



**Regional Preparatory Consultation for the United Nations Water Conference of March 2023 and on the Strengthening the West African Cooperation on Water-related Issues
Lomé (Togo), from March 13 to 15, 2023**

RECOMMENDATIONS
PROPOSALS OF COMMITMENTS



1. From March 13 to 15, 2023, was held at the Sarakawa hotel, in Lomé in the Togolese Republic, the Regional Preparatory Consultation for the United Nations (UN) Conference on Water of March 2023 and on Strengthening the Cooperation on water issues in West African.
2. Organized by the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), through the Water Resources Management Center of the Commission (WRMC) this regional consultation brought together about forty participants including:
 - Representatives of ECOWAS and WAEMU Member States as well as Focal Points for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Member States. The Representative of Senegal participated virtually. Invited, Ghana did not take part in the regional consultation. Cabo Verde was represented by its Minister in charge of Agrarian Economy, while the delegations of Benin and Togo were led by the Directors of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of Water;
 - Representatives of Transboundary River Basin Organizations (RBOs) in the West African region (Volta Basin Authority -ABV-, Niger Basin Authority -ABN-, Mono Basin Authority -ABM-, Organization for the Development of the Senegal River -OMVS-, Organization for the Development of the Gambia River -OMVG, Union of the Mano River -UF, Interim Presidency of the RBO of the Comoé- Bia - Tanoé Basins -ABCBT- and the African Network of Organizations Basin – ANBO. Several delegations were represented at the level of their Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Secretary General and Director ;
 - Representatives of West African and continental regional and sub-regional institutions in water and climate-related sectors (ECOWAS Commission, West African Economic and Monetary Union Commission -UEMOA-, Permanent Inter-State Committee for the Fight Against Drought in the Sahel -CILSS-, Global Water Partnership in West Africa -GWP-WA-, African Ministers Council on Water -AMCOW-).
3. Participants welcomed the high level of representativity of delegations and the participation of high-level authorities from Member States.
4. The regional consultation is part of the implementation of axis 03 of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAWRP): "to promote cooperation and regional integration with the main objective to develop relations between States, RBOs and Regional Organizations; with a view to ensuring concerted, integrated, sustainable and peaceful management of water resources in West Africa and to strengthening the region's participation in international debates on water". Specifically, the objectives of the regional consultation were as follows:
 - Exchange on the need to organize the United Nations Conference and share the results of the African consultations held with a view to supplementing the said results, if necessary, with West African specificities and priorities for the formulation of commitments;
 - Build the capacity of representatives of ECOWAS Member States and West African institutions to formulate clear commitments for the Conference;
 - Identify and formulate West Africa's commitments, in line with the priorities of the Africa Water Investment Program (AIP-) and other regional initiatives;

- Make recommendations for strengthening regional cooperation and synergies for effective implementation of IWRM to ensure water security and address other water-related challenges in West Africa and the effective implementation of Conferences' outcomes.
5. According to the adopted agenda, the Regional Consultation took place around four (4) sessions as follows:
- Setting the scene for the regional consultation;
 - The need to hold the Conference on water and preparation of West Africa;
 - Strategic directions, priority projects and regional initiatives to achieve the objectives of the Decade in West Africa;
 - After UN Water Conference in West Africa.

Setting the scene for the regional consultation

6. The opening ceremony was marked by three (3) interventions:
- The welcome word from the Director of Water Resources of the Ministry of Water and Village Hydraulics (MEHV) of Togo;
 - The speech of the Commissioner in charge of Energy Infrastructure and Digitalization of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Sédiko DOUKA;
 - The opening speech of the Minister of Water and Village Hydraulics of Togo, Mr. Bolidja TIEM.
7. The Director of Water Resources welcomed the various experts and participants. Also, he recalled the efforts that West African actors continue to make in the context of IWRM, in particular with the establishment of new RBOs following the West African Conferences in Ouagadougou on IWRM respectively in 1998 and 2003 (COA GIRE and COA GIRE + 5) and the strengthening of cooperation to better support and operationalize IWRM. He ended his remarks by wishing success to regional consultation.
8. Mr Sédiko Douka expressed the feelings of gratitude from the ECOWAS Commission to the government and people of the Togolese Republic, for accepting to host the regional consultation. He then recalled the main objective of the UN Water Conference in New York, which is to carry out an in-depth mid-term review of the implementation of the International Decade of Action on Water, launched in 2018. He also explained the reasons for the organization of the regional consultation, which is held after the two (02) African regional preparatory consultations (held in Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam). The Commissioner in charge of Energy Infrastructure and Digitalization of the ECOWAS Commission recalled the interest for the actors of the water sector in the region to better appropriate the continental priorities and to supplement them if necessary with the specificities of West Africa. Finally, the Commissioner Sédiko DOUKA said he was impatient to learn about the recommendations, which will come out of the discussions so that the UN Water Conference takes into account the concerns and priorities of West Africa as well as possible.

