

# World Water Day

## Nexus : Water-Energy-Food

"The Nexus against the global changes  
survival or extinction of future generations? "

*22 March 2018*  
*Lebanon*

Under the auspices and in the presence of  
H.E.Mr. César Abi Khalil  
Minister of Energy and Water in Lebanon

*Hotel : Hilton Habtour*

In collaboration with :  
The General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources  
SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM  
MENBO  
ESCWA  
FAO  
MEDURABLE  
International Office for Water

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## Nexus : Water-Energy-Food

**"The Nexus against the global changes survival or extinction of future generations? "**

### Concept note

On the occasion of the World Water Day, which is celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March every year, Lebanon organizes a conference entitled "The Nexus against the global changes: survival or extinction of future generations?"

The conference will address the following issues:

- 1-The Nexus: a Mediterranean look**
- 2- Nexus and climate change: RICCAR<sup>1</sup> project and SDGs 2, 6 and 7**
- 3-PPPs: an innovative tool in the financing of water infrastructures**
- 4-The link between water and food in Lebanon: FAO's strategic vision for the Middle East region**
- 5-Renewable energy in the Nexus: Application in Lebanon**
- 6- How to ensure a constant water supply to Lebanese citizens in the framework of the nexus?**

This high-level meeting, organized under the auspices and in the presence of H.E. Mr. César Abi Khalil, Minister of Energy and Water, and in collaboration with the Directorate General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources, SWIM Horizon 2020 SM, REMOB, ESCWA, FAO, MEDURABLE and the International Office for Water, aims to promote the development of synergies between water, energy and food sectors in order to meet the regional needs and to promote a comprehensive understanding of the interconnections of food security, energy and water within the Water- Energy-Food Nexus approach.

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Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region <sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this conference is to highlight the importance of the Nexus in today's world and the need to exchange ideas and experiences on all water related issues.

The "Water-Energy-Food Nexus" is a global approach to a global problem. It enables to deal with the challenges related to each of the three Nexus domains by integrating its corollaries into the other two domains, which makes it possible to overcome the limitations from focusing on a single approach at various scales.

This approach is based on a simple observation: the water resource is becoming scarce while the intensification of hydrocarbon exploitation, the increase in population and the needs of agriculture are imposing an increasing pressure on water resources.

Therefore, we call "Nexus" the intertwined sum, the skein of water, energy and food issues as well as their effects on each other and on the climate, the global economic growth and the challenges to human security posed by these issues.

This Nexus logic implies a double possibility concerning the triptych; a vicious circle called "water-energy-food scarcity", where the Nexus components are running out the one after the other, and a virtuous circle called "water-energy-food abundance", where each component supports the other through its progress.

The enhancement of current knowledge on the interconnection of these issues should be in line with the political, economic and technical agendas of the coming years, at all levels of power.



This reflection is applicable at the scale of our entire planet, but even more in regions where the climate or the geopolitical situation have created particularities which, attached to the Nexus, increase its value as a concept, a principle and a goal.

The Nexus is not just a way of thinking about a problem as a whole. But it also brings forward a number of values, primarily collaboration and sharing; information sharing, resources sharing ... and proposes solutions, such as the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and in particular, the applicability of the Nexus and the IWRM on the case of Lebanon.

In conclusion, the success of efforts related to the Nexus requires the relevance of policy choices, values, norms, attitudes and behaviors related to water.

In the future, it will be necessary to take into account the technical, economic, cultural and social aspects of water management while knowing that the best way to secure access to resources is to establish an institutional framework for regional cooperation. This would facilitate the circulation of production, capital and direct investments factors in order to achieve a sustainable development. This type of cooperation is indispensable today more than ever for the achievement of peace and common goals of development and prosperity.

**Happy World Water Day to all!**



## Program

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**9:30 am: Welcome reception**  
**Opening of the conference**

**10:00 am: Session 1**

**The Nexus: a Mediterranean look**

Mr. Pierre Roussel, President of the International Office for Water

**10:20 am: Session 2**

**Nexus and climate change: RICCAR project and SDGs 2, 6 and 7**

Ms. Rola Majdalani, Director of the Sustainable Development Division at ESCWA.

**10:40 am: Session 3**

**PPPs: an innovative tool in the financing of hydraulic infrastructures**

Prof. Michael Scoullou, Team Leader - SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM

**11:00 am: Session 4**

**The Nexus between water and food: FAO's strategic vision for the Middle East region**

Dr. Maurice Saade, FAO Representative in Lebanon

**11:20 am: Session 5**

**Renewable energy in the Nexus: Lebanon's case**

Miss Sorina Mortada, expert at the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC).

**11:40 am: Session 6**

**How to ensure constant water supply to the Lebanese citizens within the Nexus approach?**

Mr. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources



**12h00: Session 7**

**Closing Speech**

**H.E.Mr. César Abi Khalil, Minister of Energy and Water**

**12h20: a cocktail will be offered at the end of the conference by the Ministry of Energy and Water**

