Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki CEO of NEPAD, ladies and gentleman, and members of the press.

By 2020, the population of Africa will reach 1.6 billion. This translates into ten times the demand for water to support energy, agriculture, industries and other services. At the same time, progress in preparation of bankable water project is slow on the continent. Hence we must accelerate the development of water projects.

This partnership with NEPAD is about speeding up the development of water projects. GWPSA has mobilized our partners in Africa and globally to assist this initiative. GWPSA continues to mobilise its partners across and beyond the continent and foster innovative partnerships between the public and private sector to accelerate project preparation of water investments.

This partnership will also contribute to African Union Agenda 2063, the Heads of State and African Union AU Sharm elSheikh Declaration on water and sanitation; the N'Gor Declaration on Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene; and the Africa Water Investment Programme objectives.

While the partnership is entered with NEPAD we welcome others to join. In conclusion we wish to thank the NEPAD and the AU, for this partnership.

Thank you all for your attention.