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REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION DIVISION

Regional Stakeholders' Conference for Priority Setting
Accra, Ghana; 15-17 April 2002

MISSION REPORT

S.M.K. Donkor

15-17 April 2002



Water and Sustainable Development
in Africa:

Regional Stakeholders' Conference for Priority Setting
Accra, Ghana; 15-17 April 2002

Conference Executive Summary
and
Accra Declaration

The Africa Water Taskforce

Accra, 18.4.2002

Background

The Accra Water Conference was held against a background of a number of international initiatives in the water sector. These include the adoption of the Dublin and Rio principles in 1992 and adoption of the African Water Vision for 2025 during the Second World Water Forum held in The Hague, Netherlands in 2000.

Meanwhile, there were two international events on the horizon (World Summit on Sustainable Development, Third World Water Forum) which require a unified African voice and position on water, based on a consensus of water stakeholders. Accordingly, in September 2001 and under the guidance of the African Development Bank, representatives from more than 20 regional and international organizations dealing with water in Africa met in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The main purpose of this meeting was to forge collaboration among the different organizations in a way, which will promote synergies, coordination and therefore utilize resources efficiently.

Recognizing the urgency for immediate action, it was decided at the meeting that an **Africa Water Task Force (AWTF)** should be established to assist in defining and synthesizing African positions and programs for the two forthcoming international events. To help reach this objective, it was also decided that a stakeholders' Conference should be held.

Following the launching of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) it was decided that the proposed Conference should also be used as a platform to show how water can help in achieving the goals of NEPAD and to help mobilize resources for implementing the targets set in the African Water Vision and Framework for Action.

The -Conference was held in Accra during April 15-17, 2002, with the financial support of the Government of The Netherlands. The African Development Bank played a central role in organizing and coordinating the Conference and in bringing together the key international and regional stakeholders to Accra.

Among other things, it sought to address the following two questions:

- How can water resources be utilized to support the goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa?
- How can we ensure that water-related problems are not a constraint to sustainable development in Africa and to the attainment of the goals of NEPAD. The AWTF remains highly indebted to His Excellency Mr. John Kufuor (the President of Ghana) who took some time - to not only officially open the Conference but share with the Conference participants some thoughts on the water sector including the sad reality of the continent being at the mercy of the alternate dangers posed by the excess and scarcity of water.

The Accra Water Conference (AWC) was further privileged to have the presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of The Netherlands – Prince Willem Alexander, who presented “No Water – No Future: A Water Focus for Johannesburg”, the latest draft of his contribution to the Panel of the UN Secretary General. HRH advised that the World Water crisis is a crisis of governance and not a crisis of scarcity.

The AWTF is very grateful to Dr Salim Ahmed Salim (former Secretary General of the OAU) for accepting the invitation of the African Development Bank -to assist Africa by serving as its Water Ambassador. The technical and political system stands to benefit from the experience and network of Dr Salim. The AWC fully endorsed his role as water ambassador. The AWC is further confident that the AMCOW will seize the opportunity of utilizing the services of this distinguished son of Africa to mobilize support and create greater awareness on behalf of the water sector not only internationally but also within the political system in Africa..

PRIMARY GOALS

The main goals of the AWC -include the following:

1. Help increase -awareness by Africa's political leaders and development specialists of the central importance of water in sustainable development.
2. Identify African water problems that can constrain the contribution of water resources to the goals of NEPAD (the New Partnership for Africa's for Africa's Development).
3. Agree on priorities for water development in Africa
4. Agree on a concrete Action Program.
5. Develop a plan for mobilizing financial resources needed to implement the action plans

PARICIPATION

Over 200 participants, including six African Ministers responsible for water from **42 African Countries** participated in the Conference. The participants were drawn from among others; senior Government officials, NGO's, Universities and Research Institutions, River Basin Organizations and International organizations active in the water sector including International Water Management Institute, Global Water Partnership, the Water Utility Partnership, World Water Council, FAO, African Development Bank, The World Bank, ECA, UNEP etc. Bi-lateral donors including the Netherlands Government, Department for International Development (UK), French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission e.t.c, were also represented at the Conference.

PRINCIPAL OUTCOMES

The main outcome of the Conference was the **Accra Declaration** based on identified challenges and issues in the water sector in Africa and recommendations for action plans to address these challenges.

A position paper was prepared by the AWTF based on the objectives and targets of the African Water Vision and Framework for Action, and -served as a basis for the discussions during the Conference. The paper highlighted the important role water can play in achieving the objectives of NEPAD. In this respect the output is based on six themes, which were clearly identified in the position paper and discussed in corresponding working groups. The themes are outlined as follows:

Water, food security, environment and trade

A strong linkage exists between availability of water and food security hence the importance of developing programmes that will ensure that water is available in sufficient quantity to increase food production. Sustained agricultural water use and production depends on fair world trade order and opening of regional and international markets.

- ❖ Efforts must be made to increase productivity of water in agriculture and to upgrade the capacity of research institutions and data and information generation. Build of partnerships and examine the regional and international trade situation to remove the market constraints and create a fair exchange of agricultural produces taking onto consideration comparative advantages.

Climate change and natural disasters

Africa suffers greatly from climate changes resulting in disasters. These adversely affect the availability of water for development purposes including domestic use. Furthermore, the current state of knowledge in this area indicates a trend towards greater climate variability in the region. To help mitigate these effects, the following actions need to be undertaken

- ❖ Build capacity ~~to~~ equip Countries in disaster preparedness, management and mitigation.
- ❖ Future investments in large storage infrastructure need to take account of increased occurrence of extreme events (floods and droughts) and should be designed such in a way that they contribute to mitigating these events (e.g. flood control functions).

Managing shared waters

Most of the water resources of Africa are part of ~~the~~ international (or transboundary) rivers, lakes or groundwater aquifers. Water should therefore not be a source of conflict but a source of regional integration. Consequently:

- ❖ A guideline should be developed summarising the different options available and existing best practices on the development and management ~~river basin~~ organisations.
- ❖ Member states should consider establishing River basin organisations in basins where they do not exist. ~~A~~ diagnostic study / institutional audit is recommended for all existing river basin organisations to identify problems and constraints.

Water poverty and health

Proportionately Africa has the lowest percentage in terms of accessibility to water and sanitation services. Yet improved access to equitable and sustainable water and sanitation improves livelihood and contributes to poverty reduction

- ❖ Investment effectiveness needs requires to be well addressed given the fact that most utilities in Africa have failed to achieve financial viability
- ❖ Before opening any dialogue for external assistance, African governments should take the initiative to carry out actions that encourage autonomy and corporate norms in the business of water and sanitation services

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water wisdom

Water must be considered holistically taking into account all the sub-sectors including water supply and sanitation, irrigation, energy generation e.t.c. There is therefore need to develop a strong awareness of the issues in water.

- ❖ **Establish dialogue between countries and within the countries**
- ❖ Use Media to disseminate information on IWRM
- ❖ Intensify Training of water professionals in IWRM.

Financing Water infrastructure

Water is a social good, which implies that basic needs for life should be provided at an affordable cost. At the same time it is an economic good which should be properly valued and efficiently and optimally utilized. Water service providers should aim for financial sustainability, charging the full cost to those who can afford to pay, with transparent subsidy arrangements from public funds and cross-subsidies where the poor cannot afford the full cost.

- ❖ African leaders should place water infrastructure financing higher on their agenda. One important instrument for doing this is the inclusion of water resource development in country poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs).
- ❖ There is a need to establish an African Financial Water Facility to provide investment for water resources management and water service provision in Africa within the framework of NEPAD. The African Development Bank should provide technical support in establishing the facility and be responsible for its management.

NO WATER - NO FUTURE

In preparation for the World Summit for Sustainable Development the UN Secretary General nominated the Prince of Orange –Prince Willem Alexander to be one of the eminent persons in his Panel. In this respect the Conference was given an opportunity to comment on the draft paper, titled “No water - No future” by the Prince of Orange.

Conference participants were appreciative of the opportunity to comment on the paper. They thanked the Prince for his efforts to ensure that water secures some prominence during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg late August 2002.

The Conference participants consider “*No Water, No Future*” as a very valuable contribution that has the potential to significantly increase awareness of water issues at the WSSD and beyond.

In order to ensure that the paper reflects African water priorities, the Conference proposed the inclusion of an “Africa” chapter into the document that highlights the following:

- An introduction based on the Africa Position Paper mentioned above.
- Reference to NEPAD as it relates to water and sustainable development
- Relevant Quotations from the Conference
- Recommendations in line with the outcomes from the Conference.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Conference participants agreed that the African Water Vision for 2025 provides an overarching framework for guiding the development of water resources in Africa and the implementation of its targets should be pursued with urgency. The participants were pleased with the role and achievements of the AWTF and endorsed its continued existence to promote collaboration and partnership on the continent and help define an African agenda for water within the framework of NEPAD. Specifically the AWTF was mandated to continue coordinating the participation of Africa in the forthcoming World events including the WSSD in Johannesburg and the third World Water Forum.

The AWTF has started working towards the WSSD. It has initiated action in the creation of a Water Dome (www.waterdome.net) for the WSSD with an "African Water Village". It has also started planning for the Third World Water Forum.

**ACCRA DECLARATION
ON
WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Water is life ! Without water there can be no future.

Water is the basis of life and development and its use and protection must underpin the rejuvenation of Africa and the achievement of all the goals established by African Heads of State in the Millennium Declaration of 2000. The World Trade Organisation's Doha negotiations and the Monterey Consensus at the Finance for Development Conference offer an economic platform on which sustainable development can be built. Yet Africa may still be marginalised in a globalising world.

Africa's leaders believe that Africa can break free of poverty and overcome the "development traps" that confine it to a vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and suffering. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a bold initiative to achieve this. Its success will require the application of all Africa's human, economic, technological, and natural resources.

The African Water Vision emerged from global initiatives to promote sustainable development and to implement frameworks for action to develop, manage and protect water. This has provided a foundation from which these challenges can be addressed.

We, as representatives of Governments, international, continental and regional organisations as well as members of civil society, professionals from the water sector from 42 African countries together with partners in other continents, met in Accra, Ghana to seek ways to ensure that our management and use of water assists Africa to achieve its sustainable development goals. NEPAD provides an important opportunity for this.

We have considered the role of water in addressing poverty including food security and health; the challenges posed by climate change and water-related disasters; the requirements of integrated water management within national and transboundary basins. We have also considered the challenge of financing the interventions required as well as of the current trade and economic context.

Finally we have reviewed "No Water, No Future" the draft contribution provided by His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of the Netherlands whose advice on sustainable development was solicited by the secretary general of the United Nations. We commented on what we believe is a helpful and valuable contribution to the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, largely consistent with this Declaration.

DECLARATION: Water can make the difference to Africa's development !

We have concluded that water can make an immense difference to Africa's development if it is managed well and used wisely. Given clear policies and strategies and real commitments to implementation, we can use water to help eradicate poverty reduce water-related diseases and achieve sustainable development in Africa.

This can be achieved through:

- Improved access to potable water services and sanitation;
 - water use to address food security and income generation;
 - integrated water resource management (IWRM) in national and shared water basins;
 - water-related disaster prevention, mitigation and management;
 - empowerment and capacity building focused on improving equity and gender sensitivity;
 - pro-poor water governance and water policies;
- all undertaken in a manner designed to protect the natural environment.

Specific action programmes are required to address the huge challenge of ensuring that the proportion of Africans without access to basic water supply and sanitation is reduced by 75% by 2015 and 95% by 2025, including actions to promote improved hygiene.

Water management can also make a critical contribution to the goal of halving the proportion of malnourished people by 2015. Efficient and sustainable use of limited water resources; effective application of science and technology; regional investment in irrigated agriculture and aquaculture should focus as much on economic development and income generation as on food self-sufficiency. Local, national and international trade opportunities will encourage and help fund this economic activity if we enhance

- Access to local and international markets, removing protective barriers;
- Cross-sectoral, integrated approaches;
- partnerships and networks for funding and learning.

National and international water basins are instruments for regional co-operation, development and integration. The lack of co-operative arrangements in these basins and the institutional and financial weaknesses of the existing ones undermines the potential benefits to the continent. Addressing this is essential for the assessment and integrated management of water resources for the mutual benefit of all water users and their communities.

