

European Union Water Initiative Africa Working Group (EUWI AWG) meeting - Report

24 August 2011 – Stockholm International Fairs, Stockholm, Sweden

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Welcome by co-chairs

Dick van Ginhoven welcomed the participants and made reference to the AWG's achievement to influence the EU council conclusions to review EU policy on water and development.

Trevor Balzer, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chair, welcomed the participants on behalf of South Africa.

Progress report from AWG – Dick van Ginhoven, Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), Netherlands

The progress report focused on the four strategic objectives of the AWG work plan for 2011. For further details, please see the presentation in annex II.

Comments on the presentation:

- With reference to the Kigali meeting; it is important to point out that WSP was mandated by AMCOW to take the lead on the implementation of the eThekweni. AWG can only support this implementation.
- Last year at the EU-Africa summit in Tripoli a new EU-Africa strategy was agreed, including the partnership on water affairs between EU and Africa. It is a symbolic recognition of water affairs and does not create any new mechanisms, but AWG will be the responsible body to refer to this framework. There will probably be a meeting on this in the coming months. It is a new element that gives more visibility to AWG.
- Capacity development is on the work plan but is unfunded. Now resources have been mobilized for a capacity building on water integrity, which will be implemented by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), UNDP, Cap-Net and Water Integrity Network (WIN). It is a 3-year programme on sub-Saharan Africa which works in three regions: west, east and southern Africa. The AWG support group has encouraged and facilitated the involvement of AMCOW in this programme.

Update from AMCOW – Bai Mass Taal, AMCOW Secretariat

The AMCOW work programme that was approved in Addis Ababa in 2010 has buy in by some partners, and more are welcome to do so. An implementation platform is being developed since

AMCOW is not an implementing agency. Like AWG, AMCOW relies on support partners for implementation.

Regarding the next AMCOW president country, it was agreed a long time ago that a North African country should take over. The current president and the executive committee (EXCO) will have to decide on how to move forward.

The Africa Water Week is normally held together with the AMCOW general assembly. It will probably not be possible to organize it in 2011. At the TAC meeting in Tunis in June this year, Egypt and Mauretania offered to take on the Africa Water Week and the General Assembly, but no further information has been received after that.

There have been no changes in the staffing of the AMCOW secretariat since the AWG meeting in Kigali, 18 July.

Questions and comments

- Although the general assembly normally takes place back to back to the Africa Water Week, this does not mean that it has to be so this time. The next general assembly will need to take place sooner than the next Africa Water Week.
- The Gates foundation has expressed interest to support the AMCOW work plan.
- Q: What systems are in place to implement the work plan? What will we hear next year?
- A: Tomorrow an evaluation and monitoring meeting will take place. AMCOW will develop a monitoring & evaluation (M&E) framework for the AMCOW work plan. Thereafter this will be taken to the sub-regional and country levels through TAC. The GIZ office in Addis coordinates this. Funds have been mobilized for M&E at country, sub-regional and regional level.
- Q: The Sharm el Sheikh declaration calls for a meeting between water and finance ministers. This was planned together with the African Development Bank at one stage. Is it still on?
- A: It has been planned several times, but has not taken place. AMCOW is now working to facilitate coordination at the country level. If there is an international meeting for finance ministers, we could also send vice presidents of AMCOW.
- Q: Why try to arrange a meeting with finance ministers? In South Africa they meet on regular basis.
- A: It is based on a feeling that the finance minister is key to increased internal finance for water issues. In some countries they are meeting regularly. In many countries they do not. For example in Ghana, ministers of finance were interested in learning how sanitation can create jobs etc. This is what really engaged Ghana in SWA.
- The EUWI Finance Working Group (FWG) had country workshops. These informal meetings were appreciated by ministers. It does not necessarily have to be ministers, but maybe it is even more valuable with senior civil servants. They have longer term impact.

Update from the AWG meeting in Kigali, 18 July, Per Bertilsson and Birgitta Liss Lymer, AWG support group

Per gave an update on the AWG related activities that took place in Kigali, before and during AfricaSan3.

The main activities were the AWG meeting on 18 July, a presentation of AWG publications at the seminar “National level planning and aid effectiveness” convened by Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), and a well visited EUWI AWG exhibition stand.

For more details, please see annex III.

Birgitta presented the proposed activities of the AWG in support of the implementation of the eThekweni and Sharm el Sheikh declarations. The work to identify such activities had been initiated before the previous (Kigali) AWG meeting by a consultant. A first draft had been presented in the Kigali meeting, followed by a number of consultations with key stakeholders.

