

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/6(Part I)  
20 February 2015  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Committee on Water Resources  
Eleventh session  
Amman, 26-27 March 2015

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Actions taken in the field of water resources since the tenth session  
of the Committee on Water Resources****Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session****Summary**

The Committee on Water Resources was established pursuant to resolution 205 (XVIII) adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on 25 May 1995 and endorsed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/26 of 24 July 1995, in recognition of the vital role played by the water resources sector in the economic and social development of Arab countries. The Committee helps in setting priorities for the programme of work of ESCWA in the field of water resources; supporting member States in the implementation of recommendations made at regional and international conferences; and fostering intraregional cooperation.

The Committee convenes its sessions biannually. It held its tenth session in Beirut from 20 to 22 March 2013, and made recommendations addressed to member States and to the ESCWA secretariat. The Water Resources Section of the Sustainable Development Policies Division at ESCWA is responsible for carrying out work in that field. This document presents actions and activities undertaken by this section pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Water Resources at its tenth session.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACCWaM	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region
ACSAD	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
ACWUA	Arab Countries Water Utilities Association
AMWC	Arab Ministerial Water Council
BGR	Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources)
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEDARE	Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
CORDEX	Coordinating Regional Downscaling Climate Experiment
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
RICCAR	Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the Arab Region
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMHI	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP/ROWA	United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO/CEHA	World Health Organization Centre for Environmental Health Action
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## **RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AT ITS TENTH SESSION AND MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THEM**

1. At its tenth session held in Beirut from 20 to 22 March 2013, the Committee on Water Resources issued recommendations addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and others addressed to member States.<sup>1</sup> The present document reviews actions and activities undertaken by ESCWA to implement the recommendations pertaining to its work.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO ESCWA**

#### **Recommendation (a)**

*Continue to support the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) in implementing its programmes, especially those related to the follow-up on the recommendations and resolutions concerning ESCWA activities in the fields of climate change, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and shared water resources in the Arab region.*

#### **Measures taken**

2. As a member of the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of AMWC, ESCWA participated in its following sessions: (a) the eighth session (Cairo, 2-4 June 2013); (b) the ninth session (Cairo, 26-28 January 2014); (c) the tenth session (Doha, 24-27 May 2014); and (d) the eleventh session (Cairo, 26-27 January, 2015). The secretariat reported on the implementation of the MDG+ Initiative and the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) with partners. ESCWA also provided assistance in the revision of the draft legal framework on shared water resources in the Arab region, which included co-organizing, with the League of Arab States, the Fourth Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Draft Legal Framework for Shared Groundwater Resources in the Arab Region (Cairo, 28-29 April 2014). ESCWA also co-organized, at the request of the League of Arab States, a workshop on hydro-diplomacy (Cairo, 12 December 2014) and hosted two consultations in Beirut, on 25 June 2013 and 24 September 2013, to support the drafting of the Action Plan for the Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region to Meet the Challenges and Future Needs for Sustainable Development 2010-2030. ESCWA also co-drafted three chapters of the Action Plan on the following subjects: climate change; water supply and sanitation; and shared water resources.

#### **Recommendation (b)**

*Provide the Committee with a copy of correspondence with the national focal points on the MDG+ Initiative activities, to facilitate follow-up and coordination of those activities.*

#### **Measures taken**

3. ESCWA provided members of the Committee with copies of the invitations sent to MDG+ focal points to participate in the launching workshop on the MDG+ Initiative (Beirut, 22-23 May 2013). The secretariat also organized, in coordination with the national focal points appointed by the League of Arab States, a series of national workshops on the Initiative, held in Algeria, Bahrain, Qatar, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. ESCWA was unable to forward copies of invitations related to the second workshop on the MDG+ Initiative that was held on 13 and 14 January 2015 in the Dead Sea, Jordan, as all communications related to the organization of that workshop were handled by the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

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<sup>1</sup> Those recommendations are included in the report of the Committee on Water Resources on its tenth session (E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/IG.1/8/Report).

**Recommendation (c)**

*Agree during the first workshop with national focal points on the MDG+ Initiative on appropriate mechanisms for finalizing and adopting the national data, prior to their integration at the regional level.*

**Measures taken**

4. The work plan, methodology and procedures for preparing the national datasets and regional report were agreed upon at the launching workshop of the MDG+ Initiative (Beirut, 21-23 May 2013).

