

African Union Water and Sanitation Summit by Heads of State and Government

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Introduction

- Africa has the greatest potential for economic and social development this Century but this is being held back by a lack of attention to the critical role water and sanitation play towards achieving preventive healthcare, universal primary education, improved maternal health and food security

At Millenium Summit 2000 :

- Africa had about 3000 million people lacking access to adequate water supply and about 313 million people lacking access to basic sanitation

Prospects of meeting the MDGs on Water and Sanitation

- The situation now is not much better and it seems unlikely that Africa will meet the MDG targets for water and sanitation by 2015
- At its present rate of progress, many parts of Africa will not reach the water and sanitation target until 2076 – six decades behind schedule leading to an additional 133 million under five year olds dying on the continent of known and curable water related diseases.

Prospects of meeting the MDGs on Water and Sanitation

- Political commitment to action is needed at all levels – continental, regional and local that leads to policy formulation, workable institutional structures, incentives, and financing
- African Union – leading in raising the political priority for water and sanitation
- AUC – addressing the issue in a holistic way- combining the interest of Infrastructure (for hydro power) Rural Economy and Agriculture (for water resource management & water for food security) & Health (for Water and Sanitation)

African Dialogue in Tunis (December 14th, 2007)

-discussion on ways to advance water and sanitation agenda in Africa-

- Co-chaired by HRH the Prince of Orange, Chair of UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation(UNSGAB) and AMCOW President
- Attended by AfDB President and African Ministers
- Discussed vital issues to advance water and sanitation in Africa based on UNSGAB's Hashimoto Action Plan
- Tunis Joint Statement was adopted

Proposed priority actions to advance water and sanitation agenda in Africa (Tunis Joint Statement)

- **2008 African Union Water and Sanitation Summit by Heads of State**
- Collaboration to include discussion on water and sanitation for Africa in agenda of 2008 G8 Summit in Japan
- Collaboration to convene meeting with finance ministers on water and sanitation

History on the proposed Consultative Process Summit

- March, 2007: AMCOW-TAC, AUC, UNSGAB meeting on promotional action for the Summit
- May 31st, 2007: 6th Ordinary Session of AMCOW endorsing the AU Water Summit proposal
- July 19th: UN-Water Africa Meeting to discuss support by UN agencies to the Summit
- September 20th: AUC-UNSGAB Briefing Meeting to Permanent Representatives to AU
- Official process to submit the Proposal to AU-GA
- January 30th 2008: UNSGAB Chair's visit to Addis
- February 2nd: Decision by AU General Assembly

Decision by African Union General Assembly on February 2nd, 2008

- Takes note the Report of the 6th Ordinary Session of the AMCOW
- Decides that Water and Sanitation be the theme of July 2008 Summit of the African Union Heads of State
- Calls upon HRH Chair, UNSGAB to liaise with AUC and Host Government and facilitate the documentation and preparatory process

AU Water and Sanitation Summit Outline

- Pre – summit consultations with CSOs/NGO in Cairo commencing 17 to 19 June 2008
- Permanent Representatives and Executive Council meetings: In Sharm El Sheik, Egypt commencing 22nd June 2008
- AU General Assembly on June 30th in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt

AU Water and Sanitation Summit Outline

- Thematic discussion dedicated to water and sanitation by Heads of State and Government [HoS & G] of 52 African Union Member Countries
- HoS & G to review documents on the trends and prospects of meeting the MDG on Water and Sanitation in Africa
- Adoption of required policies, strategies and programmes to address this great challenge facing the African continent

AU Water and Sanitation Summit Outline

- Introduction/Presentation by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
- Remarks by the HRH Price of Orange and Chair of UNSGABS
- Statement by the Representative of the CSOs/NGOs
- Keynote address by the President of Egypt – HE President Hosni Mubarak
- Debate by Heads of States and Government

AU Water and Sanitation Summit

Objectives

- Raising water and sanitation to the top priority subject in African politics
- Prioritizing key issues on water and sanitation in Africa
- Making essential decisions and commitments by African Heads of State and Government
- Appealing to International Community for necessary support to water and sanitation in Africa

AU Water and Sanitation Summit Preparatory process and players

- AMCOW and AU Commission as main advisory and preparatory bodies
- Egypt to host preparatory meeting (Cairo in May) and the Summit (Sharm El Sheik in June-July)
- HRH Chair, UNSGAB as facilitator and UN-Water Africa, AfDB and others as supporting partners
- Close collaboration with development partners (donors, etc.)
- Consultative meetings to convene broader wisdom and experience

Steps so far taken

- February 2nd: Decision by AU General Assembly to hold the Water and Sanitation Summit
- February: AfriSan+5 “eThewiniki Declaration” on sanitation
- March 28th: “Tunis Declaration” on water security
- March 29th: Consultative Meeting for AU Water and Sanitation Summit

Steps so far taken

- May 10th : Preparatory Meeting of AU Water and Sanitation Summit in Cairo - preparations of technical documentations by:
 - AMCOW TAC
 - AMCOW EXCO
 - Development partners/UN Agencies/CSOs

Next steps

- May 27th: UNSGAB Dialogue with African Leaders on Water and Sanitation in Tokyo, Japan
- May 28th-30th: TICAD IV in Yokohama, Japan
- June: Formal and documentation process
- June 30: AU Water and Sanitation Summit
- July 7-9: G-8 Summit in Hokkaido, Japan

Discussion points today

1. What are the most important issues to be discussed in the AU Water and Sanitation Summit?
2. What decisions and commitments by African Presidents are essential to dramatically accelerate water and sanitation agenda in the region?

Thank you