



The Windhoek Multi-Stakeholder Resolutions for Accelerating Water Security and Access to Safely Managed Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa.

The Africa Water and Sanitation Week of November 22 – 26, 2021

Convened virtually by the

African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the African Union Commission (AUC) and

Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Namibia

A. PREAMBLE

1. **Emerging**, from the deliberations during the Africa Water and Sanitation Week Conference 2021, which combined the 8th Africa Water Week and the 6th AfricaSan Conference;
2. **Reiterating** the centrality of water in the survival and sustainability for all forms of life on the planet and appreciating that strengthening water security and sustainable sanitation is a prerequisite for inclusive socio-economic development.
3. **Taking due consideration** of the enormous political commitment to actualise the Africa Water Vision 2025 through such Ministerial, and Heads of State and Government Declarations as:
 - a. the Ministerial Commitments of the 2003 Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference (PANAFCON) on Water;
 - b. the 2004 Sirte Declaration [Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (II)] on integrated development of agriculture and water in Africa;
 - c. the 2008 eThekweni Declaration and AfricaSan Action Plan;
 - d. the 2008 Tunis Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development;
 - e. the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action to accelerate progress toward the Paris Declaration objectives;
 - f. the 2008 Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals [Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)];
 - g. the 2009 Johannesburg Ministerial Statement adopting the roadmap for the implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration;
 - h. the AMCOW Policy and Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector in Africa;
 - i. the 2014 Kigali Action Plan [Assembly AU.516 (XXII)] on fast-tracking implementation of the July 2008 Sharm-el-Sheikh Declaration;
 - j. the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for sustainable development;
 - k. the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly SDG 6 on "*ensur[ing] availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*"; and,
 - l. the 2016 Dar es Salaam Roadmap for Achieving the Ngor Commitments on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa; and,
 - m. The 2021 AMCOW Governing Council decision GA/12/2021/WDH/1 on the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG).

4. **Noting** that Africa has now reached the point where there needs to be greater convergence between the high-level commitments and delivery through:
 - a. concrete and unambiguous actions;
 - b. strengthening and scaling-up of existing mechanisms and initiatives; and
 - c. refinement of strategies to address the challenges faced in safely managing water and related resources, as well as assuring accessibility, reliability and affordability of water supply, sanitation and hygiene services provision for all.
5. **Further Noting** that the Africa Water Vision 2025 will end within the next three years;
6. **Highlighting** the necessity to evaluate the extent to which the Africa Water Vision 2025 targets have been achieved by the Member States as a first step to transitioning to the post-2025 era;
7. **Cognisant** of the urgent need to raise the profile and value attached to water in national systems for economic planning and development and thus increase domestic allocations and investment into the water, sanitation and hygiene sub-sectors. The investment requirement to make the Africa Water Vision a reality is indicated as at least US \$50 billion per year for the 20 years since 2009. Current financial flows for the sector are reported as about US\$ 13 billion per year, indicating a significant funding gap of about 75%;
8. **Additionally cognisant** of the vitality of improving water availability to strengthen Africa's response to COVID-19 and future pandemics; restore economic growth; and build resilience to climate, health and food system shocks;
9. **Informed** by the need to create employment opportunities for the youth and develop their technical and skills capacities to contribute to sustainable services delivery across the continent;
10. **Recognizing** the need to improve efficiency and efficacy of utilizing available public financial resources, as well as expanding funding and investment opportunities by attracting the private sector;

B. VISION:

11. **Remaining committed** to the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the SDGs; we the stakeholders at the Africa Water and Sanitation week 2021 renew our commitment to make progress on water security, sanitation and hygiene within the framework of the Africa Union Agenda 2063 – *The Africa We Want* by:
 - a. Improving efficiency, transparency and accountability in addressing inequalities, and equally improving sector funding within the functions of water resources management, and water supply, sanitation and hygiene services provision. A key element of this is to integrate the agenda for water, sanitation, hygiene and climate action.
 - b. Strengthening and institutionalising monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms that support evidence-based decision making.
 - c. Formulating the post-2025 Africa Water Vision in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; and Africa Union Agenda 2063 towards a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

C. We resolve to undertake the following actions:

12. Water Governance

12.1 Policy, legal and institutional environments

- 12.1.1 **Strengthen policy, legal and institutional environments** by ensuring context specificity; intra- and inter-sectoral coherency; and upholding of the principles of universal social inclusion and equity.
- 12.1.2 Call on governments to **formulate and implement inclusive sanitation policies** that cover sewerred and non-sewerred sanitation systems as the foundation for delivering safely managed sanitation.
- 12.1.3 **Ensure availability of commensurate material, financial and human resources** to national and local government institutional mechanisms for water resources management and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services to all. Special emphasis should be placed on ensuring high-level political leadership to motivate action on sanitation and hygiene.

