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The post-2015 development agenda  
**Zambia stakeholder  
perspectives on a water  
goal and its  
implementation**



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## 1 Introduction and background

On the 5th March 2014, the Zambia Water Partnership with the support of the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa held a stakeholders meeting at Cresta Golf View Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia to obtain views from actors in the water sector as well from others on the post-2015 development agenda for water and sustainable development. The consultations feed into the global framework of consultations intended to contribute to developing the future the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The stakeholders came together to learn of the SDG process and to examine the country relevance and applicability of the options and recommendations presented in the UN-Water paper on a dedicated goal for water. The list of participants to the meeting is attached at Annex 1.

The Minister for Mines, Energy and Water Development Mr Christopher Yaluma opened the meeting. Participants included representatives from government institutions, regulatory agencies, representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other cooperating partners, higher institutions of learning, research institutions, nongovernment organisations, and community based organisations, the private sector, individuals and the media.

### 1.1 Importance of the consultation to Zambia

The consultations provided the country with the following opportunities:

- To not only input, but also state its priority interests while influencing the global development agenda beyond 2015.
- To reflect on the sustainable development provisions in the National Development Plans and programmes as well as an opportunity to integrate focused water management and development priorities into future development frameworks.

### 1.2 Background presentations

To provide context to the consultations several presentations were made which gave some background information on the various aspects of water management in Zambia vis-a-vis attainment of the MDG targets and the future challenges and opportunities as follows:

- What the consultation meeting means for Zambia –Jonathan Kampata, Department of Water Affairs;
- A Potential Global Goal for Water- the background and context to the SDG consultations made so far including an overview of the UN Water paper and 2013 water thematic consultations- Ms Ruth Beukman;
- Water Resources Management –Kenneth Nyundu, Department of Water Affairs
- Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene- Latest Developments in the Urban and Rural WSS sub Sectors- Brian Siakabeya, Department of Housing & Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Local Government and Housing.
- Provision of Sewerage Services in Urban and Peri-urban Areas in Zambia-National
- Water Supply and Sanitation Council- presented on their behalf by Chimwang’a Maseka, Zambia Water Partnership
- Water Quality Management-Rodwell Chandipo, Zambia Environmental Management Agency
- A Potential Global Goal for Water: Zambia Consultations-reflection on integrated approach to water resources management-Prof. Imasiku Nyambe, IWRM Centre, University of Zambia and Zambia Water Partnership

The presentations were discussed in plenary but the more detailed discussions were guided by questions for participants to stimulate discussion and views during group breakout sessions.

As a follow-up to the formal stakeholder consultation, the Zambia Water Partnership made further consultations to:

- i. seek views from stakeholder groups that could not attend the meeting -i.e. women and water; youth and water, water in the context of disaster management and water governance;
- ii. to assess the implications of the proposed goal and targets for water for the country in terms of additional resources: i.e. capacities, infrastructure needs, institutional reforms and, monitoring needs as well cost implications for meeting the goal and targets Sections 2 and 3 below present the outcomes of the stakeholder consultations.

## 2 Comments on recommended Sustainable Development Goal and Targets for water:

### 2.1 Discussion on the recommended Goal and Targets in relation to local development aims.

Stakeholders acknowledged the UN effort towards developing the proposed goal of “Securing Sustainable Water for All” between 2015 and 2030. The goal is in line with the Zambia 2030 Vision: “A Zambia where all users have access to water and sanitation and utilise them in an efficient and sustainable manner for wealth creation and improved livelihood by 2030”. The achievement of the of Sixth National Development Plan 2011 – 2015 goal “to achieve 75% accessibility to reliable safe water and 60% adequate sanitation by 2015 in order to enhance economic growth and improve the quality of life “ provides the basis for building on to the 2015-2030 goal.

Achieving sustainable water resources development and increasing access to reliable safe water and adequate sanitation requires effective management, infrastructure and skills development and most of all innovation and resources. Based on the 2010 Population Census Zambia’s population will increase to 15.5 million by 2015 and will double to 30 million by 2030. Zambian policy and decision-makers need to acknowledge that even though targets will be reached, there will be an increase in the unserved population

### 2.2 Consideration of the approach for target setting (national or global level)

The meeting acknowledged the relevance of the sustainable development goal and targets for water in view of the issues raised in section 2.1.

Regarding target setting stakeholders wanted Zambia to set its own targets to be reflected in national development frameworks, but recognised the value framing these within broader global statements or what is referred to as “dashboard by the UN”. In this way the country would have greater flexibility in framing its own priorities, apart from encouraging creativity.

