

Cairo- June 14th, 2015

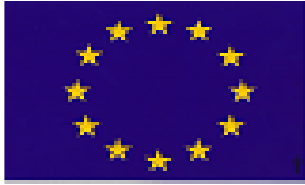
EU funded Support to National Water Resources Plan Kicks off

The "Support to the National Water Resources Plan" launched its first workshop on June 14, 2015 in Cairo. This project is funded by the European Union under the "Water Sector Reform Program Phase II (WSRP II)" with a total budget of 1.9 million Euros. The workshop was organized under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. Dr. Hossam Moghazi, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, and H.E. Ambassador James Moran, Head of the European Union delegation to Egypt as well as other ministers.

The European Union and Egypt co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Integrated Sector Approach (JISA) on the side-lines of the workshop. This signature marks EU's full support to the donor coordination and investment harmonization efforts in the water sector led by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.

Ambassador James Moran, Head of European Union Delegation to Egypt said: *"working hand in hand with the government, the EU has a long lasting commitment to assisting this vital sector, so as to improve the quality of life for all Egyptians. Sustainable development of the Nile waters is also one of the prime areas of concern identified under the EU Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy, given its great importance for the environment in the Mediterranean Sea," Moran said.*

H.E. Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr. Hossam Moghazi, said: *"Egypt is already taking many measures to cover the increasing water requirements related to the rise in population and the improvement of living standards as well as the expansion of agricultural land". "Egypt is in the gradual shift from a centralised and one-way-water-management system (top-down) towards the adoption / implementation of integrated water resource management approach within the country's national economic development (with water as an economic driver) aiming at coordination of actions between different sectors, administrations and at different levels," he added.*



The EU-Egypt cooperation in the water sector stretches over a wide portfolio of programmes covering 9 Egyptian Governorates and total direct Grant funds of nearly 350 Million Euros in six different Programmes, leveraging funds of nearly 1.2 billion Euros in the sector with other European Development Partners, covering 9 Egyptian Governorates, with an estimated end users benefiting from these projects of up to 8.5 Million inhabitants. Estimated permanent created jobs are 6,000 in addition to 150,000 jobs created during constructions phases.

The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation is now taking the necessary steps to prepare the National Water Resources Plan - NWRP (2017 - 2037), in order to reach the most appropriate ways and means to secure Egypt's water resources in the future in terms of quantity and quality. Outlining the best water management policies from an economic, social and environmental perspective, the Plan's pillars include securing new additional water resources, such as deep groundwater in the Western Desert and Sinai, harvesting of floods and rain water and the use of non-conventional water resources, such as desalination of sea water. The NWRP pillars also include the rational use of existing water resources with the emphasis of reducing wastes of irrigation water in addition to the development and re-use of agricultural and household drainage flows in addition to addressing the protection of public health and environment, including measures needed to reduce the pollution of waterways from both municipal and industrial origin.

The workshop was attended by a number of governors, representatives of the European Union Delegation to Egypt, donors' representatives interested in water issues and strategic planning as well as a large group of experts and specialists in Water Resources Management.

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