

<p><i>EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group (EUWI AWG)</i> <i>Meeting Report</i></p>

Date: Wednesday June 5th 2013

Time: 14:00 – 17:30

Venue: InterContinental CityStars, Cairo, Egypt (room Abdeen 1/2)

Participants:

Co-chair: Dr Nehal, chair of the AMCOW TAC,

Co-chair: Mr André Liebaert, European Commission

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- Appendix IV: Decisions of the 11th AMCOW Executive Committee of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) on 6th June 2013 in Cairo, Egypt (separate pdf file)
- Appendix V: The pan-African Water and sanitation Monitoring & Evaluation for Reporting to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (separate pdf file)
- Appendix VI: National stakeholder consultations on water: supporting the post-2015 development agenda (separate pdf file)
- Appendix VII: Presentation of the project “Strengthening the institutions for transboundary water management in Africa (SITWA) (separate pdf file)
- Appendix VIII: Presentation of the NEPAD Networks of Water Centers of Excellence (separate pdf file)

1. Welcome and opening

The 2 co-chairs, Dr Nehal, as chair of the AMCOW TAC, and Mr André Liebaert from the European Commission, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the meeting.

2. AWG progress report

James Leten, as coordinator of the support team to the AWG, provided :

- An introduction to the EUWI AWG for new members
- A briefing from the previous AWG meeting (held in Stockholm, August 2012)
- Information on the AWG mapping activity of donor support to transboundary water management in Africa
- Discussion on the need for capacity building on “Financing of sustainable water management - economics, financing opportunities and project preparation”

Presentation can be found in annex (Appendix III)

No questions were raised

3. AMCOW update – follow up from the Stockholm meeting

Hon. Bai-Mass Taal provided an update of AMCOW's work, referring to the subjects discussed during the 2 days of AMCOW-TAC meeting in preparation for the AMCOW ExCo. The decisions of the AMCOW ExCo can be found in annex (Appendix IV)

Hon. Bai-Mass Taal mentioned the meeting between European Commissioner Piebalgs and AMCOW President, Hon. Mohamed Bahaa El Din Saad, as an important milestone during the last year as the EU is the major development partner to the water sector in Africa.

Closing his briefing session, Hon. Taal urged the different stakeholders to participate to the relevant political processes and take ownership of the products, governments influencing and taking ownership at national level, and AU influencing and taking ownership at regional level.

4. Post 2015 MDG / SDG Process:

a. Briefing on the African Water and Sanitation Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force meeting (Addis Ababa, 12 April 2013)

Briefing was provide by Anselme Vodounhessi, Task Force representative,

The M&E Task Force monitors the implementation of the head of states commitments towards the different water related declarations, framed by the Vision 2025 providing clear targets. The presentation clearly developed the different themes, categories and indicators covered by the monitoring system.

Presentation can be found in annex (Appendix V)

The Q&A session reflected the difficulty to set up the monitoring system to collect the data and reporting. As such the main preoccupation of the Task Force is to put the monitoring system in place and as well as the procedures that should assure and guarantee the quality of the data.

Different members (Senegal, Algeria, Mauritania, Kenya) insisted on the importance of the Monitoring and Evaluation System, they highlighted the difficulties that the countries face in collecting the data and reporting to the task force. The mentioned countries all recognized the need to strengthen the countries in this exercise and funding gaps to do so.

Mr Alioune Kane, NEPAD network of Centers of Excellences, informed the meeting that the network can contribute to the exercise.

b. National consultation – by Alex Simalabwi, GWP

Alex Simalabwi, introduced the National Stakeholder consultations on water that took place between February and May in 22 countries, out of which, 8 African countries, as a contribution to the global consultation supporting the development of a Post-MDG agenda. The purpose of the national stakeholder consultations on water was to listen to country needs and priorities regarding the post-2015 agenda for water and sustainable development. The consultations aimed to get the voice of stakeholders on water issues to obtain a deeper qualitative understanding of individual country priorities. The country level feedback adds practitioner value to the wider policy dialogues

being undertaken by the United Nations and contributes to shaping potential sustainable development goals after 2015

The most important question is how to highlight the African priorities for introduction into global sustainable development goals.

c. Linking the African to the global process – by AMCOW secretariat

Hon. Bai-Mass Taal informed the meeting that this should happen, and is presently happening at very high political level through the High Level Panel with President Sirleaf Johnson, Africa's Goodwill Ambassador on Water and Sanitation, lobbying for the African objectives as agreed during the African Post-2015 Water consultations in Tunis (March 1st, 2013)

The meeting was informed that 2 directions are on the table for the consideration of water in the Post-2015 MDGs: 1) standalone water goals to be achieved, or 2) water as underpinning socio-economic and environmental goals. Both have supporters and both are still open.