Stakeholders acknowledged targets articulated in the Sixth National Development Plan for water resources management and development; for rural and urban water supply and sanitation and for adaptation to climate change in water resources management.

Stakeholders highlighted the difficulty of determining the extent to which expected outputs have been met. Indications are that expectations have not been met and with only one year or so before the MDG’s period ends, the situation is not expected to significantly change. A rapid assessment of the Sixth National Development Plan water sector performance would have to be carried out to assess what has been achieved and challenges facing the sector so that going forward between 2015

and 2030, the experiences gained in implementation and lessons learnt may become the foundation to help set realistic targets and meet the development goals set.

### **2.3 Discussions on achieving universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in relation to the local development aims:**

The meeting observed that effective planning, enforcement legislative frameworks and resource mobilisation were critical. It has been observed the quality of the works which include dam surveys, hydrogeological investigations, borehole drilling and construction and supervision is very poor. Capital costs of drilling and development (rural electrification) are high; this has obviously slowed down the progress and commitment shown by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ), its partners and various NGOs to improving access to drinking water. Operational and maintenance problems at the local level have resulted in inoperative infrastructure. Another challenge is the weak/unreliable database.

Stakeholders underlined Government's role in having an updated database system for water supply and sanitation at the district and national levels; Stakeholders further underscored the need for Government leadership in developing a robust and workable system at the local authority and national levels. Without a clear and agreed national information system and methodology on tracking progress on water it will be difficult to assess status of achievement of targets. The benefits of functional information system include- better focus on the problems areas; documentation and sharing of best practices, especially in solid waste management and wastewater interventions; effective strategic planning; and better outreach programmes to positively impact behavioural changes in relation to hygiene health and livelihoods.

### **2.4 Discussions on improving sustainable use and development of water resources in relation to the local development aims:**

Participants observed the following key challenges: coping with land degradation and a reduction in groundwater recharge; protection of groundwater resources from the disposal of domestic wastewater into septic tanks in fractured aquifers in many urban and rural towns, leading to outbreaks of water related diseases; equally domestic solid waste, garbage, ashes are disposed of in pits while industrial wastewater is disposed off in drains; mushrooming settlements causing water pollution as there is no commitment by Government to improve town and country planning; high cost of drilling/uncontrolled drilling of boreholes and extraction of groundwater/inadequate monitoring groundwater withdrawals and the location of industrial activity onto water recharge areas; inadequate consultation with stakeholders; rapid deforestation even in many of the country's headwaters; inadequate baseline for water resources management data and a dilapidated hydrological data collection system (inadequate gauging stations).

### **2.5 Discussion on Water Quality Management and Wastewater treatment in relation to local development aims:**

Participants observed that waste water polluting surface and ground water systems is from many sources with the manufacturing sector and sewage treatment plants being the prominent sources; most of the discharges into the water systems are done obscurely and Zambia Environmental Management Agency and the Department of Water Affairs have no means of measuring what is discharged into the rivers.

Participants again raised the issue of inadequacy of baseline data on wastewater for water quality management as well as the need to adopt wastewater re-use and appropriate technological options. In this regard, research and development and innovation for waste water reuse needs to be strongly promoted.

## 2.6 On achieving increased resilience to water related disasters, it was observed that:

Challenges associated with water related disasters include flood hazards. On a yearly basis about 19 districts experience floods while 13 districts usually experience droughts.

Disasters caused by chemical spills from mining operations and other industries have increased and the need for preparedness, and increased resilience need not be overlooked. Uranium mining is going on in the North Western Province without any mechanisms to monitor pollutant disposals into the water systems and environment.

## 2.7 Sub-sections discussing the Goal and each of the water targets.

Regarding the specific targets:

- Stakeholders accepted the WASH target for achieving universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene but highlighted increased budget allocation to WASH
- With respect to the water resources target, stakeholders proposed to add to the list of actions mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as climate change, gender, HIV/AIDS etc.
- For the proposed target for Water Governance stakeholders proposed to include strengthening coordination and institutional collaboration to the list of actions.
- Under the proposed target for wastewater and pollution to protect water quality stakeholder proposed to include “adhering to national standards and existing laws in relation to reducing nutrient pollution as well as the need to quantify wastewater.
- Under the proposed target for water-related disasters stakeholders proposed including climate proofing of infrastructure as necessary action.

