



**STATUTES OF THE GLOBAL WATER  
PARTNERSHIP / WEST AFRICA**

**Adopted by the Assembly of Partners**

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## Preamble

The Partners of the Water Sector in West Africa, at their Constitutive Meeting in Bamako, on March 25-27, 2002.

- Concerned by the quantitative and qualitative degradation of water resources, the degradation of the environment and their negative consequences on the lives of the people in West Africa;
- Concerned by the numerous difficulties the West African States are faced with in ensuring a sustainable balance between the increasing needs and the limited water resources ;
- Aware that water is a limited natural resource, with a vital importance;
- Aware that the sustainable management of water resources in West Africa is one of the major future stakes;
- Aware that supplying the most destitute people with drinking water and basic sanitation services is one of the key elements of poverty control;
- Aware that the protection of fresh water resources and their quality requires the implementation of integrated water resources management, in compliance with the provisions of chapter 18 of the Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio in June 1992;
- That an integrated management of water resources requires a social mobilization of all the actors of the water sector;
- Having the desire to cooperate in the area of water resources to come up to a regional consensus on water and for a sustainable development;
- Considering the work performed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and subscribing to its objectives and organization;
- Considering the commitments contained in the Ouagadougou Statement adopted by the West African Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management of March 1998;
- Considering the constituent meeting of the West Africa Technical Advisory Committee for the Global Water Partnership held in Ouagadougou in January 1999;
- Considering the West African Vision on Water, Life and Environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, adopted in Ouagadougou and presented at the Second World Water Forum at the Hague in March 2000;
- Considering the adoption of the Regional Integrated Water Resources Management Action Plan for West Africa by the Conference of Heads of States and Governments of the Economic Community of West African States in December 2000 in Bamako;
- Considering the results of the constituent meeting on the creation of the West Africa Regional Partnership, held in Lome on June 5-6, 2001;
- Considering the recommendations made by the Steering Committee in Ouagadougou on October 28, 2011
- Aware that a strong and autonomous Regional Partnership may push forward the aspirations of the stakeholders

**Decide:**

# TITLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

## CHAPTER I - DEFINITIONS

**Article One.** In the sense of current statutes, the following terms are defined as follows:

### A. IWRM

- Integrated Water Resources Management (abbreviated IWRM): “a process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems”. The IWRM is inspired on principles adopted in 1992 by the Dublin and Rio conferences:
- Principle 1: Fresh water is a limited and vulnerable resource that is essential to sustain life, development and environment
- Principle 2: Development and water management should be based on a participative approach involving the users, the planners and the policy makers at all levels
- Principle 3: Women play a central role in water supply, management and preservation
- Principle 4: Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good.

### B. THE VISION

- West African water vision: «by the year 2025, water resources shall be managed efficiently, judiciously and in a sustainable manner so that access to potable and hygienic water enables us satisfy our essential needs, have access to sanitary installations, enjoy food security and poverty reduction as well as the protection of human health and the biodiversity of water and land ecosystems becoming a reality for all the inhabitants of the region.”

## **CHAPTER II – THE CREATION OF A GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP FOR WEST AFRICA**

**Article 2.** Between the sub-regional water partners adhering to current statutes it is instituted the Global Water Partnership for West Africa, GWP/WA (GWP/West Africa) and GWP/AO (GWP/Afrique de l’Ouest) in French, hereafter designated as « the Partnership. »

**Article 3.** The Partnership shall be an autonomous, non lucrative, non political and non religious association, formed in a network of partners interested in the IWRM promotion.

**Article 4.** The registered office of the Partnership shall be established in Ouagadougou. It can be transferred to any other location in West Africa upon a simple decision of the Assembly of Partners.

## **CHAPTER III – THE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

**Article 5.** The fundamental mission of the Partnership shall be to build alliances and strengthen the institutional capabilities of its members in order to encourage and reinforce the research, expertise and information networks of the IWRM.

