

EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group meeting – Report

29 August 2012 – Stockholm International Fairs, Stockholm, Sweden

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Welcome and opening of the meeting

Dr Nehal Adel, President of the Technical Advisory Committee of African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW-TAC) and Africa co-chair of the EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group (EUWI AWG), opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She thanked Mr Dick van Ginhoven for his work during his time as the EUWI AWG Europe co-chair and expressed that she now looks forward to working with Mr André Liebaert, representing EuropeAid, as the new interim EUWI AWG Europe co-chair.

Dr Joakim Harlin, EUWI AWG support team, informed on the hand-over of chairmanship on the European side from the Netherlands to EuropeAid, which took place in July. He thanked Mr Dick van Ginhoven and the Government of the Netherlands for their dedication, expressed through their extended co-chairmanship term from 1 to 2,5 years, and their intention to continue contributing to the EUWI AWG as an active EU member state. He also welcomed Mr André Liebaert, representing EuropeAid, as the new interim EUWI AWG Europe co-chair.

Dr Adel went through the agenda and highlighted the items on reporting back from the previous EUWI AWG meeting, which took place during the Africa Water Week in Cairo in May 2012, and information from partner organizations. She stressed that the most important discussion should be the one on how the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation can become part of the overall Africa-EU partnership.

AWG progress reporting over previous period (see presentation in Appendix II)

Ms Birgitta Liss Lymer, EUWI AWG support team, gave an introduction to the EUWI AWG for new members as well as a briefing from the previous AWG meeting (Cairo, 17 May 2012) and shared the main outcomes of the EUWI AWG activities during the period August 2011-August 2012, including the following:

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/documents/agenda_for_change_en.pdf

- Facilitation of EU-Africa dialogue, through the gathering of input from working group members to the EUWI Strategy that was under development in 2011, the organization of a side event at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille and by sharing recommendations on aid effectiveness with donors and African partners at several occasions.
- Contribution to the donor preparatory process ahead of the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting. This discussion was an important reference for the respective final positions of the EU member states, at the High Level Meeting.
- Support to the compilation of the "2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa" commissioned by AMCOW. The report was used as a basis for the Ministerial statement of the 4th Africa Water Week and was further discussed at the 2012 World Water Week.
- Previous mapping exercises of aid to water and sanitation led to the establishment of new procedures for donor reporting on aid to sanitation to the OECD. To assist donors in the new reporting, the EUWI AWG published a guidance note, which has now been formally recognized by the OECD and published on their website.
- To contribute to better partner coordination, the EUWI AWG has given financial support to the participation of African stakeholders in the 2011 and 2012 World Water Weeks.
- The EUWI AWG was the lead convener of the sub-theme "Water Governance and Financing" at the 4th Africa Water Week.
- The EUWI AWG newsletter has got a new format and the new sections "Word from the co-chairs" and "AMCOW highlights" have been introduced.

Ms Liss Lymer concluded by informing on the AWG mapping activity of financial support to transboundary water management in Africa, which is now on-going. The study aims to provide a basis for enhancing aid effectiveness. It will be based on information derived through surveys to donors, Transboundary river Basin Organizations (TBOs) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Currently the survey design is in the process of finalization. Feedback on the survey design itself is welcome within the coming week. Names of contact persons at donors, RBOs or RECs are also welcome.

Comments and questions

After the presentation, the following points were clarified:

- The Johannesburg declaration from 2002 ("Launch of the African-European Union Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation") states that the EU is ready to support Africa in response to demand. Thus, there will be no unilateral decision of EU to allocate more resources to water issues, it will be done in response to a demand. This is for instance how the EU ACP Water Facility was started.
- The role of the EUWI AWG in terms of influencing the allocation of EU aid to water is through providing information on the current situation and through contacts with the EUWI AWG members who represent EU member states.
- Now that the AMCOW work plan is in place, the focus should be on how to implement it at the country level. Tomorrow (30 August 2012) AMCOW TAC will have a meeting to discuss this and they can act on information that is shared in the EUWI AWG.

- After 10 years of EUWI, we need to look to the future. The new political flagship of the EU is the JAES since 2007 where water is not very well represented. As the JAES is being reviewed, we have an opportunity to raise the profile of water and ideally have a reporting process established both to the AU council and the EU council.
- It is not enough to have political anchoring at the level of water ministers. We need to reach the level of heads of states.

AMCOW update – follow up from the Cairo meeting (progress, plans and financing gaps for the AMCOW work plan)

Ms Phoebe Luwum, Programme Officer for East Africa, AMCOW Secretariat, presented the activities of AMCOW's work plan currently being carried out and the relations with the specific activities of the AMCOW Secretariat, as well as existing financing gaps (see Appendix III where yellow indicates on-going activities and red indicates currently active partners).

