

Outcome Document

2ND AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE MID TERM REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF ACTION “ WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” 2018-2028.

7th - 8th November 2022, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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1. BACKGROUND

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution “[International Decade \(2018–2028\) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development](#)” to help put a greater focus on water during the ten years ahead. Emphasizing that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, UN Member States expressed deep concern over the lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene and over water related disasters, scarcity and pollution being exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, desertification, drought and climate change.

The Decade focuses on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects. It is also to scale up cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is important as the water crisis is classified as one of the top 3 of global risks for the third consecutive year by the World Economic Forum. . Failing to respond effectively to these challenges will have devastating global effects.

The United Nations General Assembly, in its [resolution](#) 73/226, decided to convene, in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, the United Nations Conference on the “*Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018–2028*” (United Nations 2023 Water Conference). This Conference in 2023 is to be preceded by Global and Regional Consultations to review progress and challenges faced at the midpoint of the Decade. The outcomes of the Regional Consultations will feed into the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) held in July 2022.

The 1st Round of Africa Regional Stakeholders Consultations took place from 13th or 14th June 2022 and due to limited resource for physical meeting, the event was organized in a hybrid format to provide opportunity for participation virtually. The consultations were both in plenary sessions and parallel sessions focusing on the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environment. This event provided a platform for key continental water stakeholders including river/Lake basin organizations(L/RBOs), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and civil society organizations active in water and sanitation, to deliberate , take stock and reaffirm their commitment to solving Africa’s water crisis and to collectively implement the actions envisaged in the African Water Vision, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) on water (SDG 6) and the AU Agenda 2063. The meeting also provided opportunity to harmonize a common approach to the Mid-Term Review Conference and set out a Road Map for effective preparations. The Meeting was convened by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission AUC, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the African Development Bank(AfDB) as co-chairs.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE 2ND ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS.

This meeting constitutes the 2nd Round of Regional Consultations held on 7-8 November 2022.

The objectives included the following::

- a. Obtain detailed input from Member States , ANBO and other Stakeholders who missed the First Round Consultations.
- b. Refine and complement the Key Messages developed in Addis Ababa and adopted by EXCO to match the 5 Themes agreed at the Policy Dialogue in New York on 25th October 2022.
- c. Country Level ownership of the Key Messages to be advocated for at the Groundwater Summit, ARFSD 9 and WAD 2023
- d. Contribute to the post WAD 2023 policy actions to “Catch Up” the Implementation of the SDG 6.
- e. Encourage the UN system to revitalize the UN Water/Africa Mechanism.
- f. Discuss and consider PANAFCON for Accelerated SDG Implementation up to 2030
- g. Consider the next steps and gather inputs in preparations towards the development of the Regional Policy Framework for Post-2025 Africa Water Vision 2025.

3. KEY OUTCOMES OF THE 2ND ROUND OF REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS.

After two days of deliberations by the AU/AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee(representatives of members), Representatives of ANBO and Other Invited participants, it was agreed to align the Themes of the 1st Round Consultations to the Five Themes adopted at the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue organized at the UNGA on 25th October 2022. The Meeting requested an Outcome document to be as concise and brief as possible.

These Themes are :

- a) **Water for Health:** Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.
- b) **Water for Development:** Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development.
- c) **Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment:** Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- d) **Water for Cooperation:** Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda.
- e) **Water Action Decade:** Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan.

The Africa Regional Priority Actions to accelerate implementation of the Water Action Decade were refined and are presented theme as the follows

4. AFRICA REGIONAL PRIORITY ACTIONS TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAD

Theme 1- Water for Health

- There is a need to have an open and constructive dialogue on how to channel efficiently the increased ODA into the right targets, i.e., get the substantial percentage of financial resources on the ground.
- There is a need to strengthen the water Integrity Networks to improve accountability, efficiency, and transparency in the water sector
- The member states to allocate more fund from local sources for the sustainability of water and health sectors
- Member states and partners should strengthen their capacity to design and implement policies and laws on water resources management
- *The member states should promote Integrated water resources management plans*
- *Promote sensitisation on sanitation issues in schools.*
- Institutional prioritization of water as vital for quality public health services delivery.
- Prioritise the financing and implementation of water quality monitoring initiatives.

