

## HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION ON MOBILISING COMMITMENTS TOWARDS THE AU-AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S G20 PRESIDENCY IN 2025

**Convenors: AUC, South Africa**

*In collaboration with the AIP High-Level Panel on Water Investments*

Venue: Cape Town, South Africa

19 - 20 March 2025

[Register for Online Attendance Here](#)

### DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

<b>Date</b>	19 - 20 March 2025
<b>Venue</b>	Cape Town, South Africa and online
<b>Background</b>	<p>Africa faces significant challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) - ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Despite progress, over 300 million Africans still lack access to clean drinking water, and over 700 million live without access to good sanitation. The latest estimates suggest that the continent requires approximately USD 50 billion annually to achieve water security by 2030, yet current investments fall short at USD 10 - 19 billion per year. This investment gap threatens to derail aspirations for ensuring equitable and sustainable use of water for socioeconomic development in Africa, as referenced in the Africa Water Vision for 2025. Climate change exacerbates the situation, potentially leading to increased water scarcity, food insecurity, energy insecurity, and rise in conflict.</p> <p>The main barriers to investments in water include: the significant funding gap between the required and actual investments; governance issues including inadequate water policies, regulations, and multi-sectoral strategies; limited implementation capacity and shortage of bankable projects; the insufficient focus on climate-resilient water infrastructure; and the relatively low private sector engagement in water projects.</p> <p>Ensuring that water investments in Africa are climate resilient and socially inclusive is the main challenge for Africa. The huge gap in water investments necessitates priority actions.</p> <p>The African Union-AIP Water Investment Summit 2025 is scheduled to take place in August 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa. Convened within the context of South Africa's G20 Presidency, the Summit aims to elevate the political and economic status of water investments, to enable the continent to mobilise at least USD 30 billion annually for climate-resilient water and sanitation initiatives. The Summit aligns with the broader G20 agenda on economic growth, climate sustainability, and enhanced financing for development.</p> <p>As part of the preparation for this high-level Summit, a <b>Preparatory Meeting</b> will be held in March 2025 on the sidelines of the International Water Association (IWA) Congress in Cape Town. This preparatory meeting will bring together key stakeholders, including government representatives, international development agencies, private sector</p>

	<p>investors, and civil society organizations, to refine the objectives, thematic areas, and expected outcomes of the Summit.</p> <p>The meeting will serve as a platform to consolidate partnerships, finalize the Summit’s concept, and engage with prospective speakers, panellists, and moderators. Additionally, it will ensure that the Summit aligns with South Africa’s G20 Presidency goals and effectively contributes to water security and investment mobilization in Africa.</p> <p>The March 2025 Preparatory Meeting is therefore a crucial step in ensuring the successful delivery of the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit in August 2025. By aligning stakeholder efforts, securing commitments, and refining the Summit’s focus, this meeting will lay the groundwork for transformative investments in Africa’s water sector. The outcomes of this engagement will directly influence the Summit’s agenda and reinforce Africa’s commitment to addressing its water security challenges within the global development framework.</p>
<p>Objectives of the Preparatory Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consult and engage key stakeholders on the planned content, structure, and thematic focus of the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit.</li> <li>• To consolidate partnerships and secure commitments from key organizations and institutions for active participation in the Summit.</li> <li>• To finalize the agenda, expected outcomes, and methods of engagement for the Summit.</li> <li>• To identify and confirm prospective speakers, panellists, and moderators.</li> <li>• To ensure that the Summit’s outcomes are well-aligned with South Africa’s G20 priorities, particularly in mobilizing finance for water and climate resilience.</li> <li>• To develop a roadmap for the formulation of the Summit Declaration to be presented at the G20 Summit.</li> </ul>
<p>Expected Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Refined Concept and Thematic Focus</b> – A clear framework for the Summit, including agreed-upon thematic areas and objectives.</li> <li>▪ <b>Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships</b> – Strengthened collaboration among African governments, international agencies, private sector actors, and development finance institutions.</li> <li>▪ <b>Commitments and Contributions</b> – Preliminary pledges and commitments from potential funders and partners for supporting water investment initiatives.</li> <li>▪ <b>Summit Roadmap</b> – A detailed timeline and action plan leading up to the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit in August 2025.</li> <li>▪ <b>Identification of Key Participants</b> – Finalized list of speakers, panellists, and moderators for the Summit.</li> <li>▪ <b>Drafting of the Summit Declaration</b> – Initial framework for a political declaration on water investments to be submitted to the G20 leadership.</li> </ul>
<p>Format and Structure</p>	<p>The Preparatory Meeting will take place over multiple sessions during the IWA Congress in Cape Town, with a high-level consolidation session on 20 March 2025. The meeting will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Opening Session:</b> Welcome remarks, and keynote addresses from high-level representatives.</li> <li>▪ <b>Thematic Consultations:</b> Focused discussions on the key themes of the Summit, including finance mobilization, policy and governance, and private sector engagement.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Stakeholder Roundtables:</b> Interactive sessions with development partners, financial institutions, and private sector investors.</li> <li>▪ <b>Consolidation Meeting (20 March):</b> Finalizing key decisions, commitments, and next steps.</li> </ul>
<p>Key Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives from the Republic of South Africa’s Ministry of Water and Sanitation</li> <li>• African Union Commission and other AU-affiliated organizations</li> <li>• International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa</li> <li>• G20 Sherpa representatives and other G20 delegates</li> <li>• Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO)</li> <li>• Development finance institutions (e.g., World Bank, African Development Bank)</li> <li>• Private sector investors and philanthropic organizations</li> <li>• Civil society and research institutions</li> </ul>

