

Stockholm, Tuesday, 8 April, 2014

EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group support team

*Background paper: the fourth EU-Africa Summit and its implications for the Africa-EU partnership on water*

The agreement set out by EU and African leaders in the declaration adopted by the EU-Africa Summit 2014 addresses the multipurpose uses of water and highlights the political and economic significance of water for both continents. The [declaration](#) confirms the importance of water as a “*non traditional challenge to peace and security*” (point 21). Developing “*access to drinking water*” is also seen in the context of “*greater economic integration*” (point 37). The declaration confirms a joint commitment to continuing efforts towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 (point 47), which comprise sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The declaration also emphasises the need for cooperation in monitoring ecosystems, in particular in relation to water stressed situations (point 32) and in the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems (point 34) and calls for good governance in the management of natural resources (point 33).

The [roadmap](#) framing EU-Africa relations for 2014-2017 offers frameworks for the future of the EU-Africa water partnership and its modus operandi. The roadmap confirms the joint entry point for strategic infrastructure coordination in the domains of energy, water, transport and ICT. The integration of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water affairs and Sanitation within the infrastructure agenda is anchored in the cross-sectoral coordination mechanism described at point 46. The coordination of future support mechanisms will be ensured through the Reference Group on Infrastructure, in coherence with the PIDA project, with a particular emphasis on the water-energy nexus.

Water is an essential prerequisite for the sustainable development of agriculture. The framework for addressing the water-food nexus, through the contact group between the EU and the AU commissions and the CAADP partnership, are detailed on point 51. Strategic support of core processes to address the link with climate change is provided through the implementation of existing processes and joint Africa-EU meetings (point 63).

Access to sanitation is also identified as one of the areas for joint action in the framework of the JAES with the final aim to promote human development (point 29).

The priority given to cooperation in investments in science, technology and innovation (points 30-32) is of particular relevance for the water sector, a major environmental component, a major societal challenge and a sector of key economic importance. Financing opportunities from EU instruments including Horizon 2020 could complement support from bilateral and multilateral donors. Further development can build on the ongoing EU support to the NEPAD Centers of Excellence (point 35), where AMCOW has endorsed the proposal to establish a Human Capacity Development Programme in the water sector.

The focus on agriculture, food security and food safety in the future of EU-Africa relations (point 51-58) offers opportunities for the EU-Africa water partnership. *"Nutrition sensitive actions"* (point 53) in particular could cover interventions in the WASH sector.

Reflecting the call for reform in the governance in the management of natural resources made in the declaration, the Roadmap details actions to ensure that technology contribute in better monitoring and managing natural resources, including water resources. An interesting link is established between the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (point 64) and water management.

The two documents repeatedly confirm that private sector is a critical partner for achieving the objectives of the JAES and those of the MDGs. The EU-Africa Business Forum remains the privileged platform for this engagement (art 43).