## 3 Key implications and means of implementation

The meeting identified key implications and means of implementation for achieving the Goal and Targets over the period 2015-30 under the following sub-sections:

### 3.1 Capacity

The meeting noted that capacities issues were critical to the implementation of the sustainable development (SD) goal and targets over the 2015-30 period. The meeting noted that capacities needed for implementing national activities in water were at individual and institutional (policy and legislative framework) levels. Other areas of capacity building include the coordination needs at vertical (between local and provincial authorities and national levels of government) and horizontal (between government agencies, NGO/CBO and private sector organisations) levels. There is a shortage of personnel and in specific fields that needs serious attention- geologists/hydro geologists, hydrologists, water engineers and social scientists. The capacity gaps are greatest at district level. Water management areas identified as facing major challenges include water law, water rights management, groundwater, floods management, infrastructure development, sanitation and governance and in research. These areas of capacity constraints should be the focus of both short and long term training. Other critical issues relate to the retention of qualified personnel in the water sector and especially in the public sector.

The meeting agreed that the availability of reliable data and information on surface and groundwater is important for planning and meeting the SD goals and targets in the water sector. For instance many surface water gauging stations are not in operation. Sustainable water resources management in many basins is made difficult by poor data collection, management, and dissemination systems, inadequate training, and weak stakeholder participation.

### 3.2 Costs

It will be essential to determine the type, quantity and cost of material and human resources required to achieve the proposed overall goal and specific targets. Of critical concern will be to align/mainstream the adopted goal and targets for the 2015-2030 targets into government's national plan and accompanying budget. The principal national planning documents include the Vision 2030 (long term plan), the successive 5 year-national development plans and the medium term expenditures frameworks (medium term).

Achievement of the goal and targets in section 2 requires the outlay of adequate resources especially from Government sources whose funding allocations for water supply and sanitation for example has never been above 5% of the national budget.

**Table 1** Indicative costs by 2013 in US Dollars

|   | <b>Costs US Dollar</b> |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Sustainable water use and development of water resources</b>   | 2,650,000,000          |
| <b>Access to universal drinking water, sanitation and hygiene</b> | 6,974,456,800          |
| <b>Water Quality Management and Wastewater Treatment</b>          | 1,660,520,000          |
| <b>Increased Resilience to Water-Related Disasters</b>            | 75,000,000             |
| <b>Water Resources Management Information System</b>              | 15,000,000             |
| <b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>                                  | 568,748,840            |
| <b>Programme Implementation Capacity</b>                          | 1,194,372,564          |
| <b>Grand Total cost</b>   | <b>13,138,098,204</b>  |

### 3.3 Institutions

The meeting acknowledged the water sector reforms implemented by Government in the last two decades. The meeting noted that greater institutional challenges remain which need further attention. These relate to institutional capacity development for the water sector especially for the new Water Resources Management Authority, Local Authorities and community based institutions for building capacity for negotiations, conflict resolution, monitoring and compliance; and effective horizontal and vertical inter-agency coordination amongst water management institutions.

### 3.4 Infrastructure

The meeting noted that Zambia's apparent abundance of water resources is not taken advantage of effectively for national development and poverty reduction. Effective water infrastructure development will need a strengthened line agency which will provide leadership and coordinated and consistent planning monitoring of new dam construction and rehabilitation works.

Equally proposed targets for water supply and sanitation demand an appropriate expansion of infrastructure. The greatest challenge is in the rural areas where millions inhabitants need to gain access to clean water and adequate sanitation respectively. In the urban areas where the population growth is much higher the challenge will be to expand infrastructure to peri-urban and other low-income areas. Investment in sanitation infrastructure has always been lower than that in water supply even though it is known improved sanitation has positive implications on the national health burden.

### 3.5 Monitoring

Effectively monitoring commitment to the targets will require devising plans for meeting the targets whether separately or integrated into national development frameworks. Performance monitoring

and accountability have been a challenge in the water sector, compounded by largely lack of a national M&E frameworks.

Operationalizing a management information system as discussed in 3.1 is crucial. Monitoring post 2015 targets will require sufficient allocation of resources to support effective decision making; technical support to relevant monitoring bodies especially at the local level.

## 4 Concluding comments specific to the country.

The consultative meeting was well received by the stakeholders for four main reasons:

- i. It provided an opportunity for stakeholders to articulate their perspective of issues critical to water resources management, waters supply and sanitation, waste water and water quality management and to influence the global development agenda beyond 2015.
- ii. It provided opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the Sixth National Development Plan/Millennium Development Goals targets and to undertake a quick but pointed assessment of the relevance of the globally crafted goal and targets, and the achievability of the goal in relation to current and expected implementation of the national SNDP targets.
- iii. It provided opportunity to highlight and appreciate the proposed goals and targets often overlooked in planning processes.
- iv. It provided an opportunity to engage with the recent UNDP led national consultations in the provinces on the post2015 development agenda which will inform Zambia's position paper for the OWG processes.

