



African Ministers' Council on Water



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK GROUP



Beyond Declarations and Commitments in Africa:

Perspectives for the future and what is required



Report on the Stockholm
World Water Week Side Event

Tuesday 18 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

1 Overview

The African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on water and sanitation in July 2008, recognizing water and sanitation as a political priority. At the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, in March 2009, Africa's message was clear'...it's time to deliver on the commitments and Declarations.'

During the 2009 World Water Week, in Stockholm, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) organized the side event 'Beyond Declarations and Commitments in Africa: Perspectives for the future and what is required' to assess the progress that has been made in Africa on implementation of the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on water and sanitation.

The side event was facilitated by Johan Kuylenstierna, Technical Advisor to UN-Water, and demonstrated the important steps taken by Africa and the progress in implementing the various commitments, including the progress made on implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) commitment on development of national integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans. Perspectives for accelerating the implementation of the pan-African framework for cooperation and ways to mobilize additional support were discussed.

'...it's time to deliver on the commitments and Declarations.'



African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)

Launched in Abuja, Nigeria, on April 30, 2002, by African Ministers responsible for water, the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) has the overall objective of encouraging new approaches to Africa's development challenges, and the regional, intergovernmental responses essential for translating the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water and sanitation into reality in Africa. AMCOW provides leadership, policy direction and advocacy for the sustainable social and economic development of water resources.

Integrated water resources management (IWRM)

Integrated water resources management (IWRM) is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related by maximising economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment.

African Development Bank (AfDB)

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group's mission is to help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans and mobilize resources for the continent's economic and social development. With this objective in mind, the AfDB Group assists African countries – individually and collectively – in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic development and social progress.

Participants in the side event recognized that, in order to realize the goal of **water and sanitation security in Africa**, parallel action in a number of areas would be necessary, including:

- Supporting processes that better align and integrate IWRM planning with national economic development planning processes.
- Improving water sector governance and financing water resources management.
- Mobilizing increased financing for infrastructure projects.
- Engaging in dialogues with the G8 countries about fulfilling their commitments.
- Emphasizing the importance of water as a key pillar in adapting to climate change in Africa.
- Increasing efficiency in project preparation and finding ways to 'pilot scaling up'.
- Strengthening implementation capacity, knowledge and information for decision making.

What is required

- Align and integrate IWRM planning with national economic development planning processes.
- Improve water sector governance.
- Mobilize funding for national and regional projects.
- Engage in dialogues with G8 countries on fulfilling their commitments.
- Emphasize water as a key pillar in adaptation to climate change in Africa.
- Increase efficiency in preparing projects and find ways to 'pilot scaling up'.
- Strengthen capacity, knowledge and information for decision making and implementation.

2 Introduction

Mr. Bai-Mass Taal, AMCOW Executive Secretary (on behalf of AMCOW President, Hon. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua), and Dr. Letitia A. Obeng, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, delivered the introductory remarks.

AMCOW noted that the Sharm el Sheik Declaration demonstrates political will for improving water and sanitation in Africa, but is not an end in itself. It is part of a march that started a long time ago (with the African Water Vision, the Millennium Development Goals, the Tunis and eThekwiini Declarations, amongst others) to realize the goal of **water and sanitation security in Africa**. The question now is how to translate these declarations and commitments into action. AMCOW is optimistic that, because so many strategic, committed partners are working together, it should be possible to implement commitments and realize the goal. AMCOW mentioned that the side event is part of this process and is meant to gather perspectives for moving forward.

GWP stressed that partnerships will facilitate sharing of information and experiences that are essential to accelerating efforts towards water security in Africa. GWP's long collaboration with AMCOW is reflected in such joint activities as the General Assembly of the West African Regional Water Partnership, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and the work on monitoring national planning in IWRM in collaboration with the AfDB and the Regional Economic Communities. Significant work is underway on adaptation to climate and water financing. Work on financing is being carried out in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Union Financing Working Group (EU FWG). This work provides opportunities to integrate water in economic development and contributes to progress on

implementation of the pan-African framework of cooperation in support of the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on water and sanitation.

'realize the goal of water and sanitation security in Africa'



Mr. Bai-Mass Taal, AMCOW Executive Secretary

Global Water Partnership

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an international network created in 1996 to foster the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM). GWP was founded by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The GWP vision is a water secure world and the mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels. Within the global network there are 13 Regional Water Partnerships, five of which operate on the African continent in the Mediterranean, Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Africa.