Activities in three areas were suggested: spreading information, strengthening the dialogue between Africa and EU, and building capacities.

For more details, please see annex III.

Questions and comments:

- Q: What is the future of AfricaSan, the monitoring of declarations, and the AfricaSan Taskforce?
- More AfricaSan conferences will be organized. The Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) has handed back the responsibility for organizing the conference, after 10 years, to AMCOW. The sanitation task force will remain the same. WSP will continue to monitoring the declaration. It is not yet clear whether AMCOW itself will organize the next AfricaSan, or ask a partner organization to do it. AWG will be needed to support next AfricaSan.
- A: WSP not being willing to organize future AfricaSan conferences is different to the task from AMCOW to implement eThekweni declaration. The role of the AWG in the implementation of the Declarations needs to be analysed in relation to the mandates of other organizations.
- Country offices of EU member states are the ones doing the major interventions at the country level. Considering the inter-regional role of the AWG, it seems difficult for the AWG itself to manage to influence African countries to allocate 0.5% of their GDP to sanitation.
- Instead, the role/niche of the AWG should be to focus on the policy dialogue and raising the profile of sanitation at EU and African sides. There is also a clear role for AWG to identify how EU support can be better targeted.
- WSP and other monitoring initiatives (Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), The Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)) are involved in analysing country specific information and identifying lessons learned regarding management etc. This should not be the focus of the AWG.
- Certain things AWG cannot do, but AWG can highlight relevant facts and influence EU member states’ country offices, which in turn can influence African countries.
- The support group should share a text version of the proposed AWG activities to support the implementation of the eThekweni and Sharm el-Sheikh Declarations, which were just presented.
- There are a lot of players in the field of water and sanitation in Africa. Like in soccer, we should not walk in the way of somebody else. Others do the monitoring of declarations, let

them do so. The added value of AWG is that we can bring certain findings to the political level. We can only influence this level if we know about the processes. We can pick up messages from monitoring and put them forth to EU and African politicians. We can also have added value in spreading solutions that have shown successful, for example Community Led Total Sanitation.

Presentation: Bonn 2011 Conference – Thomas Levin, (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) GIZ

There is a strong need to link water, energy and food. Decisions in one of these sectors have implications for the others. There will be a 40 per cent gap of water resources between supply and demand. We need to be prepared for a resource scarce future and think about these implications on other sectors.

The goals for the Bonn conference are to:

- Create better understanding of interlinkages and develop a joint perspective.
- Discuss options and solutions that can solve this challenge.

Three outcomes are aimed for:

- Positioning the water, energy and food security nexus within Rio2012 process and Green Economy debates;
- developing policy recommendations and
- launching specific initiatives to address food, energy and water nexus.

For further details, see annex IV.

Questions and comments:

- Q: How can AWG help support and influence the Bonn Conference?
- A: A first step would be to consult further with Bai-Mass Taal, who is involved in the organization of the conference.
- Q: What types of initiatives are going to be launched?
- A: Either new initiatives or new perspectives of existing initiatives, for example a stewardship alliance on how to integrate this nexus to improve water resource management framework. Not yet clarified, but progress will be within 2-4 weeks.
- Q: What is being done on the water side (considering the 40 per cent gap between water supply and demand, mentioned in the presentation)?
- A: The challenge is to bring on board the agriculture and energy people to discuss the issues they have. For example, agricultural sector is discussing food loss and food waste – this is of course automatically linked to water waste. This way we can find solutions for agriculture sector that can help resolve also water issues.

General discussion on AWG and the process towards Rio 2012

- Q: What preparations are being done on the African side to push water up on the agenda for Rio 2012?

