



Draft Monrovia “*water*” sector declaration to HLP

Introduction – waterpost2015 consultation, 29th January 2013

1. The consultation meeting was undertaken yesterday in this room.
2. More than 50 representatives of governments in Africa, development partners, NGOs and civil society from the continent and beyond were in attendance.
3. The meeting formed a vital element of water sector consultation, alongside technical processes.
4. The meeting brought together all elements of the wider water sector to the extent that hereafter “water” is taken to mean WASH, WRM and wastewater management & water quality.
5. After considering what lessons can be drawn from the MDG formulation process and implementation, the meeting then considered compelling arguments and top line messages for including water in the post 2015 development framework.

Lessons learned from the MDG process and period

The post MDG *water* framework should address the shortfalls, the “unfinished business” and neglected issues (especially water resources, water quality and hygiene, water security).

Water related MDG Targets have provided a planning framework which have mobilised actors at the regional and Country levels.

1. Water related targets garnered high levels of ownership at national, regional and international levels including forming the basis for the enormous implementation funding efforts by national governments and development community.
2. MDG targets, when linked to a monitoring and evaluation framework have helped to increase accountability.
3. The Water related MDG targets, whilst capturing big trends, have masked inequalities between countries and region, rural and urban areas, rich and poor, slums and formal settlements and disadvantage groups and the general public.
4. The structure and implementation of water related MDG targets lacked explicit linkages to other goals such as health, education, poverty alleviation, food and energy security to which the targets implementation remain essential in meeting. The key challenge was that water management was not a distinct goal but rather lumped under environment management.
5. Momentum took time to be generated, but the basis for successful sustainable water implementation in the post 2015 period is in place.

Co Conveners





Compelling arguments for including “water” in post 2015 development framework

The formulation process of the post 2015 development framework is predicated on improving rather replacing existing frameworks. It is therefore incumbent for Africa to use the Africa Water Vision 2025 of **“An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio economic development, regional cooperation and environment”** as the basis for formulating a distinct water goal.

Given the experience of the MDG period and also the changes in the **water** sector, the linkage with other sectors and in the external environment, we believe that the following are the most salient reasons for including **water** in the post 2015 framework.

1. **Access to clean water and sanitation** is prerequisite for healthy human living and has direct impact on the wellbeing and productivity of the population as well as sustaining freshwater eco systems.
2. Sustainable and equitable economic development and poverty reduction have **water** as a pre-requisite.
3. **Water and sanitation** are human rights and increasingly widely recognised as such.
4. **Water is essential for ensuring food and energy security**, which in turn can only be achieved if the cross sectorial inter linkages are taken into account.
5. **Water resources management is a key instrument for mitigating the impacts of the currently Climate Change and Variability**. The related development and multipurpose use of water infrastructure is essential for disaster risk reduction and management in Africa.
6. **Developing appropriate tools and indicators for measuring the contribution of the productive use of water and related resources to development** is particularly important to providing a basis for highlighting their pivotal role as essential ingredients in the advent of the green economy in Africa.
7. Urbanisation is providing vastly increased pressure in WASH provision, for wastewater management and integrated water resource management.

Top Line messages

1. The post 2015 development agenda for Africa as relates to the water management should be premised on the **Africa Water Vision 2025**.
2. **Water** is essential in the future development framework in order to attain vital economic, health, educational, agriculture/food and energy benefits.
3. **Water** is also a pre-requisite for maintaining ecosystems services and supporting resilience to climate change.
4. Universal access to sustainable safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in our time is a crucial requirement.
5. Making fundamental changes in African water resource management is the basis of water security and sustainable development.
6. Wastewater is not **wasted water** – it is a resource in environmental and economic terms
7. We can and we must prevent the polluting impact of wastewater, ensuring its re-use at appropriate quality, and reaping the financial, health and environmental benefits.