Theme 2- Water for Development

- Improved Investment for Water (Domestic Use, Energy, Food Security, Industry, Ecosystem conservation) infrastructure – smart/innovative financing (blended finance, green finance)
- Prioritize funding for Operation and maintenance of water use sectors and sanitation infrastructure
- Financing Research and Development of appropriate Technologies
- Improve watershed management for TRADE, transport and protection of ecosystem
- Sustainable Groundwater management for development
- Improve water governance for water development at all level
- Promote increase in efficiency of water use as well as reuse of treated wastewater and agricultural drainage for agriculture and industrial uses *(non-conventional water sources)(+Revisit SDG 6 indicators to capture efforts on non-conventional water resource development – e.g. Desalination)*

Theme 3- Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment

- Increase capacity to mobilize resources
- Establishment of platforms and forums to review and monitor progress in implementation of the plans

- Promote proactive approaches to flood and drought management (on pillars of monitoring, forecasting and early warning)
- Strengthening inter sectoral relationship e.g. water, climate, environment and finance sectors)
- Research on drought resistant crops
- Install the wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Exploration of groundwater
- Develop climate smart water saving projects and reuse
- Operationalization of water resources management and protection programmes

Theme 4 - Water for Cooperation

- There is a need to strengthen the existing legal frameworks taking into account UN Water Instruments (1997, 1992) for all inclusive R/L/A Basin Organizations
- There is a need to build the capacity to support negotiators on water matters
- The establishment of an AMCOW Multi-Donor Trust Fund and a Partners Platform for transboundary water cooperation would help facilitate transboundary cooperation.
- Investment should be guided to scientific and innovative, actionable research in order to enhance the understanding of the resource and the links between research, policy, and governance of transboundary water resources and in particular Transboundary Aquifers
- Last but not least, there is a need for an increase in the investment (from public, private or PPP) in the development of transboundary (surface and ground)water resources for regional cooperation and sustainable development
- The SADC Region has implemented policies, plans and regulations, and it can be a good model for other RECs
- Enhance cooperation in particular by promoting the exchange of information , experience and best practices
- Enhance water diplomacy to cultivate peace , trust and win-win situation
- Developing of data collection mechanism for sustainable water resources cooperation
- Enhance water related disaster risk reduction and management
- Advance transboundary water agreements that promote infrastructure development for climate resilient food and energy production and economic development
- Improve Water resources assessment in transboundary river/lake/aquifers basins and ground water aquifers
- Enhance cooperation in terms of coordination and collaboration at cross sectoral level, at national level

Theme 5 - Accelerating the implementation of the Objectives of the Decade (including the UN Secretary -General's Action Plan)

The meeting came to a conclusion that based on the last data from the custodian agencies, AMCOW and other stakeholders, there is a need to accelerate the implementation of actions and activities to increase progress towards meeting the SDG 6 targets by 2030.

- For each of the 4 Themes the following actions were proposed if not already done by member states:
 - ✓ Establish coordination groups at country level
 - ✓ Partner with relevant organizations
 - ✓ Develop information and communication plans and tools
 - ✓ Support capacity building opportunities
- There is an urgent need to highlight actions related to financing, investment and infrastructure including innovative and diverse sources of financing for the accelerated implementation of SDG 6, sustainable development and climate action.
- Prioritise investment for monitoring, evaluation, knowledge and information management and learning. Member States need to foster research and application of knowledge and innovations to inform sector interventions targeted at improving knowledge of the resource (assessment and monitoring), water governance and management, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene services delivery. This is targeted at addressing the challenges faced to access reliable and complete data in the water, especially groundwater and sanitation sector

The meeting called for the adoption and implementation of the UN-Water SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework aims to deliver fast results in countries at an increased scale as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. The Framework aims to assist countries in raising their ambition to rapidly accelerate towards national targets for SDG 6 and, in doing so, contribute to progress across the 2030 Agenda: poverty reduction, food security, health, gender equality, peace, sustainability and climate resilience of communities, ecosystems and production systems.