9. In the opening speech of the Regional Consultation, Mr. Bolidja TIEM, Minister of Water and Village Hydraulics expressed, on behalf of the Government of the Togolese Republic, his feelings of gratitude to the Commissioner in charge of Infrastructures, of Energy and Digitalization of the ECOWAS Commission, which kindly wanted this important regional meeting to take place in Lomé, Togo. The Minister then recalled the objective of the regional meeting, and insisted on the high vulnerability of the water sector in terms of the management of water resources, and by extension of agriculture and livestock. He also underlined the need for the region to achieve the objectives of the International Decade of Action on Water while highlighting some ways of improving the achievements already made. Finally, the Minister, once again particularly thanked the ECOWAS Commission for choosing Togo to host the Regional Consultation prior to the UN Conference on Water and wished full success to the event, before proceeding to the solemn opening of the the Regional Concertation.
10. After the opening ceremony and the presentation of the participants, a presidium was set up to conduct the work. This presidium is composed of:
 - Chair : Mrs. **Fatima KASSIMO ASSAD MEZE** , Director General of Water Resources of Guinea Bissau;
 - 1st Rapporteur : Mr. **Gninpale KONLANI** , Director of Water Resources of the MEHV of Togo;
 - 2nd Rapporteur: Mr. **Yusupha BOJANG** from Gambia.
11. Following the establishment of the Bureau, the progress of the work of the Regional Conference was marked by a series of communications and exchanges, discussions and work in groups:
 - Communication 1 "The International Decade of Action, Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028 : West Africa's perspective for the global agenda" was presented by Mr Abdoulaye SENE, President of GWP -AO.
 - Communication 2 "The United Nations Water Conference, challenges, themes, work program and commitments" was developed by Dr Komlan Sangbana, Legal Affairs Officer, Water Convention, UNECE.
 - Communication 3 "Results of the African preparation for the United Nations water conference" was presented by Pr. Moshood Tidjani on behalf of the preparation team led by Dr. Rashid MBAZIRA, Executive Secretary of AMCOW .
 - Communication 4 "The Africa Water Investment Program (AIP): objectives, components, implementation approach and opportunities for West Africa" was presented by Mr. Alex Simalabwi, Coordinator of the GWP Coordinating Unit in Africa.
 - Communication 5 "The 2045 strategic perspectives of the water sector (transboundary waters) of the ECOWAS Infrastructure Master Plan" was presented by Mr. Edward AGIM, in charge of the ECOWAS Infrastructure Master Plan within the Unit Preparation of ECOWAS Projects.
 - Communication 6 "Draft 0 of the initiative on coastal aquifers in West Africa" was presented by Dr. Sy Mohamed from the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

- Communication 7 "Issues and challenges of cross-border cooperation and ANBO's strategies" was presented by Mr. Papa Ndiouga NDIAYE, Communication and Knowledge Management Expert/ANBO Coordinator.
- Communication 8 "Issues and Challenges of Cross-Border Cooperation and AMCOW's Strategy" was presented by Pr. Moshood N. TIJANI, Principal Program Officer (Water Resources Management) at the Executive Secretariat of AMCOW.
- Communication 9 "Implementation of the Indicator 6.5.1. on IWRM in the countries and Indicator 6.5.2 on cooperation in the framework of transboundary waters in the ECOWAS region" was presented by Mr. K. Armand Houanye, Executive Secretary of GWP-WA.
- The Communication 10 "Recommendations from the Regional Workshops on the "Operationalization of IWRM at the scale of river basins in the UEMOA/ECOWAS Space (December 2021)" and the Regional Workshop on the "Increase of investments for water security and climate resilience in West Africa (December 2022)" was presented by Mr K. Armand Houanye, Executive Secretary of GWP-WA.
- Communications 11 "West Africa Water Resources Policy Implementation Framework: Main Tools Constraints and Prospects" and 12 "Cooperation between West African RBOs, Member States and the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions" was presented by MKB Djeri-Alassani , Acting Director of CGRE.

