

EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group meeting – report

4 September 2013 – World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden

Appendix I: Participants list (p.10)

Appendix II: AWG progress report,

Appendix III: Update on the Post 2015 MDG / SDG Process

Appendix IV: Update on the progress in the Water-Food-Energy Nexus dialogue

Appendix V: the SITWA project

Appendix VI: NEPAD Networks of Water Centers of Excellence

Appendix VII: EC Joint Research Centre

1. Welcome and opening

- The Chair of the meeting, André Liebaert Water Policy Advisor at the European Commission, (DG DEVCO) and Europe co-chair wished all participants welcome and greeted Mr Lotfi Ali Madi Farag from the Libyan Ministry of Agriculture, Marine and Animal Wealth, who was appointed ad interim Africa co-chair of the EUWI Africa Working Group.

2. AWG progress report

- James Leten (coordinator of the [EUWI AWG](#) support team) started by introducing the Africa Working Group, its purpose, members, working processes and achievements.
- The working objectives for 2013 are to facilitate input to the [Joint Africa EU strategic partnership](#) (JAES) review process and programming of funds under the next EU multi-annual financial framework with the aim to ensure that water is addressed comprehensively in the next JAES; to support the provisions of an Africa-EU contribution to the post-MDG/SDG process in relation to water; to identify priority areas to be implemented under the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation from 2014 in support of the African water agenda and a revised JAES; and to support financial planning processes by establishing a capacity building partnership with African financing institutions (notably the Africa Development Bank) and other partners
- In the field of coordination of actions between EU donors and [AMCOW](#) as well as among EU donors and with other partners involved in water and development issues in Africa, the AWG has been able to maintain an active dialogue with a number of key organisations, including [Sanitation and Water for All](#), AfricaSan, Global Water Partnership, Bonn conference 2011, [UNDP-Water Governance Facility](#).
- A study on [financing of transboundary water management in Africa](#) was prepared by the AWG for AMCOW with the final objective to enhance aid effectiveness and division of labour processes in the area of transboundary water management but

also to inform potential beneficiaries on current donor support and policy priorities. One of the focuses of the study was the alignment of regional priorities in the area.

- In 2013, the Africa Working Group also contributed to strengthen the role of AMCOW in the water policy debate. In April, the AWG initiated a [meeting](#) between the AMCOW President Dr Mohamed Bahaa El-Din, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt, and Mr Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner for Development, in Brussels.
- To support the provisions of an Africa-EU contribution to the post-MDG/SDG process in relation to water, the AWG co-convened a full day consultation session on water in the post-2015 development agenda on 29 January 2013 in Monrovia. The “[Draft Monrovia water sector declaration to the High Level Panel](#)” was presented the following day by Bai Mass Taal, executive secretary of AMCOW, to the UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post 2015 development agenda at their meeting in Monrovia.
- The Africa Working Group of the EU Water Initiative also supported financially the organisation of a series of [consultations on water](#) organised from February to May 2013 by the Global Water Partnership in eight African countries. The purpose of the national stakeholder consultations was to listen to country needs and priorities regarding the post-2015 agenda for water and sustainable development. The results of those consultations have been fed into all other parallel processes going on at the moment towards a new post-2015 agenda.
- The AWG was instrumental in facilitating African participation in different platforms such as the World Water Week, the World Water Forum and co-convened the [Africa Focus Day](#) in Stockholm.
- J. Leten made a brief account of the AWG meeting held in Cairo, in June 2013. The meeting was a success. As many as 34 persons were present during the session, most of them from Africa, and the discussions were very constructive.
- Answering to a question from François Brikké (Global Water Partnership, Stockholm), A. Liebaert confirmed that there is a more positive feeling (than it was expressed in 2012) about the place of water in both processes (JAES review process and post-2015). In the current programming of EU resources, the European Commission is expecting countries to express their own priorities. This has also been confirmed by EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs during his meeting with AMCOW. So far, many African countries have chosen to prioritise food and agriculture in their negotiations with the EU, in line with the EUs [Agenda for Change](#). As water is a crucial resource for both food production and agriculture, it should be addressed as such in many African countries having prioritized food security in their programming, as well as in the revised Joint Strategy.
- Mr Farag added that water is getting back on top of the African Union priority list and mentioned that AMCOW is working actively to push the issue.

- Lesha Witmer (Business & Professional Women International/Butterfly Effect NGO coalition) regretted the absence of African civil society representatives at the World Water Week. It was clarified that all efforts have been made to convey representatives from AMCOW's partner the [Africa Civil Society Network for Water](#) (ANEW) to different meetings but with not much success.

