

## **EUWI Africa Working Group meeting - Report**

18 July 2011 - Hotel des Mille Collines, Kigali, Rwanda

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### **Welcome and opening**

Ms. Erma Uytewaal, welcomed all participants on behalf Dick van Ginhoven, DGIS, the Netherlands, the European co-chair of AWG.

She expressed her wish that the participants would take the opportunity of this small meeting to have a good dialogue on the items on the agenda.

Dr. Salisu Abdulmumin, programme coordinator and AWG focal point at AMCOW, welcomed the participants on their behalf. He has been working as a programme coordinator at the AMCOW secretariat since April this year.

Mr. Per Bertilsson of the AWG support group at UNDP/SIWI and facilitator of the meeting, went through the agenda, which was approved by the meeting.

### **AWG progress reporting**

Ms. Erma Uytewaal presented the progress report of the AWG for the period November 2010 to July 2011. The update followed the structure of the AWG work plan 2011. The presentation can be found in annex II.

### *Questions and answers*

Q: What is the involvement from AWG in Sanitation and Water for All?

A: It has been discussed to have a formal position towards SWA but it was not perceived to be needed since AWG is already working closely in practice with SWA and many AWG members are also SWA members. There are different roles for AWG and SWA. While SWA is a global initiative, the AWG has a clear regional focus (Africa) and aims to facilitate the coordination and cooperation of the major European and African stakeholders in WASH and water resources management. While both initiative promote better coordination and policy influencing for improved aid effectiveness, SWA also supports (individual) countries in strengthening their national

capacities for sector planning. Both initiatives clearly reinforce each other and are complementary in achieving a common goal.

Q: Was any material distributed at the meeting in Brussels on 26 May regarding the review of Johannesburg declaration?

A: No, not much material was available. The Conclusions of the EU Council on water, partly based on the issues paper on water by the Hungarian EU presidency and the AWG political briefing note, which recalls the commitments from Johannesburg in 2002, was discussed.

### **AMCOW update**

Mr. Bai Mass Taal, Executive Secretary of AMCOW

Dr. Salisu Abdulmumin, AMCOW programme coordinator and AWG focal point.

#### *AMCOW Work Plan*

The work plan was approved in Addis Abeba in November 2010. The next step is to complement it with costs and a timeline for the activities and to develop an implementation strategy.

The AMCOW work plan should not be viewed as a plan only for AMCOW. It is a plan for all Africa. Any partner is welcome to come forward and show their interest to implement certain activities.

AMCOW is planning to invite donors to a round table meeting on the funding of different activities.

#### *Current status of the staffing of AMCOW secretariat*

Staff currently at the office:

- Executive secretary, Mr Bai Mass Taal, financed by GIZ
- 1 programme coordinator, financed by Nigeria (Dr Salisu Abdulmumin).
- 2 programme officers seconded by South Africa. One of them will be in charge of finance (currently in training).
- 1 communication officer, financed by GIZ.
- The Nigerian government also finances local staff.
- A consultant from South Africa is also working on guidelines for finance.

In pipeline, to be identified:

- 1 Programme officer to focus on North Africa, financed by US, North Africa, position has been re-advertised.
- 1 Programme officer to focus on East Africa.

#### *EXCO and TAC meetings*

An EXCO meeting and workshop was planned in Addis Abeba in May 2011, but was cancelled.

A TAC meeting was held in Tunis in June 2011, but no EXCO meeting.

An EXCO meeting was planned to be held in Kigali, back-to-back with AfricaSan 3, July 2011, but was postponed.

The date for the next EXCO meeting is still not settled.

*Questions and answers:*

Q: Is the work plan available?

A: It will be sent out by email as an annex to the report of this meeting (Annex III) and will be posted on the AWG website for AWG members to download.

Q: What was the topic of the work shop planned in Addis Abeba, in May?

A: It was about developing monitoring and evaluation, especially for the Sharm el Sheik declaration.

**Presentation of draft strategy for implementation of the eThekwini declaration**

Ms. Rose Osinde Alabaster, consultant based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rose presented her assignment of developing a proposal for how the AWG can support the implementation of the eThekwini declaration (ref to AWG work plan 2011 item 1.2).

Focus should be on the two targets of the eThekwini declaration where the largest number of countries is off track (as reported by WSP/AMCOW):

- 0.5% of GDP allocation to sanitation and hygiene;
- Development of a monitoring and evaluation system.

