

A close-up photograph of a person's hand writing on a yellow sticky note. The person is wearing a patterned headwrap. The background is a solid blue color. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# **AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL WATER DECADE OF ACTION 2018-2028**

**Summary of Regional Stakeholders Recommendations  
13 - 14 June 2022**

# Key barriers/challenges

- Climate variability and extremes, conflict,
- COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic economic downturn in Africa and contributed to the worsening food security situation,
- Rapid population growth,
- Inappropriate water governance and institutional arrangements,
- Difference between National admin and legal frameworks
- Lack of relevant data and information exchange
- Sectoral fragmentation at the national level
- Language barrier
- Resource constraints (financial and human)
- Environmental degradation
- Sovereignty concerns
- Conjunctive TBW management, water quality management, resource-to-source paradigm, stakeholder/gender representation and engagement, and ecosystem management
- Low and unsustainable financing of investments in water resources and services management as well as other water dependent sectors
- Economic slowdowns and downturns are the key drivers of food insecurity in Africa.
- Depletion of water resources including through pollution,
- Lack of awareness and capacity (on Nexus approach)

## WATER SUPPLY SANITATION AND HYGIENE

1. Governments should develop home grown strategies to raise the profile of water and sanitation and its cross-sectoral linkages for social and economic development.
2. Member States to strengthen coordination, transparency and accountability mechanisms to attract more financial resources to meet national, regional and global goals on water and sanitation.
3. To prioritize investments into institutionalizing monitoring, evaluation, knowledge and information management and learning across the sector.
4. Standardise data collection and reporting systems to ensure the collection of fit for purpose of data availability

## CONTINENTAL MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

1. Governments and heads of states of AU should own and promote the water and sanitation sector monitoring system(WASSMO).
2. Strengthen CSOs and other partners participation in the monitoring and reporting of Member States continental and global commitments.
3. Member States to prioritize investments into institutionalizing monitoring, evaluation, knowledge and information management and learning within the sector.
4. Increase support and capacity for the functionality of the National Coordination Platform to include all relevant Ministries, Agencies and Departments.

## GENDER, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

1. Member States should mainstream gender in all national policies, strategies and legislations.
2. Heads of States and Governments should consider Gender and WASH as human rights and invest in same.
3. Member states should develop monitoring and reporting frameworks for Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion initiatives.
4. Development and implementing partners should support Member States to implement gender responsive policies and strategies for Water and Sanitation sector.
5. Member States should priorities investments for water, sanitation and hygiene in vulnerable urban communities.
6. Member States should develop programmes and strategies to strengthen women and girls capacity in WRM, Sanitation and Hygiene.
7. Heads of state and Governments should domesticate and utilise the guidelines for the African Commission on Human and People Rights on the right to water in Africa

# WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE

1. Strengthen member states and RLBOs for the implementation of IWRM including multi-sectoral coordination across the WEF Nexus.
2. Strengthen efforts to mainstream Disaster-risk reduction into WRM plans to increase resilience to water related risks.
3. Mainstream the SDG targets on IWRM at in National Development Plans at the Regional / Transboundary / National / Sub-National.
4. Develop mechanisms for good governance to address transparency, anti-corruption and accountability in order to attract more funding for the implementation of IWRM.
5. Member states should intentionally develop plans for engagements with the Private sector on IWRM and Climate Change and adaptation.
6. Advocate for member states to increase and prioritize domestic resource allocation for IWRM

## WATER KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION

1. Support the development of African Regional WASH Research and Capacity Development Agendas
2. Strengthen Universities and Research Institutions to support African monitoring and reporting mechanisms including increased utilization of digital innovations
3. Prioritize investment and partnerships for African Research and Capacity Development platforms and Networks, to support research and capacity development initiatives across the continent
4. Increase inclusive education (also at the Technical Vocational level (TVET)), and research opportunities for youth and emerging scholars.
5. Strengthen AMCOW Knowledge Management Platform as a source of WASH research and technical reports for better science-informed decision-making
6. Increase science for policy and strengthen the capacity of researchers and policy-makers to utilize research to the benefit of society

## WATER AND AGRICULTURE

1. Develop harmonized policies/strategies to enhance water productivity across rainfed – irrigation spectrum.
2. Develop and sustainably manage water storage and irrigation infrastructure for growth and agriculture productivity
3. Strengthen data systems and mechanisms for the collection of real time information for decision making.



# WATER – ENERGY – FOOD NEXUS

1. Develop and implement assessment frameworks, tools and innovative data infrastructure for addressing inter-sector trade-offs, enhance synergies and ensure sustainable SDG outcomes across water – energy – food related targets.
2. Invest in actionable research to develop innovative and synergetic solutions for enhancing resources use efficiency across the water – energy and food nexus.
3. Develop member countries' capacities (human, institutional) for effectively mainstreaming the nexus approach across the water – energy – food – ecosystems.

# TRANSBOUNDARY (GROUND)WATER COOPERATION

1. 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.
2. Strengthen human resources capital at all levels (with focus on gender) and professional knowledge, including in negotiating and operational arrangements and raise awareness of decision makers and communities.
3. 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.

# TRANSBOUNDARY (GROUND)WATER COOPERATION

1. Support AMCOW's Groundwater Program to enhance information, data and knowledge base for effective groundwater management and governance in Member States including the establishment of an AMCOW Multi-Donor Trust Fund and a Partners Platform for transboundary water cooperation.
2. Invest in scientific and innovative, actionable research to enhance the understanding of the resource and the links between research, policy, and governance of transboundary water resources and in particular Transboundary Aquifers; and increase the investment (from public, private or PPP) in the development of transboundary (ground)water resources for regional cooperation and sustainable development.
3. Strengthen transboundary cooperation on water resources management and environment initiatives across the continent.

# FINANCE

1. Advocate with Finance Ministers and Heads of States to prioritise water and sanitation financing as a catalyst for job creation and socio-economic development of the African continent.
1. Strengthen the enabling environment for increased public, private and domestic resource allocations for water resources management, sanitation and hygiene including blended financing options for accelerated action.
2. Increase investments in climate-smart water management interventions for enhancing resilience of member states to climate change.
3. Strengthen capacities of member states in the preparation of bankable programs and project with emphasis on climate finance .
4. Governments and Heads of State should support and promote the African Water Facility through investments.



THANK YOU