3. AMCOW update – follow up from the Cairo meeting

- Dr. Salisu Abdulmumin (Programme Coordinator, AMCOW) went through the seven themes in AMCOW's [WorkPlan](#) (Water Infrastructure for Economic Growth, Managing Water Resources (Transboundary Water Resources), Meeting the Sanitation, Hygiene and Water MDG Gaps, Global changes and risk management: Climate variability and Change, Governance and Management, Financing and Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development. He pointed out that Transboundary water was the theme for this year's Africa Focus Day during the World Water Week. He also referred to the M&E instrument being put in place.
- A review process is currently going on in preparation of the General Assembly of AMCOW which will take place in May 2014 in Dakar, Senegal.

4. Post 2015 MDG / SDG Process

- Joakim Harlin (Senior Water Resources Advisor with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and coordinator of the [UN-Water](#) Task Force on Country-level Coordination) presented an overview of the work streams, coordination and progresses of the 'post-2015 development agenda'¹ with a specific focus on water.
- J. Harlin underscored the African contribution to the Monrovia thematic consultation on Water co-convened by EUWI. These efforts led to Africa's call for the adoption of a distinct water goal in the post 2015 development agenda formulated as a "Water Secure World for All" by 2030. T
- A [High-level Panel of Eminent Persons](#) was appointed by the Secretary-General to advise him on the post-2015 process. In its [report](#), the High Level Panel has put forward twelve goals seeking to combine the poverty agenda and sustainable development. Universal access to Water and Sanitation is the sixth goal on this list. However, water is not mentioned in connection to energy, food or natural resources.
- J. Harlin mentioned the thematic consultations with academia, media, private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society and decision makers. The global consultation process is organized around 11 thematic areas. Water was chosen as one of the thematic areas. Consultation in 8 African countries spearheaded by UNDP and GWP were supported financially by the EUWI AWG. The report was referenced in the [Issues Brief](#) on water and sanitation submitted to the [Open Working Group on](#)

¹ The process led by the UN to define the future global development framework will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight global development targets which come to an end in 2015

[sustainable development goals of the General Assembly](#) – mandated to prepare a proposal on SDGs for consideration by the Assembly - for their [third session](#) (22–24 May 2013).

- The discussions of the Open Working Group showed a broad support for a dedicated SDG on water, which resonated with the conclusions of the national consultations.
- The next milestone is the [Budapest World Water Summit](#) in October 2013. The Summit aims to contribute to the elaboration of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and provide concrete guidance on the most pressing water issues – drinking water, sanitation, waste water treatment, integrated water management, international water cooperation, and innovative water technologies – with a view to defining the priorities of global development policy post 2015.
- The final document should be ready early 2014. The information gathering phase ends with the 8th session of the Open Working Group. The negotiating phase starts in March 2014 with member States starting negotiating and taking ownership of the process.
- J. Harlin answered to A. Liebaert that the means for influencing the process will be more limited during this phase. The objective at this point is to make the SDG framework lean enough to reach an agreement on universal framework that is relevant even at the national level.
- In the opinion of Mr Bai Mas Taal, executive secretary of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), water is competing with seven other sectors and the issue which has the most powerful lobby group will win the game. In his view, this is a political process, therefore it is important to target the political level and anchor the importance of water and sanitation issues.
- Answering to a question from Oseloka Zikora at AMCOW, J. Harlin concurred that the interlinkages with the food and energy sectors has not received clear focus in the process. He added that the development of infrastructure is also missing. He concluded that there is much more to be done in the negotiation. In his view, looking at how things look like now, it is very difficult to predict how the process will end.
- For B.M. Taal, the link between water and poverty alleviation should not be forgotten.
- A possible role for AWG is to pass on the message and make sure that member States contribute to the same objectives in New York.
- A. Liebaert concluded the session by reiterating the EU position, highlighting water contribution to the energy and food sector.

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

- **Progress in the JAES process**
- A. Liebaert summarized the progress in the revision of [the Joint Africa-EU Strategy](#) which was adopted at the EU-Africa Lisbon Summit in 2007. He underscored the

importance of the JAES as the main policy framework for continent-to-continent dialogue and action on a wide range of issues and is likely to remain one of the primary instruments for EU/Africa relations. The next Africa-EU Summit scheduled to take place in Brussels in April 2014 is an important milestone as it will bring the review process to a conclusion. The current preparation phase of the 2014 Summit provides a rare opportunity to push water up the Africa-EU partnership agenda. Ensuring that water is addressed more comprehensively in the next JAES would most likely, apart from increasing the political endorsement for water in Africa-EU relations, also have implications on future financial support for the African water agenda.

