



PRESS RELEASE 8TH SADC MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WATER DIALOGUE

18th November 2017, Johannesburg

The SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue established in 2007 to raise awareness and understanding of how Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approaches can contribute to 'socio-economic development and poverty eradication' will be held from 21-22 November 2017 at the Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg. The SADC Secretariat is the convener of the dialogue. This year, the Government of the Republic of South Africa will host policymakers, researchers and academia, private sector and civil society representing 15 SADC states as they gather to discuss strategies and opportunities under the dialogue theme: *“Fostering regional value chains and job creation through the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approaches”*

The objective of the 2017 SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue is to provide a platform for water, energy, food, economic planning and gender practitioners to develop strategies that will ensure that nexus approaches contribute to fostering regional value chains and job creation across the region.

Over the past ten years, the SADC Secretariat’s Directorate of Infrastructure and Services Water Division has facilitated the SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogues, paving the way for mutually beneficial responses and cooperation between multi-sector disciplines and skills.

These discussions have heightened over the past four years to address the interdependencies between Water, Energy and Food (WEF); and climate change. An existing gap in recognising the Nexus approach’s contribution to economic development has been the lack of clarity and sufficient evidence about what a ‘successful’ WEF nexus approach looks like in practice, and how this can be achieved, monitored and evaluated in fostering regional value chains and job creation.

This has created challenges for planners, policymakers and other stakeholders tasked with developing nexus-oriented strategies within the confines of existing institutional silos and sectoral structures. However, there is agreement that the attainment of more inclusive economic growth requires more effective frameworks for policymakers and other stakeholders to collaborate and develop cross-sectoral plans and actions, the political will, new planning tools, knowledge sharing and capacity development mechanisms.

Bearing in mind the existing challenges and strong correlation between economic growth, industrial growth, water consumption, and energy demand and food production, this year's Dialogue aims to consolidate and advance the progress made from the 2013 and 2015 Dialogues on the WEF Nexus and Industrialisation respectively. The 2017 Dialogue will not only provide evidence of the Nexus approach through existing case studies, but will also recognise a shift in focus, from a water management philosophy where water is the primary driver and central focus of development, to one where all three Nexus sectors interact on an equal basis, led by any one of them, or a neutral entity. To ensure sustainability of Nexus interventions, the importance of gender mainstreaming will be highlighted.

At the heart of the discussions will also be an attempt to address the critical question of how the SADC countries can leverage the pressures of global population trends, economic growth, energy demand and food production; and climate change—all at the core of the water-energy-food nexus to expand industrial capacity, open-up investment opportunities, develop new products and services, and create jobs.

The eagerly awaited outcomes from the discussions are expected to be: Recommendations aimed at taking forward the WEF Nexus agenda in the SADC region, specifically its role in sustaining jobs and value-chains; Clear strategies on how the WEF nexus will contribute to specific value chains and contributing to the achievement of the SADC development agenda; and concrete ideas and identification of potential WEF Nexus projects where WEF nexus will contribute to value chains.

Through the subsidiarity principle of SADC, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) has been mandated to facilitate the convening of the Dialogue on behalf of SADC Secretariat's Water Division since 2007. The Kingdom of Denmark through DANIDA has been providing base funding for the Dialogues with support from other cooperating partners in the water sector through the framework of the Water Strategy Reference Group (WSRG). The 2017 Dialogue funding is being provided by European Commission (EC), the Government of German (BMZ) in delegated cooperation with the UK Government (UKAid) implemented by GIZ over and above the support from DANIDA. In the previous years, other International Cooperating Partners, such as the Government of the United States of America (USAID) and the Australian Government (AusAID) have also contributed.

For more information, refer to attached:

8th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Concept Note

Draft Programme

Contacts:

Mr. Phera Ramoeli

SADC Water Division

Directorate for Infrastructure and Services

Email: water@sadc.int

<http://www.sadc.int/sadc-secretariat/directorates/office-deputy-executive-secretary-regional-integration/infrastructure-services/sadc-water-sector/>

Mr. Alex Simalabwi
Executive Secretary
Head-Africa Coordination Unit
Global Coordinator: Water Climate Development Programme
Global Water Partnership Southern Africa
Email: Alex.simalabwi@gwp.org
<http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-SouthernAfrica/>

About SADC Water Division

The SADC *Water Division* falls under the Directorate for Infrastructure and Services and is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the implementation of regional *water* related activities in close collaboration with the member states of SADC under the guidance of instruments for water cooperation, which include the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000), the Regional Water Policy, adopted in 2005; the Regional Water Strategy adopted in 2006 and Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources and Development Management which was first approved by SADC Summit in August 1998 to run in five-year phases.

About the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa

The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) is one of the 13 regional networks of the international network – The Global Water Partnership created to foster an integrated approach to water resources management, and solutions to water related problems (such as climate change and urbanisation). GWPSA manages activities and programmes with stakeholders in the SADC Region and at Pan-African level to bring about solutions that are both tailored to local conditions and informed by local experiences and good practices from across the continent.