



المملكة المغربية  
ROYAUME DU MAROC



وزارة التجهيز والماء  
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉQUIPEMENT ET DE L'EAU

Kingdom Of Morocco

Ministry of Equipment and Water



## HIGH LEVEL EVENT: “Sustainability in good governance of groundwater resources”

March 22nd, 2023 –12h30 - 13h45  
United Nations Headquarters (ECOSOC Room)  
With simultaneous interpretation in English and French

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### CONTEXT

Groundwater is a vital resource that provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide, about 40 per cent of water for irrigated agriculture and the third of water required for industry. It sustains ecosystems, maintains the base flow of rivers and prevents land subsidence and seawater intrusion. Groundwater is an important part of the climate change adaptation process and is often a solution for people without access to safely managed water.

Despite these facts, groundwater, as an ‘invisible’ resource, is out of mind for most people. However, as surface water availability decreases (due to human activities and climate change), reliance and pressure on groundwater will continue to increase. Meanwhile, water scarcity is increasing, and affecting more and more regions and vulnerable people around the world.

#### DESCRIPTION

The side event follows on from the holding of the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater 2022, and its plenary session on “Governance”, held in Paris from 6 to 8 December 2022.

Under the framework of the UN Water Conference, this event aims to bring attention to groundwater at the highest international level. It comes also in response to the water issues raised by His Majesty, Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, who declared during his inaugural speech for the opening session of the Moroccan Parliament on Friday 14th of October 2022: “it is imperative to pay particular attention to the rational exploitation and preservation of groundwater and the preservation of groundwater tables, by putting an end to the phenomenon of illegal pumping and the digging of anarchic wells”.

This event, through the high level panel, will be the opportunity to exchange and discuss the challenges, progress, ambitions and commitments on how to ensure the responsible and sustainable use and protection of groundwater resources and how sustainability could be taken into account in groundwater governance, especially at basin level, in order to accelerate SDGs implementation, namely ID2.

It represents also the occasion to reiterate the Water Action Agenda commitment, especially related to Dakar Action Plan for basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers

## LEAD ORGANIZERS

- Morocco / Ministry of Equipment and Water
- INBO

## CO-ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

### **Countries:**

- French government
- Senegalese government
- Spanish government
- Finnish government
- Swiss government

### **UN Agencies :**

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

### **INGOS :**

- International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

### **Transboundary basin organizations:**

- Zambezi River Authority (ZRA)
- Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) IGO:

### **IGO :**

- Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)





- **Ms. Alice Aureli**, Chief Groundwater Systems and Water for Human Settlements, UNESCO (UNESCO-IHP)