- A. Liebaert recapitulated the past few months, starting with [6th College-to-College meeting between AU Commission and European Commission](#) in Addis Ababa. Water was not clearly raised in the [joint declaration](#) of this meeting.
- A specific process is taking place regarding implementation of infrastructure programmes with particular regard to [PIDA](#) (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa), an initiative led by the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Secretariat and the African Development Bank (ADB). Although water is one of the four sectors covered by the PIDA Project, together with energy, transport, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), water is often put aside in this framework. The [meeting of the EU/AU Reference Group on Infrastructure](#) in June 2013, in which the AWG was represented by both co-Chairs (EC and Egypt) included a discussion on transboundary water and water for growth, with a presentation of the ongoing EU institutional support to transboundary water management in Africa, a component of the current infrastructure Action Plan in the JAES. Water was recognized as part of the infrastructure agenda and one of the commitments taken in this framework was the clarification and reinforcement of the institutional framework.
- A. Liebaert called on African members to engage in efforts to raise the importance of water in the new EU/Africa strategy. From the EU side, water is present among many other sectors as one important dimension. As indicated by EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, it is now up to the African side to express their priorities. Also, in relation with the national programming of EU cooperation, the EC stands ready to respond to countries that have put water as one of their primary focus area. The dialogue on the framework of the Joint Strategy will not be organized around specific sectorial issues. This means that negotiations are led by generalists working on mandates from their constituency. It is therefore of crucial importance that water representatives on the African side engage with the AUC to influence the process leading up to the summit.
- A. Liebaert mentioned that a recent policy development at the Council of the European Union has brought increased attention to transboundary water

management issues. In July 2013 the Foreign Affairs Council issued some ['Conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy'](#).

- The business sector has a key role to play in addressing the nexus challenge. The Budapest Summit on 8-11 October and its parallel “Business Leaders Forum” are an excellent opportunity for the AWG to exchange with the business community. AMCOW will be present at the meeting and EUWI would like to seize this opportunity to present its action to corporate actors.
- A.Liebaert could also inform participants that Thomas Zipper from the Austrian Development Cooperation has been tasked to draw proposals on the future of the Africa Working Group of the EU Water Initiative, in the framework of the JAES Support Mechanism.
- O.Zikora from AMCOW could report that AMCOW had taken the necessary steps after the meeting with the EU Commissioner in April 2013 to inform African national governments of the necessity to raise the water as a priority issue in their negotiation with the EU.

Potential contribution to future activities under the Africa-EU Partnership with focus on Water/Food/Energy Nexus

- **Progress in the Water-Food-Energy Nexus dialogue**
- Pierre Guillibert, from die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit ([GIZ](#)), started his presentation by defining the Nexus approach, which focuses on the interdependence of water, energy, food by understanding the challenges and finding opportunities. The Nexus approach recognizes the interconnectedness of the three resources across space and time. Recognising the interconnection is necessary as the three resources are traditionally managed as separate issues across the spectrum of policy, planning, design and operation.
- The [Bonn Perspective on Rio+20, 2011](#) organized by the German government in the run-up to the [UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(UNCSD\)](#) gave birth to the [Bonn2011 nexus approach](#), which emphasizes the guiding principles of: investing to sustain ecosystem services; creating more with less; and accelerating access, integrating the poorest.
- As part of this new policy development, GIZ supported the organisation of a [High-level African Dialogue on the Water-Food-Energy Nexus](#) in Nairobi, Kenya on November 29, 2012.
- As a follow up, GIZ will be supporting the organisation of the [6th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue](#) on 1st and 2nd October 2013 in Lusaka, Zambia under the theme: *“Watering Development in SADC: Exploring the water, energy and food nexus”*.
- In May 2013, a workshop was organised in Nairobi by IUCN/IWA on the [Nexus dialogue on water infrastructure solutions](#), as the first in a series of three regional “Anchor” workshops (for Africa, Latin America and Asia). Participants were drawn from across Africa and from the water, energy and food sectors. The Nexus Dialogue workshop provided an opportunity to identify the problems and solutions to secure

water, energy and food security both across and within African river basins. The aim of the Nexus Dialogue workshop was to identify the different options available as solutions for optimisation of cross-sectoral water, energy and food issues. Workshop participants were encouraged to identify the barriers to mobilisation of prioritised solutions and how these can be overcome.

