



# **AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

## **TECHNICAL PAPER**

### **WATER SECURITY FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: RESPONDING TO CURRENT WATER AND SANITATION CHALLENGES OF THE CONTINENT**

#### **UN WATER ACTION DECADE - SECOND MIDTERM REVIEW**

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DURING 9<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM, DAKAR, SENEGAL**

# OUTLINES

WHAT IS WATER SECURITY?

OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS DURING THE LAST 2-DECADES

POST-2000 HEADS OF STATES' DECISIONS—KEY OUTPUTS/ OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES: HIGHLIGHTS - & - KEY FEATURES

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE AGAINST COMMITMENTS

KEY PERSPECTIVES FOR WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION

KEY MESSAGES & RECOMMENDATIONS



# Water Security???

*“the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability”*

UN-Water

# Overview of Commitments During the Last 2-Decades

- ✓ The Africa Water Vision (AWV) 2025.
- ✓ Establishment of AMCOW in 2002,
- ✓ Adoption of Sharm el-Sheik Declaration (2008) → The highest point of the decades' political action
- ✓ eThekwini Declaration → 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (AfricaSan+5)
- ✓ The Africa Water Week and Africa-San editions → flagship and path-breaker initiatives (by AUC & AMCOW)
- ✓ 2021 – AU Heads of States Adopted - Africa Water Investment Program (AIP)
- ✓ 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (March 2022) – AU Chair launched the International High Level Panel
- ✓ Momentum for the prioritization → adoption of water and sanitation related policies
- ✓ Establishment of dedicated water and sanitation ministries and departments
- ✓ Special Purpose Funds, conceived by AMCOW → Africa Water Facility (AWF) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)
- ✓ Advocacy for a dedicated Global Development goal on water and sanitation → Led to SDG6
- ✓ 2015 N'gor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene by AMCOW

# Post-2000 Head of States' Decisions - Key Outcomes/ Outputs

- ✓ Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation,
  - ✓ Provided higher attention to water
  - ✓ Gaining some centre stage of Member States' development agenda
- ✓ Increased adoption of water and sanitation related policies in various Member states
- ✓ Landmark decisions → establishment of ministries dedicated to water and sanitation
- ✓ eThekwinini Commitments on Sanitation → establishment of Directorate of Sanitation
- Recognition of the human right to water and sanitation in many legislations.

# Challenges: Highlights

Despite the progress registered at political level leading to the development of policy frameworks, institutions, etc.

- ✓ WASH lags behind in achievement of implementation targets due to degradation and underutilization of the rich water resources
- ✓ African water resources are facing threats from different factors of human activities, environmental changes, key among them:
  - ✓ Climate Change with significant implications on people's livelihoods, and untold impact especially on rural women, and on aquatic biodiversity.
- ✓ Many countries suffering from physical and economic water scarcity

Many countries are not on course to attain water security in the coming decade.



# Categorization of Commitments

## Seven Themes – mirror the areas of focus of WASSMO

1. Financing Water and Sanitation in Africa
2. Water Supply, Sanitation, Hygiene and Wastewater
3. Water Infrastructure for Growth
4. Managing and Protecting Water Resources
5. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
6. Water Governance and Institutions
7. Information Management and Capacity Development



# Overview of Progress Made Against Commitment

Analysis drawn from different sources: WASSMO (2021, 38 Countries), N'gor Commitment Progress Report, AfDB, the UN monitoring system

1. Countries are not on track to meeting funding targets for the WASH sector by 2025, and are not on track to achieve sustainable funding of the sector. Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) financing still makes up about 50% of the sector financing.
2. Total funding to the water sector is less than half of the requirement
3. Inequalities between WASH sub-sectors – 2/3 water supply, 20% sanitation, 12% hygiene
4. Countries are not on track to attain universal access to safe water supply, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene, or to eliminate open defecation by 2030.
5. Countries have made moderate progress with respect to developing their hydropower and irrigable land potential, and most are not on track to meeting the Africa Water Vision target
6. Most countries, the level of water stress remains low as annual water withdrawals are a small proportion of Total Annual Renewable Water Resources
7. Countries have made little progress with respect to developing systems for collection and reporting on impacts of climate change and water-related natural disasters.



# KEY PRESPECTIVES FOR WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION

❖ Key perspectives is categorized into 9 areas which mirror the themes for consideration in the Draft Heads of State and Government Declaration:

- ✓ Water Governance (Policy, Legal And Institutional Environments)
- ✓ Finance And Resource Mobilization
- ✓ Sanitation And Hygiene Services
- ✓ Water For Growth And Economic Development
- ✓ Groundwater Management
- ✓ Water Quality And Wastewater Management
- ✓ Climate Change And Resilience
- ✓ Disaster Risk Reduction
- ✓ Monitoring, Learning, And Capacity Development

- ✓ Models For Enhancing Partnerships For Sector Strategic Direction and Resource Mobilization
  - ✓ *Convening High-level RM Conference*
  - ✓ *Champions for Water and Sanitation Sector Financing*
  - ✓ *High-level Panel of Eminent Persons*
- ✓ Prioritisation of Water Security and Sanitation in National Development Strategies
- ✓ Cross-sector collaboration and accountability
- ✓ Development of the Post Africa Water Vision 2025 Framework

## **Models For Enhancing Partnerships For Sector Strategic Direction and Resource Mobilization**

In order to address the sector financing and resource mobilisation challenge, the principle thrust must be on mobilising necessary financial resources by adopting models that can yield desired results. As a matter of urgency, consideration should be given to the following three proposed options (models)

