



Background and objectives:

Cities in the water-scarce Arab region, are facing increasing pressure from rapid urbanization, climate change, and declining water availability. Ensuring access to clean water and building resilient urban systems has become essential for sustainable development. In this context, localizing global commitments such as SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) require integrated climate-responsive approaches.

Non-conventional water solutions, including rainwater harvesting, greywater treatment, and the reuse of treated wastewater, are emerging as feasible options to address growing water deficits in urban settings. When aligned with climate-mainstreamed urban planning, these solutions can significantly enhance cities' resilience, reduce pressure on conventional water networks, and support sustainable community development.

The Session aims to:

- To demonstrate how SDG6 and SDG11 can be advanced in parallel through integrated water–urban planning approaches.
- Share Arab region experiences with implementation of non-conventional water systems in urban contexts.
- Create space for municipal leaders to share their ideas and plans for future climate adapted water solutions for their cities.

Questions to be addressed:

- What are the major challenges Arab cities face with respect to water resources currently and how will these challenges evolve over the next decade?
- How can climate mainstreamed urban planning practices help to address the urban water challenge?
- What are good examples of non-conventional water supply solutions for cities?

Moderator:

- **Sara Hess**
Associate Economic Affairs Officer,
ESCWA, Lebanon

Panelists:

- **Ghada Alsaïd**
Regional Project Coordinator, UN-Habitat, Jordan
- **Mahmoud Fathallah**
Director of the Department of Environmental and Meteorological Affairs, and Department of Housing, Water Resources, and Disaster Risk Reduction, League of Arab States, Egypt
- **Lina Attyait**
Head of Urban Environment, Ministry of Local Administration, Jordan
- **Ali Ramadan**
Director General, Directorate General of Urban Planning, Lebanon
- **Municipality of Damascus**, Syria (TBC)
- **Rabab Ali**
Head of national and international projects department, Greater Irbid Municipality, Jordan
- **Thaer Qashou**
Engineer, Illar & Attil "Masin Valley" Municipality, Palestine
- **Amer Samara**
Engineer, Illar & Attil "Masin Valley" Municipality, Palestine

This special session is organized as an online event. To participate, please register [here](#).

