



Theme 5:

Climate Water-Related Disasters Preparation and Management

Topic 5.4

Disaster Risk Management

THE ROLE OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Date: 18 October 2022



Time: 16:00 – 17:30

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Conveners

Lead convener: FAO Inter-Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity (iRTP-WS)

Co-Convener: Australian Water Partnership (AWP) - Cairo University

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Wadid Erian, Prof. of Soil Science at Cairo University and Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development, LAS.

Moderator: Heba Al-Hariry, Technical Advisor, FAO-RNE

Duration	Presentation/Topic	Speaker/Moderator
5 min	Session objectives and Introduction to Chair and speakers	Heba Al-Hariry , Technical Advisor (Water Scarcity), FAO-RNE
10 min	Keynote Speech: Living with a new Risk Landscape!	Dr. Wadid Erian , Prof. of Soil Science at Cairo University and Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development, League of Arab States (LAS)
10 min	Perspective from the Water Community: The Role of WRM in Disaster Risk Management	Caroline Turner , Program Manager, FAO-Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific
10 min	Perspective from the DRM Community: How Anticipatory Action is Utilizing Water Resources Information to Predict Climate Shocks and Mitigate/Prevent Shocks Impacts on Lives and Livelihoods	Catherine Jones , Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, FAO-Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific
10 min	Joint Action to Enhance Flash Flood Early Warning Systems in the Pacific	Lucía Gamarra , Senior Partnerships and Impact Officer, Australia Water Partnership
10 min	The Role of WuA and Civil Society in DRM: Gender Empowerment and Water-related Conflict Resolutions in Yemen	Jacquelyn Piant , Programme Officer, FAO-RNE Walid Saleh , Chief Technical Advisor, FAO Yemen
10 min	Moving Towards Robust Institutions: The Maghreb Vision and Strategic Directions for Strengthening Drought Resilience in the Sub-Region	Abdourahman Maki , Land and Water officer, FAO-SNE
15 min	Q/A with the Audience	Heba Al-Hariry , Moderator
10 min	Commitments and follow-up	Heba Al-Hariry , Moderator

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Globally, the risks associated with climate change and water are increasing. Water scarcity, combined with the three 'C's: climate crisis, COVID-19, and conflict, point to a new reality that necessitates water resource management as a foundation for disaster risk management. Floods and droughts are the most common natural disasters worldwide, and they are becoming more intense and damaging. Innovative approaches to water hazard preparedness and management are critical for ensuring resilience and transforming negative outcomes such as flooding into positive outcomes such as available water resources. In an uncertain world, the best way to boost resilience against future shocks is to build strong transformative systems that can anticipate and deal with cascading risks.

Water resource management is critical to maintaining food and climate security and mitigating the effects of climatic events and socioeconomic shocks. To improve the ability of traditional water management systems to manage wider parameters in a more responsive manner, advanced planning systems and non-traditional institutional cultures must be developed in order to work toward dynamic frameworks that can cope with the complexity of today's world. It also necessitates the use of advanced technologies and anticipatory systems to accelerate risk-informed sustainable development action.

Given the foregoing, this proposed session is being organized as part of the interregional activities conducted by FAO's newly established inter-regional technical Platform for Water Sacristy (IRTP-WS), with the goal of discussing the critical role that water resource management plays in reducing disaster risks. It will examine three key topics while drawing key examples from the MENA and Asia Pacific regions:

1. Current barriers to more effective integration of the water resource management and climate communities (bureaucratic silos, use of different languages, entrenched data capture mechanisms preventing data sharing or combined analysis, disparate sectoral goals/vision and stakeholders, and so on).
2. Highlight interregional examples of best practices in which the water and climate communities have collaborated to increase impact and effectiveness, as well as to initiate commitments for scaling-up collaborative efforts and promoting new synergies and partnerships.
3. How hydrometeorological data and analytics are shaping the future of disaster risk management, particularly in the area of anticipatory action. Early warning systems, which predict whether there will be too little (drought) or too much (flood) water, are a key component of the approach. The session will examine lessons learned from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Yemen, and the Maghreb Region, as well as future connections between anticipatory action and water resource management.