Africa, particularly its poor, is especially vulnerable to water-related disasters such as droughts, floods and desertification, aggravated by the impact of climate change as a consequence of human activities outside Africa. Areas for action include:

- Development of a prevention based culture, rectifying knowledge gaps and strengthening policy and institutional capacity to assess and monitor climate and water and mitigate the effects of climate change and climate variability on water resources;
- Adopt approaches to mitigate the impact of disasters and climate change.
- Strengthen disaster management capacity and emergency preparedness.

Actions should be undertaken to increase public awareness and strengthen the political will needed for sustainable development and management of water resources. The building of human and institutional

capacities is crucial for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). There is an urgent need to establish or strengthen institutions for research and information sharing.

Mobilising the funds that are needed

Unless we address the underlying poverty of many African people, it will not be possible to sustain their access to safe water and hygienic sanitation or to create sustainable livelihoods using water. Improved household incomes are essential if cost-recovery based strategies are to mobilise the funds required.

The linkage between water-based initiatives and broader efforts to promote sustainable development in Africa must therefore be recognised and reinforced. One cannot succeed without the other. Cooperation to create the economic conditions in which Africa can meet its own needs in areas such as trade, direct foreign investment and access to technology will be crucial to generate the household incomes required.

Water is a public good used for social and economic purposes. Water service providers should aim for financial sustainability, charging the full cost to those who can afford to pay, with transparent subsidy arrangements from public funds and cross-subsidies where the poor cannot afford the full cost. Governments must ensure that resources are mobilised first from internal sources, using public funds for services for the poor, and from private sector funds to meet national objectives. As much attention should be paid to environmental sustainability and funding ongoing operations and maintenance costs as to initial investment.

In addition to identifying and promoting self-funded economic activities such as hydropower and commercial agriculture, we should aim to mobilise funding for those essential investments which cannot be supported using local or private sector resources. Initially, approximately US\$6 billion will be required annually to meet basic water supply and sanitation targets, US\$2 billion to promote irrigated agriculture and a further US\$2 billion to support the software of institutional development, capacity building, research, education and information management.

A dedicated water fund for Africa should be established and the establishment of similar funds at national and basin levels considered. Such funds could support integrated water resource management as well as initiatives to encourage cooperation on shared basins.

To mitigate the impact of water-related disasters and climate change, suitable funding and compensation instruments should be developed reflecting where appropriate the "polluter pays" principle, with those countries which have contributed most to the problems contributing to their solutions.

Water is everybody's business.

African people and their governments hold the key to their own future. They should set up effective institutional and policy frameworks and ensure the participation of all elements of civil society with governance delegated to the lowest appropriate level.

At a regional and continental level, governments and other stakeholders must cooperate to provide technical assistance to and support for local and national initiatives. International water basins are potential instruments for regional co-operation, development and integration. Co-operative arrangements must be established and strengthened to achieve benefits for all riparian countries.

Africa's partners from the international community have a vital role to play if we are to achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the sustainable development that we all seek. In view of the scale of the challenges, financial flows will have to be dramatically increased through the appropriate mix of generic development aid, foreign direct investment and support to broad economic development in Africa through enhanced access to markets and other measures.

The achievement of Africa's development goals as articulated by NEPAD and the African Water Vision will not be achieved without committed and coordinated action by governments at a national, sub-regional and continental level with international support. The establishment of the African Ministers Conference on Water (AMCOW) will mark an important step forward for policy dialogue and coordinated action. We offer our collective support to the Ministers to ensure that this initiative receives the technical and professional support and secretariat services it will require.

Action plans are more likely to succeed if there are effective systems for monitoring, evaluation and accounting. The 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Kyoto Third World Water Forum offer the opportunity to report, evaluate and account in a structured manner on progress made since the Hague World Water Forum in 2000 at which Frameworks for Action were established. We recommend that these events be used to review both global and African progress and to identify and propose actions to bridge any gaps that may appear between commitments, delivery and goals. The African Water Development Report should be used on an ongoing basis to support this process.

Accra

17th April 2002



**Water and Sustainable Development
in Africa:**

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**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME 1**

The African Water Task Force

First draft **Second draft**

Accra, 2127.04.02

Foreword

Water is the basis of life and development, ~~and its~~ use and protection must underpin the rejuvenation of Africa and the achievement of all the goals established by African Heads of State in the Millennium Declaration of 2000. The African Water Vision ~~which~~ emerged from global initiatives during 1999 to promote sustainable development and to implement frameworks for action. The Vision and evolving actions have set a course to develop, manage and protect water to underpin African development goals. ~~provides an opportunity to the development and its use. This has provided a foundation from which these challenges can be addressed.~~

Africa's leaders believe that Africa can break free of poverty and overcome the "development traps" that confine it to a vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and suffering. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a bold initiative to achieve this. Its success will require the application of all Africa's human, economic, technological, and natural resources.

A lot has happened in the two years since the adoption of the Africa Water vision. ~~Two years since the~~ at the 2nd second World Water Forum ~~was held in~~ the Hague, Netherlands. The ~~holding of the~~ Accra Water Conference ~~therefore~~ provided a good opportunity to review and reorientate ~~consider the various issues on actions within~~ the water sector in Africa. The Accra water conference was held from Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th April 2002. The conference brought together a total of 200 people from 42 African ~~c~~ountries including policy makers, sector professionals, representatives from financing institutions and bi-lateral donors, civil society, and researchers, e.t.c. ~~The list of participants also included~~ The Conference also included participants from other regions outside the African Continent.

The key issues emanating from the Conference are captured in the "**Accra Declaration Statement**" ~~on the~~ water as a tool for sustainable development in Africa. The record of the proceedings and conclusions of the conference are structured as follows:

- **Volume 1: Summary of Conference** is ~~meant~~ for broad circulation, ~~and is~~ available electronically as well as ~~and~~ in print, in English and French. This report expands on the Accra Declaration Statement and includes a summary of the reports from ~~the various~~ plenary sessions and working groups. It also ~~contains a list of participants.~~ includes the final list of participants as an annex.
- **Volume 2: Presentations** ~~contains~~ includes the complete text of all ~~the~~ presentations. It can be found ~~will be posted~~ on the conference website (www.iwmi.org/accra2002) and ~~mirrored~~ on partner websites, including ~~These include the~~ WUP website (www.wupafrica.org) African Development Bank (www.afdb.org) UN-Economic Commission for Africa (www.uneca.org), UNEP (www.unep.org), FAO (www.fao.org) and others. e.t.c. Volume 2 ~~is~~ will also ~~be~~ available as a printed copy.
- A **Flyer** presenting the Accra ~~De~~claration and the Executive summary of the conference ~~is intended for~~ will ~~broad~~ dissemination key outputs beyond the participants and will be available during the WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa. It/This will also be available during the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW).

I encourage each participant to disseminate the outcomes of the Accra Conference. I look forward to continued collaboration with all the African Water Task Force Members and with our partners to build regional knowledge and capacity on ~~the~~ "how" to ensure an equitable and sustainable use of Africa's water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and for the environment.

Prof. Albert Wright
Chairman, [African Water Task Force](#)

AFRICA WATER TASK FORCE

Acknowledgements

The African Water Conference (AWC) was made possible by the collaboration and the support of many agencies and by the vision, ~~the~~ expertise and hard work of countless individuals including the organizers, the resource persons and those responsible for support and logistics.

~~Ultimately, though. At the end, however,~~ it is the participants who made the ~~success of the~~ Conference such a success; through their response and their contributions. It is through them that the impact of the Conference will unfold over the coming months and years in terms of:

- ❖ awareness of the role of water in sustainable development;
- ❖ better impact on the six thematic areas of water and its contributions to food security and the environment, poverty and health, and its relations with climate change and natural disasters, international boundaries, infrastructure investment and integrated water resources management. including climate change, water and food security, water poverty and health e.t.c. and,
- ❖ increased knowledge sharing and exchanges among sector actors.

The first round of acknowledgment and thanks is due to the Government of Ghana which hosted the Conference. This was -through the Local Organising Committee which represented various organisations including Water Resources Commission(WRC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The conference was organized by the African Water Task Force (AWTF) which comprises ~~of~~ about 15 regional organisations in Africa dealing with water.

Direct financial support as well as sponsorships of participants were provided by:

- ❖ The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NEDA)
- ❖ Global Water Partnership
- ❖ The African Development Bank (AfDB)

Development agencies and programs also provided support out of their country funds in the form of sponsorships for travel, subsistence and registration.

ACCRA DECLARATION ON WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Water is the basis of life and development and its use and protection must underpin the rejuvenation of Africa and the achievement of all the goals established by African Heads of State in the Millennium Declaration of 2000. The World Trade Organisation's Doha negotiations and the Monterey Consensus at the Finance for Development conference offer an economic platform on which sustainable development can be built. Yet Africa may still be marginalised in a globalising world.

Africa's leaders believe that Africa can break free of poverty and overcome the "development traps" that confine it to a vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and suffering. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a bold initiative to achieve this. Its success will require the application of all Africa's human, economic, technological, and natural resources.

The African Water Vision emerged from global initiatives to promote sustainable development and to implement frameworks for action to develop, manage and protect water. This has provided a foundation from which these challenges can be addressed.

We, as representatives of Governments, international, continental and regional organisations as well as members of civil society, professionals from the water sector from 41 African countries together with partners in other continents, met in Accra, Ghana to seek ways to ensure that our management and use of water assists Africa to achieve its sustainable development goals. NEPAD provides an important opportunity for this.

We have considered the role of water in addressing poverty including food security and health; the challenges posed by climate change and water-related disasters; the requirements of integrated water management within national and transboundary basins. We have also considered the challenge of financing the interventions required as well as of the current trade and economic context.

Finally we have reviewed "No Water, No Future" the draft contribution provided by His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of the Netherlands whose advice on sustainable development was solicited by the [Secretary General](#) of the United Nations. We commented on what we believe is a helpful and valuable contribution to the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, largely consistent with this Declaration.

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We have concluded that water can make an immense difference to Africa's development if it is managed well and used wisely. Given clear policies and strategies and real commitments to implementation, we can use water to help eradicate poverty, reduce water-related diseases and achieve sustainable development in Africa.

This can be achieved through:

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- Empowerment and capacity building focused on improving equity and gender sensitivity;
- Pro-poor water governance and water policies;

All undertaken in a manner designed to protect the natural environment.

Specific action programmes are required to address the huge challenge of ensuring that the proportion of Africans without access to basic water supply and sanitation is reduced by 50% by 2015 and 75% by 2025, including actions to promote improved hygiene.

Water management can also make a critical contribution to the goal of halving the proportion of malnourished people by 2015. Efficient and sustainable use of limited water resources; effective application of science and technology; regional investment in irrigated agriculture and aquaculture should focus as much on economic development and income generation as on food self-sufficiency. Local, national and international trade opportunities will encourage and help fund this economic activity if we enhance

- Access to local and international markets, removing protective barriers;
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- Partnerships and networks for funding and learning.

National and international water basins are instruments for regional co-operation, development and integration. The lack of co-operative arrangements in these basins and the institutional and financial weaknesses of the existing ones undermines the potential benefits to the continent. Addressing this is essential for the assessment and integrated management of water resources for the mutual benefit of all water users and their communities.

Africa, particularly its poor, is especially vulnerable to water-related disasters such as droughts, floods and desertification, aggravated by the impact of climate change as a consequence of human activities outside Africa. Areas for action include:

- Development of a prevention based culture, rectifying knowledge gaps and strengthening policy and institutional capacity to assess and monitor climate and water and mitigate the effects of climate change and climate variability on water resources;
- Adopt approaches to mitigate the impact of disasters and climate change.
- Strengthen disaster management capacity and emergency preparedness.

Actions should be undertaken to increase public awareness and strengthen the political will needed for sustainable development and management of water resources. The building of human and institutional capacities is crucial for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). There is an urgent need to establish or strengthen institutions for research and information sharing.

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The linkage between water-based initiatives and broader efforts to promote sustainable development in Africa must therefore be recognised and reinforced. One cannot succeed without the other. Cooperation to create the economic conditions in which Africa can meet its own needs in areas such as trade, direct foreign investment and access to technology will be crucial to generate the household incomes required.

Water is a public good used for social and economic purposes. Water service providers should aim for financial sustainability, charging the full cost to those who can afford to pay, with transparent subsidy arrangements from public funds and cross-subsidies where the poor cannot afford the full cost. Governments must ensure that resources are mobilised first from internal sources, using public funds for services for the poor, and from private sector funds to meet national objectives. As much attention should be paid to environmental sustainability and funding ongoing operations and maintenance costs as to initial investment.