She highlighted that there is currently no overarching follow up mechanism for the work plan, but that the aim is to track all parts of the work plan. For some activities AMCOW have Memoranda of Understanding with partner organizations, but where these do not exist the stage of implementation of the work plan is unclear.

The following financing gaps were presented:

Theme 2: Transboundary water resources

- Strengthening of African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) is being addressed in the programme "Strengthening the institutions for transboundary water management in Africa" funded by EC with GWP (for further info, see below and appendix VI).
This proposal has been partially funded.
- For the water functions in RECs there is a need for a long term strategy, which also needs to be financed.
- Groundwater commission also needs a long term strategy, to be financed. Diagnostics are on-going to find out what is needed from this commission.

Theme 3: Meeting the Sanitation, Hygiene & Water MDGs

- Regarding special attention to countries that are off track and to fragile states, AMCOW is now seeking funding and have proposals developed.
- Regarding the effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system AMCOW is currently working with about 20 African institutions and 12 international partners to achieve this. AMCOW is still looking for more funding to strengthen efforts across the continent.
- Several organizations are involved in the monitoring of the eThekweni declaration. AMCOW leads the AfricaSan taskforce. Capacity and staff numbers at AMCOW still needs to be strengthened for this purpose.

Theme 4: Global changes & risk management - Climate variability & Change

- The Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) has been funded by Austria and is being implemented in eight countries. More funding is needed to reach additional countries.
- UNEP, UNESCO and CEDARE carry out diagnostic work at the basin level about climate change effects and are developing scenarios. UNEP has programme on this which is not fully funded.

Theme 5: Governance

- A strategy for gender mainstreaming has been developed and there is a draft youth strategy in process. Funding is needed to advance participation of different stakeholder groups.
- Regarding AMCOW's capacity to deliver on mandate, several positions at the secretariat are still vacant. Securing of long term financing from member countries is on-going.

Theme 6: Financing

- Several priorities are unaddressed so far, including capacity building for developing bankable projects.

The following comments were mentioned during the discussion that followed:

- There are many difficulties in tracking the AMCOW work plan since it covers the entire continent and the implementation is carried out by many actors, not only by AMCOW itself. It would be interesting to see a work plan for the specific activities to be undertaken by the AMCOW Secretariat and a similar report on that work plan.
- To develop the AMCOW work plan, seven themes were identified through consultation. Implementation of some themes was started before the work plan was finalized. The AMCOW Secretariat would welcome assistance from the EUWI AWG in identifying who is doing what in respect of the seven theme areas.
- The "2012 status report on the application of integrated approaches to water resources management in Africa", which was supported by the EUWI AWG, can give some indications to AMCOW on how to move forward in the area of water resources. The report indicates the status of application among the AMCOW member states and where there are needs for additional work and support.
- In addition, the on-going EUWI AWG survey on financial support to transboundary water management will show what current donor support looks like in the area of transboundary water management and will aim to link this information to the AMCOW work plan. The study is being undertaken in partnership with AMCOW. It should also provide info to donors, to enhance aid effectiveness. It is necessary to consider how EUWI AWG activities contribute to the delivery of the AMCOW work plan.
- The link between AMCOW and the African Union Commission was discussed. This link is ensured with assistance from the two staff members funded by GIZ, based in the AUC office in Addis. The role of AMCOW as AUC's Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on water is still unclear. It is the only operational STC of AUC. AMCOW reports to the Heads of States in the African Union (AU), not to AUC, but through AUC as a channel. AUC finances the next

AMCOW General Assembly. For AMCOW to be able to report to the AU Heads of State, the AMCOW General Assembly, which is to approve the report, needs to be listed in the AUC calendar of events.

- On the issue of funding the AMCOW Secretariat, it was made clear that AMCOW aims at diversifying its funding sources. One portion should be raised from the 53 member countries (10000 USD per country and year). In addition, AMCOW Secretariat is envisaging some potential support from USAID.
- Further, donor round tables such as that convened once under the name of “Friends of AMCOW” can be important. The EUWI AWG can play an important role in resource mobilization too, since EU donors are members, and information is shared at these meetings.

Progress in water-related EU policy and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

André Liebaert informed about the latest developments regarding the new EU development policy framework as well as the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) and its review.

