

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UNVEILED**

#### **at 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brazil**

**20 March 2018, Brasilia, Brazil**

In June 2017, the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), through the Government of South Africa, commissioned Global Water Partnership (GWP) to develop a legacy water initiative for Africa. In response, the Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) has been developed in collaboration with the African Union and the African Development Bank /Africa Water Facility.

The HLPW was co-convened in 2016 by the UN Secretary-General and the World Bank President to provide the leadership required to tackle one of the world's most pressing challenges – an ever-growing water crisis. The Panel identified ways in which the world could accelerate progress towards ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6).

The HLPW comprised 11 sitting Heads of State from Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Jordan, South Africa, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, Tajikistan; and a Special Advisor.

The AIP is championed by the three African HLPW members (Mauritius, Senegal and South Africa). The AIP will support the implementation of the key recommendations of the HLPW Outcome Document relevant to Africa, in addition to revitalising efforts to achieve – among others – the commitments of the July 2008 Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XI)) of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union; the N'Gor Declaration on Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene; and the water related priority projects of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The organs, structures and institutions of the African Union will provide political leadership and guidance to the AIP.

The AIP was unveiled today by the governments of South Africa and Senegal during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (WWF8) in Brasilia, Brazil. H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, was represented by Prime Minister Mohammed Dionne.

Honourable Andries Carl Nel, the Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, provided an overview of the AIP during the launch of the HLPW Outcome Document in which the African Water Investment Programme is highlighted as one of the new cooperative initiatives of critical importance to the new water agenda. He presented the HLPW Outcome Document and a copy of the AIP

Concept Brief to Prime Minister Dionne, highlighting its vital importance to directly respond to Africa's urgent need for investments in water security.

Speaking earlier at the World Bank event on the HLPW final outcome, the Honourable Andries Nel affirmed the commitment of the African HLPW Members – and the Republic of South Africa in particular – to both engage the Member States of the African Union (AU) and mobilise support from the AU's sovereign and non-sovereign partners to implement the AIP. The process will be technically facilitated by the GWP in collaboration with the AfDB/AWF, the World Bank, AMCOW, NEPAD, and other interested partners.

Speaking at another related event organised by the World Bank to disseminate the final outcome of the HLPW, and attended by representatives of the HLPW members, N, GWP Chair Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren welcomed the outcome of the HLPW and reaffirmed GWP's commitment to harness and mobilise its over 3000 partners worldwide, to assure realisation of the expected outcomes of the AIP.

AIP is expected to leverage over \$30 billion in SDG 6 investments, and create at least 5 million jobs by 2030: four million of which will be targeted at the vulnerable, poor youth, women, and girls. In addition, there are aspirations for the economic opportunities arising from implementing the AIP to benefit 250 million people in Africa and make a significant contribution to ongoing efforts to address the root causes of irregular water-related migration.

The goal of AIP is to transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful and equitable society.

The objective is to enhance job creation through gender sensitive investments in water security, industrialization, and climate resilient development.

AIP will strengthen the business case for investments in water security and prepare bankable projects as instruments to stimulate transformative economic growth, and addressing the root causes of migration and youth unemployment. In addition to the SDGs, AIP contributes to Africa's employment creation agenda; the AU's Agenda 2063; the AfDB High 5 priorities; the Africa Water Vision 2025; and the Paris Agreement on climate change. In addition to implementing relevant outcomes of the HLPW, AIP will address the challenges defined by AfDB and AMCOW in the Africa Regional Report for the 8th World Water Forum.

AIP activities will harness expertise of the private sector and work with the public sector to 'unblock' constraints in preparation of priority employment orientated-water investment projects and support the efficient execution of the legal, technical, procedural, and managerial functions required to implement large water investment projects.

The programme will address key challenges constraining Africa's efforts to prepare bankable projects at a scale required to assure water, food, and energy security and play a transformational role in global efforts to expand economic opportunities for the poor and

curtail political, governance, economic and social factors underlying unemployment, migration, displacement, regional and national security.

Building on existing regional and country water partnerships, AIP will strengthen and promote innovative public private partnership models to unlock private sector investments in water, energy and agriculture as key pillars of Africa's growth and job creation agenda.

The programme will leverage partnerships to enhance water security and sustainable sanitation through evidence-based economic social and gender analysis and build capacity for transaction management in project preparation of targeted employment creation investments for the poor, vulnerable women, girls, and youth. Achieving the SDGs in a changing climate will require governments, societies, and the private sector to change the way they use and manage water. To accelerate this transformation, Member States of the African Union will implement the AIP as a vehicle to cultivate the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive, and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation services.

**For more information:**

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**About the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa**

The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) is one of the 13 regional networks of the international Global Water Partnership network 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 tailored to local conditions and informed by local experiences and good practices from across the continent.