



SIDE EVENT DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description 2 is for the specified program of the side event. Please complete this form no later than 22nd of April 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

SE39: Groundwater Hydro-diplomacy in Africa: Sharing experiences

Side Event Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

Session coordinator and moderator:

Coordinator:

Name: M. Abdel Kader Dodo Ph. D
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Moderator:

Name: M. Nabil BEN KHATRA
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Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Session Background

468 transboundary aquifer systems have been identified in the world, including 106 in Africa. Unfortunately, 9 aquifer systems in the world, including 6 in Africa, have a governance framework and signed and/or ongoing Agreements.

Due to their invisible nature, groundwater, especially transboundary, is little bit studied. However, it is recognized that groundwater represents almost 99% of all liquid fresh water reserves on Earth. And around 90% of the world's readily available freshwater resources are stored in aquifers. Groundwater provide drinking water for half the world's population. Shared groundwaters represent a strategic resource in Africa playing a crucial role for water and food security, a factor for peace, to combat the negative effects of climate change and to strengthen cooperation between the riparian countries.

Through concrete examples, this event will present a methodological approach applied to transboundary aquifer systems, some closely linked to surface flows, contributing to promoting Hydro-diplomacy. The actions carried out by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) in this domain enabled it to obtain the Hassan II World Water Prize in 2012 awarded during the 6th Edition of the World Water Forum.

Session Objectives

The main objective is to promote hydro-diplomacy in Africa through concrete examples of management of transboundary groundwater resources sometimes interconnected with surface waters. It is also to encourage the establishment of a cooperation framework between riparian countries sharing these water resources for their inclusive and peaceful management.

Expected outcomes

- The hydro-diplomacy is well understood by the participants;
- Relevant reliable and realist recommendations are suggested for the establishment of management frameworks for Africa's aquifer systems

- Cooperation and networking among participants, including policy makers, researchers, and other stakeholders, are encouraged to promote hydro-diplomacy and the peaceful management of shared water resources;
- Awareness about the strategic role of shared groundwaters in Africa for water and food security, peace, and climate change adaptation is increased.

Detailed Session plan: *F/M indicates Female or Male

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
05 mins	Introduction of the Session	Mrs. Alice Aureli (F), UNESCO	OK
05 mins	Moderation	M. Nabil BEN KHATRA (M), Executive Secretary, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)	OK
10mins	Groundwater management as solution of water stress in arid area	M. Alain Meyssonier (M), President, Mediterranean Institute for Water	OK
09 mins	The need of encouraging the establishment of Basin organization framework in Africa continent	Pape N'Diaye (M), Communication and Knowledge Management Expert, ANBO- UNDP/GEF	TBC
09 mins	Sharing experiences on Water governance in transboundary Niger Basin Authority	Didier ZINSOU (M), Acting as Executive Secretary, Niger Basin Authority (NBA)	TBC
09 mins	Sharing experiences on Water governance in transboundary Senegal River Basin	M. Mohamed ABDEL VETAH (M), High Commissioner, Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)	TBC
09 mins	Making the conjunctive Management as sustainable solution for transboundary aquifer systems governance	Dr Abdel Kader DODO (M), Advisor on Water, OSS	OK
09 mins	Advocating the groundwater finance	Mrs. Khaoula JAQUI (F), Director of Climate Department, OSS	OK
20 mins	Moderator Question & Answer	M. Nabil BEN KHATRA	OK
05 mins	Conclusion	Dr Mohamedou SY, Director of Water Department, OSS	OK

Additional information:

The session will be conducted in both French and English, with translation services available to ensure effective communication between participants.