**Recommendation (d)**

*Prepare maps showing the extent of the implementation of the MDG target on water and sanitation, according to the additional MDG+ indicators, to be published in the periodic reports on the initiative.*

**Measures taken**

5. This recommendation will be taken into consideration when preparing the first report on the MDG+ indicators.

**Recommendation (e)**

*Provide technical assistance to member countries to develop capacity in the area of rationalization and provision of drinking water and the use of environmentally and economically appropriate technologies for wastewater treatment.*

**Measures taken**

6. Drinking water supply, wastewater treatment and the reuse of treated wastewater are among the indicators included in the MDG+ Initiative. Collected data will help ESCWA target technical assistance in these areas towards countries in need of support. These subjects are also being treated in a training manual on tools for the management of integrated water resources in the context of adaptation to climate change. Work on this training manual is being coordinated by ESCWA, in the framework of a United Nations Development Account project.
7. A seminar on Water and Sanitation Services in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities was organized in collaboration with the ESCWA Technology Centre (Amman, 11 March 2014). The seminar addressed issues of water use efficiency, non-revenue water, water supply and wastewater treatment, with a view to fostering a regional perspective on the post-2015 development agenda.
8. The Regional Advisor on Environment and Water at ESCWA participated in the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lebanese Water Sector Coordination Group (Beirut, 20 March 2014) to discuss the National Water Sector Strategy and delivered a presentation on “Coping with Water Scarcity in Lebanon?”, at the request of the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water.

**Recommendation (f)**

*Use the MDG+ indicators on water supply and sanitation in the preparation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level, ensuring consistency with the post-2015 development agenda.*

**Measures taken**

9. The MDG+ indicators were used within the framework of work on SDGs in several reports and papers on the Arab region. These include the ESCWA Water Development Report 5: Issues in Sustainable Water Resources Management and Water Services;<sup>2</sup> the discussion paper on Sustainable Development Goals ... An Arab Regional Perspective;<sup>3</sup> and a water brief that will be included in the Arab Sustainable Development Report (forthcoming).

10. The linkages between the MDG+ indicators and SDGs were also highlighted during presentations delivered by ESCWA and ACWUA during the aforementioned Amman workshop (11 March 2014); the second workshop on the MDG+ Initiative (Dead Sea, Jordan, 13-14 January 2015); and the eleventh session of the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee of the Arab Ministerial Water Council (Cairo, 26-27 January, 2015). ESCWA also co-organized with the Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) an Arab Water Forum session on moving from MDGs to SDGs in the Arab region (Cairo, 9 December 2014), which highlighted the common indicators between MDGs, the MDG+ Initiative and the proposed set of SDGs.

**Recommendation (g)**

*Continue the implementation of RICCAR activities such as developing regional climate models in the Arab region, building capacities and strengthening institutions through the organization of working group meetings and training workshops.*

**Measures taken**

11. ESCWA has been actively coordinating and implementing RICCAR with partners. Over the past two years, this included organizing two regional expert group meetings, three training workshops, two meetings of the Vulnerability Assessment Working Group, and two task force meetings on the vulnerability assessment indicators. More than 12 working group meetings have also been organized between representatives of ESCWA, the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) to advance the finalization of the vulnerability assessment methodology, maps and training manual.

12. ESCWA also participated in the first Coordinating Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) MENA-CA meeting (Nicosia, 27-28 November 2014), which was organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), and hosted by the Cyprus Institute. Experts discussed a number of new projections generated for the Arab/Middle East and North Africa (MENA) domain by regional climate modelling centres based in the Arab region and Europe. They also discussed the opportunity to generate a larger ensemble of projections for the Arab region based on the work initiated in the framework of RICCAR.<sup>4</sup>

**Recommendation (h)**

*Establish a knowledge hub to include the results achieved that will assist in developing national and regional policies in the Arab countries under RICCAR.*

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<sup>2</sup> E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/4.

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/1.

<sup>4</sup> Further information on the implementation of RICCAR activities is available in parliamentary document E/ESCWA/SDPD/2015/IG.2/3(Part I).

### **Measures taken**

13. Work is underway to establish a regional knowledge hub. A resolution on the governance structure was adopted by AMWC (in Doha, on 30 May 2014), mandating the Technical Scientific Advisory Committee to oversee the hub, and ESCWA and ACSAD to serve as its coordinating secretariat. This secretariat will be supported by a set of specialized nodes that can respond to requests for assistance received from Arab countries under RICCAR.