**Article 6.** The objectives of the Partnership shall consist in :

- a. promoting sustainable development through an integrated management of water resources in the countries and in the catchment basins
- b. promoting the creation of Country Water Partnerships (CWP) in the countries of the sub-region and supporting them in their actions to facilitate the IWRM implementation
- c. promoting the adoption and the application of the IWRM good practices at regional, national, local levels and at the community level
- d. contributing in supporting the idea of partnership in the area of water resources management at the global, regional and national levels
- e. supporting the countries of the West Africa region to make an inventory of the management of their water resources and identify the gaps and new needs in the perspective of the IWRM implementation
- f. sensitizing governments and donors to the necessity of satisfying critical needs in terms of IWRM in the West Africa region.
- g. Assisting in developing institutional, technical and financial management tools for the control and follow up of water resources
- h. Developing permanent relationships between organizations, actors and partners in charge of the integrated management of water resources and favoring exchange of knowledge, expertise, experience and practices in integrated water resources management

- i. Favoring the training, basic research and research-action, as well as the information of the members, local councilors, the civil society, representatives of users, actors of water management, leaders and workers of organizations in charge of water management
- j. Encouraging the education and sensitization of the people on water resource issues
- k. Assisting the members in disseminating the results of their works directed towards the objectives pursued by the Partnership
- l. Organizing and facilitating scientific, technical, educational, judicial, economic, social, political discussion forums at the international, regional, national and local levels; helping to prevent or settle conflicts related to the use of cross border water resources.

## **CHAPTER IV – THE MEMBERSHIP**

**Article 7.** Only the following can be members of the Partnership:

- State structures, country water partnerships, sub-regional political and economic integration organizations, as well as nongovernmental, national or international organizations
- Local authorities
- River basin organizations and authorities
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation organizations
- Training and research institutions
- Enterprises and private companies and professional associations
- And all other stake holders of the water sector that acknowledge the principles of integrated water resources management established by the West African Water Vision and are committed to implementing them.

## **TITLE II - ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION**

### **CHAPTER I – ORGANS OF THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP FOR WEST AFRICA**

**Article 8.** The organs of the Partnership are the following:

- a. The Assembly of Partners (in abbreviation AP)
- b. The Steering Committee (SC)
- c. The Technical Committee (TC)
- d. The Executive Secretariat (ES).

**Article 9.** The organs of the Partnership shall perform their duties and act in the limitation of the powers conferred by the present Statutes.

### **CHAPTER II – THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTNERS**

**Article 10.** The Assembly of Partners shall be made up of all the members of the Partnership.

**Article 11.** The Assembly of Partners shall be the leading organ of the Partnership. It shall see to the good performance of the objectives of the Partnership. Thus, the Assembly of Partners shall assume the following charges :

- a. Outline the strategic orientations and defines the Partnership policies
- b. Approve the appointment of the Chair of the Partnership, its Executive Secretary, the members of the Steering Committee, as well as the Chair and members of the Technical Committee
- c. Determine the levels of remuneration for the positions within the various organs of the Partnership
- d. Examine the reports of the Steering Committee and the Executive Secretariat.

**Article 12.** The Assembly of Partners shall meet every two years in ordinary sessions to be convened by the Chair and, in case of need, in extraordinary session, according to modalities defined by the Regulations of the Partnership.

**Article 13.** The Assembly of Partners shall take decisions preferably by consensus.

## **CHAPTER III – THE CHAIR PERSON OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

**Article 14.** The Chair person of the Partnership shall presides over the Assembly of Partners and the Steering Committee. S/He shall be the spokesperson and the official representative of the Partnership in all the acts of civil life. S/He may delegate the powers to any other member of the Steering Committee.

**Article 15.** The Chair of the Partnership shall be recruited from the political, scientific or technical personalities of the West African region who have recognized experience in cooperation and working in a network and having the capability to convince actors.

**Article 16.** The Chair person of the Partnership performs the following duties:

- a. Assume responsibility of all the organs of the Partnership;
- b. See to the implementation of the decision of the Assembly of Partners and the Steering Committee;
- c. Take all initiatives suitable for the promotion of the Partnership at the global, regional and national levels;
- d. Convene and preside over the General Assembly of the Partnership as well as the meetings of the Steering Committee;
- e. Present a report on the Partnership to members;
- f. Undertake Financial negotiations;
- g. Establish relationships with the Chair persons of other Regional Partnerships, the Presidency of the GWP, etc.

