

## **Session 8: Mainstreaming no-regret strategies into IWRM frameworks**

### **1. Goal**

Consider how adaptation to climate change can be incorporated in water resources management at all levels

### **2. Learning objectives**

- To understand:
  - how can IWRM help to adapt to climate change
  - how integrate climate change in IWRM planning
  - how to prioritise no/low regret options/investments and how to integrate them into existing planning systems
  
- To have an outline on:
  - adaptation tools for different steps in the adaptation cycle
  - status of IWRM in the Arab region
  
- To discuss country examples and experiences

### **3. Key Messages**

- Most Arab countries already have developed policies, plans or strategies towards IWRM. Level of preparation of specific national IWRM plans varies from one country to the other.
- All Arab countries have national water policies, laws, and legislations that support public participation, recognize water as a public property and do not differentiate based on gender
- Despite the incorporation of IWRM in water legislation, there are less faith in the effectiveness of water regulations. This was attributed mainly to the lack of awareness among users and officials as well as to weak institutional capacity, and to a lesser extent, to the complexity of regulations and weak enforcement of sanctions
- Several factors were identified that constrain the development of healthy water resources management institutions: Inadequate equipment, overlapping in the roles and responsibilities among different institutes, ambiguous mandates, poor governance, underfunding and deficiencies in the levels and relevance of staff training

- Many SWIM countries implement five or ten-year plans and these medium and longer-term national development plans could be key strategy documents in which to incorporate no-regrets climate change adaptation actions
- Screening is used to classify projects and programmes according to their climate risks. No/low regret projects and programmes, and risk reduction measures are then prioritized.
- To prioritise no/low regret options and to make a clear economic case for investment, this can be achieved through: screening current and planned water-related government programmes and investments, and identifying options for improving resilience; strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms to identify innovative no/low regrets investment options through dialogue across sectors, levels of governance and actors involved with planning in climate sensitive activities; Appraising long lists of options for climate resilience using Robust Decision Making (RDM) to identify no/low regrets for investment; Making the economic case for no/low regrets using economic analysis including the valuation of ecosystems services where possible, using multi-criteria analysis where necessary and prioritisation of a balanced portfolio of investments, for subsequent integration into existing development planning processes
- Implementation of no-regret CC adaptation strategies within national water resources strategic plans in the Arab region require: interaction and horizontal coordination between multiple levels of government institutions; the involvement of stakeholders, civil societies, business sectors and the public
- Countries in the region should tap international funds available now to promote strategies and implement actions for adaptation to variability and climate change

#### **4. Resources**

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