African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)

The African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) was set up in December 2003 to ensure that African civil society voices are represented in international and regional water policy forums. The Network ensures that African CSO voices are heard during the increasingly political water debates.



3 Implementation of Regional Commitments on Water Security and Sanitation

Bai-Mass Taal, AMCOW

The year 2008 was a landmark for water in Africa. Four significant commitments were made, at eThekweni, Tunis, Sirte and Sharm el Sheikh. The AMCOW Action Plan synthesizes these commitments and directives into five key thrusts:

- Link water resources management with economic growth.
- Build partnerships to share benefits in water infrastructure.
- Expand and build new infrastructure to deliver water and sanitation services.
- Make sure that gains in service delivery are not lost or reversed.

- Reduce the effects of climate change that have a negative impact on livelihoods.

The AMCOW Action Plan embraces key African dimensions related to governance, pricing, generating, sharing, and disseminating information and knowledge. AMCOW will continue to provide leadership and oversight of delivery. The Action Plan is a significant move forward – it brings coherence, creates synergies in monitoring and reporting, and aligns efforts by creating partnerships.

'The AMCOW Action Plan embraces key African dimensions related to governance, pricing, and generating, sharing, and disseminating information and knowledge.'

Bai-Mass Taal, Executive Secretary, AMCOW

4 Implementation of IWRM in Africa: Advancing Water Resources Management to Accelerate Development

Simon Thuo, GWP Eastern Africa

Africa does not have abundant water resources. Not only is there a need for investment in the water sector, but the water sector needs to think beyond itself. The GWP, with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Netherlands, has supported the development of IWRM plans in 12 African countries. GWP continues to work with AMCOW, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East Africa Community (EAC) and other bodies to share information, resources and funds for better water resources management. GWP, with support from the AfDB Water Partnership Program, has surveyed the status of IWRM planning and implementation in 24 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Overall, while there have been steps forward in Eastern and Southern Africa, implementation and progress are generally slow, and there are a number of areas in which substantial improvement is needed. The greatest progress has been in policy and legislative reform. This is reflected in the establishment of an enabling environment for IWRM, although there are still several countries in which little or no progress has been made.

'Inadequate data and information on the state of water resources and of water use (abstraction and discharge) are widely cited across the regions as having negative impacts on the ability of water managers to make informed decisions and to manage water resources adaptively.'

Simon Thuo, GWP Eastern Africa Coordinator

Considerable progress has been made in the establishment of appropriate institutional arrangements for IWRM. Most countries have identified one apex ministry responsible for IWRM, have separated responsibilities for water resources management and services provision, and have adopted the principle of decentralization of water resources management, moving instead to managing water according to hydrological units. However, progress in establishing appropriate institutional arrangements across the regions has not been uniform and, even where institutions are in place, many lack the skilled personnel and financial resources necessary to operate effectively. The institutional and technical capacity to manage groundwater remains a particular challenge. A further constraint arises from the difficulty of ensuring effective engagement with state agencies outside the water sector.

Key issues for addressing the challenges to IWRM in Africa

- Capacity building;
- Policy, legal and institutional development;
- IWRM planning and National Development Plans;
- Financing;
- Monitoring; and
- Climate change adaptation.



5 Enhancing National Development Through Water Development and Management

Arthur Swatson, AfDB



Arthur Swatson, Water and Sanitation Specialist AfDB

There is clear recognition at the highest political level that water security in Africa is vital for enabling and sustaining socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in member countries.

'...water security in Africa is vital in enabling and sustaining socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation...'

Arthur Swatson, AfDB

The African Development Bank recognizes the links between water resources management and economic growth and has developed medium-term sectoral strategies emphasizing four key areas: infrastructure, governance, private sector participation and higher education. The water sector strategy will be achieved through interventions in integrated water resources management (IWRM), scaling up access to rural water

supplies and sanitation, and improving sector governance, partnership and knowledge. For instance, to meet urgent basic water needs, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) will scale up delivery to meet the 80% access target by 2015.

IWRM is central to the AfDB approach. It helps to better target their support. Likewise, IWRM surveys enable the AfDB to explore opportunities and refine its portfolio. IWRM is crucial for the Bank to:

- Ensure an effective investment portfolio across the different water-use sectors;
- Pursue the institutional and functional capacity of the water sector itself; and
- Implement the Bank's cross-cutting policies, e.g. in gender and regional integration.

