

MISSION PERMANENTE DU LIBAN
AUPRES DE
L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
A GENEVE

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La Mission permanente du Liban auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des Organisations Internationales à Genève, présente ses compliments au secrétariat du Haut-commissaire des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme, et en référence à sa note en date du 28 janvier 2014, a l'honneur de lui remettre ci-joint la réponse du Ministère de l'Energie et de l'Eau relative au questionnaire sur le Droit fondamental à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement.

La Mission permanente du Liban saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au secrétariat du Haut-commissaire des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme, l'assurance de sa haute considération.

Genève le 14 avril 2014



Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme
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OHCHR REGISTRY

15 APR 2014

Recipients :SPD.....
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Answers to Questions

- 1- The 10 years strategy plan for water prepared by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and adopted in 1999 by the Council of Ministries (Decisions:14/1999, 12/2000, 18/2033, No. 3/2003,) was revised in 2008 with a view to launch and advance the process of complementing it with an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWRM). Supported by the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative this process included a strong participative component involving in its deliberations all relevant National institutions, NGOs, municipalities and Members of the Parliament as representatives of the people, as well as journalists and media. While the preparation of the IWRM Plan is still on-going, the Lebanese Water Sector Strategy was successively drafted by the Ministry of Water and Energy in 2010 and approved by the Lebanese Government (Resolution No. 2, Date 09/03/2012). This has implied during its preparation a participative process involving all relevant National institutions related – directly or indirectly – to water management. NGOs and local authorities (as representatives of the people) or people in general have not directly participated in the preparation of the strategy but, at a later stage, once the Strategy has been approved, the Ministry has proceeded with the preparation of Regional Master Plans that have been debated also with the involvement of additional stakeholders, local authorities, NGOs and the general public. Moreover, a broad spectrum of foreign agencies and institutions/organizations working in the water sector in Lebanon (EU Delegation to Lebanon, French Cooperation Agency, GIZ, GWP-Med, UNDP, UN ESCWA, USAID, etc.) and members of the EU Delegation facilitated 'Water Coordination Group' have also been consulted and involved in the process.
- 2- The leading institution in the preparation of the National Water Sector Strategy is the Ministry of Energy and Water.
 - a) There are no direct costs – apart the organic running costs of the Ministry for personnel and facilities - related to the participative process during the preparation of the Strategy since meetings have been organized in-house. At a second stage, the presentation of the Regional Master Plans, has implied minimal costs since facilities (conference rooms etc.) have been provided for free (e.g by Universities).
 - b) The participative process aimed at ensuring that all concerned stakeholders deliberate on legislation aspects, policies, budget, infrastructures and services improvements proposals.
 - c) As mentioned in point 1 the participative process established during the preparation of the Strategy involved a broad spectrum of National / regional agencies concerned by water management and the Water Coordination Group. At a second stage, during the preparation of the Regional Master Plans, local authorities, NGOs, and the general public were also involved.
- 3- 4- 5- Although there is awareness about the importance of ensuring participative processes involving all concerned actors the practice has been limited so far. A new promising initiative in the country is the National Council for Environment in which NGOs participate among other experts. The Minister responsible for Water also participates in this platform. Moreover, the draft 'Code de l'Eau', still not approved by the Parliament, also foresees the set-up of a similar Council to debate on

water related matters. If these initiatives are successful they will manage not only to improve the mainstreaming of environmental and water concerns into other sectors' plans and strategies but also to probably engage more actively the people through their representatives (e.g the NGOs). The Parliamentary Committee for Water, Energy and Transport in some occasions also invites NGOs to participate to its deliberations and to express their opinions on specific matters.

- 6- Please refer to the replies to points 1 and 3-4-5.
- 7- At the level of the Regional Water Master Planning process the input received from the people has been taken into account and reflected in the final document that has been printed and widely diffused + it is available at the Ministry for people interested to get a copy.
- 8- The participative process related to the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy is still on-going. The Ministry is aware of the limitation of this process in terms of participation of the general public. However the limited means available (human and financial resources, plus the expertise needed in communication and facilitation of such a process) make the opening to the people challenging.