In addition to identifying and promoting self-funded economic activities such as hydropower and commercial agriculture, we should aim to mobilise funding for those essential investments which cannot be supported using local or private sector resources. Initially, approximately US\$6 billion will be required annually to meet basic water supply and sanitation targets, US\$2 billion to promote irrigated agriculture and a further US\$2 billion to support the software of institutional development, capacity building, research, education and information management.

A dedicated water fund for Africa should be established and the establishment of similar funds at national and basin levels considered. Such funds could support integrated water resource management as well as initiatives to encourage cooperation on shared basins. To mitigate the impact of water-related disasters and climate change, suitable funding and compensation instruments should be developed reflecting where appropriate the “polluter pays” principle, with those countries which have contributed most to the problems contributing to their solutions.

Water is everybody's business.

African people and their governments hold the key to their own future. They should set up effective institutional and policy frameworks and ensure the participation of all elements of civil society with governance delegated to the lowest appropriate level.

At a regional and continental level, governments and other stakeholders must cooperate to provide technical assistance to and support for local and national initiatives.

International water basins are potential instruments for regional co-operation, development and integration. Co-operative arrangements must be established and strengthened to achieve benefits for all riparian countries.

Africa's partners from the international community have a vital role to play if we are to achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the sustainable development that we all seek. In view of the scale of the challenges, financial flows will have to be dramatically increased through the appropriate mix of generic development aid, foreign direct investment and support to broad economic development in Africa through enhanced access to markets and other measures.

The achievement of Africa's development goals as articulated by NEPAD and the African Water Vision will not be achieved without committed and coordinated action by governments at a national, sub-regional and continental level with international support. The establishment of the African Ministers Conference on Water (AMCOW) will mark an important step forward for policy dialogue and coordinated action. We offer our collective support to the Ministers to ensure that this initiative receives the technical and professional support and secretariat services it will require.

Action plans are more likely to succeed if there are effective systems for monitoring, evaluation and accounting. The 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Kyoto Third World Water Forum offer the opportunity to report, evaluate and account in a structured manner on progress made since the Hague World Water Forum in 2000 at which Frameworks for Action were established. We recommend that these events be used to review both global and African progress and to identify and propose actions to bridge any gaps that may appear between commitments, delivery and goals. The African Water Development Report should be used on an ongoing basis to support this process.

Accra
17th April 2002

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Abbreviations

AWC	Accra Water Conference
AfDB	African Development Bank
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
OUA	Organisation of African Unity
AWF	African Water Forum
WUP	Water Utility Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
AMCOW	African Ministerial Conference on Water
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management

Abbreviations

ACMAD	?? (Page 28)
ADB	African Development Bank (suggest all 'ADB's changed to AfDB for consistency)
ADF	African Development Forum
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGRHYMET	?? (Page 28)
AMCOW	African Ministerial Conference on Water
ARIA	Annual Report on Integration in Africa
AWC	Accra Water Conference
AWF	African Water Forum
AWPC	?? (PAGE 13)
AWTE	African Water Task Force
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa (suggest all 'ECA's changed to UNECA)
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)
FFA	Framework for Action
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International and Experimental Network Data (Programme of UNESCO, the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System

<u>GPS</u>	<u>Global Positioning Satellite</u>
<u>GWP</u>	<u>Global Water Partnership</u>
<u>HYCOS</u>	<u>Hydrological Cycle Observations System (of the World Meteorological Organisation)</u>
<u>IGWA</u>	<u>Inter-agency Group on Water in Africa (of the United Nations)</u>
<u>IWMI</u>	<u>International Water Management Institute</u>
<u>IWRM</u>	<u>Integrated Water Resources Management</u>
<u>H.E.</u>	<u>His Excellency</u>
<u>HRH</u>	<u>His Royal Highness</u>
<u>LCBCA</u>	<u>Lake Chad Basin Commission Authority</u>
<u>MDB</u>	<u>Multilateral Development Bank</u>
<u>NBA</u>	<u>Niger Basin Authority</u>
<u>NBI</u>	<u>Nile Basin Initiative</u>
<u>NEDA</u>	<u>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</u>
<u>NEPAD</u>	<u>New Partnership for African Development</u>
<u>NGO</u>	<u>Non-Governmental Organisation</u>
<u>O & M</u>	<u>Operation and Maintenance</u>
<u>OAU</u>	<u>Organisation of African Unity</u>
<u>ODA</u>	<u>Official Development Assistance</u>
<u>R & D</u>	<u>Research and Development</u>
<u>SADC</u>	<u>Southern African Development Community</u>
<u>SATAC</u>	<u>Southern Africa Technical Advisory Committee (of the Global Water Partnership)</u>
<u>SPFS</u>	<u>Special Programme for Food Security (of FAO)</u>
<u>UK</u>	<u>United Kingdom</u>
<u>UN</u>	<u>United Nations</u>
<u>UNDP</u>	<u>United Nations Development Programme</u>
<u>UNECA</u>	<u>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</u>
<u>UNEP</u>	<u>United Nations Environment Programme</u>
<u>U.S.</u>	<u>United States</u>
<u>WATAC</u>	<u>West Africa Technical Advisory Committee (of the Global Water Partnership)</u>
<u>WFS</u>	<u>World Food Summit</u>
<u>WRC</u>	<u>Water Resources Commission (Ghana)</u>
<u>WSSD</u>	<u>World Summit on Sustainable Development</u>
<u>WTO</u>	<u>World Trade Organisation</u>
<u>WUP</u>	<u>Water Utility Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa</u>
<u>WWF</u>	<u>World Water Forum</u>

|

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Accra Water Conference was held against a background of a number of international initiatives in the water sector. These include the adoption of the Dublin and Rio principles in 1992 and adoption of the African Water Vision for 2025 during the Second World Water Forum held in The Hague, Netherlands in 2000.

Meanwhile, there were two international events on the horizon (World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa – [at the](#) end of August 2002, [and the](#) Third World Water Forum in March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan) which required a unified African voice and position on water. However, there was no indication of a corresponding collective African initiative. Accordingly, in September 2001 and under the guidance of the African Development Bank, representatives from more than 20 regional and international organizations dealing with water in Africa met in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The main purpose of this meeting was to forge collaboration among the different organizations in a way [that would which will](#) promote synergies, coordination and therefore utilize resources efficiently.

Recognizing the urgency for immediate action, it was decided at the meeting that an **Africa Water Task Force** (AWTF) should be established to assist in defining and synthesizing African positions and programs for the two forthcoming international events. It was also decided that, as a first step, a related stakeholders' conference should be held.

Following the launching of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) it was decided that the proposed conference should also be used as a platform to show how water can help in achievement of the goals of NEPAD.

The said conference was held in Accra during April 15-17, 2002, with financial support of the Government of The Netherlands. Among other [things objectives](#), it sought to address the following two questions:

How can water resources be utilized to support the goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa?

How can we ensure that water-related problems are not a constraint to sustainable development in Africa and to attainment of the goals of NEPAD, in particular but a tool for regional integration?

The AWTF remains highly indebted to His Excellency Mr. John Kufuor (the President of Ghana) who took [some](#) time [off](#) to [not only](#) officially open the conference [and to but](#) share with the conference participants some thoughts on the water sector including the sad reality of the continent being at the mercy of the dangers posed by the excess and scarcity of water.

The Accra Water Conference (AWC) was further privileged to have the presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of The Netherlands – Prince Willem Alexander, who presented “No Water – No Future: A Water Focus for Johannesburg”, the latest draft of his contribution to the Panel of the UN Secretary General. HRH advised that the World Water crisis is a crisis of governance and not a crisis of scarcity.

The AWTF is very grateful to Dr Salim Ahmed Salim (former Secretary General of the OAU) for accepting the invitation of the AWTF to assist Africa by serving as its Water Ambassador.

The technical and political system stands to benefit from the experience and network of Dr Salim. The AWC fully endorsed his role as [W](#)water [A](#)ambassador. The AWC is further confident that the [African Ministerial Conference on Water \(AMCOW\)](#) will seize the opportunity of utilizing the services of our distinguished son of Africa to lobby on behalf the water sector not only internationally but also within the political system in Africa.

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The main objectives of the Accra Water Conference (AWC) ~~were to include the following:~~

- ~~1.6.~~ Begin a process for creating an awareness by Africa's political leaders and development specialists of the central importance of water in sustainable development.
- ~~2.7.~~ Identify African water problems that can constrain the help that water can provide in the pursuit of the goals of NEPAD ~~(the New Partnership for Africa's for Africa's Development).~~
- ~~3.8.~~ Agree on priorities for water development in Africa
- ~~4.9.~~ Agree on a concrete Action Program.
- ~~5.10.~~ Develop a plan for mobilizing financial resources needed to implement the action plans

1.2 PARTICIPATION

~~Over 200 participants, including six African Ministers responsible for water~~ from ~~42 African Countries~~ participated in the conference, including six African Ministers responsible for water. The participants were drawn from among others; senior Government officials, NGO's, Universities and Research Institutions, River Basin Organizations and International organizations in the water sector including International Water Management Institute, Global Water Partnership, African Development Bank and the United Nations etc., and bi-lateral donors including the Netherlands Government, Department for International Development (UK), French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the European Commission. ~~e.t.c~~

1.3 THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference ~~sought to~~ address six key themes, namely as follows:

1. Water, food security, environment and trade
2. Climate change and natural disasters
3. Managing shared waters
4. Water poverty and health
5. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water wisdom
6. Financing Water infrastructure

~~These above~~ themes, which were discussed within Working Groups, were guided by a position paper prepared as part of background documentation for the conference. The paper highlighted the important role water can play in achieving the objectives of NEPAD. ~~In this respect the output is based on the six themes outlined above which were clearly identified in the position paper and discussed in corresponding working groups.~~

1.4 conference format

The Accra Water Conference followed a thematic structure; presentations on key themes paved way for ~~discussion~~ ~~W~~working ~~G~~roups to review the situation relevant to each theme. Each ~~w~~Working ~~g~~Group was ~~tasked requested~~ to develop the major issues and challenges, goals and targets, actions needed to meet the challenges, achievements so far, institutions that may be involved and develop any financial indications in terms of the costs of implementing such actions. The outputs from the ~~w~~Working ~~g~~Groups were presented to plenary sessions ~~at which additional where some~~ views were sought. The AWTF met after the conference to map out a strategy on the way forward ~~to particularly~~ participation at the WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa through coordinating of the WaterDome and ~~to~~ participation at the third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

1.5 NO WATER - NO FUTURE

In preparation for the World Summit for Sustainable Development the UN Secretary General nominated the Prince of Orange –Prince Willem Alexander to be one of the eminent persons in his Panel. ~~In this respect~~ ~~t~~The conference was given an opportunity to comment on ~~the a~~ draft paper (No water - No future) ~~prepared~~ by the Prince of Orange.

Conference participants considered it an honour to be given an opportunity to comment on the paper. They thanked the Prince for his efforts to ensure that water secures some prominence during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (~~WSSD~~) in Johannesburg. ~~late August 2002.~~

The conference participants consider “*No Water, No Future*” ~~as to be~~ a very valuable and useful contribution that has the potential to significantly increase awareness of water issues at the WSSD and beyond.

The conference particularly proposed the inclusion of an “Africa” chapter that highlights the following:

- ❖ An introduction based on the Africa Position Paper (~~referred to mentioned~~ above ~~as a background resource to the Conference~~).
- ❖ Reference to NEPAD as it relates to water and sustainable development
- ❖ Quotations from the conference
- ❖ Recommendations in line with the outcomes from the conference.

1.6 EVALUATION

A total of (???)— evaluations were received and the general comments were (???).

2.0 OPENING SESSION

The opening session was presided over by Mr Kwabena Manu-Sarpong of Ghana. It comprised of plenary presentations ~~of~~ by the following dignitaries/dignatories including the following:

- ❖ The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) presented by Mr Ahmed Bhagat, Vice President (Finance) at the AfDB.
- ❖ The Minister responsible for coordinating the infrastructure section of NEPAD (Senegal) presented by Mr Mike Muller, Director General for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa
- ❖ The Minister of State for the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in Nigeria, Hon. Chief Precious Ngelale
- ❖ H. E. Dr Salim A. Salim, the African Water Ambassador
- ❖ HRH The Prince of Orange, Crown Prince of the Netherlands Prince Willem Alexander
- ❖ HE the President of Ghana, Mr John A. Kufuor

2.1 Opening address: SUMMARY OF THE OPENING ADDRESS

By The President of The Republic Of Ghana –Mr. John A. Kufuor

The President of the Republic of Ghana Mr. John A. Kufuor officially opened the conference. In his address he reminded the participants that water is not only the source of all life but that it is also crucial to development. And that if Africa is to make headway in moving forward and improve upon the lives of the peoples, it has to learn to harvest and use water purposefully and efficiently.

