

Africa Climate Summit

FINAL COMMUNIQUE FOR ACCELERATING CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA

Adopted on 4 September 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

We, representatives of the International High Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Ministers responsible for Water, African Ministers' Council on Water, African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Children's Fund, Green Climate Fund, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Africa Continental Business Network, Africa Network for Civil Society on Water and Sanitation, Global Water Partnership-Africa, National Bank of Kenya, Nile Basin Initiative on behalf of Africa Network of River Basins (ANBO) and stakeholders at the Africa Climate Summit hosted by Republic of Kenya, Nairobi:

RECALLING the commitment of the African Union Heads of State and Government of the Sharm el Sheik Declaration on Water and Sanitation of July 2008 (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(xii)), which seeks to accelerate achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa;

NOTING that climate change has direct impact on the water cycle and has brought about an acute water crisis. The consequences for development, for biodiversity, indeed for all life on the planet are dire and most severely affecting Africa and her communities. The climate change agenda and proposals for mitigation and adaptation must elevate the priority of water at all levels;

ACKNOWLEDGING that inadequate investments in water has affected the gains made across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the

critical role that water resilience and safely managed sanitation plays to climate change adaptation and contributing to socio-economic development, and the goals of Agenda 2063;

RECOGNISING that water plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of Africa, and in sustaining natural ecosystems, and is critical in building climate resilience among communities on the continent, and that the prolonged periods of drought in many parts of Africa recorded in the past 50 years has resulted in loss of livelihoods, hunger, affecting more than 36 million people with more populations migrating to other places;

RECOGNISING that the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022- 2023) recognises that building resilience of water investments in Africa is a critical response to the projected severe and more frequent impacts of climate change;

NOTING that the Continental Africa Water Investment Program adopted by the Assembly of AU heads of State February 2021 aims to bridge the water investment gap supported by the International High-Level Panel on water investments for Africa;

RECOGNISING that given the gap in funding, it is imperative to efficiently use every dollar and that sufficient instruments and tools for cross sectoral water requirements be harnessed to address both adaptation and co-benefits with mitigation;

NOTING that while significant progress has been made on the continent, financing and investments in water are limited and it is estimated that at least \$30 billion additional financing should be mobilized annually by 2030 to meet

SDG 6 targets on water and sanitation. Currently, only about US\$10-US\$19 billion is invested each year;

NOTING that the goal of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) is to close the water investment gap, transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and improved sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful and equitable society;

ACKNOWLEDGING that on 25 March 2022, during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, the Chair of the African Union His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal launched the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa to develop actionable pathways for mobilising resources for implementing the AIP and closing the existing water investment gap in Africa;

NOTING that the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, comprising representatives from the current and former Heads of State as well as other global leaders, released its High-Level Report during the UN 2023 Water Conference, 22-24 March 2023, New York;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the African Union Commission in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD and the High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa developed the Panel Report which outlines actionable pathways for African countries to mobilise at least US\$30 billion annually by 2030, for implementing the AIP and closing the water investment gap in Africa;

NOTING that the High-Level Panel recommends the AIP Pyramid of water investment transformation as a framework for engagement and mobilisation of different types of financing sources and that mobilizing domestic finance

at scale is key to attract large-scale financing, including institutional investors;

ACKNOWLEDGING the crucial need to implement reforms to enhance the enabling environment and remove the bottlenecks that are impeding progress, strengthen integrity and governance, and leave no one behind;

NOTING that the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was developed by AUDA-NEPAD as an innovative tool to track progress in mobilization of water investments, identify governance bottlenecks, and enhance mutual accountability for action at the Heads of State Level;

NOTING that Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) play a unique influencing role and that recent analyses have pointed to the inefficiency of the global financial architecture and the need for reform; and that the unique strengths of DFIs can further be harnessed for the achievement of overall sector goals through greater volume and efficiency of financing;

ACKNOWLEDGING that progress will require DFIs to realign their roles to ensure the greatest impact, measuring themselves not by what resources they bring to the table but instead what influence and leverage can be achieved with their engagement;