5. WAD MID TERM REVIEW REGIONAL ROAD MAP.

The next steps of the consultative process will be guided by the need to accelerate the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

1. The Draft Outcome document will be completed for review by stakeholders led by the co-Chairs (AU/AMCOW, UNECA and AFDB) by 20th November 2022.
2. A short policy brief for member states advocacy in the lead up to WAD will be extracted and refined based on concise key messages for AMCOW member state delegations to the UN Water Conference 2023 after the Draft Outcome Document Review.
3. African Priority Actions from the Regional Consultations related to Groundwater development and all its facets will be presented by AMCOW at the Groundwater Summit organized by UNESCO in Paris, France in December 2022.
4. The Annual Summit of the African Union from 18th to 19th February 2023.
5. AfWA Congress from 20th to 24th February 2023.
6. The draft outcome document will be expanded with inputs by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force members to serve as a background paper for the 9th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 9) with a forward-looking focus on Post WAD regional implementation actions such as the revitalization of UN Water Africa, HLPF on SDGs and support to the AU in the organizing the proposed PANAFCO II in December 2023.
7. The UN Water Conference 2023 in New York
8. AfricaSan Conference June 10 to 15, 2023.
9. High Level Panel Forum - SDGs in July 2023
10. UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2023
11. Proposed Pan African Accelerated Implementation and Partnership Conference, PANAFCO II , December 2023.

Annex 1

Matrix of Key Outcomes of the 1st Round of the African Regional Consultations of the Mid Term Review UN Water Action Decade 2023.

Theme	Progress in the implementation of the Water decade	Areas lagging in implementation	Emerging issues, challenges and opportunities to the implementation of the WAD	Africa regional priority actions to accelerate implementation of the WAD
Water for Health	GLAAS report of 2022, the access to basic water supply in 2020 in Africa was 68% leaving 32% without access. It also reported that only 40% of the population has access to basic sanitation leaving 60% with have no access. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal #6, Africa will require a 12x increase in current rates of progress on safely	A. Financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Gap for Africa to meet SDG 6.1 and 6.2 • Funding for Sanitation and Hygiene lag that for water • Smart use of available funds • Commitment of government WASH allocations B. Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Country Capacities for monitoring 	A. Indigenous knowledge on water and climate must be integrated into decision and policy-making processes on water and environment B. Water and gender are inextricably linked and features at all important water meetings such as the UN 2023 Water Conference and closing the gender gap in water, sanitation and hygiene is therefore critical. There is need to build legislation	A. There is a need to have an open and constructive dialogue on how to channel efficiently the increased ODA into the right targets, i.e., get the substantial percentage of financial resources on the ground. B. There is a need to support the water Integrity Networks to improve accountability, efficiency, and transparency in the water sector C. The messages should be targeted to the right levels for decision-making. For example,

	<p>managed drinking water, 20x increase for safely managed sanitation and a 42x increase for basic hygiene services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNICEF reported on the progress made with respect to inclusion of gender and youth in water as well as the particular attention given to menstrual health under SDG 6.2. (73% of countries are implementing MHM in schools), guidance for climate-related education integration into extracurricular activities, support to stakeholders in setting and implementing standards to address climate change and disaster risk in a 	<p>SDG (especially safely managed systems)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Streamlining of national monitoring systems -time requirement/staffing <p>C. Policy and Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Institutional framework for sanitation and hygiene not clear in many countries. ● Policy environment requires strengthening. <p>D. Climate Resilience of Water Infrastructure</p>	<p>that promote access to water by people with disability, conserving water as a human right.</p> <p>C. Corruption in the water and sanitation sector affects the fulfillment of human rights and generates serious environmental impacts such as contamination and over exploitation of water source</p>	<p>the messages on financing requirements should be addressed to the Ministers of Finance in addition to the line water and sanitation ministers and ministries</p>
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	comprehensive manner.			
Water for Development (Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development)	<p>Key drivers for water risks. In terms of Water for Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Firstly</i>, population growth and urbanization. It is estimated that by 2050, the population in urban areas will double to 1.49 billion from 599 million. This will result in an increase in slums and poor water supply and sanitation infrastructure ● <i>Secondly</i>, slow economic growth particularly in transition states exacerbated by COVID-19 induced economic losses will result in underfunding for the required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FAO underscored that Africa is not on track to meet food security and nutrition targets of SDG2. After a long period of improvement between 2000 and 2013, hunger has worsened substantially and most of this deterioration occurred between 2019 and 2020. 2022 situation after COVID and Ukraine War may have made yr worse, ● Africa, with 60% of world arable land but only 12% that is irrigated (4% to 6% irrigated in Sub Saharan Africa), imports more than 85% of its food. The number of undernourished people in Africa, which stood at 281.6 million in 2020, showed an increase of 89.1 million between 	<p>Key messages on Valuing Water.</p> <p>AU member states</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The member states should put in place systems and mechanisms to improve the water sector performance and efficiency to attract more finance to the sector; b) The member states, Development Partners (DPs) and private sector should increase investments in climate-smart water management interventions for enhancing resilience of member states to climate change; c) The DPs and private sector should strengthen capacities of member states in the preparation of bankable programs and projects; and d) Governments and Heads of State should support and promote the African Water Facility through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a need to mainstream cities into national dialogues. ● Some solutions were proposed according to 4 key domains: Establish coordination groups at country level Partner with relevant organizations Develop information and communication plans and tools Support capacity building opportunities ● There is a need to enhance all water-related human resources and institutional capacity development focusing in particular on water storage at smallholder farmer to family levels, on infrastructure development and operation, data collection, etc. ● There is a need to build the human and institutional capacity to develop and run bankable projects, dams, etc.