The sad reality is that Africa, is perhaps, the continent most at the mercy of the dangers posed by the excess and scarcity of water. This is because the knowledge and technical know how needed to manage and develop this vital resource have been in very short supply. Needless to say, the required investments have also been negligible.

Africa has therefore been reduced to a continent of natural disasters alternating between droughts with dehumanizing famine, and deluges that sweep away everything in their wake, like homes, infrastructure, livestock and even human life.

In much the same way, some historic towns, fine beaches and eco-systems are lost to the uncontrolled ravages of the sea and as much of Africa looks on helplessly.

The urgency of taming and harnessing this crucial element for sustained development and improvement of life in Africa cannot be overemphasized.

The President focused on the need for having a clear understanding of the role of major infrastructural development programmes which tend to temper with the ecological balance of the environment. This is a global issue which has tended to generate strident debates in many countries.

Not too long ago, the building of dams was seen as a good thing for the provision of energy, transforming agriculture and conserving sustained sources of drinking water in many parts of the World.

Today it appears one cannot hope to build a dam without inviting the wrath of some vocal idealists, both local and foreign.

There is no doubt that given the inevitable disturbance of the environment, the construction of dams tends to be contentious. But given the necessity of water to social development, the antagonistic ideological stance should be toned down considerably.

The President urged that the necessary partnerships to attract investment in the water sector be examined on a case-by-case basis to ensure that there is a balance between effective supply of this need and conscionable economy. Unnecessary suspicion of motives should be eschewed and a bipartisan approach should be cultivated.

He further urged the conference participants to highlight the recognition of the importance of treating water development in Africa as an essential instrument for poverty reduction, health enhancement and social advancement on the continent.

He paid tribute to HRH the Prince of Orange, —Prince Willem Alexander on his being chosen by the UN Secretary General as the Global Water ~~a~~Ambassador. He further thanked the Netherlands Government for its continued development assistance to Ghana and especially in recognition of the 300 years of contacts between the two Countries.

Lastly but not least he expressed hope that the end of the conference would reach a conclusion ~~reached~~ that would reflect a pragmatic and realistic attitude for Africa to take to the Earth Summit in Johannesburg.

2.2 SUMMARY ON PRESENTATION OF NO WATER NO FUTURE

by the Prince of Orange, HRH Willem Alexander

The water crisis is especially acute in sub-Sahara Africa, where only 60% of the 680 million people have access to safe water supplies. People in the worst-off 50 countries, half of which are in Africa, must try and meet all their water and sanitation needs on an average of 30 ~~litters~~ litres or less per day. This is far less than the 50-~~litters~~ litres per day norm considered as the absolute minimum for water needs.

In his statement the -Prince indicate that people living on less than 10-~~litters~~ litres per day can never escape poverty and achieve sustainable development without first addressing their water scarcity because -water is crucial to development.- No single type of intervention has had greater overall impact upon economic development and public health than the provision of ~~saf~~ve drinking water and proper sanitation.

The Prince was invited by the Secretary General of the UN to serve on the panel in charge of the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg this year .He therefore prepare an initial contribution with the title “*No Water ~~No~~ Future*” where recommendations are made on :

- shared values,
- the public –private sector nexus,
- global governance and
- science and technology

The Prince invited d the Conference to develop a strong statement from African water stakeholders in order to put the African waters s issues high on the agenda of the Johannesburg Summit

2.3 Statement ON THE ROLE OF THE Water Ambassador for Africa.

By His Excellency, Dr Salim A. Salim

His Excellency Dr Salim A. Salim ~~described~~~~gave~~ his Mission as African Water Ambassador. His nomination as African Water Ambassador was applauded by all participants at the AWC. He felt that African water resources play a crucial role in social, economic and environmental security of the region. ~~T~~, there is therefore a strong need to promote water issues in a manner that sensitizes and mobilizes support for effective utilization in order to achieve sustainable development.

The forthcoming 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, will provide the water sector with an opportunity of assessing progress made in the last decade and make commitments to achieving the goals set at the 1992, UN Conference on Environment and Development.

It is apparent that despite domestic and international efforts, there are major challenges to the implementation of Agenda 21. Some of which include inadequate access to clean water, endemic poverty, environmental degradation and the often devastating effects of spatial and temporal variability of rainfall.

National, regional and global support is needed to address these challenges by:

- ~~_____~~ Sensitizing Africans and their governments to the importance of efficient water resource allocation and utilization .
- ~~_____~~ Exploration of innovative and viable mechanisms for securing public and private sector investments.
- ~~_____~~ Assistance from Africa's development partners in the provision of seed funding for investment.
- ~~_____~~ Fundamental changes in policies, strategies as well as institutional arrangements and management practices.
- ~~_____~~ Partnership and cooperation between countries that share trans-boundary water resources.
- ~~_____~~ Ensuring that programmes and policies are carried out within the framework of OAU and in the ~~framework context~~ of the New ~~Partnership for Africa's~~ ~~African Partnership for~~ Development ~~Framework~~.

In conclusion, the use of water resources for sustainable development as articulated in the African Water Vision for 2025 can not be achieved without collaboration and cooperation between African countries. The Accra conference ~~and~~, the forthcoming African Ministers' Conference on ~~W~~water (AMCOW) provide a crucial opportunity to ~~-arrive at -a~~ unified position which can be clearly articulated at ~~T~~the Johannesburg World Summit on ~~S~~sustainable ~~D~~development ~~-and at~~ other international fora.

An African position ~~is needed that~~, which reaffirms the African ~~W~~water ~~V~~vision for 2025, the provision of water for domestic, economic and environmental purposes, equitable access for all towards the socio economic development of Africa ~~is needed~~.

He reaffirmed his commitment to ~~the~~is process towards the achievement of the above goals.

2.4 Statement ON AMCOW

by The Minister of State for Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria, Chief Precious Ngelane (JP);

The Minister of State for the Federal Ministry of Water Resources from Nigeria gave a presentation on the initiative of institutionalizing the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW).

The African Ministers for water recognize that water is a crucial natural resource, vital for the sustenance of human life, the maintenance of ecological systems and socio-economic development of the continent.

There are however many challenges which reduce the maximal realization of this resource's potential for poverty alleviation and enhancement of African livelihoods.

Examples of these challenges include:

- Variability in rainfall distribution with the attendant negative impact on food security, ecosystem protection and economic development.
- Inadequate access to water and sanitation by over 300 million Africans and the attendant consequences of impaired health, energy wastage and poor livelihoods.
- Competitive demand between water for human needs and maintenance of the ecosystems.
- The absence of effective institutional arrangements and procedures to foster cooperation and communication between countries that share transboundary basins with a potential threat to regional stability.
- Water pollution due to indiscriminate industrial and human wastes disposal.
- In spite of Africa's dependence on water for food security, there is a dearth of efficient land and water conservation management measures and supporting institutional arrangements.

These and other challenges to adequate, equitable and sustainable access to water in Africa, demonstrates the strong need for regional consultation and cooperation. In this regard, there is a strong call by the majority of African Ministers for the establishment of a Forum for Ministerial Dialogue on Water Resources Management. This forum will provide an avenue for dialogue on policies to address some of the identified challenges in the water sector.

It aims to:

- ❖ Support trans-national cooperation on water related issues through the development of a unified African position that addresses water related regional and global concerns and facilitates the implementation of environmental conventions and international agreements.
- ❖ Encourage mechanisms, ~~that which~~ promote best practices in water policy reform, water resource management and water and sanitation delivery at national and sub regional levels.
- ❖ Facilitate international cooperation and financial support through the coordination of water policy related issues in Africa.

The establishment of a forum for dialogue to develop common regional perspectives becomes even more critical within the objectives of:

- a) The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), particularly in view of the central role water plays in economic and social development.
- b) The forthcoming 2002 Johannesburg World ~~Sustainable~~ Summit on Sustainable Development.

To date, three rounds of consultations have been held.

- ❖ In September 2001, eight African Ministers met as part of preparatory consultations towards the 2002 Johannesburg Summit.
- ❖ In November 2001, informal consultations were held in Abuja, Nigeria with five African countries in attendance. The prospects and feasibility for achieving greater dialogue amongst Africa's water resources ministers was examined at this meeting.
- ❖ In December 2001, a third round of consultations was held at the Bonn conference, after which an African Ministers Declaration was issued.

As part of ~~that~~The Declaration, the ministers resolved to institutionalize policy dialogue at ministerial level on water related issues. The proposed African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) is an outcome of this. An inaugural meeting, at which fifty-three ministers are expected, is scheduled for April 2002 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The outcomes of the Accra ~~Water Conference~~Regional Stakeholders conference will be one of the topics of discussion at the forthcoming conference.

In conclusion, the time has come to act and we strongly believe that it is incumbent on the African Ministers responsible for water resources to propose a regional alliance for water security in Africa, with the objective of reducing regional conflict, fostering stronger cooperation in addressing Africa's water problems and needs through dialogue.

2.5 PRESENTATION ON NEPAD

by Mike Muller, Director General ~~offer~~ the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa

The maximal potential of water as a key tool for social and economic development in Africa cannot be realized without regional and sectoral collaboration and cooperation, within the framework of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is an African initiative conceived by Africans agreed with by Africans and lead by African. It requires us to change our approaches and understanding of development and water resources management. This initiative sets preconditions for development as peace, security, democracy and good governance, which is integrally with, integrated water resources management. With these pillars in place, NEPAD can turn to economic initiatives focusing on regional and sub regional approaches to development through which stakeholders can finance water infrastructure programmes.

Finally, NEPAD has addressed the challenge of mobilizing the resources required for its implementation. This may be done through:

- Effective management of our domestic resources for our programmes by paying greater attention to effective revenue collection, cost recovery and appropriate levels of expenditure; mobilizing private funding flows as well as
- Developing new approaches to utilization of overseas development assistance and creating new opportunities for trade.

NEPAD has been welcomed and accepted by our international partners who have expressed the view that it creates an opportunity to transform relations between us, an opportunity for Africa to take its rightful place in the world.

2.6 Statement by the President of the African Development Bank Delivered By Mr. Ahmed Baghat, Vice President Afdb

In his opening statement, Mr. Baghat highlighted the importance the AfDB attaches to water as an instrument for development through the Bank's activities in the water sector and contribution and support to a number of key events that have occurred within the past three years, including the development and ongoing implementation of the African Water Vision, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the designation of the Water Ambassador for Africa.

As reported by Mr. Baghat, the Bank's investments in the water sector amounts to 4.9 billion U.S dollars per year. ~~This and r~~ represents about 15 percent of the lending portfolio. The Bank's contribution to better water resources management in the region is through the development and adoption of an integrated water resources management policy, which promotes an integrated and holistic approach towards water resources development. The message also indicated that the Bank does not work in isolation, rather it seeks consultation and cooperation with its partners and other stakeholders active in the water sector.

Mr. Baghat outlined the genesis of the major events that led to this present conference as follows:

1. The presentation and adoption of the African Water Vision (AWV), which was adopted at the African Caucus meeting at the WWF2. The Bank was invited by the Prince of Orange to attend the Second World Water Forum (WWF2) at ~~T~~the Hague in 2000. Upon broad consultation with water sector stakeholders, especially the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Organization for African Unity (OAU) in a meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana in November 1999, it was decided that the African participation in WWF2 would be in the form of providing an African Water Vision as an element of the Global Water Vision which was being prepared by the World Water Council, and in organizing an African Water Caucus meeting as one of the sessions of the Forum. Subsequently a draft was prepared and validated at a stakeholders meeting at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan in February 2000, then presented at the WWF2. The framework for implementation of the AWV is the Inter-Agency Group for Water in Africa (IGWA) of the United Nations. In order to generate a collaborative framework and effective partnership for the implementation of the AWV, a consultative meeting was held at the Bank's headquarters in September 2001. At this meeting, an African Water Task Force was established and given the mandate to organize a conference to bring together a wider water constituency to chart the way forward.
2. The Bank was assigned by the ~~h~~Head of States Implementation Committee to be the lead agency for infrastructure development, including water and sanitation under the NEPAD Initiative which underlines the importance of collaborating to develop water infrastructure in the region, particularly in transboundary water basins where ~~lies~~ the potential lies for regional integration and development. An important milestone in the process of ensuring the highest political commitment for development efforts in the water sector, an African Ministerial Committee on Water (AMCOW) was established by African Ministers of Water. AMCOW is scheduled to be launched at the end of April 2002 in Abuja.
3. The designation of Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim as Water Ambassador for Africa in Abidjan in early April 2002 at Bank's headquarters in Abidjan.