NOTING that DFIs play a critical role in promoting key principles of aid effectiveness, which include ownership by developing countries, donor alignment behind national policies and programmes, aid harmonisation and the use, where feasible, of local procurement and monitoring systems, managing for results, mutual accountability, inclusive partnerships, and capacity development;

WE, THE PARTNERS, RECOMMEND THAT THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT ADOPT THIS COMMUNIQUE AS PART OF THE SUMMIT DECLARATION AND:

1. **URGE** the Member States to adopt and implement the recommendation of the High-Level Panel Report on “Africa’s Rising Tide: How to Mobilise US\$30 Billion Annually to Achieve Water Security and Sustainable Sanitation in Africa;
2. **CALL** upon Heads of Government, the international community, UN agencies, development finance institutions, international organisations, private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders in Africa and globally to support the continental Africa water investment programme initiatives;
3. **URGE** Member States to develop national climate resilient water investment programmes, determine bankability through feasibility studies and portfolio approaches that account for the socio-economic and environmental considerations, profile the huge contribution of water to the economy; and acknowledge that water security and sustainable sanitation are economic enablers as well as resilience amplifiers;
4. **AGREE** that building resilience requires strong institutions to drive the change needed to access the required finance. The water sector needs to move away from institutional fragmentation and demonstrate capital efficiency;
5. **AGREE** to enhance collaboration and improve the enabling environment for preparation of a pipeline of cross sectoral water resilient and sustainable sanitation, irrigation, energy efficiency and food security

programmes that address climate change impacts and support green and blue growth;

6. **URGE** the Member States to adopt mutually agreed, mutually beneficial no harm-based water-related adaptation policies accounting for the socio-economic considerations, while promoting the co-benefits of adaptation and mitigation, and implement water related outcomes of COP 27 and follow up initiatives such as the Pan-African Center for Water Adaptation (PACWA), which reflects the importance of capacity to improve water resilience;
7. **AGREE** to cooperate within the Africa water investment partnership as a neutral platform under the African Union Commission and enhance synergies with other relevant pan-African coordination mechanisms to increase collaboration in mobilising investments for Member States on the continent through match-making the supply of capital and demand for finance;
8. **RECOMMEND** that the African Union Commission, International High-Level Panel on Water Investments Secretariat and development partners strengthen, public-private institutional investor partnerships;
9. **RECOMMEND** that the African Union and Africa Climate Summit adopt this communique as part of the Summit Declaration to accelerate implementation of climate resilient water investments on the continent.

**Adopted on 4 September 2023 during the Africa Climate Summit Session
attended by the Speakers comprising the following Ministers and
representatives of the High-Level Panel Co-Chairs and Stakeholders:**

Name	Organisation
Hon. Prof. Hani Sewilam	President of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
Hon. Alice Wahome	Cabinet Secretary, Minister for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Republic of Kenya
Hon. Calle Schlettwein	Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Republic of Namibia (Sherpa to the Co-Chair- International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa)
Hon. Meike Van Ginneken	Special Envoy for Water, Kingdom of Netherlands (Sherpa to the Co-Chair- International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa)
Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP	Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, (FCDO) UK
Hon. Mike Mposha	Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Republic of Zambia
Hon. Anxious J. Masuka	Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, and Special Envoy, Republic of Zimbabwe
Mr Omar Abdi	Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
Mr. Oswald M. Chanda	Director, Water Development & Sanitation, African Development Bank, represented by Mr. Benson Nkhoma, Principal Water Resources Management Officer
Dr. Lilian Macharia	Director, Portfolio Management- Green Climate Fund
Mr. Muhammed Sayed	Climate Change Specialist, Development Bank of Southern Africa
Dr. Towela Nyirenda Jere	Head-Economic Integration Division, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD
Dr. Hubert Danso	Chair, African Union Continental Business Network
Mr. Sylvester Matemu	Executive Director, Nile Basin Initiative
Ms. Sareen Malik	Executive Secretary, Africa Network of Civil Society on Water (ANEW), and Vice Chair, Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
Mr. Willis Ombai	Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Water Fund
Mr. George Odhiambo	Managing Director, National Bank of Kenya
Mr. Alex Simalabwi	Executive Secretary of GWPSA-Africa and, Director-Africa Water Investment Programme, International High-Level Panel Secretariat- Global Water Partnership