



Hydrodiplomacy and Climate Change for Peace in the Middle East: Case of Jordan River Basin

Conference at the Senate, Paris, 13 December 2016
Salles Monnerville & Vaugirard

Concept Note

The Mediterranean is considered to be an "Eco region" whose development is already heavily penalized by the degradation of the environment coupled with a high population growth, and an urban concentration in sensitive coastal areas; a region whose water and energy resources are vulnerable and unevenly distributed, not to mention food security which generates important migration movements and displacement of populations. Moreover this region is subject to uncontrolled natural hazards. The Mediterranean basin is one of the main areas of contact, fracture and North / South interdependence and, finally, an area where political vulnerabilities and lack of democracy generate a socioeconomic decline in the Southeast countries.

On the 1 December 2015 in the framework of the activities related to adaptation to climate change challenges, a seminar on "Hydrodiplomacy for peace in the Middle East" was organized in the Senate, by the initiative of Minister, Mr. Arthur Nazarian and Senator Olivier Cadic, Senator representing the French established outside France, as well as Mr. Fadi Comair, Honorary President of MENBO, during which several topics have been presented and, in particular, the book by UNESCO entitled "**Science diplomacy and trans boundary water management: the Orontes River case**".

During Senator's Olivier Cadic visit to Lebanon and Jordan in August 2016 within the framework of his visit to make contact with the French established outside France, it was agreed that the 2nd Edition of the symposium on "Hydrodiplomacy and climate change for peace in the Middle East" would be held on 13 December 2016 and would cover the following topics:

- **Hydrodiplomacy of Jordan for Security of Future Generations**
- **Hydrodiplomacy for Equitable Water sharing of Jordan River Basin :Integrated Management within UN Legal Framework**
- **Hydrodiplomacy and Innovative Approaches : Which Technological and Financial Tools?**

The objective of this 2nd edition of the symposium, which is part of the policy framework for adaptation following COP 21-22 for the Mediterranean region in general and more specifically for the countries of the Middle East as a result of their accessions to the "Paris Declaration" and the "pact of Paris" for transboundary basins, is to reflect on these challenges we face and on the work that we should carry out for the countries of the Middle East - in order to reduce the effects of climate and environmental changes, which require to put in place a "road map" with adaptation policies for the southeast Mediterranean.

These topics, that seem quite complex because of their multiple scientific, economic, and security dimensions, are part of an environment marked by a multitude of interdependence, and will launch the dialog on the applicability of the "Paris Declaration" to the specificities of the countries of



the south-east Mediterranean; the purpose of doing it is that the experts from the IPCC still believe they can limit the increase of the Earth's temperature to 2°C. These are the same experts who are warning us that “if global warming continues at the current pace, it will become a source of instability and conflicts!”

To do this, we need the expertise of scientists, civil society, the private sector, of all the active forces in the Middle East, young people and women and especially the politically willing, so that through concerted action, such as the one that we all pledge today, the countries of the Middle East will move towards sustainable development, a guarantee of peace, security and well-being for future generations.

As a result of the work and debates of this symposium, the recommendations, which will be transmitted to the policy makers of the countries of the Middle East, to non-governmental organisations as well as to the secretariats of COP 21 and 22, must reflect all the priority actions necessary to be applied within the framework of this new order of solidarity grouped by the « **Paris, Beirut and Marrakech Declaration** ».

A quote of our great French-Lebanese writer Amin Maalouf that applies to this 2nd edition is: « To new challenges, new solutions! »

Fadi Comair

Honorary President of MENBO



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Agenda

14:00–14:30 Opening speech

- Mr. Olivier Cadic, French Senator representing the French citizens abroad
- Mr. Loïc Fauchon, Honorary president of World Water Council and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Marseille Water Supply Group (SEM)
- Mrs. Sophie Auconie, Governor of the Water World Council
- Mr. Arthur Nazarian, Minister of Energy and Water – Lebanon, represented by M. Fadi Comair, Director General of Hydraulic and Electric Resources

