



## **UNIDO Brussels Office Webinar**

### **“Tech-Skills for Sustainable Water Management and Youth Employment in Africa”**

#### **Concept Note**

##### Objective of the Webinar:

The webinar objective is to share knowledge about the implementation of innovative solutions to water challenges on the African continent through inter alia technical skills development, private sector engagement, technology transfer and digitalisation. The webinar will give an overview of recent continental and country-specific challenges in the water and sanitation sector, and discuss how different public, private and development stakeholders have successfully addressed them.

##### H2O Maghreb Project Background:

H2O Maghreb is a Public Private Development Partnership (PPDP) initiative implemented by UNIDO and supported by FESTO Didactic SE, EON Reality, the International Institute for Water and Sanitation (IEA) of the Moroccan National Office for Drinking Water and Electricity (ONEE), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with the objective to improve water management practices in Morocco. Suffering from scarce water resources and increasing water demand, water is a national security issue for Morocco. As a response, the H2O Maghreb project has been improving the skills and employability of young Moroccans by providing them with a market-driven training program using cutting-edge technologies. The H2O Maghreb project was extended until 2021 with a key outreach component that includes activities to communicate the project lessons learnt and best practice, and to support the training program replication on the African continent.

Format: Online moderated panel discussion (zoom)

Date: December 8, 2020, 2pm GMT+1

Length: 1h30min

Languages: English and French (with running translation)

Panels:

#### **First panel: H2O Maghreb project**

- Nader-Iman Imani, Executive Vice President Global Education, **Festo Didactic**

- Abderrafii Mardi, Coordinator of the **Moroccan National Institute for Water and Sanitation, ONEE**
- Jennifer Nikolaeff, Acting Director of the General Development Office, **USAID Morocco**
- Moderation: Philip Scholtes, Special Advisor to **UNIDO** Director General

### **Second panel: Knowledge sharing workshop**

- Laurence Janssens, Water Expert, **ENABEL Mozambique and South Africa**
- Paul Orengho, Director of Programs, **African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)**
- Daouda Touré, Programme Manager, **EU Delegation Senegal** (tbc)
- **Veolia** - tbc
- Moderation: Philip Scholtes, Special Advisor to **UNIDO** Director General

### Key themes/messages:

- The delivery of demand-driven and innovative technical programs contributes to transferring adequate technical skills to youth and professional water specialists and to improving water resources management in developing countries.
- Through Public Private Partnership modalities, the private sector can play an instrumental role in delivering quality public services and generating a positive development impact while harnessing new market opportunities.
- The exchange of best practice and increased alignment of activities among development actors regarding skills development and the use of technology has the potential to increase impact in Africa's water sector.