	<p>infrastructure in the water and sanitation sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Thirdly</i>, the climate variability and change has not only destroyed the limited water and sanitation infrastructure but also the risk for recurrent drought which is limiting more people in accessing safe drinking water and improved sanitation services. <p>Valuing Water,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water-Energy-Food Nexus ● Water-Food-Energy nexus highlighted that inter-connectedness is ideal for synergy, and remains crucial for rural/urban 	<p>2014 and 2020. In 2020, 21 percent of Africans were still undernourished. Central Africa (with 31.8 per cent of the population) and East Africa (with 28.1 per cent of the population) are the most affected by undernourishment</p> <p>The nexus approach has been recognized as critical for ensuring that achievements in one target doesn't lead to negative impact on others, there is no nexus focused target under the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to the latest GLAAS report of 2022, the access to basic water supply in 2020 in Africa was 68% leaving 32% without access. It also reported that only 40% of the population has access to basic sanitation leaving 60% with have no access. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 	<p>investments.</p> <p>The meeting also agreed to have targeted messages to the member states, DPs and private as follows:</p> <p><i>UN member agencies</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Facilitate and diversify mobilization of domestic finance; b) Mobilize public and concessional funds into the water sector and target those funds to the most productive uses; c) Encourage capital efficiency in the water sector; and d) Create an enabling environment for public private partnership in water sector – legislation and regulation. <p><i>Development Partners</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Orient support toward improving efficiency and creditworthiness and 	<p>experienced professionals who are retirees are important resources that can be used to train, mentor, build the capacities, and support youth development plans in the water sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is need to harness the potentials of creating more jobs, and businesses incl. through business incubation and innovation in the water sector. ● There need to develop voluntary national water plan sustained or supported by (1) national dialogues, (2) involvement of all ministries strongly connected with water. ● There is a need for more (1) commercial/private finance in the areas of water and sanitation in general, and (2) micro-finance to support successful small businesses
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	<p>livelihoods, food and nutrition security and economic development.</p> <p>Sustainable Economic and Urban Development</p>	<p>(SDGs) Goal #6, Africa will require a 12x increase in current rates of progress on safely managed drinking water, 20x increase for safely managed sanitation and a 42x increase for basic hygiene services. However, the challenges remain which include:</p> <p>(i) Limited access to investment finance. While US\$ 13.3 billion was committed to water infrastructure in 2018, according to ICA report of 2019, Africa had a financing gap of between US\$ 43 and US\$ 53 billion annually. The COVID-19 pandemic has also, changed the financing landscape, influenced the change in priorities and diverted the financing commitments and now coupled with war in</p>	<p>mobilizing domestic finance.</p> <p>b) Deploy use of guarantees and other instruments to crowd commercial finance into the sector;</p> <p>c) Facilitate blended finance; and</p> <p>d) Support the development of bankable programs and projects.</p> <p><i>Private Sector</i></p> <p>a) Partner with the public sector toward improving capital & operating efficiency;</p> <p>b) Reach out to the public sector to explore potential and viable financing relationships and transactions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● It was also highlighted See that lack of infrastructure for managing climate variability on Africa's agricultural system is one key challenge. Use of 	
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<p>Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment (Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction)</p>	<p>Progress has been made by Member States in integrating water issues in national climate change frameworks such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decision-makers need to have access to high-quality information, consistent data and the capacity to use this information to inform infrastructure planning and management solutions. The long-term goal is to enhance the resilience of infrastructure against the threats of climate change, including using nature-based solutions and hence to ensure that infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full and active representation of AU member states in COP27 ● Climate change affects the quality and quantity of water available, exerting disproportionate pressure on women and girls. Research in Uganda estimates that a household without water on premises spends 13% more time collecting water during a drought year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate change and resilient development strategy adopted in 2022 and Plan of Action should be prioritized ● Integrated African strategy on meteorology, weather and climate approved in 2022. ● Multi-Country Water Resilience Program ● Most countries of sub-Sahara Africa exploit only up to 5% of their annual internal renewable water resources due to low level of investment in conservation technologies, infrastructure and systems. It is therefore urgent to highlight