EU development policy (Agenda for Change)

- Mr Liebaert explained that within the Agenda for Change, which is the new policy framework put in place for EU development cooperation, there is a clear focus on “human rights, democracy and other key elements of good governance” and “inclusive and sustainable growth for human development”. As part of “inclusive and sustainable growth” there are a limited number of priority sectors mentioned, notably agriculture and energy.
- As a result, water is likely to get its main importance within the areas of energy and agriculture, and not as a separate priority area.
- The reasoning behind the Agenda for Change is to increase the impact of EU development cooperation through a reduction of the number of sectors it is engaging in. Other sectors are left to other funding mechanisms.
- However, the EU policy framework will further evolve in view of the output from Rio+20 and following processes (post 2015 framework and SDGs), under which water has a window. Also important to note, is that a “Comprehensive Policy and Implementation Framework for water in EU development cooperation” is being developed by the European Commission to respond to a request from the EU Council.
- Partner countries will however be asked to define their priorities for EU support when new country programmes are designed along the lines of the Agenda for Change. Water affairs and sanitation (and/or other sectors) could still be considered during the development of such country programmes, but this would require a strong commitment and demand from each partner country, as a component of the focus on inclusive and sustainable growth.
- It was advised that African country water representatives are made aware of this situation and remain alert when discussions of the country programming for EU support take place in their countries so that water issues and sanitation are not neglected.
- Within the European Commission, the possibility of a new ACP-EU Water Facility, with a specific focus on sanitation, is under discussion. It could be strengthened through a strongly expressed demand for support to water and sanitation from African politicians, through their representatives in the ACP Group.

- The role of the EUWI AWG is to pass this message on to African partners, who in turn can influence politicians in their respective countries to communicate a demand for continued EU support to water and sanitation.

The following points were clarified after the introduction:

- Water has not been completely eliminated from the priority areas of the EU development policy, since it is so intrinsically linked to both energy and agriculture. However, water and sanitation are no longer prioritized areas. In the end, it is during the design of country programmes that the allocation of resources to water could be determined, both within a focus on energy and/or agriculture, and as water and sanitation.
- The background as to why agriculture and energy are mentioned as the priority sectors is the Agenda for Change's focus on inclusive growth.
- The Agenda for Change builds on the idea of inclusive growth and was agreed before the Bonn conference on the water-food-energy nexus. The nexus idea has been discussed in the EU Council but has not been formally integrated in the debate.
- Energy and agriculture will be the priority areas for the European Commission. To complement this, EU member states could focus more on water and sanitation.
- Water is not a priority in the new development policy for Denmark either. This seems to be a trend among donors, but they can still be influenced by the demands from their African partners.
- In the Sharm-el Sheikh declaration it is clear that water is an important element for growth in relation with energy and agriculture. If this declaration is used in the country dialogues on future programming, water can be lifted up.
- The main entry point in the policy process is now the dialogue taking place at country level regarding the programming of EC funds. This is where consultation with African partners takes place. The policy framework (Agenda for Change) has already been approved by the EU Council and the next step is to do programming for each country. There is limited scope for coming back to the definition of the policy.
- The policy framework (Agenda for Change) will apply to all developing countries, except middle income countries.
- In light of the Rio outcomes there might however be some future opportunity for water. In addition, a regional programme for Africa is currently being discussed in parallel (see below on JAES).

Africa-EU partnership on the regional level: Review of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

- André Liebaert recalled that in 2002 a partnership on water and sanitation was launched between Africa and EU (Johannesburg Declaration). The AU and the AUC was put in place the same year. In 2007, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) was adopted at the 2nd Africa-EU Summit encompassing eight strategic partnerships. The previous partnerships, including that on water and sanitation, were not included in the new 8 JAES Partnerships.
- Since then, the EC has been working include water and sanitation in the Africa-EU partnership. In the 2nd JAES Action Plan, adopted at the 3rd Africa-EU Summit in 2010, the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation was finally recognized (as

part of the MDG partnership). In this 2nd Action Plan, water is also addressed under the infrastructure and climate change partnerships.

- Now, a review of JAES and its eight partnerships has been launched (in preparation of the next Africa-EU Summit to take place early 2014). One of the aims is to rationalise/reduce the number and structure of partnerships under JAES. The EU member states are aware of the importance to address water affairs and sanitation in a comprehensive way under the “new” JAES. Discussions with AMCOW and AUC have also been initiated to ensure this issue is lifted also from the African side. To succeed in including water affairs and sanitation in a comprehensive way in the revised JAES, we need to work actively from both the EU and African sides.
- The JAES review will not have any necessary impact on the definition on country programmes under the Agenda for Change. The JAES will instead determine how continental/regional frameworks should be shaped.
- Important to note is that there will also be an element of funding for the revised JAES: the design of a Pan-African instrument is currently under discussion in the EU Council with the purpose of supporting JAES. This could be a potential funding source for the African water agenda.