14 :30-15 :00

**Roundtable of opening : The active forces of the Mediterranean Dialogue:
Joint action for Peace (30min)**

Chairman

Ms. Marie-France CHATIN

- Mr. Jean-Louis Guigou, President of IPEMED
- Mr. Miguel Garcia-herraiz, Deputy Secretary General responsible for Water and Environment, Union for Mediterranean
- Prof. Michael Scoullou, President of GWP Med



15:00–16:00 Session 1 - Hydro-diplomacy in the Jordan River for the Security of Future Generations

Taking into consideration that climate change has led to the social and environmental instability of South-Eastern Mediterranean countries characterized, on the one hand by water and energy stress and food problems, and on the other hand by a very strong displacement of population and a migration from south-east to the north resulting in an increasing number of conflicts between the prompt, it is therefore necessary to launch a dialog on the applicability of the "Pact of Paris" in relation to the specificities of the countries concerned by the transboundary basins.

Despite the fact that COP 21 primarily focused on energy related issues, the commitments of non-governmental organisations have dealt with the more general framework of the "**Water-Energy-Food Nexus**". It is in this spirit that the next conference of the parties conducted their work at COP 22 in Marrakech. It is to be noted that in a world where the population is growing quickly, issues related to food and the evolution of food consumption will inevitably have a significant impact on the management of natural resources and climate change.

In addition, and in light of the complex challenges of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and the major challenges facing the Middle East region, it is important to launch the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Observatory (OMDD) in order to anticipate and assess the implementation of national plans and regional programs proposing solutions related to water, to the development and diffusion of renewable energy and to food security.

This essential and beneficial initiative for securing the well-being of future generations should gather a group of experts and a Strategic Council to guide the OMDD towards implementing the recommendations of COP 21 and 22.

Chairmans: **Mr. Brice Lalonde, President of the Water Academy**
(10 min) **Mr. Henri Tandonnet, Senator**

Discussed subjects

- Hydrodiplomacy Challenges: Impact of conflict and climate change: (Mr. Fadi Comair, Honorary President of MENBO) 7min
- **Dialogue for equitable sharing and reasonable use: win-win process** (Mr. Franck Galland, Mr. Pierre Berthelot) 12 min
- **Water Management in the Jordan Basin: Inherent Conflicts Between Sovereignty and International Law.**(Prof. David Eaton, UT Austin) 7min
- **Committee on Water and Human Settlements, UNESCO-IHP: Experience for Management of Water Security(W-Smart),** (Mr. Bruno Nguyen, UNESCO IHP, W-Smart) 7min
- **East-Mediterranean Observatory on Sustainable Development: Shared Eco-Risk Assessment Platform** (Mr. Ilan Juran,, NYU, UNESCO-IHP) 7min



16:00–16:40 Session 2 –Hydrodiplomacy for Equitable Water sharing of Jordan River Basin :Integrated Management within a UN Legal Framework

Formulating negotiation strategies on international watercourses based on IWRM is an opportunity for the development of a transboundary basin to handle multiple uses of water, avoiding potential conflicts between riparian countries. The countries bordering the Jordan River Basin should therefore rely on regional cooperation (bilateral or multilateral treaties) to ensure their food security needs and promote the development of an economic policy while preserving the international basin's ecosystems. This management approach, which proposes to link water to the economic policy of the international basin aims to find solutions to achieve an agreement based on a fair and reasonable sharing of the resource.

International bodies such as the UN, the European Union and the UfM have already undertaken in the Middle East several attempts to guide nations towards the concept of cooperation to deal with the lack of water in their country and this is based on the principles of the UNECE or the United Nations 1997 Convention on International watercourses and the Water Framework Directive of the EU. Technical and economic parameters related to resource management are planned as follows: the volume of water used relatively to the quantity available, the quality of water resources, financial income, preservation of the river's ecosystems, treatment and reuse of wastewater.

