

## Water challenges in the MENA region

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### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Distinguished Audience,

I owe my participation in this conference to Madam Miriam Balaban whom I had the pleasure to meet over a year ago. Then she asked me to deliver a keynote address here. I am pleased to be with you and am grateful to Madam Balaban for her kind invitation. I regret I could not make it to the opening session because I was tens of thousand miles away. In my address I choose to talk to you about the water challenges and opportunities in the MENA region, which has the highest per capita share of arid lands, and is home to the largest fossil oil reserves and a high intensity of solar energy.

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