The overall idea she presented is to support African partner countries to translate the political commitments into country policies, strategies and plans through a coherent and effective resource, process and output based strategy that sustainably links financing, investments and outputs. This should be guided by the principles of aid effectiveness.

In additions, she also proposes to put emphasises on both financial and progress monitoring. Indicators for tracking of investments, as well as regular mapping and validation sessions should be advocated for.

**Discussion on draft strategy for implementation of the eThekwini declaration**

The following discussion points were raised:

- This sounds very familiar. The same things are said for agriculture, health etc. What is specific to sanitation?
- AMCOW should report on the status of water and sanitation in Africa, not UN, not NGOs to show whether it is on track or not on track.
- Donor money will not increase during the coming years – EU and US have financial trouble. Additional funds will come from African countries.
- Financial and progress monitoring should not be only for water and sanitation.
- What AWG can do in support of AMCOW work plan: AWG is the people at the meetings and those who then make decisions at donor agencies. AWG members can bring ideas back to their own agencies.
- Resources for AWG and its mandate are limited. AMCOW in development of its work plan and implementation plan is already mapping out support to countries to implement the eThekweni declaration. So what is the AWG's niche? AWG's mandate is focused at the policy level and promotion of coordination at regional level with no intention or mandate to support individual countries. SWA recognises a lack of capacity at country level as a limiting factor for countries to take ownership and to attract or direct funds. Countries need capacities to develop plans and priorities.
- The two outstanding concepts in the word cloud produced from the reports on the national preparatory workshops held in preparation for AfricaSan were "financing" and "capacity building". SWA is looking at the identification of the existing demand for external support in strengthening national planning capacities at country level and tries to match this with available support from SWA partners.
- AMCOW's implementation plan (presently in elaboration) should be a starting point to find out where the gaps are and where AWG can add value.
- Regarding how to reach the local level, the real challenge of political commitments is how to make it reach the rural people. Advocacy is needed, since rural peoples voices seldom reach up to country leaders.
- The African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) makes the links from the local level to the political level. CSOs will play big role in the World Water Forum in Marseille in 2012. AMCOW works through ANEW.
- All donors should link to the work plan of AMCOW. We would like to see concrete suggestions for the implementation of strategies.

Mr Per Bertilsson summarized the discussion:

- Both from African and EU sides additional steps have been taken in the recent years. These are reasons for optimism.
- Solution not to be found in donor financing, it is also up to countries to set aside resources.
- AWG should support implementation of AMCOW's work plan and the use of national systems for monitoring etc.
- AWG should also for formulation of its support strategy look at complementarity with other initiative such as mainly SWA.
- We should be realistic about the resources available to AWG and make targeted interventions accordingly.
- A revised draft of this strategy will be circulated to everybody.

### **EC Water Facility projects in Rwanda and beyond (in the region)**

Mr. Olivier Machiels, EC delegation to Rwanda

Two calls for proposals from the Water Facility were presented.

1st call – on the topic of Water and Health (mainly for water supply):

- Proposals were received from 42 African countries whereof 24 were selected.
- In total, 481 proposals were received and 51 were selected.

Observations by the committee evaluating proposals:

- In all project locations the MDG situation is well below the national average.
- 40% of end-beneficiaries are children under 15.

2nd call - Partnerships for capacity development in water and sanitation sector.

- For the first time the Water Facility contributes to capacity building.
- The proposals are still being evaluated, so no details were presented.

### *Questions, answers and comments*

Q: 481 proposals received and 51 awarded means that there was a success in attracting proposals. A lot of effort was made to develop all of them. Does the EC have ideas on how to make use of rejected proposals?

A: This is also our concern. The Water Facility has its main office in Brussels, and delegation staff is little involved in evaluation. We cannot always see the link between earlier and new allocations of financing. As new NGOs are coming in, they also need to learn EU procedures.

Q: Many projects do not reach their end. Are the projects financed by the Water Facility on track?

A: From the proposals received in 2006, all Rwandan projects are on track.

C: Previously, there was an expectation that the Water Facility would be linked to the EUWI and support certain activities (as a result of the EUWI) at country or regional level to enhance aid effectiveness. This expected ‘natural’ link between both initiatives didn’t materialise. In some cases the WF enabled implementation of projects (often regional projects) that were not necessarily aligned with national processes such as the development of a SWAP. One criteria of evaluation could be how WF funded projects contribute to aid effectiveness and policy advancing.

Q: Does the Water Facility finance any specific sanitation activities?

