



Pursuing Water Security within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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The Arab States are among the most water scarce in the world with nearly 362 million people in the Arab region under water scarcity to absolute scarcity conditions. The freshwater scarcity situation in the Arab region is aggravated by several factors such as dependency on shared water resources, occupation and conflict, climate change, water pollution, aging water systems, inefficient use of water and high population growth rates. Constructing a conceptual framework for moving towards achieving water security in the Arab region requires first putting people at the center of water issues and second a solid understanding of the main systemic conditions that hamper its achievement.

A conceptual framework for moving towards achieving water security in the Arab region is presented by ESCWA.

It considers the regional systemic conditions of water stress and scarcity, shared water and climate change that hinder the achievement of water security. This is done through a sustainable development lens where water is critical and central to the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental dimensions. This is combined with a human rights-based approach to examine water security implications at all scales including at the community and household level in order to ensure that water security in the Arab region is fully grounded in efforts to ensure that no one is left behind. It does so in view of an enabling environment based on a set of means of implementation addressing systemic conditions at various scales.