

Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water



Special Session during the 2024 Cairo Water Week on: Adaptation Costing for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water

Tuesday, 15 October 2024 | 11:30 to 13:00
PICASSO 4 Room, Triumph Hotel, Cairo, Egypt

Background and objective

The Arab region faces significant water scarcity and security challenges, yet the water sector receives limited climate finance, with most flows coming as debt finance. Although there has been a slight increase in grant financing, the sector remains underfunded relative to the needs of Arab States. Part of the challenge is that costing adaptation projects and interventions is complicated.

To address this gap, the Arab Initiative for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water "AIM Climate Finance for Water" was launched in March 2023, during the UN 2023 Water Conference as a Water Action Agenda commitment under the Water Action Decade (2018-2028).

Implemented by ESCWA, the League of Arab States, Green Climate Fund, Islamic Development Bank, FAO, and the Government of Sweden, in collaboration with ACSAD and AFESD, the initiative strengthens regional capacity to access climate finance for water-related projects to achieve adaptation and mitigation goals.

Expected outcomes

- ✓ Enhanced knowledge of tools and methods to assess climate adaptation costs for water projects.
- ✓ Increased ability to develop bankable and affordable project pipelines that align with national priorities and sectoral strategies.
- ✓ Strengthened capacity to mobilize climate finance for water and agricultural sectors, particularly for projects contributing to adaptation and co-benefits.
- ✓ Improved capability to prepare Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by early 2025, incorporating adaptation strategies and resilience measures for water resources.

Questions to be addressed

- How can Arab States use adaptation costing methodologies to attract increased climate finance for the water sector?
- What specific tools and approaches are available for developing project pipelines that align with national needs and financing requirements?
- In what ways water-related projects were designed to support both adaptation and mitigation efforts, maximizing co-benefits and resilience under projected climate scenarios?

Introduction and Overview

Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Strengthened Regional Resilience to Climate Change

Anna Rosendahl, Head of Regional Development Cooperation MENA, Embassy of Sweden, Amman

Presentation on Adaptation Costing for Mobilizing Climate Finance for Water

Amgad El Mahdi, Regional Manager for Middle East and North Africa, Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Patricia Yossianty Sonata, Financial Management Analyst, GCF

Panel Discussion on Applying Adaptation Costing at the National or Project Levels

Moderator

Ziad Khayat, Water Lead, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

Discussants

- **Mohamed Al-Hamdi**, Senior Land and Water Officer and Delivery Manager of the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative, FAO
- **Ihab Inad**, Director of Water Resources Department, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)
- **Sabri Er**, Project Management Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- **Walid Hakiki**, Head, Planning Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt

Closing Remarks

- **Anna Rosendahl**, Government of Sweden
- **Carol Chouchani Cherfane**, ESCWA