5. Progress in water-related EU policy, the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and implications on EUWI and the AWG

a. Progress in the JAES process – by Co-chairs

Co-chair, Mr André Liebaert briefed the meeting on the progress made in the Joint-Africa EU Strategy discussion. On 25 and 26 April, European and African Union Commissioners met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This college-to-college meeting launched the preparations of the EU-Africa Summit to take place in April 2014.

André explained that, while there is no specific reference to water in the joint declaration, water was mentioned in bilateral thematic discussions. André briefed the members about the next step, which will be the start of the discussion between the EU and African Union Commissions on the future of the JAES. This will start with a brainstorming meeting planned in September.

b. Progress in the Water-Food-Energy Nexus dialogue – by Pierre Guillibert, GIZ

As explained by Mr André Liebaert, when introducing the next presentation of Pierre Guillibert, the development of future activities for the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water should be considering the Water-Food-Energy Nexus. This is based on the common focus of the African Water Vision 2025 and the European Agenda for Change, under which water should be recognized as crucial to growth and sustainable development in line with achieving water-, food- and energy security,

Mr Pierre Guillibert introduced and presented the Water Food Energy nexus. Mr Guillibert explained the concept of the approach. The concept emanates from the Bonn conference in 2011 that identified the importance of achieving concomitantly Water-, Food- and Energy security; that the limiting factor is the fact that achieving the 3 is depending on limited and interconnected resources (land, water, energy, ecosystems), and that as such the 3 sectors are depending on each other's management, requiring an holistic approach.

Mr Guillibert informed that Germany is supporting this approach, focussing on specific issues and regional dialogue processes.

In 2012, a Nexus dialogue in Nairobi, organised by Germany and UNSGAB, identified 2 major nexus issues for Africa:

- 1; Regional infrastructure, stronger cooperation, and development of hydropower
- 2; International investments in land that may lead to land-/ water grabbing)

Possible activities and initiatives are support activities in the assessment of trade-offs, in tools that assists decision-making by modelling the 3 interfaces, in particular for transboundary basins.

The Q&A session:

Senegal recognised that energy is the main bottleneck to development in Africa, and recommended that AMCOW should integrate this perspective in their work.

Guinea recalled the work already produced by the African Union, the Energy Commission and the FAO and presented in Sirte (Ministerial Conference on water for agriculture and energy, 2008).

Hence, Guinea wishes for a joint strategy and activities spearheaded by AUC.

Kenya hopes that the Africa EU initiative will be reinforced and insisted, together with Tanzania and Mauritania on the need for data and information that should inform the decision-making processes. Chad also appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of transboundary water management, as well as the need for assistance for putting in place systems that should allow meeting the water-, food- and energy needs.

Ethiopia highlighted the challenges of integrating Climate Change in the Water/Food/Energy Nexus and connecting it to the “green economy”.

Hon. Bai-Mass Taal clarified that the Nexus was an initiative and not a programme. He informed the meeting that it was asked to consider the nexus approach in the development of sectorial policies, and that AMCOW is part of the dialogue process since the very beginning. He also highlighted the importance to integrate Climate Change in the nexus approach.

c. EU funded SITWA project – by Innocent Kabenga, SITWA-GWP

Innocent Kabenga, project manager of the SITWA project (“Strengthening Institutions for Transboundary Water Management in Africa”), informed the meeting with a presentation that can be found in annex (Appendix VII).

d. JRC Centres of excellences – by Alioune Kane and Nico Elema, JRC programme

Mr Nico Elema, coordinator of the NEPAD Centers of Excellences, presented the network of Centers and the progress made in their implementation. Presentation can be found in annex (Appendix VIII).

Q&A:

Mauritania, insisting again on the importance of data generation at local level, required the strengthening of the Centres of Excellences in order to assist national institutions in this exercise.

Ethiopia finds it important to also strengthen the Centres of Excellences in other regions than Southern and Western Africa.

Senegal raised the fact that the Centres of Excellences are also very useful to the national institutions because they generate a lot of qualified staff.

e. Discussion on progress for development of future activities under the JAES

The Co-chair, André Liebaert, referring to the different presentations, called on joint efforts to reinforce the position of water in the Joint Africa EU Strategy and to develop future activities. He stressed that it is within this new framework that future opportunities for Africa-EU cooperation could be developed, in particular to address the converging priorities related to the contribution of water to the growth agenda.