12. The recommendations and proposals of commitments resulting from the progress of the work of the Regional Consultation are presented below.

Recommendations

The recommendations were formulated under the five (5) themes of the New York Water Conference. They are presented below by theme with an indication, as far as possible, of the actors best suited for their implementation:

- Water for health: access to water, sanitation and hygiene, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 and Goals 1, 3, 4, 5 and 17);
- Water for sustainable development: valuing water, water-energy-food nexus and sustainable economic and urban development (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 and Goals 2, 8, 9, 11 and 12);
- Water for climate, resilience and environment – source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience and disaster risk reduction;
- Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.5 and 6.b and Goals 16 and 17);
- Water Action Decade: accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028.

13. water for health

- Promote an open, constructive and inclusive dialogue on how to effectively channel increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards achieving the goals of the Decade.
- Strengthen water integrity networks to improve accountability, efficiency and transparency in water sector governance.
- Mobilize and allocate more national and local financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the water and health sectors (Member States).
- Promote integrated water resource management plans and awareness on sanitation issues in schools (Member States).
- Ensure the institutional prioritization of water as a vital element for the provision of quality public health services by allocating the necessary funding as well as the implementation of water quality monitoring initiatives.
- Put in place multi-sector water resources management policies at the national and regional levels.
- Support initiatives on the assessment and characterization of aquifers as well as the development of hydrogeological maps in countries (Member States and development partners).

14. Water for sustainable development

- Mobilize financing, in particular domestic and innovative financing (taxes, user fees , etc.) to ensure water financing
- Develop common infrastructures or infrastructures of common interest at the level of transboundary basins.
- Improve knowledge of surface and groundwater resources and skills in research, development and innovation.
- Strengthen and operationalize the political and institutional frameworks for the implementation of sustainable development at the level of States and regional organizations with strategies, investment plans and monitoring and evaluation tools.
- Promote peace and security through the development and integrated water resources management at the national, transboundary and regional levels.

15. Water and climate, resilience and environment

- Integrate and fully implement water-related decisions taken at international meetings, Conferences of the Parties of Conventions and other Global Agreements dedicated to climate, resilience and the environment.
- Strengthen intersectoral relations (water, climate, environment, agriculture, industry, and finance).
- Promote research on drought-resistant crops and the fight against desertification by supporting collaboration and research between research centers in the region (CORAF, AGRHYMET/CILSS, 2IE, WASCAL) in the fields of water, environment, climate.
- Encourage the development and implementation of smart water saving projects, treatment and use of treated wastewater.
- Strengthen basic knowledge on groundwater and surface water as well as the impacts of climate change on them, through collaboration between the structures/organizations operating in the region (OMVS, OMVG, ABN, OSS, etc.), for a better rational exploitation and protection of water resources.
- Strengthen regional coordination to review and monitor progress made in the implementation of action plans related to water, environment, climate, biodiversity and finance sectors.
- Improve water management, climate resilience, early warning and science-based decision making.
- Develop a Regional Information System (monitoring, forecasting) on water and climate to improve water management, climate resilience, early warning and decision making to reduce disaster risks such as floods and droughts among others.
- Build capacity to mobilize resources for water and climate resilience investments.
- Integrate climate-smart agriculture, nature-based solutions, biodiversity issues, the Water-Energy-Agriculture-Environment Nexus approach and the Source-to-Sea approach in development planning processes.

- Build the capacities of national, regional and cross-border partners on accessing climate finance.
- Develop and implement national and regional water and climate related projects for the mobilization of climate finance resources in West Africa with consequent use of climate data.