The results of the IWRM assessments, carried out by GWP with AfDB support, offer vital opportunities for exploring more targeted support which would include:

- Identifying where countries are in the process of IWRM planning or implementation and what their relative strengths and weaknesses are;
- Generating a better understanding of the issues and enabling targeting of support and resources towards priority areas – possibly defining future Bank support in this area;
- Identifying the key challenges and exploring how these can be addressed through Bank programme and instruments and through stronger partnerships; and, more importantly,
- Supporting regional member countries (RMCs) to better align and integrate IWRM planning with national development planning processes.





6 Outcomes of the High Level Panel Discussion

AfDB support for better water management

- Strengthening collaborative work on knowledge with partners such as the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP-Africa) in areas such as public expenditure reviews, innovative financing mechanisms, and fragile states.
- Working with WSP-Africa and partners on delivering a second round of civil society organization consultations (CSO-2) to track how resources are being turned into results and identify the key policy and implementation bottlenecks.
- Continuing collaboration with AMCOW and partners on the implementation of the pan-Africa exercise to strengthen M&E.
- Sustaining collaboration with GWP on IWRM support to RMCs; this includes reviewing a proposal for a medium-term, integrated programme of support.
- Supporting advocacy and promotion of IWRM in our RMCs with an emphasis on facilitating the integration of water in national development plans through the Water Partnership Program (WPP) and African Water Facility (AWF).
- Mobilizing increased donor and other financing, including for national projects and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), the African Water Facility Water for African Cities (WAC) Programme and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility.
- Building common ground in water management – in a similar way to the common ground built in drinking water and sanitation – through the crucial G8-Africa dialogue.
- Continuing engagement in strategic partnerships to support delivery of the AMCOW Action Plan
- Responding to requests for support with IWRM in RMCs and in transboundary situations through the African Water Facility and analyses that link water with development priorities.



Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Hon. Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa

A High Level Panel reflected on progress and offered perspectives for accelerating pan-African cooperation to advance progress and deliver on the declarations.

- The Honourable Deputy Minister for Water and Environment in South Africa stressed that water and environment go hand-in-hand. People must be convinced that water must be part of the discussions on climate change. AMCOW will only be successful when we all work together. AMCOW has been successful in developing the pan-African programmes of action.
- The Minister also underlined the need to review and reassess the way water resources are managed. All sectors must come together. Watershed agreements and water allocation mechanisms must also be reviewed in the light of climate change.

'One of AMCOW's key responsibilities is to address the threats of climate change to water resources. AMCOW and partners should stress the importance of adaptation to climate change for developing countries.'

Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Hon. Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa



Dr. Uschi Eid,
UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water
and Sanitation (UNSGAB)

- The UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) called upon Africa to take control. Africa must monitor what the G8 is doing to ensure consistency, follow up on commitments and report on progress. In order to increase domestic resources to this effect UNSGAB would like to support engagement between African ministers of water and ministers of finance. Engagement is essential because finance ministers have to understand that investments in water produce benefits.

Mr. Phera Ramoeli,
Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) emphasized that AMCOW needs to work more closely with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The relationship between RECs and AMCOW has to be institutionalized. The RECs provide structures for AMCOW to work more effectively. Now that AMCOW is a technical committee of the African Union (AU), it would be logical for the RECs to provide that structure. SADC was involved in the development of the Sharm el Sheik Declaration that called for tangible results (infrastructure, increased agricultural land, etc.). Activities need to be aligned, especially at the regional level.