Stakeholders acknowledged the UN effort towards developing the proposed goal of "Securing Sustainable Water for All" between 2015 and 2030. The goal, targets and actions were generally in tandem with country national aspirations in realizing our vision for 2030. However, stakeholders proposed additions to the specific actions intended to achieve the targets.

From the consultations it was learnt that at a population rate of 2.4 per annum, Zambia's population would double to 30 million by 2030, requiring that significant investments are made for ensuring effective water resources management, supplying safe water and adequate sanitation and for managing waste water. In order to achieve universal access to safe drinking water, the meeting observed that effective planning, enforcement legislative frameworks and resource mobilisation were critical to achieving universal access to safe drinking water. Notable and sustained achievement in sanitation has remained elusive. Sufficient time and resources need to be committed to this cause in order to have impact.

Key challenges in achieving the sustainable use of Water Resources are as follows: coping with land degradation and recharge reduction; measures need to be directed at the protection of groundwater should be considered.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

| Full Name                | Organisation and Position  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Bertha Miyanda           | Programme Officer, Water Japanese International Cooperation Agency Lusaka                                  |
| Ruth Beukman             | Regional Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa                                     |
| S. Mwenya                | Executive Director Vision Africa Regional Network  |
| Patricia Lumba           | Knowledge Management & communications Officer Global Water Partnership Southern Africa                     |
| Wilma Mulenga            | Journalist, Christian Voice  |
| Penjani Hopkins Nyimbili | Engineer, Rural Electrification Authority  |
| Adam Hussen              | Board Member, Water Resources Management Authority   |
| S. Banda                 | Liaison Officer, Water Resources Management Authority  |
| Clara Mwila Kateule      | Senior Community Development Officer, Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health           |
| Prof Imasiku A. Nyambe   | Coordinator, Zambia Water Partnership  |
| Macpherson Mukuka        | Journalist, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation   |
| Stanislaus M. Chisakuta  | Head of Department, Water Engineering, Natural Resources Development College                               |
| Stephen Siwila           | Hydrologist, National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research                                     |
| Kunda Chimambo           | Board Member, Zambia Climate Change Network  |
| Rodwell Chandipo         | Environmental Inspector, Zambia Environmental Management Agency  |
| Bishop Dr. Chomba        | Board Chair, Water Resources Management Authority  |
| Gerald Sungwa            | Cameraman, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation  |
| Kenneth Nyundu           | Acting Assistant Director, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development                                 |
| Isabel Miyanda           | Planner (Water) Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development  |
| Adrian Nsefu             | Chaisa Ward Development Committee, Lusaka  |
| Chusa Sichone            | Reporter, Times of Zambia  |
| Priscilla Chipulu        | Reporter, Radio Phoenix  |
| Miriam Mukamba           | Coordinator, NGO WASH Forum  |
| Mulonda Mate             | Deputy Director, EOH Ministry of Health  |
| Alvin Chiinga            | Senior Reporter, Zambia Daily Mail   |
| Jonathan Kampata         | Principal Water Resources Engineer, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development                        |
| Daniel Tonga             | Journalist, Prime Television   |
| Prince kaliza            | Journalist, Prime Television   |
| Mundi Matongo            | Policy and Advocacy Manager, WaterAid  |
| Loveness Mwewa           | Secretariat, Zambia Water Partnership  |
| Brian Siakabeya          | Principal Solid Waste Management Officer, Ministry of Local Government and Housing                         |
| Kelvin Chileshe          | Media Consultant   |
| Angela Kabuswe           | Senior Environmental Management Officer, Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection |

| Full Name              | Organisation and Position   |
|------------------------|---|
| Wilson K Sakala        | Senior Manager Zambezi River Authority  |
| Chimwang'a Maseka      | Core Team Member Zambia Water Partnership   |
| Monica Chundama        | Acting Chairperson Zambia Water Partnership   |
| Dr Howard N. Mpamba    | Acting Director, Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development |
| Hon Christopher Yaluma | Minister, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development                                     |

## Annex 2: List of member states and constituents of the Open Working Group

The Southern Africa region is represented by Zimbabwe and Zambia. Zambia also attended the third session of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) which was held from 22nd to 24th May, 2013 according to the programme of work. The session covered topics on Food Security and Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture, Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought and Water and Sanitation. Members of the Zambia Open Working Group session that was held from 22nd to 24th May, 2013 consisted of Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development.