16. Water for cross-border and international cooperation

- Provide support to ECOWAS and WAEMU Member States for the conduct of their accession process and implementation of the 1997 and 1992 Conventions.
- Proceed to the ratification at the level of the Member States concerned of the institutional texts establishing the RBOs of the region.
- Consider the creation of an AMCOW multi-donor trust fund for the establishment of an autonomous financing mechanism for RBOs and a platform of partners for cross-border cooperation in the field of water.
- Strengthen collaboration between ANBO, the regional RBOs and the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions by developing a specific framework for consultation and coordination between West African RBOs.
- Direct investment to improve the understanding of the resource and the links between research, policies and governance of transboundary water resources and those of transboundary aquifers in particular.
- Establish an enabling environment in Member States, to facilitate the mobilization of resources for investments (public, private or PPP) in the development of transboundary water resources (surface and groundwater) for cooperation and sustainable development.
- Improve water resources assessment in transboundary river basins/lakes/aquifers.
- Capitalize good practices and successful experiences, including cost and benefit sharing and successful cases of mobilization of innovative and sustainable funding from certain RBOs (OMVS, OMVG, NBA, OMVS/SOGED, etc.) and make these widely available.
- Complete the process of creating the COMOE-BIA-TANOE (ABCBT) and MANO River Union (UFM) RBOs and make them operational.
- Set up RBOs on watercourses shared between several States that do not have them.
- Initiate a regional coalition on the protection of the source heads of cross-border rivers in the region, particularly those of the Fouta-Djalou Massif, among others.
- Revitalize the permanent framework for consultation and monitoring of IWRM in West Africa through, among other things, the holding of meetings and the organization of face-to-face or virtual activities.
- Strengthen the capacities of RBOs and States in setting up and implementing cross-border water and climate resilience projects.
- Strengthen the capacities of ANBO to serve as an operational platform for knowledge sharing, while remaining in step with the evolution, for the RBOs.

- Raise the awareness of major water users (mining companies, industries, irrigated agriculture, etc.) to contribute to the development of water sector projects (effective payment of royalties).

17. The Agenda for the Decade of Action on Water

- Increase investments to close the infrastructure gap and guarantee water and sanitation security in West African countries.
- Strengthen political commitment and leadership for mobilizing investments in the water sector, taking into account climate, environmental and gender issues.
- Ensure the proper design of attractive and bankable projects through, among other things, the development of a global and sustainable investment plan based on scientific data to achieve SDG6 by 2030 .
- Support the appointment of a special envoy for water to the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN).
- Work towards the appointment of an ECOWAS special envoy for water; which would provide international visibility for the channeling of funding for the achievement of SDG 6 and to serve as a springboard for sustainable management by and after 2030.
- Improve the availability, reliability and use of data and information necessary for decision-making and the proper preparation of projects;
- Take advantage of new technologies and digitization to have real-time information and develop better data management.
- Reinforce development and innovation management capacities in the implementation of IWRM programs and projects.
- Promote remote sensing and space technologies in the water information system.
- Provide Member States with the legal, institutional and policy framework to promote sustainability in water governance at the national level.
- Encourage RBOs to contribute to the implementation of the Water Convention to improve governance and regional cooperation.
- Develop the enabling and attractive environment for private sector engagement in financing water resources development and management.
- Set up a pool of experts for the development and mobilization of financial resources.
- Improve the coordination of the focal structures of the funding windows.
- Pursue sustained advocacy with the competent institutions and authorities for the effective mobilization each year of 30 billion dollars for investments in water at the continental level within the framework of the AIP.

NY Water Conference Stakeholder Engagement Proposals

The commitment proposals below are formulated by the regional consultation.