		development is integrated across different sectors. This approach can be a key step in supporting efforts to develop resilient infrastructure and related management systems that is aligned with national priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.		<p>themes related to financing, investment and infrastructure including innovative and diverse sources of financing for the implementation of SDG 6, sustainable development and climate action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Water for Cooperation (Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The political boundaries of fourteen African countries almost entirely fall within the catchment areas of one or more transboundary river systems. The overriding basic principle of IWRM is the holistic approach to combine water resources management with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An overall improvement has been observed with 43 out of 48 countries sharing water resources responding to the SDG 6.5.2 survey (compared to 37 in 2017) and the received responses had an increased quality. The reporting benefited from AMCOW, SADC and UNECA concerted efforts (e.g., Progress report on transboundary water cooperation in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen: legal frameworks (based on the water conventions and the draft articles on transboundary aquifers) and basin governance in all RBOs and RECs, as called for by the Dakar Action Plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen Africa's human resources capital at all levels (with a focus on gender) and professional knowledge, including in negotiating and operational 	<p>A. There is a need to strengthen the existing legal frameworks via the R/L/A Basin Organizations and advance the development of agreements on infrastructure affecting transboundary water management.</p> <p>B. There is a need to build the capacity to support negotiators on water matters</p> <p>C. The establishment of an</p>

	<p>ecosystem needs, using the river/aquifer/lake basin as the base unit. Integrated development of these transboundary natural resources will therefore not only contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of the riparian countries sharing these rivers, aquifers, and lakes but they will also promote and enhance peaceful and equitable subregional and regional cooperation for economic integration in Africa. However, integrated development of these resources on the basis of win-win principles needs to</p>	<p>Africa in progress), however, the information provided on shared aquifers is still a challenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only two countries have all of their transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements (11 countries with all surface waters covered 3 countries with all aquifers covered) ● Africa is lagging behind the implementation of SDG 6.5.1 – IWRM with regional differences in terms of the Enabling Environment; Institutions and Participation; Management Instruments and Financing 	<p>arrangements and raise awareness of decision-makers and communities. Current mechanisms and programmes should be utilized like AMCOW's - Groundwater Programme, AUDA-NEPAD's Centres of Excellence in Water, UNESCO's Chairs and Centres in Water (in Africa), SADC's GMI among others.</p> <p>2. Address the vast data and knowledge gaps, especially in groundwater, and develop mechanisms for information gathering and sharing, investing in open source, open-access tools in transboundary (ground)water management. Innovative ways of data gathering including remote sensing should be employed and telemetry, artificial intelligence and Internet of Things should become part and parcel of data</p>	<p>AMCOW Multi-Donor Trust Fund and a Partners Platform for transboundary water cooperation would help facilitate transboundary cooperation.</p> <p>D. Investment should be guided to scientific and innovative, actionable research in order to enhance the understanding of the resource and the links between research, policy, and governance of transboundary water resources and in particular Transboundary Aquifers.</p> <p>E. Improve water resources assessment in transboundary river basins and groundwater aquifers.</p> <p>F. Last but not least, there is a need for an increase in the investment (from public, private or PPP) in the development of transboundary (ground)water resources for regional cooperation and sustainable</p>
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	<p>be enhanced and concerted cooperation created among the riparian countries sharing these resources</p>		<p>collection, analysis and use.</p> <p>3. There is a need to support AMCOW's Groundwater Program to enhance information, data and knowledge base for effective groundwater management and governance in the Member States</p>	<p>development</p> <p>G. The SADC Region has implemented the following policies, plans and regulations can be a good model for other RECs. This includes the SADC Protocol on Transboundary water and Regional Water Action Plans.</p>
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