12.2 Stakeholder engagement

- 12.2.1 Enjoin governments to **raise the profile of social accountability and transparency**. It is vital to **recognize women and youth as change agents** for planning and implementation of the water, sanitation and hygiene agenda in Africa.
- 12.2.2 Call on governments to **assure sustainable services delivery** by developing the requisite human resources capacity – especially among women, girls, people with disabilities and marginalised communities.

12.3 Finance

- 12.3.1 Call on Governments and the private sector to significantly **increase investments** in climate resilient and inclusive water and sanitation infrastructure. The continued support of development banks and partners will be a critical enabler.
- 12.3.2 Call on Governments to **recommit to** both:
 - a. the 2003 PANAFCON commitment to **allocate at least 5% of national budgets for the water and sanitation sector**; and,
 - b. the e-Thekwini commitment to **establish public sector budget allocations of a minimum of 0.5% of GDP per annum for sanitation and hygiene programmes**.
- 12.3.3 Encourage governments to **leverage climate funds** to support national development strategies under the climate management systems.

13. Sanitation and Hygiene services

- 13.1. Call on governments to seize the opportunity of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic to **raise the profile of sanitation and hygiene, and strengthen pandemic preparedness and response capabilities**.
- 13.2. Call on Governments and stakeholders to **address the challenges faced to access reliable and complete data** in the water and sanitation sector, especially on hygiene. There is a need to rethink how data on hygiene practices is captured and utilized to inform decision-making, and improve sanitation and hygiene programming, and services delivery.

14. Water supply for Growth and Economic Development

- 14.1. Call on governments to **ensure water availability** to keep up the fight against COVID-19; bring down the over-all disease burden; and prevent future pandemics.
- 14.2. Encourage Governments and relevant partners to **prioritize water management and services provision** as essential ingredients for poverty alleviation and inclusive socio-economic development.
- 14.3. **Prioritise groundwater resources management** as a key element of water resources development, utilisation and management. Well-functioning monitoring, assessment and management systems are required to ensure sustainable use of groundwater resources.
- 14.4. **Mobilize groundwater networks, actors and institutions** towards a common, harmonized, and evidence-based approach to sustainable groundwater use and management in furtherance of the Africa Water Vision and Africa Union Agenda 2063.

15. Water Quality and wastewater management

- 15.1. **Strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks** for the collection and treatment of waste – both solid waste and wastewater – to a minimum quality standard before reuse and or safe disposal.
- 15.2. **Incentivise the private sector** to play an active role in enhancing the use of wastewater and sludge, as appropriate and acceptable, in agriculture and other sectors;
- 15.3. **Standardize regulations** for wastewater treatment, environmental flows and water quality management in Africa with particular reference to:
 - 15.3.1. **arresting and reversing plastic pollution** of surface water bodies;
 - 15.3.2. **preventing groundwater contamination** due to unsafe solid waste and wastewater disposal to the environment.

16. Climate Change and Resilience

- 16.1. Call attention to the recently published IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) (2021) and the relevant priorities of the Glasgow Climate Pact, including:
 - 16.1.1. **integrating water and climate action** through adaptation and resilience planning at national and regional levels;
 - 16.1.2. **promoting and financing global water monitoring systems** to provide timely information about current and future water availability;
 - 16.1.3. **promoting a proactive approach to flood and drought management** centered around the pillars of monitoring, forecasting and early warning vulnerability and impact assessment and preparedness, mitigation and response.

17. Monitoring, Learning, Knowledge Management and Capacity Development

- 17.1 **Prioritise investment for monitoring, evaluation, knowledge and information management and learning** to consolidate evidence-based and timely decision making at all levels.
- 17.2 Encourage African Governments to **foster research and application of knowledge and innovations** to inform sector interventions targeted at improving water management and water and sanitation services provision.

Done on this the 26th day of November 2021 as

Resolutions from the Inaugural Africa Water and Sanitation Week 2021

Signed for the **AMCOW Governing Council**



Hon Carl Hermann Schlettwein
Minister for Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform, Republic of Namibia
and
President of the AMCOW Governing Council