

SESSION 4



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 4 «GOVERNANCE-COOPERATION-HYDRODIPLOMACY»

Pilot: Mokhtar Bzioui

"**Killing for water**" is the title of an article published in a magazine that reported that in northeastern Kenya several clans regularly clash over the use of water; but the latest clash was most deadly.

Armed men, the article reported, attacked a rival village to take control of water points, resulting in the deaths of seventy people, mostly women and children.

As pressure on water resources increases, conflicts can arise between individuals, groups of people, institutions and states.

Unfortunately, these conflicts can only become more acute, given that demand for water is only increasing, while water resources are limited, or even decreasing, given the impact of climate change.

Conflicts over the use of water can have their origins in :

- the distribution of water resources,
- degraded water quality, due to damage caused by polluters to individuals, the community or the environment,
- the effects of drought or flooding,
- procedures for applying laws and regulations, which are misunderstood by or restrictive for users,
- tariffs

Mechanisms are applied at various levels to resolve conflicts, either by the users themselves according to age-old practices or instituted by local authorities, or by government authorities, and sometimes even by intergovernmental authorities in the case of water resources shared between states.

These mechanisms are developed by various structures, including :

- local committees
- basin committees
- Interministerial commissions
- national councils
- intergovernmental bodies

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To avoid water use conflicts, certain prerequisites must be met, including :

- legislation clarifying responsibilities and duties
- strategies that define the rules for planning and managing water resources
- Pricing that guarantees the sustainability of water supply services
- An easily accessible information system
- The use of a participatory approach among all stakeholders, and at all levels of water resource management, because a participatory approach strengthens the acceptability of solutions to avoid conflict.

Hydro-diplomacy is becoming increasingly important to guarantee the acceptability -as mentioned above- of solutions to avoid conflict,.

Session objective

The objective of this session is part of the Mediterranean regional process for the 10th World Water Forum, to be held in Bali in May 2024.

With this session we wish to have the presentation of the experiences already developed in the fields of governance, cooperation and hydro diplomacy in the countries of the Mediterranean region, to know the results of successes and failures so as to recommend the best practices to obtain the sustainable management of water resources.

Session format

Keynote speech to present new visions of governance, cooperation and hydro diplomacy in the Mediterranean region.

The subject will be addressed in the form of a roundtable discussion with the participation of international organizations with extensive experience in the fields targeted by the session objectives:

- 1- OSS (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel) to explain how cooperation between three countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Libya) is helping to manage the water resources of a water table they share.
- 2- UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) to demonstrate progress in transboundary cooperation.
- 3- The OMVS (Intergovernmental Organization for the Management of Water Resources of the Senegal River) to show how the states bordering the Senegal River have created the conditions for sustainable management of this river.
- 4- SIWI (Swedish International Cooperation Agency) to address the theme of regulation as a tool for governance of water and sanitation services in the West Asia and North Africa region.

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