



# **League of Arab States**

Center of Water Studies and  
Arab Water Security

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▶ The Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security which is working within the framework of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States , was established in 1996 .

▶ The Center has as objectives :

1.to achieve the targets of the Arab Water Security

2.to reinforce cooperation and coordination for the management of river basins and aquifers in the Arab region

3. To maintain the Arab Water rights in international shared water resources and in Arab occupied territories :

- ▶ due to the fact that the Arab region has the highest dependency on external water resources , more than 65% of the annually renewable resources originates outside the boundaries of the Arab region

this is a complicated hydro political problem facing many Arab countries

- ▶ and also due to the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine , Syria and Lebanon and the domination and control of the natural resources including water resources in violation of international laws and conventions .

The Arab League established the Arab Ministerial Council for Water in 2008

with the responsibility of :

- ▶ managing water issues in all Arab countries by the implementation of strategies and integrated water management plans

with an objective

- ▶ to coordinate and enforce collaboration and cooperation between the Arab Countries for facing the future water challenges in the Arab region especially transboundary waters .

## The Arab Ministerial Council for Water

in its first session

▶ agreed that water scarcity and sustainable development are the keen concerns of the Arab countries .

in its third session

▶ the council adopted **the Arab Water Security Strategy**,

▶ called for the preparation of defined action plans , and projects related to the main elements of the strategy .

▶ focused on a regional priority which is the management of shared water resources due to the fact most of the large surface water resources as well as ground water systems In the Arab region are of transboundary nature and considered shared systems ,

## in this concern the Council invited the Center of Arab Water Security

1. to establish a regional water database , focusing on shared water resources ,to promote the exchange of data and knowledge and encourage monitoring .
2. to develop capacity building and training of the Arab officials in water diplomacy and negotiation skills on shared water resources .
3. to prepare shared water resources agreements , and according to the Ministerial resolution , the Center was invited to put a draft of a legal framework for shared groundwater resources in the Arab region as a first step then to prepare a draft of a legal framework for shared surface water .

- ▶ The ultimate aim of the proposed legal framework , which will be a "Convention for Shared Groundwater in the Arab Region" 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 .
- ▶ The legal framework has taken into account :
  1. the international principles and rules of all different legal instruments at the global level such as the UN convention of International Watercourses , and the UN Resolution on the law of "Transboundary Aquifers" ,

2. successful regional agreements such as the European Water Framework Directive .
  3. Successful agreements that already exist between riparian Arab countries .
  4. The institutional , legal , cultural , ethical aspects of the Arab region
- ▶ The Center will present the final draft of "the Convention for Shared Groundwater in the Arab Region" to the next Arab Ministerial Council for Water for adoption in June 2012 .

The Center of Arab Water Security gives special attention to the cooperation with **the International Network of Basin Organization** and the concerned international organizations to the establishment of a collaboration relationship and partnership in shared water resources issues .

## conclusion

we look forward for more coordination for finding effective solutions to challenges related to shared international water resources , and water under occupation , preventing potential conflict by helping to establish agreements on cooperative management on a fair and equitable basis , based on the principles of International Law and rules , which will contribute to the peaceful environment , especially with non-Arab neighbouring countries .