**Article 17.** The duration of the mandate of the Chair shall be two (2) years, renewable only once.

**Article 18.** The Chairman of the Partnership shall work on part-time basis for an annual duration specified in the Regulation. The remuneration of the Chairman shall be proposed by the Steering Committee and approved by the Assembly of Partners.

## **CHAPTER IV – THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Article 19.** The Steering Committee shall emanate from the Assembly of Partners. It shall be in charge of :

- a. Seeing to the implementation of decisions of the Partners Assembly to meet the objectives of the Partnership
- b. Formulating recommendations of the Assembly of Partners on all matters related to the life of the Partnership
- c. Approving the programs and budgets drafted by the Executive Secretariat
- d. Proposing to the Assembly of Partners the appointment of the Chair person of the Partnership, the Executive Secretary and the Chair person of the Technical Committee



All other duties that the Assembly of Partners may assign to it. **Article 20.** The Steering Committee shall be made up of 09 members that are:

- Three representatives of Country Water Partnerships
- Two representatives of State Structures
- One representative of basin organizations
- One representative of training and research institutions
- One representative of private institutions
- One representative of nongovernmental organizations.

The Chair is an ex officio member of the Steering Committee.

Regional integration organizations also sit in the Steering Committee as permanent observers:

- the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- the GWPO
- the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
- a representative of the Group of Financial Partners
- and any other organization whose permanent presence beside the Partnership will be deemed useful by the Assembly of Partners.

**Article 21.** The Steering Committee shall meet twice a year. One physical face to face meeting and another virtual meeting electronically.

**Article 22.** The members of the Steering Committee shall be selected by the Assembly of Partners from the members of the Partnership. Each selected partner shall appoint its representative by name who should always be the same person for the duration of the mandate. The activities performed as member of the Steering Committee shall not be paid for..

**Article 23.** The duration of the mandate of the Steering Committee membership shall be two years. A third of the membership shall be renewed every two years by the Assembly of Partners. The proposal for replacement shall be made by the Steering Committee and submitted to the approval of the Assembly of Partners.

## **CHAPTER V – THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Article 24.** The Technical Committee shall be a consultative organ with the duty of carrying out prospective reflection, giving its opinion and ensuring the quality control of all the activities of the Partnership. For this reason, it shall be responsible for:

- a. Making reflections on IWRM and giving its technical opinion on the working programme of the Partnership
- b. Analyzing strategic matters impacting on water resources management;
- c. Facilitating and supporting the drawing-up and the implementation of the programmes, schedules and plans of the Partnership;
- d. Issuing directives on the choice of priorities and the quality control of proposed projects;
- e. The drawing-up and the presentation of its own annual report of activities to the Steering Committee;
- f. Bringing its expertise to the Executive Secretariat for the drawing-up of the terms of reference for consultants;
- g. Approving thematic study reports done by consultants;
- h. Forging relationships with the other regional Technical Committees and the Global Technical Committee;
- i. Providing support to country water partnerships in the drawing-up of their work programmes and in the monitoring of the implementation of those programmes;
- j. Representing the Partnership at technical and scientific meetings.

**Article 25.** The Technical Committee shall be made up of three (3) or six (6) members, according to needs, including the Chair Person, selected by the Steering Committee after a call for applications. The composition of the Technical Committee must reflect as much as possible the diversity of the scientific and technical areas which are of interest to the water sector. The members of the Technical Committee must have a high level of knowledge in these technical and scientific domains.

**Article 26.** The Technical Committee shall meet as and when it becomes necessary.

**Article 27.** The Technical Committee is headed by a Chair person. The mandate of the Chair and of the other members of the Technical Committee is two years renewable.

**Article 28.** The Chairperson of the Technical Committee as well as the members of the said committee shall be engaged on part-time basis. The number of working days of the Chairperson and members is defined by the regulations..