The following possible actions were identified:

- The EUWI AWG support team could provide draft letters/information for its members to pass on to relevant representatives (Ambassadors, Ministers, other) regarding the importance of raising the profile of water issues in the JAES and in programming of EU support to countries and to the ACP-EU Water Facility. Ideally, this would be accompanied by a time line with important dates.
- Collaboration with Mr Bai Mass Taal, Executive Secretary of AMCOW, to ensure that the President of AMCOW gets invited to higher level meetings to enable a channel of voicing concerns in relation to the profile of water through him.
- Mr Taal could also make use of his previous contacts with members of the ACP group and African ambassadors in Brussels.
- African water ministries need to consult with their governments in advance of their discussions with the EC to ensure that concerns in relation to water affairs and sanitation are addressed in the next country programming of EC support.
- EU member states water experts should inform their representatives in the Africa Group of the EU Council on the importance of water affairs and sanitation being adequately addressed in the on-going discussions on the JAES review.
- Pan-African actors like the AUC should also be alerted and closely involved in the discussions.
- André Liebaert was asked to continue informing the EUWI AWG on the policy process within the EC and the EU Council.

African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) update on its support to the delivery of AMCOW's work plan

Presentation by Baker Yiga, Executive Secretary, ANEW

Mr Yiga informed that the African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation (ANEW) is a network of African CSOs working with water and sanitation issues consisting of about 230 organisations. 24 of these are country level networks, giving a total of 800 organisations. ANEW coordinates their input into processes at the pan-African and in-country levels.

A memorandum of understanding has been written with AMCOW and ANEW has been involved in various ways in implementing the AMCOW work plan.

Mr Yiga informed on some of the current ANEW activities:

- On the topic of governance, ANEW contributes to tracking progress on commitments at country level. The commitments have been there for a long time. It is now time for action.
- ANEW is very active in the SWA process, and is part of the steering committee. In some countries, ANEW has had an active role in the preparations for the SWA High Level Meeting. Now there is a process to develop information packages for countries.
- ANEW is also part of the AfricaSan taskforce that works on tracking the eThekweni declaration and the AfricaSan commitments from 2011. ANEW is very concerned about sanitation.
- ANEW has been tasked to lead the youth process for AMCOW and to develop the youth strategy which is to be approved in 2013.
- ANEW was active in the 6th World Water Forum preparations as part of the financing working group lead by AfDB and also in preparing the theme on finance and governance for Africa Water Week in Cairo.

Further, Mr Yiga shared some of the challenges that ANEW faces:

- ANEW is right now working with other CSOs to see how to engage in the post-MDG process and is bringing this for discussion with AMCOW.
- There is high demand on CSOs to contribute in various processes, but this demand is seldom accompanied by resources.
- The operating environment for CSOs in various African countries is concerning. Some legal processes are on-going and it has become increasingly difficult for CSOs to work in these countries. Even though water and sanitation might not be the most contagious issue, many CSOs working with this are also involved in other, more sensitive issues. For this reason, a general hardening climate is also affecting the activities in relation to water and sanitation.
- ANEW would like to reach out better to the AMCOW TAC members at the national level.
- ANEW fears that drinking water financing will be reduced from the EC.
- Water as a human right is an important question that ANEW is working on how to implement.

“Strengthening the institutions for transboundary water management in Africa”

Progress report by Tamsir Ndiaye, Executive Secretary, African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) (see also appendix VI).

Mr Ndiaye informed that the new project “Strengthening the institutions for transboundary water management in Africa” is funded by the EC and implemented by the Global Water Partnership and ANBO. It is the third time ANBO receives funding from the EC. The project was launched at the Africa Water Week in Cairo this year.

The motivation for the project is that good water governance at the river basin level is necessary for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The project has two phases, initiated by one year of inception and then two years implementation phase. Work will be done in four of the African sub-regions and will strengthen regional cooperation and capacity. The inception phase has six objectives, including a review of the legal framework for each basin organization.

The project will be carried out by OMVS in Dakar, Senegal together with GWP. The project director Mr Innoncent Kabenga, was just recruited.

Comments

- The purpose of this presentation was to show that this project that we have mentioned in previous meetings is now a reality. The project is already part of the infrastructure component of the JAES.
- This project can help to address the concern that the RECs rarely put water or transboundary water management on the agenda.

NEPAD/AU Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Science and Technology

Presentation by Mr Andrea Leone, European Commission Joint Research Centre.