1. For the Theme: Water and Health

	Proposals of commitments	Potential actors
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing funding allocated to the WASH sub-sector and related projects, particularly from national budgets and other local sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States Development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing water projects for the improvement of WASH and health services using, among other things, innovative financing mechanisms such as green and blue bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and development of innovative financing mechanisms such as green and blue bonds for water projects aiming at improving WASH and health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing structures Development Bank Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of allocation and expert technical assistance for the implementation of innovative water projects and increased investment for water projects in Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing structures Development Bank
Enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of sub-sectors (WASH and health) with signing and implementation of MoU between relevant sector ministers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States (WASH and Health Sector Ministries)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration and adoption of nature-based solutions in wastewater treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening and implementation of multisectoral water resources management policies at national and regional levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development/updating and implementation of IWRM plans taking better account of awareness on sanitation issues in schools (Member States). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO NGOs and development partners
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening water integrity networks to improve accountability, efficiency and transparency in the water sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for open, constructive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues on how to effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
	channel increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards achieving the Decade goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating WASH issues into school curricula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States • (WASH, Health and Education Sector Ministries) • NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of a critical mass of the population by translating WASH messages into local languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States (Sectoral Ministries WASH, Health and Education) • NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building in the design and implementation of water resources management policies and laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States • Universities and training centers • NGOs and development partners
Data and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and/or strengthening of the national data sharing platform for the WASH sub-sector and all other water-related sub-sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States • (Water Ministries) • WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions • RBO • NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of access for all stakeholders to the national data sharing platform for the WASH sub-sector and all other water-related sub-sectors 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation and convergence of quality standards for the different uses of water 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and characterization of aquifers as well as the development of hydrogeological maps in countries (Member States and development partners). 	

2. For the Theme: Water for sustainable development

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consequent mobilization of domestic and innovative financing (PPP, private sector, taxes, royalties on uses) for the development of water mobilization infrastructures for multiple uses (drinking water, irrigation, fishing and fisheries, mining, energy, transport ...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of access to funding for the development of water mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing structures

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
	infrastructure for multiple uses (drinking water, irrigation, fishing and fisheries, mining, energy, transport, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Bank
Enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the enabling environment for achieving SDG N6 (policies and strategies, investment plans, legislation promoting private sector intervention, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States • WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of the UN Water Conference commitments into a realistic and achievable action plan with an operational follow-up mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States and RBOs • WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions • Development partners • Financing Structures and Development Banks
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of synergies between Basin Organizations and Research Institutions for capacity building and technological innovations (sharing of good practices); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States, RBO, Research structures • NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening consultation frameworks with partners 	
Data and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge of water resources and skills in this area (research development, innovation, capacities). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States, RBO, Research structures • NGOs and development partners

3. For the Theme: Water and climate, resilience and environment

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of environmental economic accounting to catalyze investments aiming at strengthening climate and environmental resilience in the water sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions NGOs and development partners
Enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development / strengthening and implementation of policies (legal and institutional) integrating issues related to water, climate resilience and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of climate-smart agriculture, nature-based solutions, biodiversity issues, the Water-Energy-Agriculture-Environment Nexus approach and the Source-to-Sea approach in the development planning processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and operationalization of a water policy facilitating the regular and effective payment of fees related to the abstraction/exploitation of water resources and fines related to infractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation and operationalization of master plans for water development and management taking into account the Nexus approach Water - Environment - Climate - Energy - and Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved cross-sector relations (in water, climate, environment, agriculture, industry and finance) at national, transboundary and regional levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and operationalization of platforms and forums, to review and monitor progress made in the implementation of action plans related to the water, environment, climate, biodiversity and finance sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of national, regional and cross-border partners on access to climate finance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development bank NGOs and development partners
Data and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment / strengthening of a harmonized national/regional information system (monitoring, forecasting) on water and climate to improve water management, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States (Water Ministries) NGOs and development partners

Proposals of commitments		Potential actors
	climate resilience, early warning and decision-making based on risks through a proactive risk management approach (floods, droughts and land degradation)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of knowledge on groundwater and surface water as well as the impacts of climate change, in collaboration with the structures/organizations intervening in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO NGOs and development partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a joint research/training center of excellence for better monitoring of water resources in a partnership approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States and RBOs WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions

