

المنتدى العربي للبيئة والتنمية  
ARAB FORUM FOR  
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



# Institutional Challenges for Water-Energy Nexus

## ARAB PERSPECTIVE

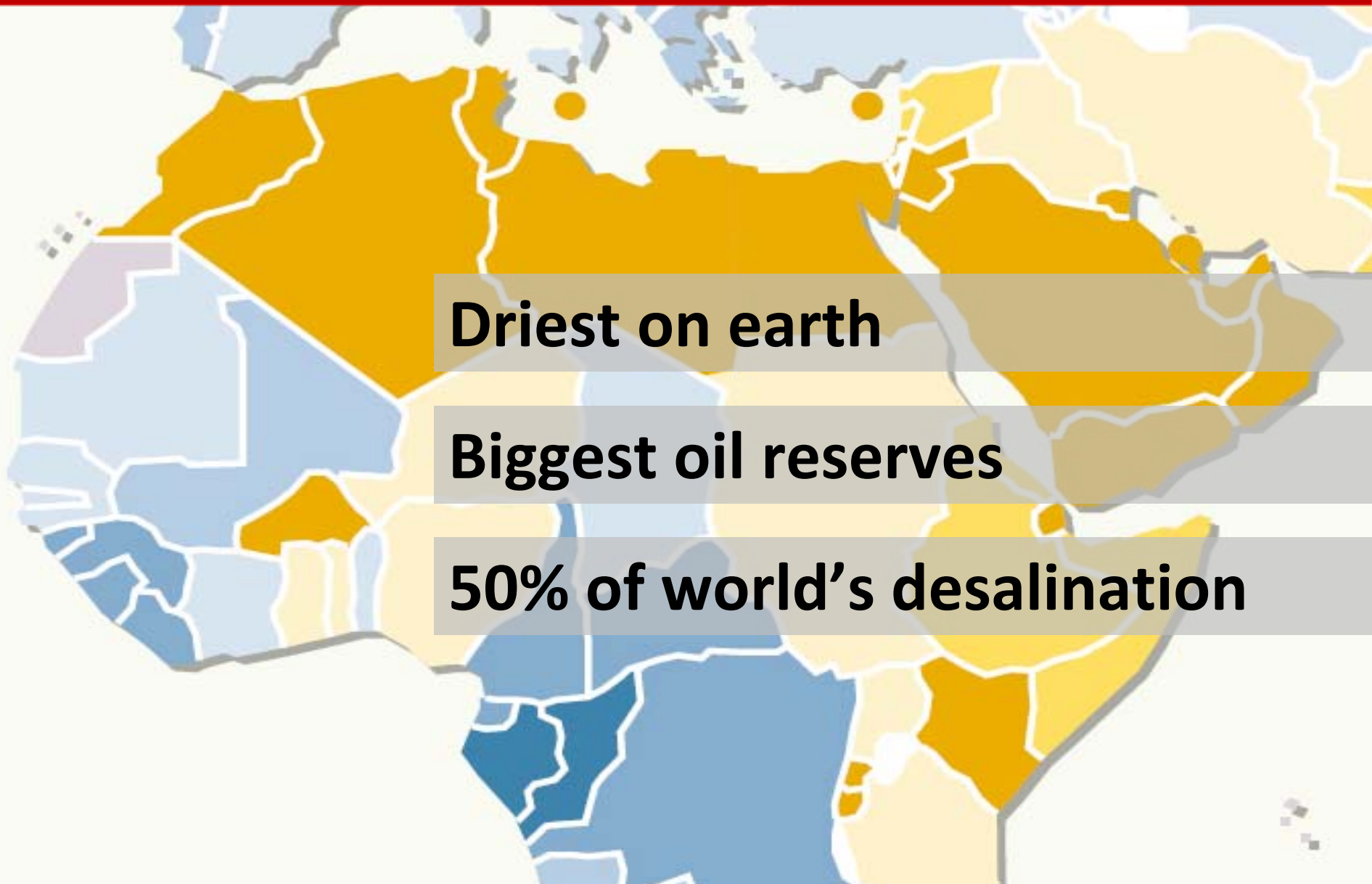
**Najib Saab**

Secretary General  
Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)

Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly on the role of Water, Sanitation  
and Sustainable Energy in the Post 2015 Development Agenda  
*New York, 18-19 February 2014*



