



# ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FACE WATER SECTOR CHALLENGES IN THE ARAB REGION

**Mahmoud Abu-Zeid**  
President (AWC)

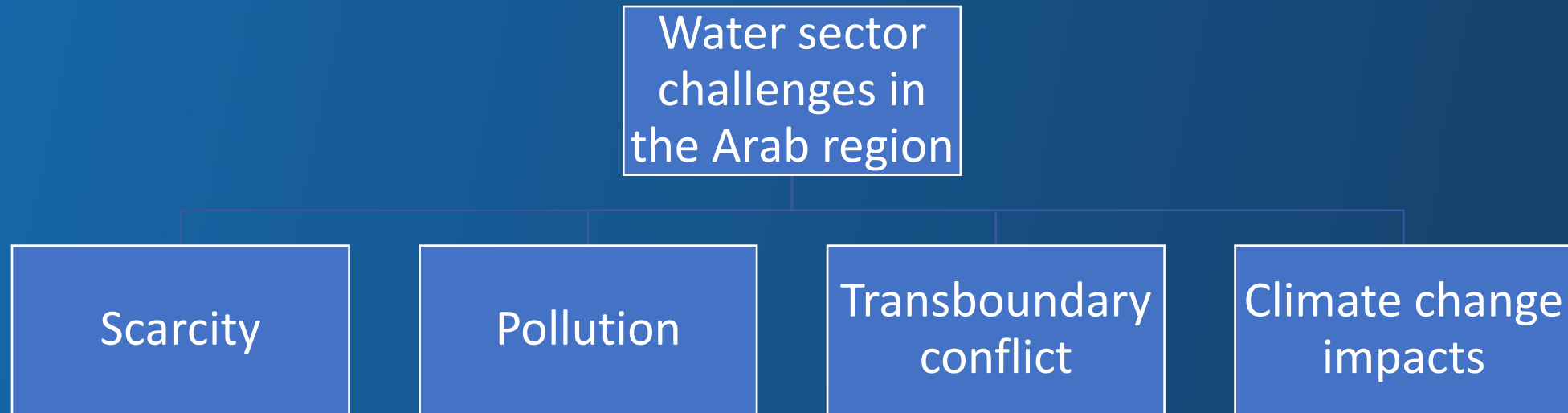
**Hussein El-Atfy**  
Secretary-General (AWC)

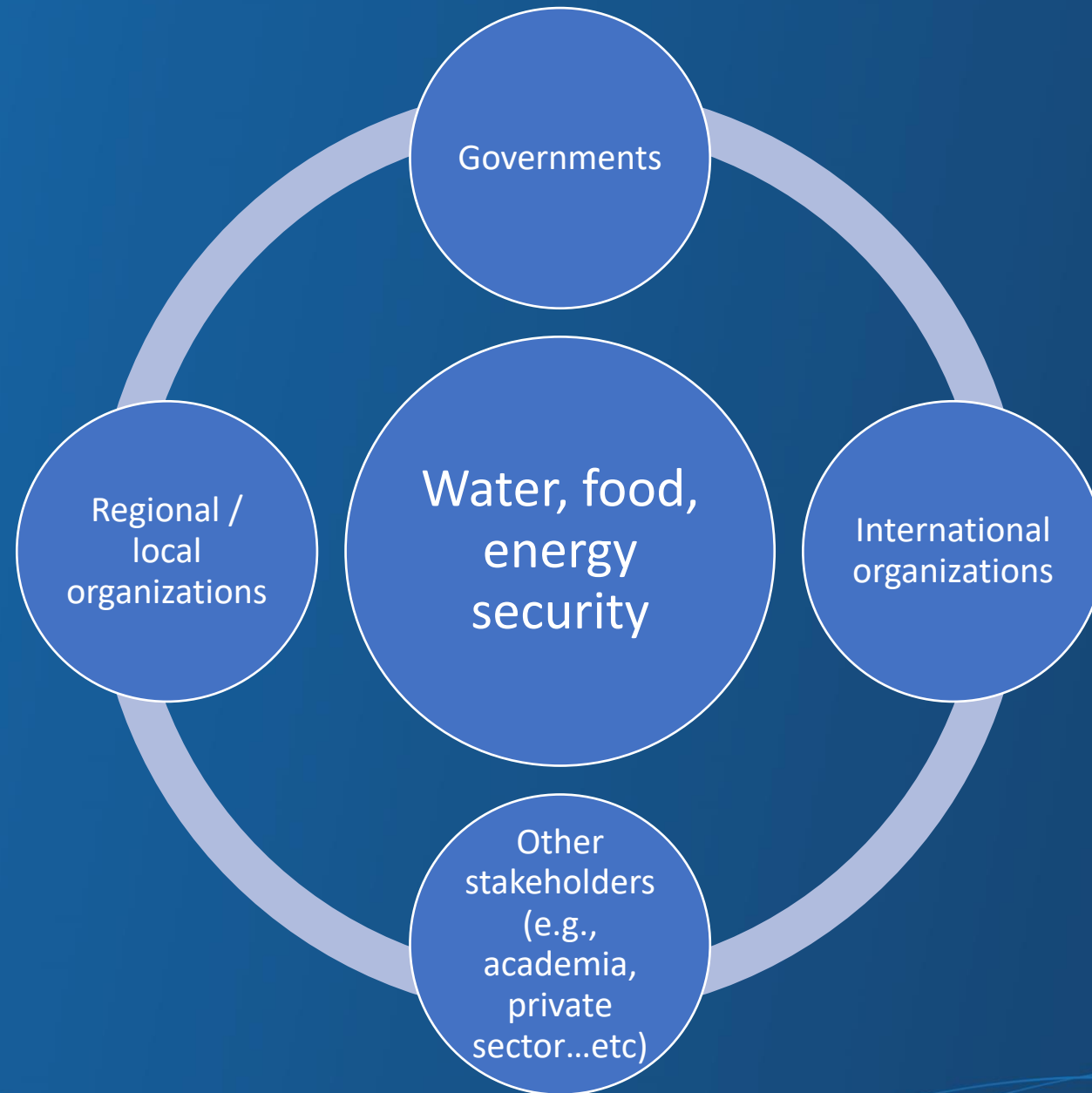
**Mervat Hassan**  
Institutional & Business  
Development Director (AWC)

