



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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**ECA Office for North Africa**

**Ad hoc expert group meeting  
Sustainable Development in North Africa: experiences and lessons**

**Tunis, Corinthia Khamsa Hotel Gammarth  
18-21 November 2007  
Program**

**Sunday 18 November 2007**

9:30-10:30 Registration  
Coffee

10:30-12:00 Session 1: Opening ceremony

- Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director, ECA Office for North Africa
- Mr. Nadhir Hamada, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Tunisia
- Special Guests  
Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, General Secretary, Arab Maghreb Union  
Mr. Youba Sokona, Executive Secretary, Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel  
Mr. Ahmed Joghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biodiversity  
Keynote: The strengths of biodiversity in North Africa

12:00-14:00 Session 2: Sustainable development in the North African context

- Interactions between the three economic, social and environmental components, Mr. Karim Laraki, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ECA Office for North Africa
- Current situation and prospects, Ms. Marieme Bekaye, Sustainable Development expert, Mauritania
- Sharing the benefits of economic growth, Mr. Marouane Abbassi, Professor, HEC Tunisia
- Discussion

**Sunday 18 November 2007 15:30-Tuesday 20 November 2007 18:00**

Participation to the International Solidarity Conference: *climate change strategies for the African and Mediterranean regions* organized by the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

The ECA Office for North Africa participates in the Conference by:

A presentation on economic growth and ecology during the sustainable development and MDGs session (Monday 19 November 2007 starting 9:00)

A presentation on irrigation needs for a performing agriculture by North African private sector representatives during the session on science and technology (Monday 19 November 2007 starting 11:30)

Participating to the stakeholders meeting (Tuesday 20 November 2007 starting 18:00)

**Tuesday 20 November 2007**

18:30-20:30 Session 3: North Africa and the regional and international agendas (discussion cocktail)

- Follow-up of the Tunis Declaration and synergies with regional agendas
  - The Tunis Declaration
  - The Arab Maghreb Union energy Charter
  - The project of a Euromediterranean Union and the EU-Africa Summit on Energy expect to take place in LisbonMs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director, ECA Office for North Africa
- Africa's preparatory process to Bali, Mr. Johnson Oguntola, Regional Advisor, ECA
- Discussion

### Wednesday 21 November 2007

- 9:00-11:00 Session 4: Water, desertification and biodiversity
- Combating desertification in North Africa: challenges, achievements and need for synergy, Ms. Mélanie Requier-Desjardins, Coordinator of Environment Program, and Mr. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma, Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel
  - Virtual Water and food security, complementarities or antagonisms for North Africa? Ms. Nathalie Rousset, University Pierre-Mendès-France, Grenoble, France.
  - Regional cooperation, prerequisite for sustainable development in North Africa
    - the Northern Sahara Aquifer: Mr. Djamel Latrech, SASS project coordinator, Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel
    - ecosystems and biodiversity: Mr. Idriss Fassi, UNESCO Man and Biosphere program, Morocco
    - ecosystems and biodiversity Mr. Abdelkader Morsli, Professor, Institut National Agronomique, Algeria
  - Discussion
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30-13:00 Session 5: Sector challenges
- The private sector: what challenges for SMEs, Mr. Mohammad Kamal, Executive Manager, Association of Enterprises for Environmental Conservation, Egypt
  - Accompanying measures for the reform of irrigated agriculture to ensure the ability of farmers to respond to market signals, Mr. Lebdi Fethi, Institut National d'Agronomie, Tunisia
  - Natural resources, infrastructures and sustainable development, Mr. Antonio Pedro, ECA
  - Energy challenges, M. Mohamed Berdai, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Morocco
  - Discussion
- 13:00-13:42 Session 6: Sustainable development prospects for North Africa
- Lessons of the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Mr. Antony Nyong, Dr. Guy F Midgley GIEC
  - Discussion
- 13:45-14:00 Closing ceremony