A: All the water supply projects under both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> call are also required to have sanitation activities.

C: When sanitation activities are included in water supply projects, it is difficult to report on this according to the new DAC criteria.

### **Planning ahead for the AWG**

In the interest of time, some of the items under this heading were discussed very briefly.

#### *Key issues from AWG governance review report*

The AWG governance report has been circulated to AWG members already, but a selection of recommendations relevant for AMCOW will be circulated again. See Annex IV.

#### *New EUWI thematic strategy*

A first proposal was discussed during the extended Troika meeting in Brussels. A new draft is being prepared and will be discussed at the EUWI Multi Stakeholder Forum during the World Water Week in Stockholm, 25 August. Once available it will be circulated to all AWG members (done on 20 July).

#### *Friends of AMCOW*

Stefanie Lorenz, BMZ recalled that the first meeting of Friends of AMCOW was held in Addis Abeba, November 2010, on the initiative of BMZ. The idea was to facilitate donor coordination regarding the alignment of support to the AMCOW work plan.

No follow up meeting has been organized yet, but the format has been established since AMCOW referred to friends of AMCOW in its conclusions from the Addis meeting. There is a standing offer from BMZ to support the organization of a follow up meeting, but there has so far been no response from African partners.

### *World Water Week (AWG meeting and Focus: Africa)*

The draft agenda for the AWG meeting was presented. The main items to be discussed are the process for AWG towards Rio 2012 and the input to the EUWI Multi Stakeholder Forum on the following day.

It was also suggested to include in the agenda a follow up discussion on the formulation of the AWG support strategy to the implementation of the eThekweni declaration.

### *Africa Water Week 2011 and AWG meeting back-to-back*

The hosting of the Africa Water Week is rotating between African regions. It is now the turn of North Africa. Libya was initially going to host the meeting, but due to the current situation there, Egypt and Mauretania have now both offered to look at whether they can take on organizing the meeting this year.

It was suggested by Mr Bai Mass Taal that even if there is not an Africa Water Week, this year an AWG meeting can be held in connection to the 2nd AMCOW EXCO meeting for 2011. The ministerial meeting could then be attended by EU donors represented. One AWG meeting each year should be aligned with AMCOW EXCO. AMCOW TAC meeting should also be aligned with AMCOW EXCO meeting.

### **Wrap up and closure**

Ms. Erma Uytewaal expressed her thanks to all the participants, with a special thanks to the AMCOW representatives. She closed the meeting by highlighting that we have reasons for optimism for the further work of AWG: EU member states have recently stressed their continued commitment to the water sector and AMCOW has developed its work plan and the secretariat is being increasingly staffed. However, one particular challenge still persists and needs to be resolved this year – the identification of a new European co-chair.

Mr. Bai Mass Taal thanked the meeting participants by saying that we see with optimism on the coming work. We will continue working on having donors aligning with the AMCOW work plan. He also stressed the importance to continue having an AMCOW presence in AWG meetings and meetings with donors.

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**Annex I: List of participants**

Bai Mass Taal, AMCOW, representing African co-chair

Christoph LaJalle , Ps-EAU, France

Erma Uytewaal, representing DGIS, European co-chair, The Netherlands

Félix Adégnika, Partnership of Municipalities for Development, Benin.

Johanna Sjödin, SIWI, EUWI-AWG support group

John Kanthungo, AGREDS, Tearfund, Malawi

Olivier Machiels, European Commission delegation in Rwanda

Per Bertilsson SIWI, EUWI-AWG support group

Rose Osinde Alabaster, consultant, Kenya

Salisu Abdulmumin, AMCOW secretariat

Stefan Reuter, Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA),  
South Africa/Germany

Stefanie Gill, Tearfund, UK

Stephanie Lorenz, Africa division of BMZ, Germany

Winfried Zarges, GIZ, Addis Abeba

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**Annex IV: Recommendations from AWG governance and management review relevant for AMCOW**

- AWG to facilitate an AMCOW-lead meeting with all African sector donors as a regular event.
- The terms of reference of EU and Germany financed technical assistance to AMCOW should specifically include support to AMCOW AWG activities.
- AMCOW should have the AWG as an agenda item on its work plan.
- AMCOW to clearly distinguish the terms of reference and roles of the AMCOW TAC chair and AMCOW ES.
- AWG work plan and work arrangements to distinguish between European and African activities.
- The European co-chair should drive the European aspects of AWG activity and the African chair the African component.