

## Seminar

# Adapting to climate change: assessment, vulnerability and action



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**Date and time:** Wednesday, 30 August 2017; 9:00 – 10:30 am

**Venue:** FH Little Theatre, World Water Week – Stockholm, Sweden

## Agenda

### 09:00-09:35 Session I: Climate Change Impact Assessment, Vulnerability and Adaptation in the Arab Region

09:00-09:05 Opening Remarks on Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation in the Arab Region  
**Representative from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden (tbd)**

09:05-09:15 Impact of Climate Change on the Arab Region: Moving from Assessment to Adaptation in Key Sectors  
**Mr. Tarek Sadek, First Economic Affairs Officer for Water and Climate Change, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), Lebanon**

09:15-09:25 Managing climate extremes in MENA: monitoring and mitigating drought impacts today and tomorrow  
**Ms. Rachael McDonnell, Head, Climate Change Modeling and Adaptation Section, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), United Arab Emirates**

09:25-09:35 Socio-economic Vulnerability of Climate Change in the Arab Region  
**Mr. Ihab Jnad, Director, Water Resource Department, Arab Centre for the Studies and Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Syrian Arab Republic**

09:35-09:45 Discussion

### 09:45-10:30 Session II: Panel Discussion on Regional Cooperation for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation

09:45-09:55 Mainstreaming Climate Change in the Arab Water Security Strategy for Sustainable Development  
**Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Integrated Advisory, Environment, Housing and Water Department, Economic Sector, League of Arab States, Egypt**

09:55-10:05 Lessons Learned from Climate Change Adaptation Pilot Projects in the Arab Region  
**Mr. Gerhard Lichtenthaeler, Programme Advisor, Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region (ACCWaM), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany**

10:05-10:10 Regional Cooperation on Climate Change Impact Assessment  
**Ms. Rachael McDonnell, ICBA**

10:10-10:15 Informing Climate Change Negotiations for Implementing Paris Agreement  
**Mr. Tarek Sadek, UN-ESCWA**

10:15-10:30 Discussion

10:30 Closing Remarks

Water managers, farmers and those living in rural areas will relate how they are experiencing today the impacts of a drier, hotter and more extreme climate in the MENA region. Yet there is little published research and analysis of these changes and their impacts. In two recently completed projects, climate change modeling research has been undertaken for the region and with the accompanying vulnerability assessment, has highlighted those people/sectors most vulnerable. Many water and farming systems have been identified as being at risk to drought and recent events in the Levant and Maghreb have highlighted this all too painfully.

This side event will present the results from these ongoing studies and use these as the starting point for discussions on the possibilities and challenges of implementing practical and institutional measures for climate change adaptation to manage water and food security in this most complex of regions. The discussions will also examine how policy messages and country positions on climate change negotiation can be formulated and informed by scientific regional climate modeling outputs and vulnerability assessments.