## Draft Agenda

**Day 1: 19 March 2025**

### Interactive Consultation with Partners & Stakeholders

Time	Agenda Items	Responsibility
Session One: Opening Session Moderator: AUC and South Africa		
13:30 – 14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration</li> </ul>	Department of Water and Sanitation, South Africa & AU-AIP Secretariat
14:00 – 14:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome, introduction of participants and objectives of the stakeholder consultation</li> </ul>	AUC
14:20 – 14:40	<b>Setting the Scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Investments in the context of the South Africa G20 Priorities and G20 agenda on economic growth, climate sustainability, and enhanced financing for development.</li> </ul>	Republic of South Africa
14:40 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concept Note for the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit in the Context of the G20 Presidency of South Africa</li> </ul>	African Union Commission
<b>Partners Interactive consultations on the proposed concept, sessions and agenda for the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit</b> Moderator: AUC/AU-AIP Secretariat		
16:30– 16:45	Summary of outcomes and recommendations	
16:45 – 17:00	Republic of South Africa	

## Day 2: 20 March 2025\*

Time	High Level Session: Mobilising Commitments towards the African Union Water Investment Summit 2025 in the context of the G20 Presidency of South Africa
09:00	<p><b>Session 1: Welcome Remarks and High-Level Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission.</li> <li>• H.E Thomas Bekele, African Union-Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency – NEPAD</li> <li>• High Level Agenda and proposed outcomes of the Africa Water Investment Summit in the Context of the G20- <i>Republic of South Africa and AUC</i></li> </ul>
09:40	<p><b>Mobilising Commitments towards the African Union Water Investment Summit 2025 in the context of the G20 Presidency of South Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Pemmy Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Republic of South Africa (Host)</li> <li>• Hon. Cheikh Tidiane Dièye, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Republic of Senegal, President of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), AU-AIP High-Level Panel Co-Chair representative and Co-Host of the UN 2026 Water Conference</li> <li>• H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi - UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Water, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia (video)</li> </ul>
10:00	<p><b>Keynote Address: Mobilising high level political commitment from G20 leaders towards the AIP-African Union Water Investment Summit 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Alternate-Co Chair-International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, Chair-GWPSA-Africa</li> </ul>
10:30	<p><b>Global Transformation Agenda: Mobilising Commitments from G20 leaders on Climate Resilient Water Investments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of global water resources -World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)</li> <li>• Global Transformation Agenda: Partnership with G20, MDBs, Climate funds and AIP partners                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha - Global Director, Global Water Practice, World Bank Group</li> <li>○ Climate Resilient Water Security for Cities; Case of City of Cape Town</li> <li>○ Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</li> <li>○ Germany Development Cooperation (GIZ)</li> <li>○ Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11:10	<p><b>Interventions from Co-Host of UN 2026 Conference, G20 Presidency 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister for Energy and Sustainability Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE (Co-Host UN 2026 Water Conference)</li> <li>• H.E Dr. Abdulaziz Alshaibani, Deputy Minister of Water, Saudi Arabia (Representing G20 Presidency 2020): <i>Highlights from the G20 White Paper on Water</i></li> </ul>

<b>11:40</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
12:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open Interactive Session with Invited Partners</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>Consolidating commitments towards the AU Water Investment Summit 2025 in the context of the G20 Presidency of South Africa, towards the United Nations 2026 Water Conference</b></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Alex Simalabwi-Chief Executive Officer, Global Water Partnership Organization &amp; Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership</li> <li>• Mr. Mtchera Chirwa, Acting Director for the Water &amp; Sanitation Department, African Development Bank</li> <li>• Mr. Chuene William Ramphele – Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Group Executive: Infrastructure Delivery, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)</li> <li>• Mr. Henk Ovink, Co-Chair of the UN 2023 Water Conference; Sherpa High-Level Panel on Water, Executive Director of the Global Commission on Economics of Water</li> <li>• Green Climate Fund Representative</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive discussion with invited Partners</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNICEF, UNDP, UNCDF, IWMI, OECD, and other AIP Partners</p>
13:30	<p><b>Closing summary</b> African Union Commission and AU-AIP High-Level Panel Secretariat</p>
13:40	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 – 17:00	<b>Bilateral engagements between Partners and the South African Government on the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit 2025</b>

\*All speakers to be confirmed based on their availability