



# Draft Legal Framework for Shared Water Resources in the Arab World: Is it Really Needed?

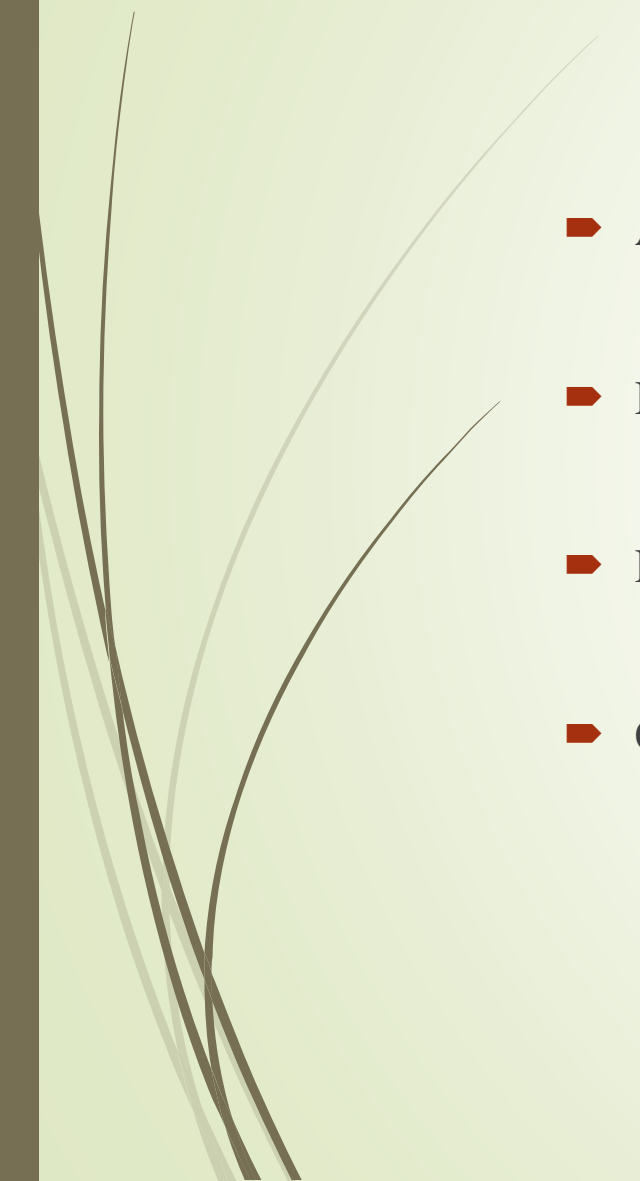
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# Background

- Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) Resolution in 2010.
  - Draft Preparation.
  - Postponing it
  - Common Guiding Principles for Cooperation
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# Main Principles

- General obligation to cooperate;
- Regular exchange of data and information
- Planned measures
- Equitable and reasonable utilization
- Obligation not to cause significant harm
- Protection of the environment
- Settlement of disputes
- Water in occupied Arab territories



# Arguments that support the establishment of such treaty

- 1) Adopting a unified front in the face of external water security threats
- 2) Providing one unified vision tailored to the region
- 3) Providing technical guidance and support through basin specific treaties or follow-up agreements and instruments
- 4) Enhancing conjunctive water management
- 5) AMWC may be efficient in solving disputes based on the Draft Arab Water convention.



# Arguments that are not in favour of establishing such convention

- 1) 50 % of shared freshwater resources originate from outside the Arab region
- 2) Arab Countries sharing same freshwaters have different interests
- 3) International conventions exist and Arab countries are parties to these treaties
- 4) The provisions of the Draft Arab Water Convention do not address the characteristics of shared aquifers
- 5) The AMWC may not be efficient in solving disputes



# Recommendations Regarding the Draft Arab Water Convention

- A. The instrument should only cover freshwater resources shared between Arab nations
- B. Shared surface water resources should be included within the scope of the instrument
- C. The instrument should be amended to address the characteristics of transboundary aquifers