



About the AWG

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation was launched in Johannesburg in 2002 and is being implemented through the EU Water Initiative - Africa Component. The purpose of this partnership is to make an effective joint (Africa - Europe) contribution to the achievement of water and sanitation related MDG's. The strategic partnership has created an Africa Working Group (AWG) consisting of representatives from AMCOW-TAC, EU Member States, EU Commission, civil society and the private sector working as a joint platform on water- related development issues.

Highlights of 2010 in brief

The first newsletter in 2011 aims to update you on the activities of the Africa Working Group (AWG) since the previous AWG Newsletter (September 2010).

First of all, we have had the third AWG meeting in 2010 during the Africa Water Week: on Sunday 21 November 2010 we gathered with about 60 members in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During this meeting we focused on presenting and discussing the Inception Report. This report, prepared by the new UNDP/ SIWI support team, describes the support to the AWG by UNDP under the new European Commission (EC) support (thematic budget line) for the period 2011-2013. Also, a preliminary workplan 2011 was presented. After the AWG meeting, based on the discussions at the Addis meeting, the Inception Report and workplan 2011 have been revised and submitted to the EC and shared with all AWG members in December 2010. All these documents are available (with the minutes in english and in french) on the EUWI web-site (<http://euwi.net/wg/channel/document/21244>) (log-in required) or through the AWG Secretariat at UNDP/SIWI.

Secondly, the AWG together with UNSGAB, AMCOW and SWA organised during AWW3 a seminar on improving aid effectiveness in our sector. This seminar, titled "Aid Effectiveness and Sanitation: Putting the 5 Year Drive in Action". This seminar was one of the sub-themes under the general theme of

Institution Building and Capacity Development. The seminar outlined the Sanitation 5 Year Drive (Mrs Eid, UNSGAB), presented the global situation (WHO, Mr Swann) and demonstrated how aid effectiveness can be improved at the national level (Ghana, Mr Sarkodie). Last but not least, the AWG Chair provided an EU perspective on this topic, by presenting the first results of the AWG studies on Sanitation Mapping and the implementation of the EU Code of Conduct. The seminar was concluded by a lively panel debate. The outcome of this seminar - combined with the outcome of a similar seminar held during Stockholm water week - is used for a AWG briefing note on aid effectiveness in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Africa, due by end of January 2011.

Thirdly, the IRC support team to the AWG started with the transition of the support function to UNDP/ SIWI by the end of 2010. With the Water Facility support to the AWG coming to an end by the close of 2010, the support contract of UNESCO-IHE and IRC is also ending. As mentioned earlier, the EC has granted 1.025 million euro from a thematic budget line, targeted at supporting the Africa- EU Partnership in the period 2010-2013 ("EUWI- Policy Development and Implementation for Sustainable Water Management in Africa"). For the management of this project, the EC has contracted UNDP as the

international implementation agency. The new UNDP/SIWI team started its support role during the last quarter of 2010: it was already involved in Troika meetings, prepared and presented the Inception Report, had intensive discussions with stakeholders during AWW3 in Addis Ababa and drafted the new 2011 workplan. To allow for a smooth transfer, some secretarial support by the IRC team will continue until the first quarter in 2011.

Search for AWG Chair continues.....

During 2010, the Troika consisted of the European Commission, United Kingdom (chair in 2008), Austria (2009) and The Netherlands (2010). Ideally, in the course of 2010, new incoming Troika members should have entered, replacing the oldest members and taking the chairmanship in rotation. Unfortunately, a new incoming Troika chair to replace the Netherlands has not yet been identified. Due to this fact, the Netherlands have offered to extend their chairing role until the first quarter of 2011 (until March) to allow further searching for new Troika members. We hereby invite all EU member states to consider this taking up a role and get engaged in the Troika of the AWG.

Governance review of the AWG

In the meantime, the review of the governance and management of the AWG has started. Piers Cross has been asked to execute this 'rapid assessment'. The outcome of the review – expected by early February 2011- will provide important lessons and recommendations on improving the effectiveness of the AWG for the major African and European stakeholders of the AWG; especially for AMCOW, the EU member states and civil society organisations. In addition, the review will be an important input for the UNDP team that will be implementing the EC contract "EUWI- Policy Development and

Implementation for Sustainable Water Management in Africa". In February, the (extended) Troika will meet again to discuss the results of the review and to explore the best way forward to overcome the Troika composition impasse.

Finalization of AWG work plan 2010

It's good to see that the AWG workplan 2010 could be implemented as scheduled. Nearly all activities that were foreseen could be executed. Important highlights were: the 3 studies (Sanitation Mapping, Code of Conduct and CRS Guideline), the three AWG meetings and the special seminars on Aid Effectiveness. Still pending, but forthcoming soon, are several communications outputs, based on the results of the mentioned studies and based on the special seminars that we organized in 2010. Three briefing notes are now in production: 1/ a briefing note (BN) on the Sanitation Mapping study, 2/ a briefing note on the Code of Conduct study and 3/ a briefing note on Aid Effectiveness for Africa. The latter note is based on the two seminars on this topic that were organized by the AWG (with others) during Stockholm World Water Week and during the Africa Water Week. These notes will be available in early February, in EN and FR and will be important inputs for policy influencing activities planned for 2011. One activity from 2010 could not yet be executed, which is the SWAp learning and sharing workshop. Due to external factors, this workshop had to be postponed and is now part of the draft workplan for 2011.

In the meantime, the AWG workplan for 2011 has also been prepared by the new support team of UNDP/SIWI. It is based on the Inception Report and on the discussions during the AWG meeting in Addis Ababa. The draft workplan was already sent to all AWG members in December 2010. The comments and feedback received thereafter will be used for determining the final workplan and activities, probably in the next Troika meeting in February 2011.

Welcome message from the UNDP/SIWI team

UNDP and SIWI are very happy to have been awarded the assignment to work with and provide support to the EUWI AWG and contribute towards policy development and implementation of sustainable water Management in Africa.

During the inception phase (September- November 2010) we have had the pleasure of working directly with many of you already. An inception report, dated 30 November 2010, has been prepared.

UNDP/SIWI support structure will consists of four main functions that will be responsible for implementing the project, including; Administrative Logistical Support, Management/ Operational Support, Communications Support and Implementation Support. This support structure will ensure an effective secretariat function for the AWG and an effective implementation of the different components of the workplan. In order to ensure continuity and a smooth transition from IRC to UNDP/ SIWI we have asked IRC to continue to provide some services during the first quarter of 2011.

Finally we very much look forward to working with all parties and stakeholders and ensuring excellent and constructive cooperation.



A full house at the AWG meeting.

Thank you message from the IRC support team

IRC was happy and proud to provide support to the AWG since 2005 and the current support team (Coline, Ghislaine, Erma and Paul) would like to thank you for the fruitful cooperation, also on behalf of the other IRC colleagues. At the same time, we like to wish the new support team from UNDP & SIWI all the best in their new role!



Contact us

If you have any comments on this newsletter, or suggestions for the next one, please send them to the AWG Support Group, attention of Ghislaine Heylen (heylen@irc.nl, tel +31 703044021) or to Per Bertilsson, per.bertilsson@siwi.org.

This newsletter was prepared by Dick van Ginhoven, Erma Uytewaal and Paul van Koppen on behalf of the Troika of the Africa Working Group.