- As an answer to a question by Amanda Duff (DFID) on the best level within countries where the lead should be taken to implement water, energy and food nexus thinking and practices, P. Guillibert mentioned that various solutions exist. In countries such as the Republic of Egypt, the lead is taken at the highest level for coordination purposes. In other cases, the lead is taken at the core of the sector, i.e. within line Ministries to integrate externalities. A. Liebaert added that the regional level and transboundary water management should lead us to the future of the work in this approach.
- Answering to L. Witmer who reacted to his quote from the Nairobi workshop that the water sector neither has the mandate nor the capacity to take over the whole approach, P. Guillibert clarified that although Nexus initiatives are often led by the water community, the Nexus approach is not a “Water approach”. He underlined that the water community needs to “reach out of the water box”, bring all sectors to the table and raise their awareness. The danger otherwise is that the Nexus approach is perceived only as “Integrated Water Resources Management” with a new name.
- Following a question from J. Leten, P. Guillibert gave his analysis of the current status of the Nexus approach outside of the water sector. In his opinion, Nexus-based approaches are not a priority for the energy sector. The AMCOW representative supported this view. However, among examples of good practices in the sector, he mentioned the International Renewable Energy Agency ([IRENA](#)²), which has put the Nexus on its workplan, and the Sustainable Energy for All that is developing a high impact programme on the nexus. Another example is the International Atomic Energy Agency ([IAEA](#)) which has developed a [water programme](#).
- As a conclusion, L. Farag advised to look back at the conclusions of the Sirte Summit on water and agriculture in 2004.
- **EU funded SITWA project**
- Innocent Kabenga, manager of the SITWA³ project (Strengthening the Institutions for Transboundary Water Management in Africa) introduced the project to the meeting. Following the adoption of the Africa Water Vision 2025, the African Union called in 2000 for a “Federation of African River and Lake Basin Organizations” to be created, for developing and adopting a common approach to the management of transboundary waters. In response to this call AMCOW established in 2006 the

² An organization mandated by 158 countries and the European Union to promote the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, and to serve as the global hub for renewable energy cooperation and information exchange.

³ In French: Renforcement des Institutions de Gestion des Eaux Transfrontalières en Afrique,

“Tekateka Committee” which recommended the adoption of the already existing (since 2002) African Network of Basin Organizations ([ANBO](#)⁴) to provide this common platform. It was also recognized that ANBO should be strengthened so as to be able to reflect a stronger African orientation. In this context, the European Commission decided to support a Project aimed at strengthening regional and continental cooperation for the sustainable management of transboundary water resources in Africa, through programmatic and institutional strengthening of ANBO.

- The [SITWA Project](#) is implemented by the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) in partnership with the ANBO Technical Secretariat. A joint [GWP/ANBO Project Steering Committee \(PSC\)](#) has been established to manage the Project and a Project Management Team (PMT) is being established at ANBO Technical Secretariat, currently hosted by the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (*Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal* - [OMVS](#)).
 - The overall objective of SITWA is to strengthen regional cooperation at the political, economic and stakeholder level for sustainable management of transboundary water resources in Africa.
 - In particular, I. Kabenga underlined the role for the SITWA project and ANBO for optimization of cross-sectoral water, energy and food issues in Africa.
 - Tracy Sithabile Molefi, President of ANBO, stressed the potential of ANBO as a strong partner for future activities in Africa since the organisation works across various levels of River Basin Organisations.
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- **NEPAD Networks of Water Centres of Excellence supported by the EC JRC**
 - Nico Elema of the [NEPAD Networks of Water Centers of Excellence](#) introduced the Centres of Excellence by informing participants that water sciences and technologies constitute one of main flagship programmes of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). The network of centres of excellence in science and related technological innovation was designed to strengthen the continent’s capabilities to harness and apply science and technologies to address challenges of securing adequate clean water as well as managing the continent’s water resources.
 - The objectives of the Centres of Excellence are to 1) promote policy making based on scientific – technical knowledge and to 2) build capacities in the water sector.
 - To date, 8 Centres have been established in Southern Africa while the Western African CoE Network has five members. The value added of the Centres of Excellence is that they directly involve African Policy Makers in their activities and are institutionalised in NEPAD (integrated in the African Union Commission) within AMCOW, are linked to Regional Economic Commissions, and their duration in principle is linked to the NEPAD’s mandate.