Mr. Baghat explained that the high level of investment needed to achieve the goals of sustainable development in Africa are one of the main reasons why collaboration with other institutions, donors and MDBs is so essential. For instance, about USD 20 billion investment is required annually to achieve the main targets of the World Water Vision, which no single institution can undertake. This conference is therefore bringing together all stakeholders operating at local, national, regional and in the diaspora to promote effective consultations and dialogue around the African Position Paper on water, and to provide concrete program of actions with realistic plans for mobilizing financial resources to implement them. In conclusion, it is important that African countries demonstrate country level commitment, accurately identify and analyse gaps, appropriately mobilise resources and implement national plans of action, towards achieving sustainable financing for African water infrastructure development.

3.0 FIRST PLENARY SESSION

The first plenary session comprised ~~of~~ presentations ~~by~~~~from~~ different organisations ~~but~~ on ~~subjects similar~~ ~~topics elaborating to~~ the overall theme of the conference. The session was chaired by **Dr Rika Kfir** of the Water Research Commission in South Africa.

3.1 Conference objectives

by Dr Shehu Yahaya, AfDB

Conference Questions

The conference will seek to answer the following questions.

- a. How can water resources be utilized to support goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa?
- b. How can the stakeholders ensure that water related problems are not a constraint to development in the region?

Conference Context

The conference programme was formulated within the context of the following existing initiatives:

- UN Millennium Declaration
- Declaration by Conference of African Ministers for Johannesburg summit
- New Partnership for Africa's Development
- African Water Vision for 2025 and Framework for Action

Objectives

The main objectives of the conference include:

- Agree on major priorities for water resources development in Africa
- Agree on actions to be taken and responsibility for implementation
- Development of a plan for mobilizing financial resources needed to implement action plan

Implementation

The following events provide ~~and~~ opportunities for following through with the action programme

- a. The African Ministers Conference on Water (AMCOW) Scheduled for April 2002 in Abuja, Nigeria
- b. World Summit on Ssustainable dDevelopment at Johannesburg for promoting the water agenda
- c. Accra eConference Aaction plan as basis for African participation at Third World Water Forum in Kyoto Japan
- d. Other related occasions for mobilizing support
- e. Input into The Crown Prince of the Netherlands's report to the ~~the~~ UN Secretary General

Expected outcomes

- Conference summary and proceedings
- Accra Declaration
- Report to African Ministers Conference on Water
- Comments on the report of the Crown Prince of Netherlands
- Revised African Position Paper

3.2 AFRICA WATER VISION for 2025

A presentation was made by Mrs Tabeth Matiza –Chiuta of GWP-Southern Africa based in Zimbabwe and by Dr Steve Donkor of the UNECA, in Addis Ababa

The Africa Water Vision was formulated as an instrument for socio-economic development and a contribution to the World Water Vision presented during the 2nd World Water Forum in The Hague (March 2000). The Vision is drawn from inputs from various sub-regional processes (i.e. GWP SATAC and WATAC, NBI, NBA, LCB, AWPC, AfDB, UNEP, UNDP UNECA, and FAO initiatives) and inputs from sectorial visions. This Vision and the Framework for Actions have been endorsed by African Heads of States and Governments.

The key issues and challenges are related to:

- Endemic poverty: 40% of people live below the poverty line and at the same time, economies are declining,
- Inadequate water resources development: inadequate institutional and financing arrangements and depletion of water resources through human actions,
- Increasing water demand: 300 million people lack reasonable access,
- Inappropriate governance and institutional arrangements for national and transboundary basins (surface and groundwater),
- Inadequate stakeholder involvement.

The Africa Water Vision 2025 statement is therefore:

“Equitable and sustainable use of Africa’s water resource for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional co-operation and for the environment”

Africa ~~w~~Water ~~V~~ision elements include:

- Sustainable access to safe and adequate water supply and sanitation,
- Water contributes equitably and sustainably to socio-economic development and poverty alleviation,
- Ecosystems, bio-diversity and wildlife are sustained,
- Gender awareness and youth concerns enjoy top priority in water resources management.

Actions required to achieve the Africa ~~W~~water ~~V~~ision are the following:

- Strengthening governance of water resources,
- Improving water wisdom,
- Meeting urgent water needs,
- Strengthening the financial base for the desired water future,
- Creating an enabling environment for international co-operation,
- Creating a framework for integrated water resources management,
- Building capacity,
- Identifying vision drivers.

The priority action projects are identified -as:

- Policy development and institutional reforms,
- Regional co-operation on shared water,
- Information system development,
- IWRM capacity building
- Water supply and sanitation expansion,
- Food security achievement,
- Ecosystem conservation and restoration,
- Drought, flood and desertification mitigation.

The suggested levels of intervention include the following:

- Regional level (AfDB, UNECA, OAU, AWF, WUP),
- Sub-regional level (SADC/ECOWAS, GWP Structures),
- National level (government and others national structures),
- Grassroots level (community groups).

Financing the water sector development is considered to be the main limiting factor in harnessing Africa's water resources to meet the milestones and targets set out in the African Water Vision 2025. It is a limiting factor at many stages of water development ranging from ~~the~~ resource assessment, through programme/project development, operation and maintenance and project sustainability. The suggested sources include:

- Private sector finance,
- Public private partnerships,
- Non-governmental sources,
- Traditional communal resources.

3.3 Summary of Presentation on Water and Environment

Address by Mr. Alexander Alusa, Deputy Director, Regional Office for Africa, UNEP ~~On~~ behalf of Dr. Topfer, Executive Director, UNEP

The speaker pointed out to the participants that water development and management has three dimensions: engineering, political and policy. However, for many years, only engineering solutions were applied to water development and management problems. Mr. Alusa commended Mr. Kufuor, President of Ghana, the Prince of Orange and the African Development Bank for their strong political leadership with regard to water.

After indicating environmental stresses caused by population increase, urbanization and industrialization, water variability between regions and countries, water scarcity, and the current state of water management in Africa at national and regional levels, the speaker proposed that identified issues be examined and solutions provided through appropriate policies and institutional capacities to make the transition to comprehensive, ecosystem-based water resources management which recognizes the interdependencies between all aspects of the land-water environment and across sectors.

According to the speaker the initiatives to address water issues in Africa are the AMCOW and NEPAD, which calls for:

- Acceleration of work on multipurpose water resources projects;
- Mitigating the negative impact of climate change in Africa;
- Collaborating with stakeholders in promoting sanitary waste disposal methods and projects;
- Support to activities relating to wWater cConservation in African Cities.

The speaker ended by highlighting the role of UNEP, as lead agency in the water cluster of the United Nations System Wide Initiative on Africa and a partner in enhancing integrated water resources management strategies in consultation and collaboration with all stakeholders.

3.4 presentation on Water, Regional Integration, And Sustainable Development

Statement by Dr. K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ~~and was~~ delivered by Dr. Jeggan C. Senghor, Director, ECA Sub-Regional Development Center for West Africa

He started by thanking the Government of Ghana for its support in organizing the conference and for attaching a great importance to the theme of the conference. He also recognized the role of Dr. Salim A. Salim, the new Ambassador for Water in Africa for his lifelong service to Africa's emancipation, integration and development and expressed the ECA's pledge to work with Dr. Salim and the Task Force.

The Speaker commended the African concerted efforts to organize this conference, and the role played by development partners, especially the Honorable Minister Evelyn Herfkens who, according to the speaker has been a true friend of Africa's development. Mr. Senghor expressed gratitude to the FAO office for Africa, in particular Dr. Dada and Risjberman and their colleagues.

After briefly stating the main issues which include inadequate access to potable water, inadequate development of water resources to support food production, industry, environment and other human needs, water variability, and the growing concerns over increased water scarcity and stress in transboundary situations, the speaker gave an overview of the challenges to achieving the African Water Vision in 2025 as follows:

1. Providing sustainable access to water to meet basin needs for all;
2. Ensuring water availability for food and energy security;

3. Reserving adequate quantities of water of appropriate quality for ecosystem maintenance;
4. Rapid implementation of institutional reforms for good governance with emphasis on decentralization of authority, public private partnerships, community mobilization and the enhancement of the role of women in decision making especially in rural water development;
5. Reversing man-made water quantity and quality problems such as overexploitation, pollution, and degradation of watersheds;
6. Achieving sustainable financing of investments in water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower generation and other uses.

Mr. Senghor reminded the assistance of key agreements and commitments made by African Ministers in the Declaration of The Hague. These include an agreement on the need to make sustainable water resources management a top priority at national, and internal levels, and to meet the needs of the African people while sustaining the environment; and commitment to make governance effective through the adoption and implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) principles; and commitment to develop and strengthen river basin management through partnerships.

The speaker pointed out the importance of regional cooperation and the role shared water resources play in enhancing it. He further reported that the best-management water resources are within functional regional groups such as the Zambezi River Protocol, and the cooperative framework and achievements of the Nile Basin Initiative. For this, the speaker urged all African states to sign and ratify the UN Convention on Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

Beyond sub-regional cooperation, Mr. Senghor called for Africa-wide cooperation to collectively solve Africa's problems, which, he recognizes, has began with efforts made toward a continental Union underpinned by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which aims ~~is~~ to achieve economic transformation of the continent.

The speaker presented ECA's contribution to the process leading to Africa's development by mentioning the development of the "Compact for African Recovery", the launching of the Annual Report on integration in Africa (ARIA), and the third African Development Forum (ADF III) held in Addis Ababa in March 2002. To achieve its goals in the water sector, and contribute to poverty alleviation, the speaker reports ~~that~~ that ECA is taking active steps towards awareness raising, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building, of the ECA, and address~~ing~~ key issues of transboundary basin management through a study on shared water resources, and the development and maintenance of an African Regional Information System on Shared Water Resources.

The speaker closed by reading the African Water Vision Statement:

**“AN AFRICA WHERE THERE IS AN EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AND
MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION,
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND THE
ENVIRONMENT.”**

3.5 presentation on Water and Food Security

by Mr Moise Sonou, *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations*

Food insecurity and poverty are generally associated with a low level of agricultural development. In Africa today, more than 180 million people, i.e. almost a third of the total population, do not eat to their fill. FAO projections ([Table 1](#)) show that since 1992, which is the reference period for determining the objective of the World Food Summit (WFS), no progress has been made with regard to the reduction in the number of underfed people. Similarly, it can be observed that agricultural productivity has been stagnating since 1990 to 12% lower than the 1980 levels. The gap continues to widen with regard to food production and needs. Only a sustained intensification of agricultural activity can bring about the needed increase in productivity.

For many countries, however, the intensification of agricultural activity is through increased and expanded irrigation. It is estimated that in a few decades to come, nearly 80% of the growth in agricultural production will come from intensification largely made possible by irrigation. Obviously, there can be no irrigation without water.

Water and food security are very closely related. That is the reason why the control of water resources is the key element of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) that was launched by FAO in 1994.

The most serious problem posed by water does not only have to do with the quantity of available water but more with its unequal distribution and management in time and space. The threat is especially serious for the agricultural sector, [samplings of exploitation of](#) which often represent 90%, or indeed more, of the total use of water in most African countries. [With As-irrigation as](#) the main user of water [being which is](#) highly subsidized, attention is brought to bear on the modalities for use, the efficiency of which often leaves a lot to be desired.

We can make a more efficient use of available water resources by eliminating undue evaporation and preventing water pollution and salination. Various measures would ensure the increase of food production per cubic metre of [sampled-abstracted](#) water.

Since irrigation uses enormous quantities of water, the improvement of the efficiency of its use - which is generally mediocre - will make large quantities available for its expansion and the needs of the other sectors.