### **Recommendation (i)**

*Utilize climate science to formulate medium- and long-term policies in cooperation with RICCAR partners, and identify priorities on adapting to climate change based on the results of impact and vulnerability assessments.*

### **Measures taken**

14. ESCWA is implementing three projects that draw upon the RICCAR impact and vulnerability assessment results: (a) a GIZ-led project entitled “Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region” (ACCWaM), which aims to identify priorities for climate change adaptation; (b) an ESCWA-led Development Account project entitled “Developing the Capacities of Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resource Management Tools”, which is implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), ACSAD, ACWUA, the World Health Organization Centre for Environmental Health Action (WHO/CEHA) and GIZ, and aims to develop training material to support climate change adaptation in key sectors (namely agriculture, environment, economic development, health and human settlements); and (c) a Development Account project led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) entitled “Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa”, which was launched during a workshop hosted by ESCWA (Beirut, 24-25 June 2013) and aims to support the development of water scarcity and drought management plans in selected Arab countries.

### **Recommendation (j)**

*Support AMWC and the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology by making data available and exchanging information under RICCAR.*

### **Measures taken**

15. In addition to the reports presented to AMWC referenced under recommendation (a), ESCWA reported on RICCAR activities and outputs to the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions (Marrakesh, 8-10 April 2013 and Kuwait, 10-13 March 2014, respectively). ESCWA also responded to a request of the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology to organize a scoping meeting to consider the establishment of an Arab climate outlook forum. The meeting was hosted by the Jordanian Meteorological Department in Amman, from 14 to 16 October 2014, and organized by ESCWA and WMO in the framework of RICCAR, through the project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The purpose of the meeting was to explore how a regional climate outlook forum could support the exchange of climate data and information between Arab countries, and enable the generation and review of seasonal climate forecasts and climate change projections for the Arab Domain established through RICCAR.

### **Recommendation (k)**

*Organize workshops for trainers on using RICCAR tools, in particular the regional climate and hydrological models, to exchange knowledge at the national level.*

**Measures taken**

16. ESCWA organized two technical workshops under RICCAR since the tenth session of the Committee on Water Resources, namely the Regional Workshop on Linking Regional Climate Model Projections to Hydrological Models (Beirut, 26-28 June 2013) and the Workshop on Applying the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Methodology in the Arab Region (Beirut, 11-13 May 2014). Workshops dedicated to the training of trainers on climate change adaptation using integrated water resources management tools, which draw upon modelling and assessment work conducted in the framework of RICCAR, will be organized during the second half of 2015.

**Recommendation (l)**

*Involve meteorological authorities and ministries of water resources of member countries in the workshops that will be organized within the framework of RICCAR, in view of the importance of linking and exchanging information between climate and water institutions in the assessment of the impact of climate change on the Arab region.*

**Measures taken**

17. Representatives of Arab meteorological offices and Arab ministries responsible for water resources were invited to participate in the fifth and sixth annual RICCAR expert meetings, which were conducted in Amman (11-12 December 2013) and Cairo (7-8 December 2014), respectively. They were also invited to participate in the aforementioned scoping meeting for the establishment of an Arab climate outlook forum.

**Recommendation (m)**

*Provide technical assistance in managing shared water resources through the organization of workshops on legal frameworks and on the ways to take advantage of the Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia.*

**Measures taken**

18. The *Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia* was internationally launched during a seminar on Shared Water Resources Management in the Arab Region, co-organized with the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and the League of Arab States during World Water Week (Stockholm, 3 September 2013). The seminar included high-level panel discussions and a review of legal frameworks. The regional launch of the *Inventory*, which took place in Beirut on 25 October 2014, also provided an opportunity to exchange views on shared water resources management challenges and priorities.

19. ESCWA subsequently organized three dedicated workshops that drew upon the *Inventory* as a basis for discussion: (a) the Jordan River Basin Dialogue (Amman, 6-7 April 2014), which was hosted by the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation and organized at the request of Palestine; (b) the High-level Workshop on the Euphrates under Stress: Towards Tripartite Cooperation for Sound River Management (London, 9-10 June 2014), co-organized with Chatham House and the International Sustainability Unit of the Prince of Wales; and (c) the workshop on Advancing Hydro-diplomacy Skills for Shared Water Resources Negotiations, organized with CEDARE, AWC and the League of Arab States (Cairo, 12 December 2014).