⁴ In French: Réseau africain des Organisations de Bassin (RAOB)

- N. Elema underscored that the Network is looking into partnering with new entities, including with ANBO, and further geographical and thematic extension.
 - After a question from the Africa co-chair of the AWG L. Farag, N. Elema also underlined that the Network is looking into establishing links with the Middle East and North Africa Water Center Network ([MENA WCN](#)) supported by USAID.
 - Cesar Carmona Moreno exposed that the EC- [Joint Research Center](#) is the European Commission's in-house science service. Its mission is to provide European Union policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support throughout the whole policy cycle. Among others, JRC contributes to build the evidence base of the Water-Agriculture-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus. It seeks to use local expertise for the development of adapted solutions.
 - The EC supports the NEPAD Networks of Water Centers of Excellence.
 - The Joint Research Centre also developed a Web Knowledge Management System for technical and scientific cooperation in the water sector ([AquaKnow](#)). Aquaknow is a collaborative work space and repository dedicated to water and sanitation issues in the developing world where Geographical Information System (GIS) tool allows users to share and visualize geographical data.
 - In October 2012, JRC also organized a well-attended conference on exchange of experiences in water resources management between Europe, China, Africa, and Latin America
- **Open discussion on the orientation for future activities under the JAES**
 - Liebaert summarized the presentations by pointing out that Water-Food-Energy Nexus dialogue, cooperation at the transboundary level and the NEPAD Centres of Excellence are strong building blocks on the table which the AWG should consider as we redefine its future role, purpose and responsibilities beyond 2014.
- **Wrap-up and closure**
 - The chairs of the meeting, André Liebaert and Lotfi Ali Madi Farag, thanked all the participants for their attendance and good contributions.

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4 September 2013 – World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden

ANNEX 1: List of participants

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| 1. Mr Keba BA | African Development Bank |
| 2. M.H. TIMANY | African Union |
| 3. Ms. Cassilde BRENIERE | Agence française de Développement, Water and Sanitation Division |
| 4. Mr Oseloka ZIKORA | AMCOW, Algeria |
| 5. Mr Bai Mas TAAL | AMCOW, Algeria |
| 6. Ms Laila OUALKACHA | AMCOW, Nigeria |
| 7. Dr Salisu ABDULMUMIN | AMCOW, Nigeria |
| 8. Ms Tracy MOLEFI | ANBO/Department of Water Affairs (Botswana) |
| 9. Mr Innocent KABENGA | ANBO/GWPO-SITWA |
| 10. Mr Thomas ZIPPER | Austrian Development Cooperation, Austria |
| 11. Ms Leveke NEUMANN | BMZ (Germany) |
| 12. Mr Stefan REUTER | Bremen Overseas Research and Development Organisation (BORDA), Germany |
| 13. Ms Lesha WITMER | Business & Professional Women International/Butterfly Effect NGO coalition |
| 14. Ms Kristel MALEGUE | Coalition Eau, France |
| 15. Mr Flemming Winther OHLSEN | DANIDA |
| 16. Mr Hans HESSEL-ANDERSSEN | DANIDA |
| 17. Ms Amanda DUFF | DFID |
| 18. Mr César CARMONA | EC – Joint Research Centre |
| 19. Mr Andrea LEONE | EC – Joint Research Centre |
| 20. Mr Michael PLATZER | European Commission, DevCo, E3 |
| 21. Mr André LIEBAERT | European Commission/DevCo – European co-chair of the EUWI AWG |
| 22. Ms Hélène Le DEUNFF | EUWI AWG / SIWI |
| 23. Mr James LETEN | EUWI AWG/SIWI |
| 24. Mr Thilo PANZEBRETER | German Toilet Organisation/German WASH Network |
| 25. Mr Pierre GUILLIBERT | GIZ |
| 26. Ms Kirsten SCHMECKTA | GIZ |
| 27. Mr Francois BRIKKE | GWP |
| 28. Mr Andy BULLOCK | HTSPE, EC Framework Contractor |
| 29. Mr Chris TYDEMAN | IBF Consulting |
| 30. Mr Lotfi Ali Madi FARAG | Ministry of Agriculture, Marine and Animal Wealth, Libya - Africa co-chair of the EUWI AWG |
| 31. Mr Nico ELEMA | NEPAD Networks of Water Centers of Excellence |
| 32. Mr Francois Xavier NDEKEZI | Nile Basin Initiative/NELSAP, Rwanda |
| 33. Mr Halidu YUSUF | Sokoto Rima River Development Authority, Nigeria |
| 34. Mr Joakim HARLIN | UNDP |

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| 35. Mr Thevor BALZER | Water Affairs, South Africa |
| 36. Ms. Lindiwe LUSENGA | Water Affairs, South Africa |
| 37. Mr Adam GARLEY | WaterAid, Sweden |
| 38. Mr. Bello TUNAU | Water Supply Department, Ministry of Water
Resources, Nigeria - /AMCOW TAC West Africa |