



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Mediterranean water forum, Tunis, 5-7 February 2024 *Kick off meeting, Valencia, Spain, 18 October 2023*

CONCEPT NOTE

SESSION 2 «WATER MIX AND NEW VISION OF DEMAND FOR 2050 »

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This session aims to emphasise the need for the traditional concept of integrated water resource management to evolve in the light of new challenges, by:

- Stressing the obvious, but sometimes forgotten, need for integrated management supported by prior integrated planning.
- Reinforcing the very concept of integration, which affects both the nature of the resources to be taken into account (conventional and non-conventional, surface or underground), and the consideration of other sectoral policies linked to water, such as agriculture, food, energy, preservation of the aquatic environment, health, the socio-economic model, etc., and which are more than ever at risk of being dealt with by various partial and incomplete "nexuses".
- Not forgetting the aspect of water quality, which concerns both the methods of using resources and the need for adequate treatment of effluents before they are discharged - whether point source or diffuse - and for adequate control of the entire cycle of use and discharge.
- Stressing, therefore, the need to establish the best possible inter-administrative coordination between all the competent administrations in these sectors, and according to the different territorial levels involved, from national or international to local.
- Requiring the active participation of all the parties and players concerned, guaranteeing the involvement of all the users concerned, as well as the general public, whether involved or not.
- Emphasising - as is so often repeated - the need for quality data on the resources available and the demands to be met over different time horizons, in which climate change scenarios must be taken into account to formulate plans that are truly adaptive to this new reality that threatens us.
- Revising strategies for allocating resources to the various potential uses, by identifying allocation priorities, but also by promoting policies to economise on demand and consumption and, of course, to eliminate leakages.

All these aspects are closely linked to those of strand 2 "water for people and nature" of the forthcoming 10th World Water Forum, and its sub-themes 2.1 "improving water quality", 2.2 "freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity" and 2.5 "integrated water resources management", but also to those of strand 1 on

SESSION 2

water security and prosperity, in its sub-theme 1.2 on "non-conventional resources", and theme 4 on "governance, cooperation and hydro-diplomacy", and sub-themes 4.3 on "cross-sector dialogue", and 4.4 on "stakeholder involvement".

Session format

An initial presentation by a keynote speaker, aimed at highlighting the theme and objectives of the session.

Thereafter, 4 panellists will speak for 5 minutes each, giving different points of view on particular aspects to be considered:

- **Directorate General for Water**, Spain (Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge), on the National Observatory for Water and Renewable Energies.
- **MedCities Secretariat**, on an integrated action project from a local perspective in Gabès (Tunisia).
- **Agence de l'Eau Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse**, on a model plan for adapting to climate change at river basin level.
- **Tunisia's Bureau de la Planification et des Equilibres Hydrauliques (BPEH), and the German cooperation agency GIZ**, presenting the key elements of the water sector reform project in Tunisia.

This will make it possible to launch a wide-ranging debate, both in the form of a round table between the panellists and, above all, with the public present at the launch meeting, and to draw from it the Mediterranean message to be conveyed to the forthcoming Bali World Forum on these issues.