# Arab Region



**Driest on earth**

**Biggest oil reserves**

**50% of world's desalination**



# Climate Change



**2100:**

**25% decrease in precipitation**

**25% increase in evaporation**



# Water Desalination, Distribution, Pumping



**50% of total energy**

**Irrigation efficiency world's lowest**

**Per capita water consumption  
world's highest**



# Energy

**Energy intensity and per capita carbon emissions highest in the world**

**50 million without access to modern energy**

**Growth in consumption 8%**

**Growth in GDP 4%**

**Average energy efficiency 50%**

# Subsidies



**Root of inefficiency, overuse,  
excessive pollution and  
environmental degradation**

**Price of water:**

**Average paid 35% of the cost**

**Desalinated water 10% of the cost**

**90% of subsidies go to the rich**



# Will exporters import oil?



**Chatham House:**

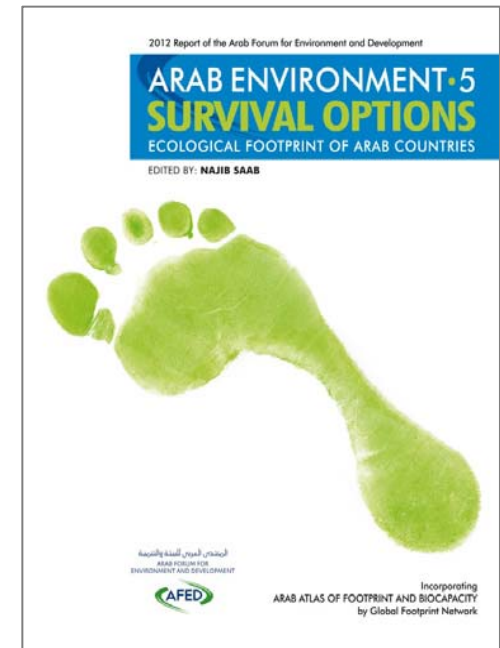
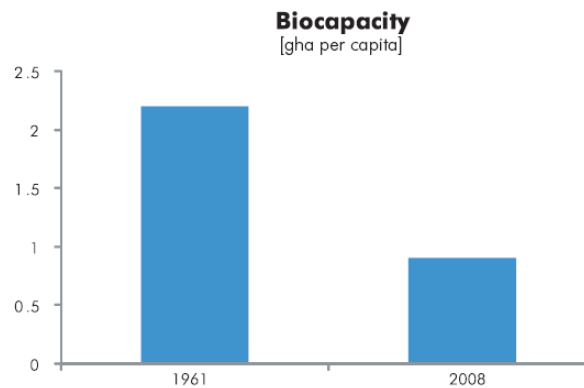
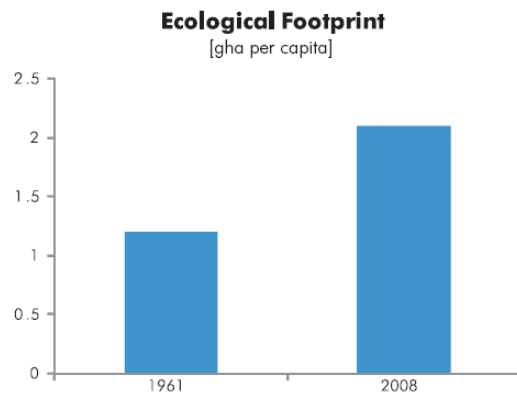
**Demand doubles by 2024**

**More groundwater depletion**

**More energy for desalination**

# Ecological Footprint

Growth targets should respect the regenerative limits of nature





# Good News

**Arab Energy efficiency framework**

**Abu Dhabi water strategy**

**Saudi Arabia: Energy efficiency program and 33% renewables by 2032**

**Morocco: \$11 billion to build 9 gigawatts renewables**

# Reforms

**Institutional and policy measures**

**Subsidies to be phased out**

**Well-defined policies**

**Sound regulatory framework**



The background of the slide features a low-angle shot of a vast solar farm. The rows of blue photovoltaic panels stretch from the bottom right towards the top left, creating a strong sense of perspective. A bright sun is positioned on the left side of the frame, casting a starburst effect across the clear blue sky. The overall scene is clean, modern, and represents sustainable energy.

**Energy efficiency**

**Cleaner technology**

**Renewable sources**

**Advance through science**

**Regional cooperation**

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