- A: It was not on the agenda in the TAC-meeting held in Tunis in June. COP17 has been the focus for South Africa. From South African perspective, we would like to see water coming through strongly in COP 17.
- Q: So far, in the UN preparations for Rio it is not sure there will be a separate theme on Water, but that it would rather be integrated into other themes. The group was requested to consider whether further lobbying would be useful to position water more firmly.
- A: UN Water has been asked to compile a water resources report for Rio 2012. For AWG, the topics coming up in Rio on water in the economy are related to WRM, which the AWG has not worked with so far, but that are very relevant. This report is based on a survey of all countries regarding water resources management, water development and use. It also gives recommendations for the future. Based on a decision from The United Nations' Commission on Sustainable Development session 13 (CSD 13) in 2005, there was a request to UN Water to prepare official CSD-documents. This report is officially targeted to Rio 2012 from UN Water.
- In August 2012 it is 10-years ago that EUWI was agreed upon. A new ministerial meeting might then be needed between EU member states and Africa countries, perhaps to launch phase 2 of EU-Africa strategic partnership. It could be flagged in an EXCO meeting.
- The president of France has already proposed EUWI to celebrate its 10-year anniversary at the World Water Forum in Marseille, in March 2012. It is an occasion with many high level participants.
- At the same time, the AMCOW secretariat is working with the idea of AMCOW +10, looking back and forward. A meeting is planned to be held in Abuja.
- Regarding water resources management and the preparation process for Rio+20; other components in EUWI have done some work on this, and possibly they could contribute with this to the Rio 2012 meeting.
- The EUWI Multi Stakeholder Forum is an important event for these discussions. The development of a new EUWI strategy which needs to align to new EU policy on water, related to Green economy. This process is ongoing, it is not the time to start something new, we are moving to a 2nd generation.
- The EU Commission is preparing a new programme to support transboundary water management. It is now signed, lead by GWP and an African network of Basin organizations. AWG is not in charge of this, but should be closely associated. They could be invited to AWG meeting.
- The Global Water Partnership (GWP) programme on water climate and development is also of interest for our group.
- Such major initiatives should be invited to AWG meetings, since they link to AMCOW work plan.

Next AWG meeting

It was suggested that the next AWG meeting be held back-to-back with AMCOW's general assembly, which will probably take place early 2012.

The next AMCOW EXCO meeting will set the agenda for the general assembly and it would be a good idea for AWG to report to EXCO on the policy briefs already then.

Tomorrow's EUWI Multi-Stakeholder Forum and EUWI thematic strategy - Paul van Koppen

Paul described the procedures for the Multi stakeholder forum taking place on 25 August. A large part of the forum will be used to discuss the new strategy for EUWI. It is an important moment for input from stakeholders. Roundtable discussions and panel debate with key experts.

Four different topics will be discussed: 2nd generation of EUWI, the niche of EUWI, new thematic focus – growth and development, accompanying measures (funding, communications etc).

AWG can contribute well to the MSF by spreading across the different tables and contribute with your experiences to the different topics.

Comments:

- It is important to realize that what is done at the MSF will have impact on the AWG. AWG needs to share all its experience.
- We should distinguish between the developments of the new EU water policy and implementation framework and the proposed EUWI Strategy Framework.
- This is an important aspect. It has been proposed that the EUWI can take a role in making the new policy. Over time, an implementation framework will be developed. Then the role of EUWI will be taken further.

Concluding words from the co-chairs

Trevor Balzer thanked the participants for an Interesting meeting, his first AWG meeting. He suggested that we try to time meetings in the future so that we can get AWG feedback in the AMCOW process.

Dick van Ginhoven thanked the participants for fruitful discussions. He said that we have exciting months ahead, especially the opportunity to present our findings to AMCOW, and to celebrate the 10 years of EUWI in Marseille. Water issues should further be fed into the joint EU statement for Rio.

Annex I: Participants list, AWG meeting, 24 August 2011, Stockholm

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
1.	Alan Hall	EUWI Finance Working Group
2.	Anaïs Mourey	Coalition Eau, France
3.	André Liebaert	EUWI secretariat, European Commission
4.	Bai Mass Taal	AMCOW secretariat
5.	Birgitta Liss Lymer	AWG Support Group - SIWI
6.	Chris Tydeman	Consultant for EUWI secretariat
7.	Dick van Ginhoven	DGIS, Netherlands (AWG co-chair)
8.	Emelie Göransson	Sida, Sweden
9.	Jens Fugl	Danida, Denmark
10.	Joakim Harlin	AWG Support Group - UNDP
11.	Johanna Sjödin	AWG Support Group - SIWI
12.	Kirsten Dölle	GIZ, Germany
13.	Paul van Koppen	Consultant for EUWI secretariat
14.	Per Bertilsson	AWG Support Group – SIWI
15.	Peregrine Swann	WHO
16.	Pim van der Male	DGIS, Netherlands
17.	Philip Appleton	Consultant for EUWI secretariat
18.	Robert Burtscher	ADA, Austria
19.	Salisu Abdulmumin	AMCOW secretariat
20.	Sophie Tolochides	Eau Vive, France
21.	Stefanie Lorenz	BMZ, Germany
22.	Thomas Levin	GIZ, Germany
23.	Trevor Balzer	DWAF, South Africa (AWG co-chair)
24.	Winfried Zarges	GIZ, Germany (Addis Abeba office)