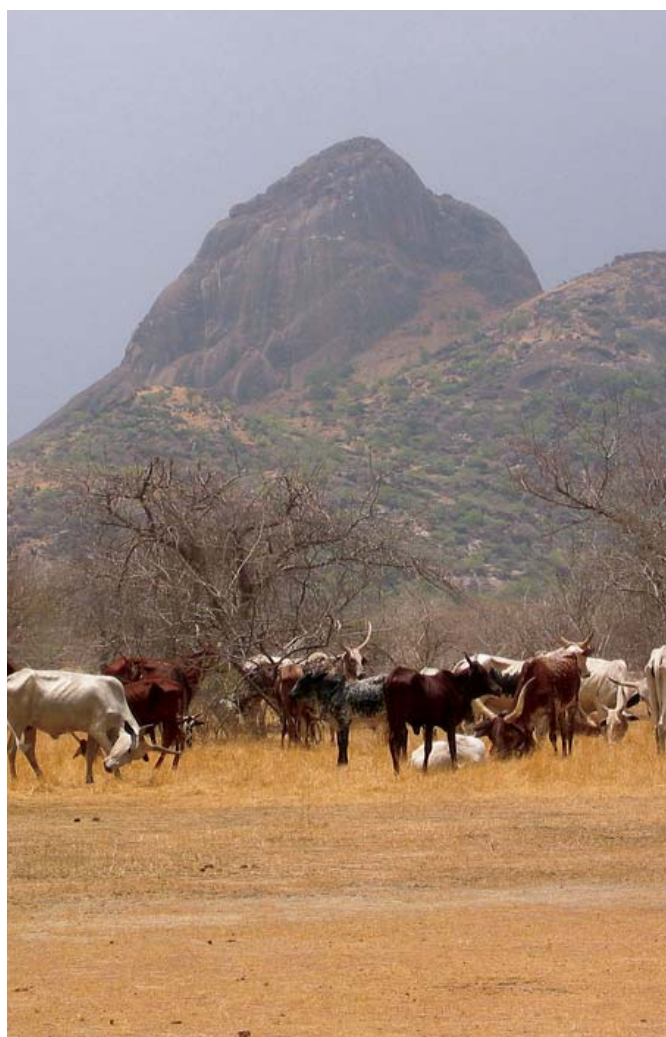
Ms. Malinne Blomberg, Africa Water Facility

- The Africa Water Facility (AWF) noted that water resources management activities compete with water supply and sanitation projects, which have more concrete results and are short term. There is, therefore, a need to be more efficient – the easiest way to generate more funding. Donors do not put their money where the greatest needs are – they put their money where it creates most value. In scaling up, however, the emphasis should shift from routine pilot projects to pilot projects for scaling up!

'The African Water Facility emphasizes that Funding is NOT the limiting factor. The limiting factor is the development of good projects that can be sold to donors.'

Prof. Edward Kairu,
African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)

- The African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) is a network of networks building strategic relationships between civil society and governments. ANEW also builds the capacity of NGOs across Africa to improve water supply and sanitation. ANEW promotes civil society and government success stories, and simplifies and demystifies important declarations so that they can be understood by ordinary people.





7 Closing Remarks

Reggie Tekateka, GWP Southern Africa Chair



Reginald Tekateka, GWP Southern Africa Chair

The GWP Southern Africa Chair paid tribute to the interesting contributions and positive outcomes of the side event. He welcomed the exciting progress in implementing the directives from African Heads of State through a global partnership. The side event was a step towards the 2nd African Water Week, held in November 2009.

Perspectives for the future from the side event

- Key issues are to link water resources management to economic growth, build partnerships for the development of infrastructure, factor in adaptation to climate change and make sure any progress is not reversed.
- Water is the key driver for economic development. Sub-regional economic communities are the entry points.
- IWRM is central to the pan-African process towards the water vision
- The need to monitor partners' delivery on promises is critical.
- Engagement has been made on adaptation to climate change: adaptation must feature in national plans, IWRM is the way forward in responding to adaptation and there is a need to promote knowledge on climate change in Africa.
- More efficient preparation of projects is important but it is much more important to find ways to 'pilot scaling up'.

8 Conclusions

The initiative shown by AMCOW and its partners to share information on progress in implementing the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on water and sanitation was an important step. The session focussed on tracking the progress Africa is making in implementing high-level commitments. AMCOW, AfDB, ANEW and GWP were urged to continue to mobilize other partners and institutionalize this kind of side event as a regular mechanism for reviewing progress and sharing information during Stockholm Water Weeks. The outcomes of such side events would provide input to policy and political processes that feed into the annual Africa Water Week and would accelerate implementation of the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on water and sanitation.

'AMCOW, AFDB, ANEW and GWP were urged to continue mobilizing other partners and institutionalize this kind of event.'



List of Participants

Beyond African Declarations and Commitments: Perspectives for the future and what is required

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List of participants recorded at the World Water Week.

The Global Water Partnership network is supported financially by Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. For the work described here, additional support was provided by the Netherlands Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGIS) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under their Partnership for Africa's Water Development (PAWD) programme.

Images of Mr Mai-Bass Taal and Mr Arthur Swanson courtesy of Peter Tvärberg, SIWI



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