

Meeting Recommendations

The participants of the meeting of the “ **Assessment Studies of Water and Wastewater Sector’s Damages in Gaza Strip Due to last Israeli Aggression** ” , including delegates of states’ members , government officials, Presidency of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, development partners, donors, NGOs, private sector, academic and research bodies, and representatives of international bodies, whom met throughout the day to discuss the studies prepared by the Arab Water Experts Network (AWEN) in order to assess the damages of the water and wastewater sector in Gaza as a result of the Israeli aggression during May 2021. The most important key messages and recommendations out of the said emanating were as follows:

1. Condemning the systematic targeting of water and wastewater infrastructure during the repeated Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, and calling on Israel (the occupying power) to comply with the resolutions and international Conventions and laws, including the additional Article No. 54 of the Geneva Conventions for the year 1977 . The Convention stipulates “ **the prohibition of attacking or Destruction, transfer or disruption of objects and materials indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as drinking water facilities and their networks and irrigation works** ” , and activating international accountability and its respective tools , which considers the destruction of infrastructure and water and waste water as war crimes in accordance with Article (8) of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, considering its difficult repercussions in limiting the ability to provide water and wastewater services _ health of citizens , and thus exacerbate the difficult humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip The besieged area , which will have long-term repercussions on all aspects of health, economic and social life .
2. Presenting the reports and recommendations of this meeting to the Arab Ministerial Water Council at its next session.
3. Calling on Arab and international countries and donors to support the establishment of a pilot project to generate electricity from solar energy using floating panels in Gaza, immediately and urgently, in order to contribute to finding a strategic solution that would resolve the energy crisis in Gaza.
4. Calling on International and Arab countries and Donors to support the preparation of an investment program that includes all immediate and urgent projects in water and wastewater sectors.
5. Calling on the Council of Arab Information Ministers to continue highlighting the repercussions of the Israeli aggression (the occupying power) on the Gaza Strip, and to circulate the results of these studies, to raise awareness and provide needed assistance considering the difficult water situation and the urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza.
6. Inviting the Arab Water Experts Network to translate the studies and submit them to the international organizations concerned with human rights, related to safe drinking water and appropriate wastewater services.
7. Inviting the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to hold a meeting regarding the Lebanese Waters’ under Occupation as well as the Occupied Syrian Golan Heights. For that, coordination will take place between the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, the Arab Water Experts Network, the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water, and the Arab Center for Studies of Arid Zones and Lands. The meeting is to be financed from the “International Conference on Arab Waters under Occupation” budget.
8. Inviting countries, Donors and organizations to support the results of studies by communicating with the Arab Water Experts Network point of contact :