issues from the traditional technical level to the **political** and especially **regional** level.

**The Ministerial Council adopted the
Strategy for Water Security in the Arab
region in 2010**

**The Strategy identified the regional
priority actions for ensuring water
security across the region centered
around the principles of
Integrated water resources management**

Five priority projects were proposed to be funded and implemented within the framework of the Strategy

1- To ensure **water and food security** to face the future challenges

2- To adopt integrated water policies which **secure water for all** sectors to achieve socio-economic benefits and ensure the implementation of the **Millennium Development Goals**

3- To define national policy for including **climate change adaptation** policy into national water policy

4- To improve the use of **non conventional water resources** focussing on **renewable energy** in water desalination and water treatment.

5- To reinforce cooperation on transboundary water resources by:

- A. Building Regional Database For Shared Water Resources**
- B. The establishment of permanent agreements between Arab countries**

Most important challenge

Large surface water resources as well as the ground water systems in the Arab region are of transboundary nature

Ministerial council → urged the Center of Arab Water Security

to prepare the first *draft of the convention on shared water resources in the Arab region*

with the cooperation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia and in coordination with the representatives of Arab countries.

**To be presented to the Ministerial
Council for adoption in June 2013**

The ultimate aim of the convention is to serve as a **guide that sets the main principles upon which Arab riparian countries can develop their specific joint management and allocation agreements of river basins and aquifers in the Arab region**

Arab countries have the highest dependency on external water resources

more than 80% of the annually renewable resources originate outside the boundaries of the Arab countries.

The Nile River is shared between eleven riparian countries,

Euphrates and Tigris rivers are shared between Turkey, Syria, Irak and Iran

Somalia and Mauritania also share international water courses with other countries

This situation creates a complicated hydro-political problem facing many Arab countries

SHARED WATER RESOURCES IN THE REGION IN PARTICULAR WITH NEIGHBOURING UPSTREAM COUNTRIES ARE USUALLY A SOURCE OF POLITICAL TENSION AND DEPEND MOSTLY ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COUNTRIES

There is a general consensus on cooperation and coordination even with signed agreements between riparian countries

The practical implementation of these agreements is not always evident and doesn't lead to effective and successful cooperation

**So negotiations on cooperative management
which lead to**

**permanent and defined legislative frameworks
are essential for reliable & stable cooperation**

These agreements should ensure:

- benefit for all**
- equitable and reasonable use of water
resources, in accordance with the
norms and principles of the
International water laws and historic
agreements**

The Arab league and the Arab countries look forward for more cooperation to find effective solutions to challenges related to international shared water resources with neighbouring countries from outside the Arab region and to **ensure stability and peace through water**

We give also great importance to the **water rights of the people in the **Arab occupied territories** in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon should be ensured**

Illegal exploitation which causes loss and depletion of water resources in these territories should be stopped in accordance with **International law and human Law**

The CENTER OF ARAB WATER SECURITY gives special attention to the cooperation with the International Network of Basin Organisations and other international concerned organisations and looks forwards to establishing collaboration relationship and partnership which will contribute to the welfare and security of all countries