The untapped potential and resultant poor agricultural productivity are given rise to by inadequate investment in areas such as irrigation, the use of fertilizers and other commercial inputs, mechanization, etc. On the African continent, only 4 to 7% of cultivated lands is under irrigation, i.e. less than 20% of [irrigable lands](#) that can be irrigated. The inadequacy of investment for [soil-soil fertility](#) improvement is the cause of the excessive [extraction](#) [extraction application](#) of nutrients by agricultural activities

According to FAO estimates, we should make an annual gross investment of 180 billion US dollars in the agricultural sector of the developing countries if we are to meet the WFS objective of reducing by half the number of persons suffering from hunger by 2015. This amount includes investments in the primary agricultural sector as well as storage, processing and support facilities. The same study shows that the pursuit of the previous annual investment rates up to 2015 will vis-à-vis the WFS objectives, lead to a 12% deficit for all developing countries and 38% for sub-Saharan Africa (FAO 2001).

According to estimates, over the next few decades almost 3/4 of projected agricultural production growth in sub-Saharan Africa will result from the process of intensification, while the remaining quarter will be brought about by the expansion of arable lands. Irrigation is an

essential factor for the intensification of agricultural ~~production activity~~. ~~However, we~~ We should ~~not overlook~~ add the need to ~~invest strengthen investments~~ in the ~~improvement of rainfed development of land and river-based~~ agriculture ~~in~~ of the ~~less-not-so~~ endowed regions where there is a concentration of the majority of the poor and peasants.

In such a context, FAO proposes to act on two fronts in order to strengthen the advocacy for ~~agricultural investment~~ in land and water development:

- Application and fine tuning of the procedure for appraising investment needs for water and land resources by national authorities through the latest statistics and with the technical assistance of FAO;
- Improvement of the quality of information underlying the appraisal of agricultural development investment needs and the development of water and land resources at the national and regional levels; formulation of programmes to further enhance the control of the process by African countries in the spirit of NEPAD.

3.6 presentation on Perspectives of Financing Water Infrastructure in Africa

by A. Beileh, Acting Director Operations Policies and Review Department, the African Development Bank

The Africa Water Vision for 2025 recognises the key role water plays in the economic and social development of Africa. There is a need for sustainable water infrastructure financing to facilitate the implementation of its Framework for Action.

According to the African Water Vision for 2025, an annual investment level of US\$20 billion per annum is needed to finance the development of water infrastructure in Africa. The African Development Bank (AfDB) currently invests US\$4.87 billion and US\$7.23 billion per annum in water and agriculture respectively.

Some important lessons from past AfDB interventions are:

- ❖ project success hinges crucially on the involvement of the beneficiary communities in critical aspects of project identification, preparation and design. To ensure long-term sustainability, attention must be given to financial viability, beneficiaries' willingness to pay, and capacity to realise high rates of cost recovery from sales of services to cover at least running and maintenance costs.
- ❖ attention must be given to integrating sanitation with water supply development. In the same vein, care must be taken to ensure that industrial effluents and agricultural runoff do not pollute and degrade water resources, thereby endangering ecosystems.
- ❖ in a majority of its regional member countries, the Bank has encountered fragmented and weak institutional and policy frameworks in the water-related sectors, without a clear-cut allocation of responsibilities and accountability.
- ❖ knowledge concerning all aspects of water resources is a fundamental prerequisite for sound planning and design of sustainable and economically efficient projects. Research and development (R&D) is vital to elucidate the interactions between water and ecosystems, or to generate country-specific approaches to water conservation.

The magnitude of the resource requirements creates an urgent need for the various stakeholders in the water sector to address the challenges to current and future levels of investment in water infrastructure in Africa.

These challenges are social, behavioural, technical, political and environmental. Examples of these include poor governance, the absence of democratic processes in decision making, fragmented, sectoral short term approaches to planning, poor policies which result in inefficient and ineffective water resources allocation and utilisation, paucity of skilled manpower and a weak technology and research base.

There are various sources of investment, [namely](#); public and private sectors, communities and bilateral and multilateral official development assistance (ODA). In order to access these funds, it is important for Africa to change. Some of the elements of the paradigm shift are:

- A fundamental change in attitudes towards water and the environment at the personal, community, national and regional levels, including increased willingness to pay and acceptance of radical institutional changes, so that water resources are managed as a precious resource that has interwoven economic, social, and environmental attributes;
- Achievement of a drastic improvement within a decade in the managerial efficiency of water resources allocation and utilisation – which requires a significant overhaul of the institutional infrastructure.
- Specific plans – at the national, basin, and community levels for the rehabilitation, upgrading and extension of water infrastructure on a scale and scope that are unprecedented in the continent’s history;
- Pragmatic cooperation and collaboration among riparian states in the joint development, management and sustainable exploitation of trans-boundary water resources for the common benefit of all the people in shared basins;
- The development and application of technologies that are adequate and appropriate for Africa’s water resources, environment and socio-economic conditions;
- Putting in place the requisite knowledge networks and data-gathering and information processing infrastructure, including early-warning and disaster management capacity for water-related catastrophes (droughts, floods, cyclones, etc);
- A massive concerted effort to strengthen the human capital base – professionals and skilled workers in all fields of water resource development and management.

As part of its contribution to development centred poverty reduction in Africa, [The African Development Bank](#) is involved in some water related initiatives these include:

- The promotion of agriculture water use in the context of rural development,
- Technical support for NEPAD in the infrastructure sector under which water and sanitation are included.
- The articulation of water and poverty links and financing requirement for consideration by the Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure.
- Support for the development of IWRM based policy frameworks, which promotes the integrated use of water as a social economic and environment good.

In conclusion, it is important that African countries demonstrate country level commitment, accurately identify and analyse gaps, appropriately mobilise resources and implement national plans of action, towards achieving sustainable financing for African water infrastructure development.

3.6 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION ON THE THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

by Mr Kenzo Hiroki, 3rd World Water Forum Secretariat, Japan

In his presentation Mr. Hiroki explained that the World Water Forum (WWF) is organized to address global water problems and find solutions together with of all stakeholders through the sharing of experiences and good practices towards firm commitments and actions.

As pointed out by the speaker, after The Hague where the second WWF was held in 2001, the third WWF is to be held in Japan in March 2003 with events to be organized in Kyoto, Osaka, and Shiga to meet set objectives under the policy of the forum. The Forum framework and targets is threefold:

1. The WWF itself with over 8,000 participants;
2. The Ministerial Conference to gather more than 120 Ministers; and,
3. The World Water Fair/Festival with more than 150,000 visitors.

Mr. Hiroki presented the calendar of events of the WWF, which ~~counts~~ as of March 10, 2002, ~~is scheduled to include~~ 220 proposed sessions. The objective of the Ministerial Conference to be held on March 22-23 is to foster dialogue on major water issues and discussions about actions and commitment to be realized in various fora and at all levels of stakeholder participation, ~~that lead~~ing to a Ministerial Declaration on actions of special importance. At the heart of the Ministerial Conference lies the Senior Officials Meeting scheduled for 19 and 20 March 2003~~2~~. The Water Fair will be organized in four fairs to be spread ~~amongst~~ the three cities.

Under the political leadership of Mr. Hashimoto, ~~e~~Chairman of the ~~n~~National ~~s~~Steering ~~e~~Committee, a framework of the process for preparation of the Forum has been provided, and a number of events leading to the Forum have been undertaken. The speaker presented the Forum preparation in progress. He also showed how the Forum builds on other significant activities such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to be held in Johannesburg, and the involvement of Mr. Kofi Annan~~n~~, United Nations Secretary General in the WSSD, and other key partners to enhance dialogue for the Forum, and seek commitment for actions. Currently, thematic and regional sessions are in progress, the former seek to provide solution for specific water issues and fosters~~s~~ united and coordinated action towards the solution, while the latter address important themes and coordinate actions in the regions, and provide the opportunity for regions to appeal to the world on regional water issues through Regional Days. Active themes are as follows:

- Dialogue on ~~W~~water and ~~e~~Climate
- Dialogue on Water, Food, and Environment
- Financing Water Facilities
- Governing Water Wisely
- Water and Poverty
- Water and Gender
- World Water Assessment Programme
- Water and Cities

As explained by the speaker, thematic dialogue should reflect opinions of the regions and foster the sharing of knowledge and good practice, and invite actions in regions. Regional dialogue must know what the global discussion points are on the themes, and feed their views in the themes while sharing knowledge and good practice with and of other regions. There are many avenues that promote dialogue between and across various groups of stakeholders including a Virtual Water Forum, the Water Voice Project, and African Water Focus which is a website that link to water related web pages.

The preparation of the Forum plans to use the platform provided by the WSSD to make a public announcement of the WWF3 and [to](#) participate in side events [and](#); the Water Dome exhibition and [side event](#), the African Water Focus, and [to](#) make joint press releases.

Mr. Hiroki closed his presentation with the count down to the Third WWF: **336 days to Go.**

4.0 AFRICAN POSITION PAPER

4.1 Summary of presentation

The position paper served as background documentation for the conference. The full version is available as a separate document.

At the dawn of the new millennium, Africa finds itself at a critical juncture. It is at a point where it must choose between being marginalized and being integrated into a fast evolving global economy spurred on by recent advances in information and communications technologies. In the event, African leaders have chosen the second option. They have unveiled a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This is a bold and unprecedented initiative. However, the success of this bold initiative would depend upon the extent to which Africa's human, economic, technological, and natural resources can be applied to this new vision. Thus this is the time for all sectors in Africa to consider the role they can play in this new and bold initiative. The position paper is about how water can help.

Africa is endowed with precious, industrial, and strategic minerals. It has oil, forest and natural features, an attractive tourist appeal. Its vast agricultural potential remains largely under-exploited. In the immediate post-colonial era, the development of these assets was hampered by conflict, political insecurity and inadequate accountability and openness in governance. However, at the dawn of this new millennium, there is progress. Democracy is spreading; there is a collective African effort to deal with conflict and political instability; and there is a growing awareness of the benefits of participation by civil society, women and the youth.

Yet there is still a danger that Africa will be marginalized in a world that is undergoing rapid globalization and economic development spurred on by recent advances in information and communication technologies. Today, Africa remains one of the poorest and least developed continents of the world, with 340 million of its people, half its population, living on less than US\$1 per day. Only about 60 percent have access to safe water supplies. Food insecurity is critical, with the undernourished exceeding over 200 million people. Debility and mortality from preventable communicable disease like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and diarrhoea are high. The mortality rate of children under five years is 140 per 1000, and life expectancy at birth is only 54 years. The rate of illiteracy of people over 15 is 41 percent. Africa's poverty stands in stark contrast to prosperity in other parts of the world.

Africa's leaders and global communities believe that Africa can break free of poverty if we can overcome the "development trap" that confines it to a vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and suffering. Africa's Heads of State have responded to this challenge by unveiling the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which seeks to lay the foundation for sustainable development in Africa. Given this political leadership, what should be the response of the water sector to this challenge? This paper is an attempt to create a platform for addressing this question.

In preparation for the Second World Water Forum in 2000, an Africa Water Vision was prepared. Based on it, a framework for action on water has been produced for Africa; and IGWA (an inter-agency group on water for Africa [within the United Nations](#)) has decided to use it as the basis for the work of its agencies in Africa.

Already there has been progress. The principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) have been widely embraced. At national level, there have been significant water policy reforms accompanied by important technical developments in the water sector with

parallel initiatives at the political and economic development levels. What is now needed is development of the link between national, sub-regional and regional water programs and the broad political and economic policy programmes.

There is a need for an understanding of the significance of investment in water for socio-economic development programs and an understanding of the broad development path for Africa in the water sector. Without this, low priority will be given to water in national budgets and in economic development programs.

The NEPAD initiative offers a rare opportunity to establish this link. This paper aims to show the link between water and sustainable development in Africa and how water can help in achieving the goals of NEPAD.

There is already a general appreciation that water has a vital role in all forms of development. What is less well understood is what needs to be done to mobilise the potential of water for development and to ensure that water does not become a constraint to sustainable development, capable of wiping away the gains of development either progressively or overnight, as happened in Mozambique in the floods of 2000. Decision makers also need to know that, unless correct approaches are taken, economic and social development could negatively impact on water resources and that this in turn could constrain future development efforts.

The specific objectives of this paper are therefore:

- ❖ To summarize the NEPAD agenda for sustainable development in Africa.
- ❖ To show the vital and indispensable role for water in the success of the NEPAD agenda for sustainable development in the 21st century.
- ❖ To identify critical water issues in Africa that could undermine NEPAD, and constrain sustainable development.
- ❖ To identify strategies for addressing these issues.
- ❖ To propose an Africa-wide water agenda to support the NEPAD agenda and underpin sustainable development in Africa in the 21st century.