## **CHAPTER VI – THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**Article 29.** The Executive Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Secretary who is in charge of the administration and the day-to-day implementation of the programmes and decisions of the Partnership. He operates the secretariat of all the organs of the Partnership. He represents the Partnership at all meetings of the Countries Water Partnerships, He shall establish regular working relationship with the GWP secretariat and the secretariats of the other Regional Water Partnerships.

The Executive Secretary shall be essentially in charge of:

- a) Implementing the decisions of the Steering Committee and the Assembly of Partners;
- b) Managing all the property of the Partnership;
- c) Monitoring the establishment of the Country Water Partnerships;
- d) Monitoring and evaluation of the functions of the Country Water Partnerships;
- e) Drawing up the programmes and budget of the Partnership;
- f) Convening and organizing meetings of all the organs of the Partnership;

Drafting the Partnership's financial demands, monitoring their mobilization and support to the Country Water Partnerships by way of helping them to mobilize their own funds

**Article 30.** The internal organisation of the Executive Secretariat shall be proposed by the Executive Secretary and approved by the Steering Committee.

**Article 31.** At the internal level, the Executive Secretary assumes the following tasks:

- a. the coordination, follow up and control of the correct implementation of the activities of the Executive Secretariat
- b. the recruitment of the supporting personnel of the Secretariat. S/He shall organize and control their work
- c. stamping the administrative documents and those related to the implementation of projects, contracts, conventions and related activities
- d. drafting the Partnership's operation budget

**Article 32.** The Executive Secretary shall be recruited by the Partnership upon proposal by the Steering Committee. The mandate is four (4) years renewable once (1).

**Article 33.** The Executive Secretary and the supporting staff shall work on full time basis. Their remuneration shall be fixed by the Steering Committee.

## **TITLE III – THE COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS**

**Article 34.** In any country of the sub-region where there is not yet a country water partnership, the partners of this country should work together to create one. To that end, they can request the support of the Regional Water Partnership.

## **TITLE IV – THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP**

**Article 35.** The Global Water Partnership (GWP) forms a family in which the regional and country water partnerships have the duty to promote the values for the development of IWRM. The Regional Water Partnership for West Africa subscribes to these values and will observe the directing lines of operation adopted at the global level. It will also contribute to the promotion of the GWP.

## **TITLE V – The RESOURCES**

**Article 36.** The resources of the Partnership shall comprise:

- a. The voluntary contributions of bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation and development agencies
- b. Financial contributions which might be requested from participants to meetings and events organized by the Partnership
- c. Grants, donations and legacy
- d. And all other resources that the Steering Committee could mobilize in compliance with the objectives of the Partnership and authorized by the Law.

## **TITLE VI – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Article 37.** The Steering Committee shall draw up regulations for the Partnership to be subjected to approval by the Assembly of Partners.

The Regulations shall specify the conditions for the implementation of these statutes. They define, among others, the internal rules to be applied in the following areas:

- a. Conditions of membership, resignation and striking off of members from the Partnership
- b. Conditions to be fulfilled in order to be a member of the Steering Committee, the Technical Committee and the Executive Secretariat
- c. Rules of the Partnership human resource, material and financial management and of internal control. The latter is detailed in the procedures manual
- d. Settlement of disputes.

## **TITLE VII – FINANCIAL CONTROL**

### **Article 38.**

The Steering Committee shall appoint auditors who shall be responsible for the preparation of a report on the sincerity and accuracy of the accounts of the financial year. The auditors' report shall be presented at the statutory meeting of the Assembly of Partners.

## **TITLE VIII – MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES**

**Article 39.** Any modification of current statutes should be adopted by the Assembly of Partners.

## **TITLE IX – FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 40.** The dissolution of the Partnership can only be decided by the Assembly of Partners. Like any decision of the Assembly of Partners, this decision can only be taken by consensus.

**Article 41.** In case of the pronouncement of dissolution, the assets of the Partnership shall be vested in the GWP or in another association of the sub-region pursuing similar goals.

Done in Bamako, on March 26, 2002  
For the Assembly of Partners  
**The President**

Reviewed in Lome, on May 11, 2007  
For the Assembly of Partners  
**The President**

Reviewed in Ouagadougou, on June 22nd, 2012  
For the Assembly of Partners  
**The President**