



## 70<sup>th</sup> GA Second Committee Meetings

### Side Event:

### ***Challenges and Initiatives for the Implementation of the Water-related SDGs in Water-scarce Countries: Learning from Mediterranean and Latin American Countries***

Organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA: Division for Sustainable Development and the United National Office to Support the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015) in close coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

**Date/Time:** Friday, November 6 / 10:00am-1:00pm

**Place:** United Nations Headquarters, New York (Conference Room #2)

### Program Agenda

#### **10:00 am** – *Opening Remarks*

*Chairperson:* **Ms. Chantal Uwizera** (Rwanda)

**Mr. Thomas Gass** – UN-DESA ASG for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs

#### **10:20** – *Keynote Presentations*

**H.E. Mr. Sherif Eissa** – Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt for Nile Basin Affairs

**Prof. Luis Garrote** – Polytechnic University of Madrid: Challenges and Priorities for the implementation of water related SDGs in water scarce countries.

**Ms. Carla Mucavi** – Director, FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations: Managing water scarcity and droughts: lessons learned from FAO’s experience and initiatives

#### **11:10** – *Panel Discussion:*

*Moderator:* **Ms. Josefina Maestu** – Director, United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015

**Dr Wael Khairy** – Deputy President of Nile Water Sector, Egyptian Ministry of Water and Irrigation

**Mr. Ney Maranhão** – Director, National Water Agency of Brazil

**Dr. Dunixi Gabiña** – Deputy Director, IAMZ-CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza

#### **11:25** – *Q&A / Member State Interventions*

#### **12:00 pm** – *Panel Discussion continued*

**Dr. John J. Qu** – Director, Global Environment and Natural Resources Institute (GENRI), George Mason University

**Mr. Melchiade Bukuru** – Chief, UNCCD Liaison Office to the United Nations

**Mr. Jamal Shah** – WASH Specialist on Emergencies, UNICEF

#### **12:15 p.m.** *Q&A / Member State Interventions*

#### **12:50 pm** – *Wrap Up and Closing Remarks*

**Mr. Glenn Dolcemasclo**, Climate Change Coordinator, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction- UNISDR

*Chairperson:* **Ms. Chantal Uwizera** (Rwanda)

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**Questions to be addressed:**

***Country Representatives***

1. What challenges and priorities exist for the implementation of the water-related SDGs in water-scarce countries? Please consider the interrelation with food and energy goals.
2. How do you see the targets (and system of indicators) for water scarcity and water-related disasters, from the perspective of water-scarce countries?
3. What are the capacity development needs for monitoring, developing and implementing national drought management policies and water scarcity solutions in the implementation of the water-related SDGs, considering interrelations with other goals?

***International Organizations***

4. What is the relevance of the experience of your organizations for strengthening national capacities for monitoring and implementing the water-related SDGs in water-scarce countries? What works best?
5. Make recommendations on how to move forward, including the support needed from the UN and international cooperation.

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