4.2 Africa Positions on Water

Fortunately, these broad conclusions are consistent with positions already adopted by the African water sector through instruments such as the African Water Vision and its Framework for Action.:

It is proposed that, given the central and critical roles of water in sustainable development, and the two-way links that exist between water and the NEPAD goals, the positions on water listed below be recommended for adoption at this Conference.

1. Water is to be viewed as a cross-cutting issue to be mainstreamed within NEPAD and other development efforts at national, sub-regional and regional levels in pursuit of sustainable development
2. The Africa Water Vision and its framework for action are endorsed for use at all levels of water development and service provision in Africa
3. Policies, strategies, and projects in water resources management and development should be based on the principles of IWRM. To this end, Africa will adopt the following, among others:
 - a. Management at the river basin level
 - b. Management at the lowest appropriate level
 - c. Demand-driven approaches
 - d. Ownership and participation by all stakeholders, especially women and the youth

- e. Promotion of knowledge and information exchange aimed at institutional sustainability and conflict prevention

4. A high priority will be given to the establishment of sustainable and sufficient mechanisms for providing financial and technical support for meeting urgent and critical needs in water resources development and access to services for drinking water supply and sanitation, agriculture and food security, and environmental sustainability
5. Policies for mainstreaming gender balance, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability in all aspects of water resources development and service provision will be pursued
6. A high priority will be given to global, regional and sub-regional public goods in water and mechanisms developed to support their achievement
7. A high priority will be given to the development and implementation of a program for awareness creation among civil society, political leaders and decision makers about the indispensable role of water in development and poverty reduction
8. Participation by the private sector in water service provision will be supported provided that there are adequate safeguards, specifically for the interests of the poor and generally for the achievement of NEPAD's development goals
9. The key areas of focus in the medium term shall be as defined under the priorities for action
10. Political commitment will be promoted through the mechanism of the African Ministers Conference on Water, AMCOW.

4.3 Priorities for Action in Water

The basic spirit behind the priorities for action is that it is support for the broad NEPAD agenda that should serve as the key determinant for prioritizing regional and sub-regional actions in the water sector in Africa. With this in mind, the proposed agenda is constrained by considerations of sustainability of Africa's water resources, protection of developments from water-related extreme events, access to water to meet basic human needs, and environmental sustainability.

It is hoped these priorities for action in the water sector would be considered by African [Water Ministers](#) and revised to ensure harmony with their statement so that we end up with a single agenda for water to be pursued by all in Africa. This requires also that the final version of the priorities for action would have been discussed with Africa's development partners. The proposed priorities for action are as presented below:

1. Improving water governance at regional, sub-regional, and at transboundary water basin levels
2. Establishing sustainable organisations and mechanisms for improved financing and cost-recovery in water resources management, development, allocation, and service delivery
3. Promoting improved water resources management and the institutionalization of integrated land, forestry and water resources management action plans at sub-regional level, transboundary water basin levels, and at national levels
4. Promoting the definition of property and use rights regimes for water within countries and between transboundary water basins
5. Improving African capacity for IWRM, focusing of water governance and access to service
6. Improving the technical knowledge base at regional and sub-regional levels for water resources management and access to water services
7. Improving access to water supply and sanitation services

8. Instituting a system for performance monitoring, assessment, and reporting on all aspects of the agreed priorities for action
9. Optimising the contribution of water management to food security and agriculture based trade and development
10. Developing the contribution of water infrastructure to energy generation

4.4 THE WAY FORWARD

NEPAD is clearly a ground-breaking development for Africa. It is a development with great prospects for large socio-economic dividends. Failure is not an option for the realization of these dividends. However, their realization is contingent upon the type of attention that will be paid to water in the NEPAD agenda. IWRM is seen as the key to ensuring that water plays its proper role in the attainment of the NEPAD agenda. In recognition of this, an African position on water has been defined. In addition, a number of priority actions have been identified. It is hoped that for each priority item, a task force would be established at Africa level to formulate a program of action, including the critical work of sharing the vision more widely amongst water professionals and their counterparts in economic, planning and other sectors. The program of action should lead to the formulation of policies and strategies to be promoted for each topic. If these modest goals could be achieved, Africa would have good cause to be hopeful for the future.

5.0 SUMMARIES OF WORKING GROUPS

5.1 Working group No. 1: Water, food security, environment and trade

The water crisis is already a reality in many countries of Africa and the problems may only accelerate. Multiple thumbscrews are operating on these countries' finite and vulnerable fresh water resources. The driving forces are strong. They relate mainly to:

- i) Population growth and urbanisation driven by rural exodus
- ii) Economic development and rising expectations of populations for a better quality of life
- iii) Globalisation in general
- iv) Climate change.

In spite of the seriousness of the situation fundamental goal conflicts remain unattended. The understanding of the water cycle related linkages between different societal sectors is weak. Water management decisions are often based on simplifications and short cuts. This conventional, compartmentalised, supply oriented approach to water resources management is not coping with the present water problems. Solutions to these problems require an integrated approach to water, land use and ecosystems, addressing the role of water within the context of social and economic development and environmental sustainability.

The group identified the following main issues and challenges:

- Empowering people in water-stressed areas to harness water resources to grow food.
- Providing alternative income sources for people in marginal areas (Off-farm/non-agricultural) in order to reduce pressure on water and environment
- Investment in science and technology to improve understanding of the linkages between water, food security, environment and trade
- Lessons can be learnt from efficient usage/management of water from water-scarce areas.
- Development of capacity to harvest rainwater
- Promoting regional integration in Africa to improve trade within and outside the regional block.
- Sustainable management of water to increase the yield per drop of water and sustain the environment.
- Development of and provision of access to market information for farmers to enable informed choices.
- Improvement in basic infrastructure to enhance the distribution of commodities and enhance in-country, cross border and international trade.
- Value addition to food produced through processing and storage techniques.
- Development of rural financing mechanisms to achieve food security.
- Diversification of agricultural production (eg. aquaculture, mariculture, animal husbandry, apiculture etc.)

Achievements

The working group identified a number of achievements that have been recorded and which must be recognised before any initiative is undertaken. These achievements include:

- Working towards capacity building.
- Some science and technology initiatives.
- Farmers on their own initiative are doing very well under very difficult economic environment.
- There is use of indigenous knowledge in water management (eg. [R](#)rainwater harvesting)
- Certain drought-resistant cultivars have been developed.
- Integrated water basin management initiatives

Interventions

In order to meet some of the challenges the following were recommended as possible actions.

Long term

- Increasing productivity of water in rainfed agriculture
- Upgrading research capacity of the research institutions
- Formation of new partnerships in water, food security, environment and trade.
- Building of partnerships between private sector and government
- Dialogue between law enforcement agencies concerning intra-regional trade
- Dialogue on effective water governance at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- The science of biotechnology must be used in developing drought resistant varieties of crops.
- Long term policy initiatives on sustainable use of water.

Medium term

- Within NEPAD, there must be a consultative group of experts to examine the concessions to be negotiated in the WTO agreements.
- Sustainable development of wetlands.
- Medium term policy initiatives on sustainable use of water.

Short term

- Needs assessment for capacity building in the agricultural production and distribution chain.
- Comprehensive baseline studies on water, food security, environment and trade.
- Gender based labour activities must be promoted, with particular reference to women and children.
- Exchange of visits among key stakeholders
- Using indigenous knowledge to increasing land, water and labour productivity.
- Short term policy initiatives on sustainable use of water.
- Promotion of good governance in order to attract foreign direct investment.

5.2 Working group 2: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The deliberations of the working group on climate change and natural disasters ~~ma~~resulted~~s~~ in a set of key messages, composed of key challenges facing the continent and possible solutions that could be explored for the future. These messages are summarized below:

One of the biggest challenges~~s~~ facing Africa's water resources management relates to the high degree of temporal and spatial **variability**, accentuated by impacts of **climate change**. It is now clear that a strong relationship exists between climate variation ~~one~~ the one hand, ~~and~~ the economy (e.g. GDP level), social and environmental assets. However the profound impacts of climate change / climate variability in ~~A~~frica contrasts with the continent's low coping capacity. At the same time there is more and more evidence that human activity's role in climate change / climate variability is very significant (GHG emissions) mainly from other parts of the world, ~~with~~ Africa's contribution to the anthropogenic factor of climate change being marginal. For this reason, compensation instruments (Kyoto Protocol, Clean Development~~ment~~ Mechanism) are required to assist Africa's in its efforts to cope with climate change / climate variability

The continent needs to promote a culture of prevention, which requires adequate investments on developing the information base, and increased capacity on monitoring, assessment prediction~~-,~~ ~~and~~ early warning. Despite ~~of~~ evidence on climate change / climate variability impacts in Africa, there are serious knowledge gaps that hinder the continent's capacity to respond to climate change / climate variability. As national and regional experiences in Africa differ from global models, platforms for climate change / climate variability monitoring /mitigation ~~need~~ to be strengthened at continent ~~&~~ ~~and~~ national levels. Climatic data collection management centers ~~and~~ ~~&~~ networks do exist in Africa (AGRHYMET, ACMAD, Harare & Nairobi Centers, HYCOS, FRIEND), but their capacity is deteriorating. In order to strengthen these centers and networks the following could be considered: (a) build Africa's own human capacity rather than relying on foreign expertise; (b) secure adequate funding ~~secured~~ including for research; (c) promote information exchange and collaboration among African centers and networks and between Africa and the rest of the world. It is also important that research and monitoring efforts are linked to and supportive of decision-making, which requires more efforts in ~~inform~~ation dissemination and awareness.

Many of the continent's water resources (rivers, groundwaters) are shared internationally, which requires efforts to set in place institutional environments which facilitate collaboration and co-ordinated response to climate change / climate variability: e.g SADC Water Protocol, Catchment councils (Southern Africa)

There exist a number of techniques (including traditional, small scale, large infrastructure) available to respond to climate change / climate variability. Part of the vulnerability of the continent to climate change / climate variability result from low investment in these techniques. Regarding large storage infrastructures, Africa will not rule them out as one of the options to addressing climate change / climate variability, but will take full account of experiences gained and lessons learned worldwide in considering such options. Existing guidelines (including the ones from the [World Commission on Dams](#)) will be examined and complied with to the extent that they are adapted to African context.

Disaster management capacity is lacking in Africa and needs to be strengthened at national and regional levels at the stages at all stages. Preparedness to rapid/immediate response to disasters (resettlement, water supply, sanitation) need to be strengthened. Awareness to threats and risks associated to climate change / climate variability needs to be raised, which requires

increased capacity in vulnerability/risk analysis and risks management. Target groups of these awareness efforts include: policy makers, the media, and the general public.

Future investments in large storage infrastructure needs to take account of increased occurrence of extreme events (floods and droughts) and should be designed in a way that they contribute to mitigating these events (e.g. flood control functions). That said, non-structural responses to climate change / climate variability (e.g. catchment management) can be also be effective, and should be given due consideration.

Climate change / climate variability results in drought, desertification, land degradation, which call for actions such as: (a) erosion control measures (reduce deforestation e.g. through alternatives to fuelwood, afforestation, soil stabilisation in catchment areas and upstream of reservoirs); (b) water infrastructures (interbasin transfers, storage, etc.); (c) sustainable exploitation of groundwater aquifers.

5.3 Working Group 3: managing shared water waters

Most of the water resources of Africa are part of ~~the~~ international -(or transboundary) rivers, lakes or groundwater aquifers. A country in such a basin should develop its water resources in consultation with the other riparian states.

Some river basins have many countries sharing its water (up to 9 or 10 countries per basin). More countries mean more conflicting interests. Some countries operate in a number of international basins. More river basin organisations per country overtax its capacity.

At the sub-regional level, only the SADC region has an over-arching framework on water sharing which may be useful for rivers where no management framework exists. A more detailed co-operative arrangement or framework is however necessary for most rivers.

There are a number of rivers where a strong legal framework is already in place, but not all are successful. Many river basins do not have adequate legal and organisational frameworks for co-operative development and management of its water resources. Sub-regional level economic organisations should have co-operative frameworks with river basin organisations in their area of jurisdiction.

Although these existing river basin organisations have strong political support, the political commitment in the form of resources is lacking.