4. For the Theme: Water for cross-border and international cooperation

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and operationalization of innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for autonomous and viable RBOs by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct of feasibility studies for the creation of a multi-donor trust fund and the establishment of an autonomous financing mechanism for RBOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitization of major water users (mining companies, industries, etc.) to contribute to the development of water sector projects (effective payment of royalties). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions NGOs and development partners
Enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification at the level of the Member States concerned of the institutional texts creating the RBOs of the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accession to the 1997 and 1992 conventions on shared waters and their implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and accompaniment to Member States for their adherence to the 1997 and 1992 conventions on shared waters as well as their implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions NGOs , Development Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing regulatory frameworks for the facilitation of the development of common infrastructures or of common interest at the level of transboundary basins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalization the permanent framework for consultation and monitoring of IWRM in West Africa through, among other things, the holding of physical and virtual meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions Governments of Member States NGOs , Development Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of quality standards for water use and wastewater discharge in West Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions Governments of Member States
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation and operationalization of RBOs on uncovered shared watercourses, including COMOE-BIA-TANOE Basin Authority (ABCBT), MANO River Union (UFM) by 2030 (OD 6.5.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions Governments of Member States
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a regional coalition on the preservation of headwaters of shared rivers in West Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions

Proposals of commitments		Potential actors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of RBOs in setting up and implementing cross-border water and climate resilience projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research structures • NGOs , Development Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalization of good practices and successful experiences including cost and benefit sharing and successful cases of mobilization of innovative and sustainable funding from certain RBOs (OMVS, OMVG, NBA, OMVS/SOGED, etc.) and wide distribution. 	
Data and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the collection and exchange of data on shared waters through the establishment of operational memorandums of understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments of Member States • RBO • WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions • NGOs and development partners • Financing structures and development banks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding of the resource and the links between research, policies and governance of transboundary water resources and in particular transboundary aquifers 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of water resources in transboundary river basins/lakes/aquifers. 	

5. For the Theme: Agenda for the Decade of Action on Water

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the enabling and attractive environment for private sector engagement to bridge the infrastructure gap and ensure water security in West African countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the appointment of a special envoy for water to the Secretary General of the United Nations SG for the orientation of funding towards water and the achievement of the objectives of the Decade. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of a Champion to the President of the ECOWAS Commission for the orientation of financing towards water and the achievement of the objectives of the Decade in West Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions
Enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmonization of policies, regulations and institutional framework for effective water governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Member States WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions RBO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of a global and sustainable investment plan to achieve SDG6 by 2030 , including attractive and bankable projects 	
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of Member States in preparing bankable projects and resources mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions African Water Facility Governments of Member States BOAD Development partners Universities, Training Centers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a pool of experts for the development and mobilization of financial resources. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for development management, innovation in the implementation of water-related programs and projects 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in terms of access to and use of new technologies and digitization to provide real-time information and ensure better data management 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for research, innovations and research in IWRM including remote sensing, space technologies in the water information system 	
Data and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the data production and sharing capacity of Member States and data management platforms such as WASSMO or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions Governments of Member States RBO

	<u>Proposals of commitments</u>	<u>Potential actors</u>
	another regional platform using modern and innovative technology.	

18. The participants urged Member States and other stakeholders to promote the results of the Regional Consultation, by registering their commitments on the site dedicated to this before the opening of the work of the UN Conference on Water. The objective is to ensure good visibility of the priorities of the West African region in the Action Program for Water of the Global Agenda, which will result from the UN Water Conference.
19. Regarding the follow-up to the UN Water Conference, the participants recommended the holding of a meeting of ECOWAS Ministers responsible for water with the participation of WAEMU, GWP-WA and CILSS, to adopt the roadmap for the implementation of the Action Program for Water of the Global Agenda with a view to achieving the objectives of the International Decade of Action, "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028" in West Africa. They also recommended the subsequent holding of a Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, which will have to take the necessary decisions to fill the investment gap to ensure water security in countries of the region by 2030.
20. Prior to the meeting of the Council of Water Ministers, it was agreed to organize, by ECOWAS and AMCOW Commission, a preparatory meeting of experts to validate the basic technical documents based on the results of the regional consultation and those of the New York conference.
21. For the preparation of the recommended meetings, a Technical follow up Committee will be set up composed of: (i) 2 representatives of the RBOs; 5 representatives of Member States; (iii) 4 representatives of institutions coordinating the implementation of regional policy (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS); and (iv) 1 representative from GWP-WA.
22. The closing speech of the Regional Consultation was delivered by the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Water and Village Hydraulics of Togo.