The EC gives support to NEPAD with the aim to create research networks at sub-regional level in Africa, to strengthen capacities, reduce disaster impacts, improve conservation etc.

A call for interest launched in Western and Southern Africa to identify organizations that would act as hubs that coordinate the sub-regional network of universities. University Cheikh Antha Diop in Dakar, Senegal acts as the hub for Western Africa and Stellenbosch University in South Africa acts as the hub for Southern Africa.

A working programme on education, networking and information brokerage (result of the research component of EUWI) has been established.

The networks have received seed-funding from the EC, South Africa and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.

One of the objectives of the networks is to develop the linkages with the AMCOW TAC for instance through holding joint meetings.

Comments

- It would be preferable that the networks liaise with the AMCOW TAC through the AMCOW Secretariat.

Discussion on future priorities for the Africa-EU Partnership on water (2012-2013)

Presentation by the AWG support team followed by discussion (see appendix VII).

Ms Liss Lymer introduced the discussion by presenting some of the EUWI AWG short term activities and also suggestions made at the EUWI AWG meeting in May.

Mr Liebaert commented that the revised JAES is an important framework for the future of EUWI AWG, with a potential impact on political commitment and future financing mechanisms..

Birgitta explained the process for developing and approving the next EUWI AWG work plan 2013: a draft is developed by the support team which is then decided upon by the EUWI AWG “extended troika” (composed of AMCOW TAC members, AMCOW secretariat, EU member states and NGO representatives).

One suggestion was to look at how the relationship between EUWI AWG and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) could be addressed. The Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs has commissioned an assignment to IRC, to look into how the relation between SWA and EUWI AWG could be strengthened. The result will be presented in a few weeks. However, the outcome of the JAES review might also determine these relationships.

Closing words

Dr Nehal Adel thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions to the meeting and reiterated the importance of acting on the information that has now been shared, by raising our voice and put water in focus of politicians in Africa and EU. This should be a joint process between AMCOW and EU.

Mr André Liebaert closed the meeting by referring to the earlier discussion which showed the important role of EUWI AWG in the current policy processes. There is now a window of opportunity for acting on the possible renewal of the strategic partnership. Water needs strong actions from all parties of the EUWI AWG and the EUWI AWG can facilitate this proactive work.

EUWI AWG meeting in Stockholm, 29 August 2012

Appendix I: List of participants

Name	Organization
1. Nehal Adel	AMCOW TAC Egypt and Africa co-chair of the EUWI AWG
2. Lotfi Ali Madi Farag	AMCOW TAC Libya
3. Mahmat Lamine Kosso	AMCOW TAC Chad
4. Charles Hakizimana	AMCOW TAC Burundi
5. Modawi Ibrahim Ahmes	AMCOW TAC Sudan
6. Bai Mass Taal	AMCOW Secretariat
7. Laila Oualkacha	AMCOW Secretariat
8. Charles Ngangoue	AMCOW Secretariat
9. Bala M Taham	AMCOW Secretariat
10. Phoebe Luwum	AMCOW Secretariat
11. Samia Manouni	Ministry of Water, Morocco
12. Fadima Abourrig Morocco	Hydraulic Basin Agency of Sours Mana Draa Agadir,
13. Dibi Millogo	Agence de l'eau de Makanbé, Burkina Faso
14. Sankara Bassonon	Direction Générale des Ressources en Eau, Burkina Faso
15. André Liebaert AWG	European Commission and Europe co-chair of the EUWI
16. Robert Burtscher	ADA, Austria
17. Hans Hessel Andersen	Danida, Denmark
18. Fabien Dupuis	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
19. Lionel Goujon	Agence française de développement, France
20. Karina Nikov	GIZ, Germany
21. Dick van Ginhoven	DGIS, the Netherlands
22. Sonja Hoess	ICA, African Development Bank
23. Jacques Rey	Global Water Partnership head office
24. John Metzger	Global Water Partnership head office
25. Francois Brikke	Global Water Partnership head office
26. Tamsir Ndiaye	African Network of Basin Organizations
27. Innocent Kabenga	African Network of Basin Organizations
28. Yiga Baker	ANEW
29. Lesha Witmer	Butterfly Effect/BPWI
30. Kristel Malegue	Coalition Eau
31. Sergiy Moroz	WWF Brussels
32. C. Brachet	Office International de l'Eau (OIEAU)
33. Paul van Koppen	IRC
34. Andrea Leone	European Commission/Joint Research Centre
35. Joakim Harlin	EUWI AWG support team, UNDP
36. Birgitta Liss Lymer	EUWI AWG support team, SIWI
37. Johanna Sjödin	EUWI AWG support team, SIWI