Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on the Development of a Vulnerability Assessment for the Arab Region to Assess Climate Change Impacts on the Water Resources Sector

8-10 November 2010 – United Nations House – Beirut, Lebanon

AGENDA
Day 1: Monday, 8 November 2010

9:00 – 9:30
Registration at United Nations House, B-1 Level

9:30 – 10:00
Welcome and opening statements

- Mr. Abdul Majeid Haddad, Coordinator, Thematic Working Group on Climate Change of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM); Program Officer, Climate Change and the Marine Environment, United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA)

- Ms. Inas Abdelazim Mostafa, League of Arab States, on behalf of Mr. Djameleddine Djaballa, Director, Sustainable Development, Environment and Housing Division, League of Arab States (LAS)

- Ms. Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Review of agenda

10:00 – 12:00
Session 1: Conceptual Framework and Stocktaking of Developments in Climate Change Impact Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment in the Arab Region

Moderator: Ms. Roula Madjalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), ESCWA

- Regional Initiative to Assess the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region – Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, SDPD, ESCWA

- Conceptual framework for conducting a climate change impact analysis and vulnerability assessment for the Arab Region – Mr. Tarek Sadek, Climate Change Officer, SDPD, ESCWA

- Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

- Interventions from the floor by Member States, regional organizations and experts regarding experiences and lessons learned from climate change impact assessment and vulnerability assessment in the Arab region.

- Discussion

12:00 – 14:00
Session 2: Regional Climate Modeling for Generating Climate Change Projections for the Arab Region

Moderator: Mr. Ahmed AlYaqoubi, General Director, Water Resources Directorate, Palestinian Water Authority, Ramallah

- IPCC AR4 Findings for the Arab Region and Preparations for IPCC AR5: Challenges associated with moving from a general circulation model (GCM) to a regional climate model (RCM) for the Arab Region – Mr. Rupa Kumar Kolli, Chief, World Climate Applications and Services Division, Climate Prediction
Monday, 8 November 2010 (continued)

and Adaptation Branch, Climate and Water Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, Switzerland

- Applying Regional Climate Modeling to the Arab Region, Mr. Phil Graham, Senior Research on Hydrology and Climate, Rossby Center, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Stockholm, Sweden
- Climate Change Risk Management – Mr. Abdelaziz Zaki, Consultant, Hydrology Program, UNESCO Office in Cairo/Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States and Cluster Office for Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sudan, Egypt
- Establishing a Regional Climate Information Network for the Arab Region – Mr. Rupa Kumar Kolli, Chief, World Climate Applications and Services Division, Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch, Climate and Water Department, WMO
- Discussion

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch sponsored by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany (BGR) through the ESCWA-German Cooperation

15:00 – 16:30 Technical Working Group 1A: Regional Climate Modeling
Facilitator: Mr. Phil Graham, SMHI
Resource Person: Mr. Rupa Kumar Kolli, WMO

⇒ The Technical Working Group would build upon the discussions initiated during the plenary session and formulate proposals for the preferred approaches for pursuing climate modeling for the Arab region, including definition of boundary conditions, what resolution to target for downscaling, climate projections and scenarios, time steps, data requirements, databases, data reliability and accuracy.

15:00 – 16:30 Technical Working Group 1B: Climate Change Networking
Facilitator: Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad, UNEP/ROWA
Resource Persons: Ms. Julie Abouarab, Coordinator, AWARENET Secretariat; Ms. Hanan Attalah, Coordinator, AWARENET Climate Change Working Group, ESCWA

⇒ The Technical Working Group would build upon the discussions initiated during the plenary session and review the work of climate change networks in the region, including the Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Climate Change, the UNEP/ROWA Climate Change Adaptation Network, and the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) Working Group on Climate Change as well as ways to generate increased benefits from these mechanisms in the Arab region.

16:30 End of Day 1
Day 2: Tuesday, 9 November 2010

9:00 – 10:30  Session 3: Linking Climate Change Projections to Hydrological Models

Moderator: Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Cairo, Egypt (tbc)

- Review of water resource management models and hydrological models applied in the Arab region – Mr. Abdullah Droubi, Director, Water Resources Section, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

- Criteria for identifying possible hydrological models for elaborating climate change impact analysis related to water resources in the Arab region – Mr. Phil Graham, SMHI

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation – Mr. Amjad Madani Abbashar, Head of Regional office for Arab States, UNISDR

- Discussion

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00  Technical Working Group 2A: Hydrological Modeling

Facilitator: Mr. Abdullah Droubi, ACSAD
Resource Person: Mr. Phil Graham, SMHI

⇒ The Technical Working Group would build upon the outcomes of the plenary discussions and formulate proposals for the preferred approaches for identifying and assessing the hydrological models and water resource management models that could be linked to the regional climate change projections in the Arab region, including scope, coverage, data needs, data sources, challenges and constraints.