6. Closing words

The meeting was closed by the 2 AWG co-chair(s) and by AMCOW Executive Secretary with closing remarks.

APPENDIX I - Agenda

Meeting of the EUWI Africa Working Group

Wednesday 5 June 2013, 14:00-17:00

InterContinental CityStars, Cairo, Egypt (room Abdeen 1/2)

Agenda item	Time
1. Welcome and opening <i>By AWG co-chair(s)</i>	14.00 – 14.10
2. AWG progress report , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the EUWI AWG for new members • Briefing from the previous AWG meeting (Stockholm, August 2012) • Information on the AWG mapping activity of donor support to transboundary water management in Africa • Discussion on the need for capacity building on "Financing of sustainable water management - economics, financing opportunities and project preparation" <i>Presentation by the AWG support team</i>	14.10 – 14.30
3. AMCOW update – follow up from the Stockholm meeting (progress, plans and financing gaps for the AMCOW work plan, upcoming 2014-2016 workplan) <i>Presentation by the AMCOW Secretariat</i>	14.30 – 14.50
4. Post 2015 MDG / SDG Process , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on the African Water and Sanitation Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force meeting (Addis Ababa, 12 April 2013) – <i>by Anselme Vodounhessi, Task Force representative</i>, • National consultation – <i>by Alex Simalabwi, GWP</i> • Linking the African to the global process – <i>by AMCOW secretariat</i> • Discussion on way forward 	14.50 – 15.15
Coffee break	15.15 – 15.45
5. Progress in water-related EU policy, the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and implications on EUWI and the AWG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the JAES process – <i>by Co-chairs</i> • EU funded SITWA project – <i>by Innocent Kabenga, GWP</i> • Progress in the Water-Food-Energy Nexus dialogue – <i>by Malte Grossmann, GIZ</i> • JRC Centers of excellences – <i>by Alioune Kane and Nico Elema, JRC programme</i> • Discussion on progress for development of future activities under the JAES 	15.45 – 16.45
6. Closing words <i>By AWG co-chair(s)</i>	16.45 – 17.00

APPENDIX II – list of participants

AMCOW TAC members

	Name	Country
1	Mr. Rachid TAIBI	Algeria
2	Mr. Lucrecio Costa	Angola
3	Mrs. Denise NDAYISHIMIYE	Burundi
4	Mr. YOUNANE NELNGAR	Chad
5	Dr. Nehal Adel Mohamed	Egypt + Co-chair of EUWI AWG
6	Ayman Ayad	Egypt
7	Tehani Sileet	Egypt
8	Dr. WIJORE Markos	Ethiopia
9	Mr. Harold Clotey	Ghana
10	Mr Keletegui	Guinea
11	Mr. Jose MICHA NSUE	Guinea Equatorial
12	Mr. Fred K. Mwango	Kenya
13	Mr. Lotfi Ali Madi	Libya
14	Mrs Zione Uka	Malawi
15	Mr. Saadou Ebih Ould Mohammed Hacen MONANE	Mauritania
16	Mr. ISMAGHIL BOBADJI	Niger
17	Mrs. Alphonsine Kahindo BWAKYANAKAZI	RDC- Kinshasa
18	Mr. Trevor Balzer	South Africa
19	Mr Amadou Dia	Senegal
20	Mr. Sylvester Matemu	Tanzania
21	Mr. Moncef Rekaya	Tunisia

AMCOW Secretariat Representatives in EUWI AWG

22	Mr Bai Mass Taal	Executive Secretary
23	Mr Salisu Abdulmumin	Programme Coordinator
24	Mr Oseloka Zikora	Communications Officer

OTHER MEMBERS

25	Yiga Baker Matovu	ANew (Africa Civil Society Network on Water)
26	Amadou Lamine Ndiaye	OMVS / ANBO

INVITED INSTITUTIONS

27	Mr Innocent Kabenga	Project Coordinator of SITWA project
28	Mr Alex Simalbui	GWP
29	Mr Pierre Guillibert	GIZ
30	Ms Jasmin Gohl	GIZ AU Addis Ababa
31	Mr Nico Elema	NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence
32	Mr Alioune Kane	NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence

EUWI Africa Working Group

33	Mr James Leten	Coordinator of the Support team
34	Mr André Liebaert	Co- Chair