As part of the negotiation process on the Jordan Basin, it is important to motivate the most disadvantaged countries to work to benefit from regional cooperation and take advantage of the socio-economic plans that are conducted at the regional level by the United Nations and the European Union to safeguard their food security. Jordan is trying to develop with Palestine the project "Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal (RSDSC)" which foresees the mobilization of more than one billion cubic meters of non-conventional water to meet the needs. This project has been estimated at 10 billion US dollars by the World Bank and brings together all the riparian countries except Syria and Lebanon that expressed its intention to join the dialogue on this project.

Chairmans: **Mr. Jean-Francois Donzier, Secretary General of INBO, Director General of OIEau**
(10min)

Mr. Jean-Marie Bockel , Senator, Former Minister

**Discussed
Subjects**

- **UN Legislative Instruments (UN 1997 Convention, UNECE Convention 1992) for the equitable sharing and reasonable use of Jordan river Basin** (*Mr. Jean-Louis Oliver, S.G Academy of Water and Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Secretariat of UNECE Convention*) 12 min
- **Guidelines for transboundary basins Management:**
 - **Lessons learned and good practices for Integrated Management** (UNECE, INBO), (*Mr. Pierre Roussel, OIEau*)7min
- **Ethics within the Context of Transboundary Water Sharing** (*Mr. Herve Lainé, President of Academy of Ethics*) 7min

16:40–17:00 Coffee Break

17:00–18:00 Session 3 – Hydrodiplomacy and Innovative Approaches : Which Technological and Financial Tools?

The equitable sharing of water resources in the Middle East must become a global objective to meet current needs of the society and prepare to satisfy the needs of future generations. Hydro-diplomacy is a purely technical (first priority) and policy-related (second priority) approach that could facilitate the implementation of integrated water resources management at the hydro-geographic basin, called "new water mass", which includes both conventional and non-conventional waters.

Middle East countries should use Hydrodiplomacy in order to manage their conflicts on a permanent basis. For all these countries, the challenge is to use the strategy of dialogue and regional cooperation as an opportunity to achieve together coordinated progress in the areas of human and economic development, water resource protection and cultural advancement. The consolidation of a water culture for peace is essential for the countries bordering the Jordan Basin.

Financing and consideration of ethical values at the country level, as well as at the population level, is an essential and transverse component of sustainable development, especially in fighting against climate change and adapting to its consequences. Public policies will not take full effect if they are defined and conducted with complacency, but with transparency and sincerity, especially as regards coherence between the resources actually implemented by the Parties and targets set in the Paris Declaration.

It is also essential that a civic ethic is promoted to face climate change: it is a profound reform of individual and collective behavior leading everyone to be aware of their responsibilities and to adopt responsible behavior in their lifestyles.

17:00–17:30

1st Roundtable: Technological Tools Developed for Jordan River Basin

**Chairmans: Prof. Michael Scoullos, President of GWP Med
(10min) Ms. Elisabeth Lamure, Senator**

Discussed subjects

- **Application of ICT for the management of the Jordan Basin** (*Prof. Daene McKinney, University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Georges Comair, World Bank*) 12 min
- **Water accounting for Jordan River Basin Management** (*Mr. Gonzalo Espinoza, UNESCO IHE*) 7min



2nd Roundtable

17:30-18:00

Chairmans:
(10min)

Launch of Regional Cooperation (30min)

M. Shaddad Attili, Palestinian Minister, Responsible for Negotiation
Ms. Elisabeth Lamure, Senator, President of the State Aviation Authority

Discussed subjects

- **Initiative for Peace for the Jordan River: A Regional Master Plan for the Sustainable Development within the Jordan River Basin** (*Mr. Munqeth Mehyar, Director of EcoPeace in Jordan*) 12min
- **Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Climate Change Adaptation** (*Ms. Kelly ROBIN, IPEMED*) 10min
- **The Pact of Paris, applicability on Jordan River Basin** (*Mr. Eric Tardieu, OIEau*) 7min

18:00-18:15

Answers to written questions compiled by the secretariat (15 mn)

18:15–

Closing Statement and Recommendation :

- *M. Jean Launay, President of the French Partnership for Water*
- *H.E Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain*

Thanking by Mr. Olivier Cadic, Senator representing the French citizens abroad and Mr. Fadi Comair, Honorary President of MENBO.