



EU Water Initiative (EUWI) – Africa Working Group (AWG) at the World Water Week

At the *World Water Week* in Stockholm, 21-27 August 2011, you will have numerous occasions of interacting with the Africa Working Group. We look forward to your participation in the following events, in which we will be involved:

- Focus: Africa, 9:00-17:30, Tuesday, 23 August, Room K2
- Publication Launch, 13:00-13:30, Wednesday, 24 August, EUWI exhibition stand EH 06:49
Sandwiches will be served!
- AWG meeting (AWG members only), 14:00-17:00, Wednesday 24 August, Room K13
- EUWI Multi Stakeholder Forum, 9:00-12:30, Thursday, 25 August, Room T6

Welcome!

The Africa Working Group in 2011

The Africa Working Group (AWG) has seen an interesting first half of 2011 and this newsletter will update you on some of the highlights. Two AWG meetings have been organized, the dissemination of AWG reports has started and contributions have been made to the EU policy on water and development. In addition to this, the transfer of the AWG support group and secretariat from the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Stockholm International Water Initiative (SIWI) was completed during the first quarter of 2011. At the current support group and secretariat, we are now looking forward to this year's World Water Week, which is an important opportunity for continued strengthening of the dialogue between all AWG stakeholders!

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Joint Africa and Finance Working Groups meeting, Brussels, 25 May 2011

A joint meeting between the Africa and Finance Working Groups, both part of the EUWI, was organized in May 2011 in connection to the EUWI coordination group meeting. The meeting allowed the two working groups to be acquainted with their respective activities, and explored the possibilities for synergies between the two groups in future work. In the Africa Working Group, we also took the opportunity to discuss the recommendations from the governance and management review that had been finalized earlier during the year. For further details, please see the meeting report which has been circulated to working group members. The Finance Working Group presented an ongoing study on small-scale financing for water and sanitation.

Council Conclusions (EU), 3103rd Environment Council Meeting, Luxembourg, 21 June 2011

An important objective of the EUWI Africa Working Group (AWG) this year is to use the results of studies undertaken on aid effectiveness to influence EU policy on water and development. A political briefing note has been prepared, drawing together the essential conclusions from the previous aid mapping and aid effectiveness reports, and recommending actions needed by the EU, its member states and African states to improve aid effectiveness. This political briefing note was forwarded to the current chair of the ACP council, and was then presented in one of their meetings in May. In parallel, an issues paper on water and development was produced by the Hungarian EU presidency in collaboration with the EUWI secretariat in Brussels. Both of these documents managed to influence the EU Council Conclusions of the 3103rd Environment Council Meeting held in Luxembourg on 21 June 2011.

To see the full Conclusions, please visit www.euwi.net/policy

A quote from the Conclusions, § 30:

The Council "...REITERATES the need to improve aid effectiveness and ownership in the water and sanitation sector through an effective implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour and STRESSES the importance of a revitalised thematic strategy for the EUWI, also in relation to the EU Africa MDG Partnership."

Dissemination of Africa Working Group reports

During 2010 and 2011 several African Working Group (AWG) publications were produced. As a first step in ensuring these publications reach their target groups, they have been uploaded to the EUWI AWG website at www.euwi.net/wg/africa. A strategy has also been developed for the further dissemination of hard copies and electronic versions to a number of target groups, including AWG members, headquarters and country offices of EU and non-EU donor agencies and other relevant actors

such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA).

Advice on strategic recipients or opportunities to spread AWG publications is welcome. So far, publications have been shared with UNDP country offices in Africa through the UNDP office in Brussels. They were also distributed to participants in the Third Africa Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (AfricaSan 3) that was held in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2011. The main conclusions of the reports will be presented to the African Ministers' Council of Water (AMCOW) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Committee (EXCO) in their coming meetings, and, in addition, hard copies will of course be available for World Water Week participants in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2011.

AfricaSan 3 and Africa Working Group meeting in Kigali, July 2011

During the Third Africa Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (AfricaSan 3) on 19-21 July 2011, Per Bertilsson of the AWG support group at UNDP/SIWI,

had the opportunity to present the findings and recommendations of the AWG reports on aid effectiveness. His presentation was held during a session convened by Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), on national level planning and aid effectiveness. The AWG was also present at AfricaSan 3 with a well-visited exhibition stand. AWG publications in English and French were distributed and newly developed posters highlighted key messages, progress and challenges. The exhibition stand also gave many interesting opportunities for interaction with the conference participants.

One day prior to AfricaSan 3, an AWG meeting was held. It was attended by a small but diverse group, with representatives from EU donors, the AMCOW secretariat, African and EU NGOs, and the EC delegation in Rwanda. The meeting covered, among other things, updated reports from AWG and AMCOW, a discussion on how AWG can best support AMCOW in facilitating the implementation of the eThekweni declaration and a presentation on the latest calls for proposals from the EU Water Facility. ■

About the EU Water Initiative – Africa Working Group (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 (EUWI) – Africa Component. The purpose of this partnership is to make an effective joint (Africa – Europe) contribution to the achievement of water and sanitation related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The strategic partnership has created an Africa Working Group (AWG) consisting of representatives from the Technical Advisory Committee of the African Ministers' Council of Water (AMCOW-TAC), EU Member States, the European Commission (EC), civil society and the private sector working as a joint platform on water-related development issues.

Contact the AWG Support Group

For more information, please visit our website
www.euwi.net/wg/africa

UNDP/SIWI

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