20. ESCWA also organized a session on Transboundary Water Resources Management: Informing Land and Water Cooperation, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, during the Land and Water Days (Amman, 16 December 2013). In addition, ESCWA co-organized a session on Shared Water Resources in the Arab Region with CEDARE, AWC and the League of Arab States, during the Third Arab Water Forum held in Cairo from 9 to 11 December 2014. Finally, ESCWA contributed presentations on the

*Inventory* during the following two meetings: (a) the Workshop on Legal Frameworks for Cooperation on Transboundary Waters – Key Aspects and Opportunities for the Arab Countries, which was co-organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the League of Arab States and the Global Water Partnership, in collaboration with ESCWA (Tunis, 11-12 June 2014); and (b) the Workshop on the UNECE Convention for the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes – Key Aspects and Opportunities for Lebanon, which was co-organized by UNECE, the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and the Global Water Partnership (Beirut, 4-5 February 2015).

21. ESCWA continued to support AMWC in the development of the draft legal framework for shared water resources in the Arab region. This included co-convening, with the Center for Water Studies and Arab Water Security of the League of Arab States, the Fourth Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Draft Legal Framework for Shared Water Resources in the Arab Region (Cairo, 28-29 April 2014).

**Recommendation (n)**

*Seek the necessary funding to complete the second phase of the Inventory, which covers other Arab States.*

**Measures taken**

22. During and after the final evaluation of the ESCWA-BGR cooperation, which took place in Beirut from 15 to 19 April 2013, BGR and ESCWA approached the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the proposal of extending the *Inventory* to cover shared water resources in other Arab States. However, positive feedback was not received.

**Recommendation (o)**

*Communicate with the concerned governmental institutions in Germany regarding the extension of cooperation with BGR to support the ESCWA programme of work in the field of water, in the light of the tangible results and productive cooperation achieved over the last several years.*

**Measures taken**

23. During and after the final evaluation of the ESCWA-BGR cooperation, ESCWA and BGR both expressed their interest in extending the duration of the project and explored possible avenues for additional funding. Resources from other BGR projects related to shared water resources management were drawn upon to support the organization of a high-level seminar and global launch of the *Inventory* at World Water Week in Stockholm. However, no further resources were available to extend the cooperation project, which ended on 30 June 2013.

**Recommendation (p)**

*Consider maritime environmental issues in the light of increasing reliance on salt water as a source of drinking water in the region through desalination.*

**Measures taken**

24. ESCWA is examining the increasing reliance on desalination in the Arab region and its implications for the maritime environment within the scope of its work on the water, energy and food nexus. These issues will be specifically raised during the Expert Group Meeting on the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus in the Arab Region (Amman, 24-25 April 2015) and in the forthcoming ESCWA Water Development Report 6, which focuses on the water, energy and food nexus, including water and energy interdependencies associated with desalination.



**Recommendation (q)**

*Provide the funding needed to implement cooperation projects between countries sharing water resources at the basin level.*

**Measures taken**

25. Kindly refer to the activities and meetings organized under recommendation (m).

**Recommendation (r)**

*Take into consideration the final observations of the member countries regarding the completion of the Inventory, and discuss with Saudi Arabia its reservations to the report.*

**Measures taken**

26. ESCWA and BGR took into consideration the final comments received from ESCWA member States prior to the finalization of the *Inventory*. This included undertaking a joint mission to Saudi Arabia to meet with representatives of the Ministry of Water and Electricity to discuss their reservations on the draft document (Riyadh, 25-26 May 2013). A final set of comments received from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia were also taken into consideration before the publication was sent to print on 20 June 2013.

**Recommendation (s)**

*Continue the activities undertaken to follow-up on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in the field of water resources.*

**Measures taken**

27. ESCWA continues to follow up on the outcomes of Rio+20, particularly by raising awareness and understanding of the water-related SDGs and targets, and through the preparation and implementation of activities on the water, energy and food security nexus. ESCWA also leads regional deliberations on SDGs by preparing regional reports and convening regional meetings, including the Arab High-level Forum on Sustainable Development (Amman, 2-4 April 2014).

**Recommendation (t)**

*Continue to participate actively in international and regional forums to enhance the work of ESCWA and support member countries in dealing with water resource issues.*

**Measures taken**

28. ESCWA actively participated in international and regional forums by organizing seminars, side events and workshops during major conferences on water resource issues. At the global level, this participation included: (a) organizing a seminar on shared water resources, the launch of the *Inventory* and a side event on RICCAR during World Water Week 2013 (Stockholm, 1 and 3 September 2013); and (b) co-convening the MENA Nexus Seminar: Regional Cooperation for Sharing Solutions, contributing to two other sessions and serving as a Lead Rapporteur for the theme “Managing Energy and Water across Borders” during World Water Week 2014 (Stockholm, 31 August-5 September 2014).