11:00 – 12:00  Technical Working Group 2B: Devising a Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy

Facilitator: Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad, UNEP/ROWA
Resource Person: Ms. Sukaina Al-Nasraqi, Research Assistant, ICT Applications Section, Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD), ESCWA

⇒ The Technical Working Group would discuss what is needed to develop an effective climate change communication strategy and knowledge management system for the Arab region. Specific focus would be placed on what should be the purpose of a regional communication strategy and knowledge management system for the regional initiative. This will include the identification of needs and a discussion of available on-line tools for communicating information, consolidating information sources, and fostering collaboration between regional partners.
Tuesday, 9 November 2010 (continued)

12:00 – 13:30  
**Session 4: Forging linkages between Climate Change Impact Analysis and Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping**

Moderator: Ms. Samira Sellam, Office Director, Ministry of Water Resources, Algeria

- Vulnerability assessment methods, indicators and information tools for mapping hot spots based on impact analysis outcomes – **Mr. Hamed Assaf**, Chair, **AWARENET Climate Change Working Group; Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, American University of Beirut, Lebanon**

- Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping in Southeast Asia – **Mr. Marwan Oweygen**, Senior Program Officer, Agriculture and Environment, International Development Research Center (IDRC), Cairo Office, Egypt

- Discussion

13:30 – 14:30  
Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30  
**Session 4 (continued)**

- Assessment of freshwater resources vulnerability to climate change: Implications on Shared water resources in the Western Asia – **Mr. Waleed Zubari**, Professor, **Arabia Gulf University, Manama, Bahrain**

- Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment: Approaches and Regional Programme Initiatives – **Mr. Hamed Bakir**, Advisor, Rural Health and Environment, CEHA, World Health Organization, Amman, Jordan

- Discussion

15:30 – 16:00  
Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00  
**Roundtable Discussion: Options for integrated climate change assessment**

Moderator: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA  
Resource Persons:  
**Mr. Marwan Oweygen**, IDRC  
**Mr. Hamed Assaf**, AWARENET/AUB

⇒ The roundtable discussion will build upon the presentations delivered during the plenary session to identify key issues and formulate proposals regarding possible approaches for developing an integrated climate change assessment that draws upon climate change impact assessment methodologies and vulnerability assessment approaches. The discussion will also seek to identify the major socio-economic and environmental sectors and phenomena that would need to be examined at the Arab regional level to ensure that the regional specificities characteristic of the region are considered in the integrated assessment.

17:00  
End of Day 2
Day 3: Wednesday, 10 November 2010

9:00 – 10:30  
**Session 5: Reporting of the Technical Working Groups**  
Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section, SDPD, ESCWA  
- Reports of Technical Working Groups on Models and Methods  
  - Technical Working Group 1A: Regional Climate Modeling  
  - Technical Working Group 2A: Hydrological Modeling  
- Discussion of linkages between the recommendations of the Technical Working Groups  
- Reports of Technical Working Groups on Communication and Coordination  
  - Technical Working Group 1B: Climate Change Networking  
  - Technical Working Group 2B: Devising a Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy  
- Discussion of linkages between the recommendations of Technical Working Groups and the plenary discussions.

10:30 – 11:00  
**Coffee break**

11:00 – 11:45  
**Session 6: Consolidation of a Draft Implementation Plan**  
Moderator: Ms. Roula Majdalani, ESCWA  
Facilitator: Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA  
- Formulation of a draft implementation plan that incorporates issues related to:  
  - Data collection and knowledge management  
  - Models and methods  
  - Communication and coordination  
  - Monitoring and reporting

11:45 – 12:30  
**Session 7: Discussion of Next Steps**  
Moderator: Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad, UNEP/ROWA  
- Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Climate Change  
- LAS Ministerial Councils and Technical Committees  
- Inter-governmental processes  
- Coordinating with concurrent and complementary initiatives in the region  
- Supporting coordination mechanisms and working groups  
- Calendar of upcoming meetings and events

12:30 – 13:00  
**Close of meeting**

Closing statement by Ms. Inas Abdelazim Mostafa, LAS  
Closing statement by Ms. Roula Majdalani, ESCWA