**Mohamed Tawfik**  
Consultant (AWC)



# Water Sector Challenges in the Arab Region





# Role of International Organizations in Facing the Water-Related Challenges in the Arab Region

- ❑ IOs are key players in “bridging the demand-supply gap” through the contribution to:
  - Developing policies and standards,
  - Enhancing local capacity,
  - Networking and disseminating state-of-the-art technologies,
  - Promoting knowledge exchange and technical expertise in water management,
  - Resources mobilization,
  - Resolving shared water conflicts.



## Essential elements to empower local Governments & International/Regional Organizations to address water challenges in the Arab region

□ These elements encompass:

- Collaboration/ coordination/ networking,
- Exchange of technical expertise,
- Data-sharing and enabling enhanced monitoring progress,



- Through their networks and partnerships, IOs also play a critical role in:
  - Mobilizing financial resources
  - Encouraging private sector engagement through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
  - Introducing innovative financial instruments, such as green bonds and water bonds, to attract investments for sustainable water projects.

# Global & Regional Water-Related Initiatives

□ Examples of the numerous initiatives in the water-related domain towards achieving the SDGs include:

Initiative	Implementer
The Arab Water Security Strategy (2010-2030)	LAS, and the patronage of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AWC).
The Arab Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development (2005 – 2025)	LAS
Regional Initiative on Non-conventional Water Resources Use in the Arab Region (2016)	AWC, UNESCO & partners
UN/ESCWA Regional Initiative for Assessment of CC Impacts on Water Resources	RICCAR
The Water Scarcity Initiative / Land & Water Days	FAO

# The Arab Water Council (AWC) as Regional Coordinator of the Water Sector in the Arab Region

- Examples of successful AWC achievements through partnerships and twinning with Regional and International Organizations include:

Initiative	Regional and international Partners
Developing an Action Plan for implementation of the <u>Arab Water Security Strategy (2010 – 2030)</u>	with LAS and partners
Implementation of a regional program on " <u>Improved Water Resources Management and Capacity Building</u>	in coordination with the World Bank and NASA.
Launching of the " <u>Climate Risk Nexus Initiative,</u> "	jointly with LAS, UNDP, UNDRR & WFP
Establishing the <u>Arab Geospatial Information Room (AGIR),</u>	in coordination with LAS a
Launching the Arab Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWR) Initiative (2016)	in partnership with UNESCO
Implementing a 4-year <u>ReWater MENA Project (2018 – 2022)</u>	in partnership with IWMI



# Recommendations and the Way Forward

- ❑ To guarantee a water-secure and sustainable future, it is evident that:
  - Cooperation at all levels by adopting a WEFE nexus approach.
  - Creating an enabling environment for strengthening international and regional partnerships.
  - Developing comprehensive policies and regulatory frameworks that encourage cooperation among countries.
  - Adopting a participatory approach to engage stakeholders from the private sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

## Conclusion

The emerging water challenges are powerful catalyst for international and regional cooperation, particularly in the "***International Era for Action***" in which we live now under the slogan "***Water for Life.***"