Introducing The Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)

World Water Week in Stockholm, 28 August – 2 September, 2016
A few words about the ESDF

• The Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF) was established in July 2012 as a follow up process for Rio+20.

• ESDF is a “Think Tank” that facilitates a process of dialogue among the different stakeholders to determine the policy gaps in relation to legislation, strategies and national planning to achieve sustainability.

• ESDF also provides on a consensus basis, clear action-oriented recommendations on how to integrate sustainability in the different policies while emphasizing on the importance of establishing the partnership approach in achieving this goal.
ESDF through pictures
**ESDF Areas of Work**

- ESDF works through working groups covering different issues of sustainable development (water, agriculture, energy, transport, green economy, education for sustainable development, housing, gender, etc...). Each working group is headed by a distinguished national expert.

- ESDF, as a national body concerned with sustainable development, takes the responsibility to follow up on the implementation and the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs and the Egyptian Vision 2030.
ESDF Areas of Work

• Egypt’s Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt’s Vision 2030 was launched early 2016. It was prepared through a participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders. ESDF has been assigned through an agreement signed between ESDF and the Ministry of Planning to promote this vision through a comprehensive social dialogue.

• ESDF formed a youth group called “Friends of Forum”, following a very successful youth camp on sustainable development, in cooperation with the German Embassy in Egypt, focusing on Water and Climate Change issues. 60 University Students are the core group coming from have 9 Egyptian Universities.
ESDF and water

• ESDF started a shadow reporting mechanism. Its distinguished members issued the 1st National Report on Sustainable Development in 2013. Then the 2nd National report was issued in 2014, and the 3rd report in 2015 to consist with the developmental process Egypt is witnessing during the past few years and at the same time in line with the global developmental process.

• Those reports included specific chapters focus on the water issue (integrated water management, Energy-Water-Food Nexus, River Nile, Water Scarcity, Water and Agriculture, Water and Renewable Energy, Water and Climate Change, etc..)
National Sustainable Development Weeks:

- ESDF has organized the First National Sustainable Development in 2015 and the Second National Sustainable Development Week in 2016. Those events discussed means of integrating Sustainable Development concepts in all national mega projects and development strategic plans in Egypt, in line with Egypt Sustainable Development strategy: Egypt Vision 2030, in addition to achieving the SDGs.

- Each day of the week covered crucial priority areas including: Food and Water Security, The Future of Renewable Energy in Egypt, Green Economy & green jobs, Social housing and new Urban Communities, Urban Development and Disaster Reduction, National Projects (i.e. the development of Suez Canal Region, Cultivation new 1.5 million acres, establishing a new administrative capital)
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• More than 1500 participants actively participated in those events representing all relevant stakeholders; Ministries, governorates, local executives, universities and research centers, youth groups, CSOs, regional and international agencies concerned with environment and sustainable development, women, media representatives, national experts, politicians, community members, etc..

• All sessions were participatory and interactive, making use of learning tools such as: Interactive presentations, Case studies presentations and open discussions.

• All recommendations resulting from those events were shared with decision and policy makers.
How the WATER SUM project and WGS Initiative can support the mission/activities of ESDF

• ESDF needs the support and partnership of WGS Initiative to enhance and strengthen the ESDF mission and activities on water, food and energy nexus. This could be done through a Cooperation Agreement to highlight the common areas of interest and presenting a national model from the south.

• ESDF and WGS Initiative could have many mutual benefits of exchanging the knowledge among and between the different experts. Egypt is a critical case of water scarcity, growth and the stability. This makes the partnership is very much needed.
ESDF contacts

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