29. At the regional level, the participation of ESCWA in forums on water resources included: (a) co-organizing a session on transboundary waters during the FAO Near East and North Africa Land and

Water Days (Amman, 15-18 December 2013); (b) organizing a Solution Exchange Forum on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region during the First Arab States Regional Cooperation South-South Development Expo (Doha, 18-20 February 2014); (c) organizing a session on RICCAR at the Second Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sharm El Sheikh, 14-16 September 2014); (d) organizing three seminars on shared water resources management, climate change and moving from MDGs to SDGs during the Third Arab Water Forum (Cairo, 9-11 December 2014); and (e) serving as a panellist during the opening session of Arab Water Week (Dead Sea, Jordan, 11-15 January 2015). ESCWA also contributed presentations on its work related to shared water resources, climate change and the nexus during Beirut Water Week in February 2013 and May 2014.

30. ESCWA also continues to support the Advisory Board of the Arab-German Masters Degree on Integrated Water Resources Management as Deputy Chair, and continues to serve on the ACWUA Board of Directors as an elected member representing international organizations.

#### **Recommendation (u)**

*Continue the implementation of activities focused on the water-energy-food nexus, given its importance for the Arab region.*

#### **Measures taken**

31. ESCWA organized and contributed to several activities on the water, energy and food nexus, including: (a) co-organizing, with the Hariri Foundation, a Water-Food-Energy Nexus Conference to raise awareness of the interdependencies between the three sectors and present various ways of understanding the nexus (Beirut, 25 October 2013); (b) participating in a special session entitled “Launching a Regional Dialogue on Energy, Water and Food Security”, organized by the League of Arab States and GIZ during the aforementioned First Arab States Regional Cooperation South-South Development Expo, and subsequently following up on AMWC resolutions by raising funds to support work on the water, energy and food nexus; (c) organizing a World Water Day seminar on the Water-Energy Nexus: Issues and Challenges, in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water, the Association of Lebanese Industrialists, the Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Al and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Beirut, 21 March 2014). The seminar addressed the relationship between water and energy and examined ways to move towards a green economy in the agriculture and industry sectors; (d) preparing a brochure for World Water Day 2014 on the water and energy nexus in the framework of sustainable development;<sup>5</sup> (e) preparing a chapter on the Arab region in the United Nations World Water Development Report 2014, which was released by UNESCO in March 2014; and (f) serving as a panellist during three seminars focused on the nexus during World Water Week 2014.

32. Furthermore, ESCWA initiated the implementation of the United Nations Development Account project entitled “Developing the Capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals” in December 2014. ESCWA is also co-organizing, with the League of Arab States, an expert group meeting on Water, Energy and Food Security in the Arab Region (Amman, 24-25 March 2015). It is finally preparing the sixth issue of the ESCWA Water Development Report, which will focus on the water, energy and food security nexus.

#### **Recommendation (v)**

*Convene the Committee session annually, pursuant to recommendation (g) made at the ninth session of the Committee to activate its role in implementing the programme of work according to the rules and procedures regulating the work of the secretariat.*

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<sup>5</sup> E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/Brochure.1.

**Measures taken**

33. The recommendation was presented for consideration by the ESCWA Technical Committee, which did not endorse it. Furthermore, a resolution of the 28<sup>th</sup> ESCWA ministerial session (Tunis, 14-18 September 2014) reduced the duration of the biennial meetings of the Committee on Water Resources to two days.

**Recommendation (w)**

*Provide members of the Committee with an annual electronic report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the planned activities of the Water Resources Section.*

**Measures taken**

34. A mid-session report was prepared and sent electronically to members of the Committee on 15 May 2014 to report on the status of implementation of its 10<sup>th</sup> session recommendations.

**Recommendation (x)**

*Align the different governmental mechanisms adopted by the secretariat and the Committee and facilitate the participation of the president and vice-presidents of the Committee in other relevant committees.*

**Measures taken**

35. The 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Water Resources and the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Energy will take place during the same week at the same venue, and will be organized before and after an expert group meeting on the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus in the Arab Region (Amman, 24-25 March 2015), in view of fostering greater exchange among members of both committees.

36. The Chair of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Water Resources was advised that the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Energy would be held in Amman immediately before the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Water Resources, in case he wished to participate in the meeting.

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