

GWP Chair message on the occasion of the 6th Africa Water Week

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

July 18, 2016

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AMCOW President, honourable Ministers, AU Commissioner, and distinguished guests,

The 2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report to the African Union Summit reported that the total domestic expenditure in the water and sanitation sector is US \$18.5 billion. This represents only 35% of the annual requirement of US \$50 billion determined by the Africa Development Bank as the minimum to achieve the Africa Water Vision 2025.

The report also indicated Africa's hydropower capacity is only 15% of hydropower potential. And underdevelopment of water infrastructure accounts for up to 2% of Africa's lost annual GDP growth!

The message is clear: *inadequate investment in Africa's water security constrains social progress and economic development.*

In addition, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 5th Assessment Report projects that many African countries will face increases in temperature, floods, and droughts.

Extreme climatic variability; low levels of water storage infrastructure; low utility of hydropower and irrigation potential; and gaps in climate and hydrological information – all these undermine Africa's efforts for sustainable economic growth.

Africa is not alone with these challenges. In the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report, for two years "water crises" has been cited as one of the top 10 risks to business and economic progress.

In the past decade, global economic losses from disasters averaged USD 190 billion per year. Average insured losses were USD 60 billion per year. Seventy-eight per cent of reported disasters between 1970 and 2014 are climate related: droughts, floods, heat waves, storm surges, and others. In this century already, direct economic losses due to disasters were around USD 2.5 trillion.

The message is clear: *climate change threatens global development.*

In Africa, a burgeoning population, urbanisation, and youth unemployment challenge African leaders to rethink the development paradigm, consider how to sustain economic growth, and ensure sustainable and inclusive climate resilient growth and development. Migration within Africa and across the Mediterranean to Europe has reached crisis levels due to political instability and lack of economic opportunity.

Despite these challenges, GWP remains committed to supporting the Africa Union and AMCOW to implement actions towards the 2025 Africa vision for water security.

The 2030 Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement, both adopted in 2015, provide an opportunity for Africa to scale up investments in water security and make socio-economic progress across the continent.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a specific goal on water. By the end of November 2015, 129 countries submitted their climate action plans – called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – to the UNFCCC ahead of the Paris Agreement. Ninety-two per cent of them included water as a priority!

The message is clear: *with water as a development priority, we must act now.*

GWP is stepping up to this challenge by mobilizing its global network of over 3,000 partners to support countries in implementing the SDGs and water-related actions in NDCs.

Through GWP's Climate and Development programme, GWP will support countries to implement NDCs as part of the Paris Agreement as follows:

1. Support the formulation of NDC implementation roadmaps and plans. This will be linked to adaptation activities, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
2. Support the formulation of investment plans to finance implementation of NDC roadmaps. This includes estimating investment requirements, identifying sources of finance, and assessing the potential of private investments.
3. Support project preparation of funding proposals to implement NDC road maps. Countries will be assisted to prepare proposals for submission to international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund.
4. Capacity development for planning, implementing, and monitoring NDC-related activities.
5. Promote coordination at all levels in implementation of water-related actions in NDCs, NAPs, and SDGs.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that GWP is developing the SDG Preparedness Facility. This will support countries to implement the SDGs related to water and includes enhancing water financing, strengthening policy and institutions, improving monitoring, building knowledge and capacity, and strengthening partnerships.

AMCOW President, honourable Ministers, AU Commissioner, and distinguished guests, I am pleased to note that during this week, AMCOW, in consultation with various stakeholders, will adopt a Road Map for achieving the SDGs on water and sanitation in Africa. We look forward to collaboration and partnership with you in implementing this Road Map.

I thank you all.