## Models For Enhancing Partnerships For Sector Strategic Direction and Resource Mobilization

### *Convening High-level RM Conference*

- The High-level Conference on RWSSI and AWF, held under the Partnership for Strengthening Water Security in Africa, organised during the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF, in Marseille, France, 2012 serves as model for enhancing partnerships resource mobilisation.
- The Conference organised jointly by AfDB in collaboration with AUC, AMCOW, WWC and hosted by the French Government → replenishment
- A similar high-level Conference needs to be convened in order to draw attention to the need for more resources for the water and sanitation sector in Africa.
- What makes the Conference stand out, as a model, is the participation of key personalities

## *Champions for Water and Sanitation Sector Financing*

- Not new. AMCOW over the past years has appointed goodwill ambassadors and champions to promote its work
- In 2009, AMCOW in collaboration with WaterAid and the African Civil Society Network on Water (ANEW) appointed the former President of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as Goodwill Ambassador, a role that was designated for life by AMCOW, to champion the cause of water and sanitation for the people in Africa.
- AMCOW also adopted a decision to designate the Head of State of the Country presiding over its the Governing Council as AMCOW Champion for the period of the tenure of office
- May 2021, AMCOW in collaboration with the African Union unveiled Sierra Leone's First Lady, Her Excellency Madam Fatima Maada Bio as African Champion for Sanitation and Hygiene

*Drawing lessons from these experiences the AUC and AMCOW in collaboration with the AfDB will need to explore options and appoint or designate goodwill ambassadors and champions to help drive the mobilisation of resources for the advancement of water security and sanitation in Africa.*

## *High-level Panel of Eminent Persons*

- The African Union Summits as well as the UN have on some occasions and issues convened by high-level panels of eminent persons to advise the AU Assembly or the UN Secretary-General with a comprehensive set of recommendations on a particular issue.
- Considering the progress being made in meeting financial resources required to meet the investment levels needed for the water and sanitation in Africa, consideration should be given to establishing a high-level panel of eminent persons to advise the AU Assembly and its organs on actions to be taken to address the gaps in sector especially as it relates to sector financing in Africa.



# KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 9<sup>th</sup> WF 03/2022 - The AU Chair Responded to: High-level Panel

- March/2022 - International High-Level Panel on mobilizing investments for Water for Africa was launched led by three Co-Chairs including H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as Chair of the African Union – Other Co-Chairs:
  - H.E Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of The Kingdom of the Netherlands in his capacity as co-host of the UN 2023 International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development;
  - H.E. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, in his capacity as host country of the Presidency of AMCOW; and
  - Alternate Co-Chair, H.E Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his capacity as Chair of the board of GWP-Africa Coordination Unit.



H.E. Macky Sall  
Co-Chair  
President of the Republic  
of Senegal  
Chair: African Union



H.E. Hage Geingob  
Co-Chair  
President of the Republic  
of Namibia



H.E. Mark Rutte  
Co-Chair  
Prime Minister of the  
Netherlands



H.E. Jakaya Kikwete  
Alternate Co-Chair  
Former President of the  
United Republic of  
Tanzania

The objective of the Panel is to develop actionable pathways for mobilizing USD 30 billion annually by 2030, for implementing the Continental Africa Water Investment Program (AIP) and close the existing investment gap in Africa.

Key Functions: High Level Advocacy – Resource Mobilization – Peaceful Dialogue

**Zambia Water Investment Program: AUC Commissioner for ARBE – commit to support AIP IHLP**

## Prioritisation of Water Security and Sanitation in National Development Strategies

- Investments is key for development/ growth → realization of the multiple SDGs.
- Governments to ensure national development strategies & policy frameworks are framed in developing water is recognized as a prerequisite and driver for growth
- Beyond strategies and policy frameworks, governments will need to ensure better linkages between water and national economic models used by various ministries
- Further, sector ministries, agencies and stakeholders will need to employ the nexus approach and ensure that sector strategies, priorities, and decisions are well aligned and integrated with the priorities and interests.

## Cross-sector collaboration and accountability

- *In addition Nexus approach* - sector ministries, agencies and stakeholders will need to put in place *mechanisms to ensure mutual accountability across sectors.*
- All should be encouraged to *articulate shared vision for a country's water security, sanitation and hygiene and identify roles and responsibilities in achieving it.*
- While employing joint sector reviews (JSRs) → all will need to *commit to action and hold each other to account*
- It is this focus on a shared *vision* and collaboration, *which fosters mutual accountability and good sector governance*

## Development of the Post Africa Water Vision 2025 Framework

- Approaching AWW 2025 target date – AUC in collaboration with AMCOW – to set mechanisms and processes to prepare for post-AWW 2025 framework
- AUC will need to employ broad-based consultation process and solicit the support of strategic continental partners, AfDB, UNECA, RECs, and other partners to advise on the continental water vision and framework beyond 2025.
- Technical support will be required to identify the unfinished business and formulate the post-2025
- The African Union in collaboration with AMCOW will need to ensure that the new post Africa Water Vision 2025 framework is prepared and ready for consideration and adoption at political level in the course of 2025
- The process of developing the post-Africa Water Vision 2025 can draw lessons from the post-MDGs development framework, which gave rise to the 2030 Development Agenda as well as the AfDB's process for the development of the Bank's policy on water and the water strategy 2021 – 2025.

**THANK YOU**