CHALLENGES

- (a) Shared water resources are defined as international resources where more than one country has a claim. Shared groundwater resources are not so easily identifiable and can only be done by **joint** groundwater investigations by the countries.
- (b) The state of knowledge of our shared water resources is summarised in a study report by the Sub Saharan Hydrological Assessment Program. (1987 – 1994). This work should be reviewed and should be followed by more in depth joint assessments by the basin states in the medium and long term.
- (c) Out of 57 transboundary river / lake basins in Africa, only a few have some kind of co-operative arrangements in place. Some of these river basin organisation's have been constrained by:
 - ❖ Lack of political commitment by member states backed by concrete support
 - ❖ Technical and managerial weakness
 - ❖ Inadequate funding
 - ❖ Politicisation of selection of personnel

It was noted that these problems have been recognised in recent years and reforms are taking place.

- (d) The establishment of river basin organisations should be a step by step process starting with a simple model and should not be held up in the absence of a fixed legal framework.
- (e) A diagnostic study is recommended of existing river basin organisations to identify problems and constraints, including institutional auditing, review of the role and mandate.

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sub Saharan Hydrological Assessment Program (1987 – 1994) should be reviewed and should be followed by effective implementation of the findings in the medium and long term. This must be done as joint projects to build trust and confidence among riparian states. Responsibility lies with the national governments and the river basin organisations. Further action should be taken by countries to ensure follow up and full implementation of the African Water Resources Action Plan developed in 1995.

A guideline should be developed by a Subcommittee of AMCOW summarising the different options available and the best practice available to develop a river basin organisation.

We must raise awareness within the member states of AMCOW to demonstrate the potential benefits of river basin organisations such as regional integration and socio-economic development.

River basin organisations should be considered by member states in those basins without any arrangements, and the process should be speeded up where it has already been initiated.

- A diagnostic study / institutional audit by AMCOW is recommended of all existing river basin organisations to identify problems and constraints.
- The mandate and structure of those river basin organisations, which are not performing satisfactorily, should be revisited. A vision shared by all member states should be developed for each river basin organisation.
- Capacity building of both river basin organisation's and member states in water resource management should be supported by AMCOW and member states.
- The river basin organisations should try to establish stakeholder support and participation at country level.

5.4 Working Group 4: water, poverty and health

The fundamental purpose of the working group session was to show how improved access to, and management of, water can play a very positive and significant role in improving livelihoods thereby reducing poverty, improving the overall health of people, especially in rural areas and the urban poor informal settlements. (improved sanitation which is also critical to the health of any community will have to be a component of this action plan). There is strong evidence for this premise, but the Group explored this critically and arrived at its own position on the role of water and sanitation in reducing poverty and improving health.

The group examined the triangular links between water; poverty and water related health and came up with the following preamble:

Improved access to equitable and sustainable water resources and sanitation to improve livelihood and contribute to poverty reduction

Issues and possible measures to address them were then identified in the light of the linkages.

The major issues on the ground are regrouped under three areas:

- Enabling Policies
- Capacity Building, and
- Investment Effectiveness

For each of the major issues identified, proposals were made in the form of actions to be taken to best address the water related issues and hence contribute to improved health and poverty reduction.

As a prerequisite to improve the water resources management including sanitation, the commitment and political will of African governments was under-scored in order to encourage good governance. This is expected to lay the ground works such as establishing accurate and transparent knowledge on the actual situation on the ground. It is also expected to facilitate the adoption of appropriate enabling policies that, among others, avail IWRM policies at appropriate levels (targeted at specific segments of the sector); address the vulnerabilities of population to natural and man made disasters; separate the regulatory roles from the executive functions of the sector by instituting appropriate institutional arrangements; enhance effectively the on going decentralization efforts in the continent. Such commitment is further expected to encourage public/private participation and bottom up participatory approaches involving all stake holders to bring about effective planning, decision making, implementation of schemes, projects and programs, provision of effective and efficient services as well as monitoring and evaluation of performance.

With respect to capacity building, while empowerment is needed to all stakeholders, including high level traditional decision makers, through training and advocacy, emphasis is placed on the need to empower the poor more effectively through increasing options available to enable them to make informed choices. Such empowerment needs to take into account the gender equity and roles particularly women and girls who are basically involved in water fetching chores and hence disadvantage to exploit their full potentials be it in economic activities or school attendance respectively.

The issue of investment effectiveness needs requires to be well addressed given the fact that most utilities in Africa have failed to achieve financial viability even to meet operation and maintenance costs of their assets. Most of these utilities have failed to address the needs of the urban poor, the informal settlement as well as most of the rural areas. With increasing urbanization, the situation of sanitation has ve reached ma very deplorable state in most major African cities; and this condition would get worse if actions are not taken as a matter of urgency.

A remedial prescription for this is for African governments to seriously undertaken the overdue house keeping actions. It is the ~~confection~~ opinion of the Group that African governments must show their commitment to the sector by putting an end to doing business as usual. Before opening any dialogue for external assistance, African governments should take the initiative to carry out actions that encourage autonomy and corporate norms in the business of water and sanitation services. In this respect, there should be an end to mounting government arrears in the settlement of water service bills and in curtailing the adoption of appropriate user charges that takes account of affordability by the poor segment of the society and cost recovery through a system of cross subsidization. -The current level of Unaccounted for Water (that makes up technical and administrative loses of water produced) which accounts for as much high as 60% in some African states is among the house keeping items that needs to be addressed as a priority. In the short-term there is a need also to set up water fund to cover Operations and Maintenance Costs and some rehabilitation works to enable to provide services to the poor.

Finally the Group underscores the need for African governments to translate their commitments to the water agenda in more concrete and action based manner more than ever before. The most innovative actions required by African governments is to carry out as a matter of urgency the overdue house keeping actions as a way of expressing their commitments to accelerating the fulfillment of the millennium targets.

5.5 Working Group 5: Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Wisdom

Generating water wisdom was one of the four themes for action emanating from the [vision Vision](#) to Action process and subsequently highlighted in the 2nd World Water Forum in the Hague in March 2000. It features prominently in the Framework for Action (FFA) and was endorsed widely as one of the means to achieve the vision for water in the 21st Century. Water wisdom means applying all useful experience and knowledge in pursuit of sustainable water resources management and raising awareness of its importance.

The group identified the following as priority themes:

1. Awareness raising on water issues
2. Capacity Building
3. Research and Development
4. Sharing information

Previous and Ongoing Actions

- ◆ African Water Vision for 2025
- ◆ SADC Action Plan
- ◆ West Africa Regional Action Plan on IWRM (under ECOWAS)
- ◆ UNEP/GEF Volta Programme on IWRM
- ◆ Other initiatives are ongoing in Central Africa, in the Nile Basin, etc.

Strategic Actions

The working group proposed the following strategic actions:

Raising Awareness on Water Issues

- ◆ Establish Dialogue between countries
- ◆ Establish Dialogue within each country

Specific Actions:

- ◆ Use of the media to disseminate information on IWRM
- ◆ Training of [W](#)ater professionals in dealing with media
- ◆ Use of new communication technologies
- ◆ Introduce [w](#)ater issues into basic education

Capacity Building

Objectives

- ◆ Strengthen Institutional and human capacities for IWRM

Specific Actions:

- ◆ Establish and strengthen existing resource centers towards the development of centers of excellence in IWRM.
- ◆ Strengthen existing institutions networking capacities
- ◆ Develop local capacities to manage water resources
- ◆ Build the capacities of data management agencies

Research and Development

Objectives:

- ◆ Develop Research Plans for IWRM at national and regional level

Specific actions:

- ◆ Enhance the mechanism for co-ordinating research as well as identify knowledge gaps

Areas of actions (non-exhaustive):

- ◆ The research should reflect people's needs
- ◆ Water quality monitoring and assessment
- ◆ Water conservation
- ◆ Aquatic weeds control (including limitation of eutrophication)
- ◆ Floods and droughts mitigation
- ◆ Limitation of sedimentation in reservoirs
- ◆ Salination of coastal groundwater
- ◆ Water supply and sanitation at low cost

Sharing information

Objectives:

- ◆ Make the information accessible to public

Specific actions

- ◆ Consolidate the capacity to collect basic data at the regional, national and river basin level.
- ◆ Harmonize the methods of data collection and their format.
- ◆ Take advantage of new technologies (remote sensing, GPS, GIS, etc.)
- ◆ Consolidate the definition of most common terminology like “safe access to water” and so on.
- ◆ Establishing [Ggender](#)-disaggregated data.

Cross-cutting issues

Specific actions:

- ◆ Action: create programmes that deal with gender and water in Africa.

5.6 Working Group 6: Financing Water Infrastructure

Overview

There is a critical need for economic and social development in Africa, which cannot be accomplished without the efficient and effective use of its water resources. Water is a social good which implies basic needs for life should be provided at an affordable cost and economic good which should be properly valued and efficiently and optimally utilized. Water is also an environmental good needed for all life supporting functions and for circulating matter and energy through the hydrological cycle. More importantly water is the single most important resource that can be developed for reducing poverty and bringing about socio-economic changes.

In order to achieve this, emphasis and focus should be placed on the integrated management of water to achieve economic empowerment and sustainable development. There is a need to mobilise internal and external financing by exploring alternative financing mechanisms such as the establishment of an Africa Financial Water Facility.

Methodology

It was agreed that the discussion of financing water infrastructure should be categorized into agriculture, rural water supply and sanitation, urban water supply and sanitation, water and energy, research, training, information and assessment, water related disaster management.

The environment, capacity building, institutional strengthening, master planning and IWRM are cross cutting issues, which will have relevance in all the above-mentioned categories.

Issues

- The absence of political will to allocate sufficient resources to water for investment in infrastructure and to ensure good water governance.
- The absence of country specific data to quantify current level of investment and requirements from specific stakeholders
- The inadequacy of existing mechanisms to address challenges of meeting the huge financial gaps.
- The inability of a large percentage of consumers to sustainably pay O& M costs with particular reference to rural water supply and sanitation.
- The absence of information needed to link adequate project preparedness with access to available financing.

Context

Exploring alternative mechanisms for financing water infrastructure must be carried out within the context of:

- NEPAD and the African Water Vision
- Social and economic needs of water

- Operation and maintenance needs and investment for capital infrastructure
- The UN targets of 2015 and the African Water Vision Framework for Action targets for 2025

The group made some recommendations based on the following key principles:

Principles

- Cost recovery of operation and maintenance is necessary to achieve sustainable financing.
- Linkage between water and poverty emphasised in developing new mechanisms for financing water infrastructure.
- Process of accessing resources for water development should begin with identifying internal sources before proceeding to external sources.
- The public sector should be the major source of financing. ODA should be utilized to fill gaps.
- Enabling environment must be provided to attract national and international private sector investment
- Strategic partnerships are essential for achieving sustainable water financing.
- Operation and maintenance costs must be reduced through integrated water use.

Recommendations

1. African leaders should place water infrastructure financing higher on their agenda and assign to water resources the attention it deserves, given the central role water plays in sustainable development.
2. African leaders were further urged to create mechanisms, which will ensure that funds generated through water resources are reinvested in the improvement, operation and maintenance of water infrastructure works.
3. There is an urgent need to marshal financial resources for water sector development in Africa. This should begin with a process of mobilizing domestic resources in order to send a strong signal to the international community that Africa is serious about the sustainable development of its water resources. A commitment of about 1% of per capita GDP should be considered.
4. Whilst it is critical to mobilise internal resources, there is need for external support to enable the continent raise the estimated US\$20 billion required annually to finance water infrastructural development and to address the backlog of investments in infrastructure. An initial annual investment level of US\$10 billion is recommended. NEPAD should play a key role in ensuring the achievement of these targets.
5. There is a need to quantify current levels of investment and develop realistic strategies to close [the](#) gap between current investments and estimated resource requirements.
6. In order to facilitate cost recovery, particularly with respect to operation and maintenance, efficient mechanisms need to be developed which take into account the needs and rights of the socio -economically disadvantaged.

7. There is a need to establish an African Financial Water Facility, the efficiency and effectiveness of which can be increased by ensuring that it is administered in a manner that avoids current weaknesses in existing financial mechanisms, whilst at the same time ensuring its linkage with the existing financial initiatives at local, national and regional level. NEPAD along with AMCOW should initiate the establishment of this facility with international partners. The African Development Bank should provide technical support in establishing the facility and be responsible for its management.
8. There is a strong call for expansion of irrigated land with the objective of food security, economic empowerment, gender mainstreaming, competitive pricing and access to international markets.

Conclusion:

To ensure sustainable financing of water infrastructure it is important to explore new and innovative methods of financing which incorporate the principles of good water governance, efficient use and management of domestic and external financial resources, and strategic partnerships with the goal of prioritisation of water as a key tool to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development in Africa.