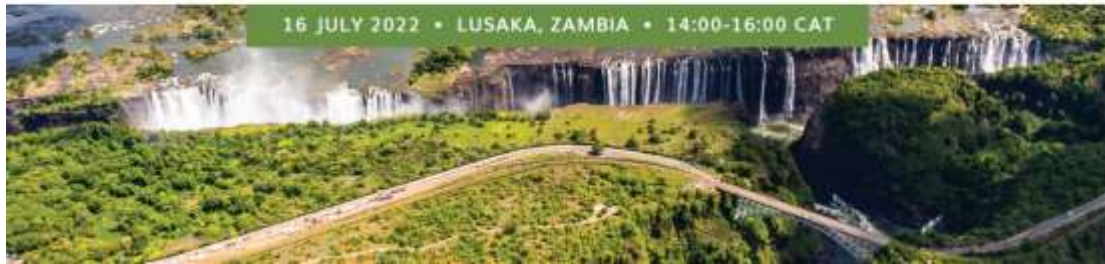




Transforming the Investment Outlook for Water Security and Sanitation in Africa



COMMUNIQUE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ZAMBIA WATER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME CONFERENCE

16 JULY 2022, Lusaka, Zambia

We, the delegates to the High-Level Zambia Water Investment Conference, hosted by H.E. Hakainde Hichilema President of the Republic of Zambia, under the theme “**Transforming the Investment Outlook for Water and Sanitation in Africa**”:

Express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the hospitality and for hosting this important gathering.

Recognise the pivotal role that water plays in the development of Africa and the challenges being faced in addressing the water investment gap to ensure provision of access to clean and safe water and basic sanitation. We

also recognize the important role of the African Union Commission in guiding pan-continental efforts towards the Africa Water Vision for 2025.

Acknowledge the pivotal role of water in Africa states realising their development agenda and Agenda 2063.

Confirm that the AIP will assist the African Union Commission in developing water policies and strategies, in pursuit of Africa's developmental and economic growth priorities. Further confirm, that the AUC will walk diligently with RECs, Member States and development partners in the pathways created by the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments on Water for Africa and support AIP implementation towards closing the water investment gap in Africa.

Remember that the 9th World Water Forum shown light on the urgent water challenges faced by Africa and affirmed that action on water and sanitation should be prioritised at the highest-level of leadership, reminding that universal access to safe water and sanitation is a human right.

Recognise we must provide political leadership and will to ensure that we don't just neglect but rather recharge the

water sources that nourish communities and natural environments.

Remind that the world is moving together and will not repeat the mistakes of the past in mismanagement of water, and will act in partnership.

Acknowledge that the water sector is fundamental to economic growth, job creation, and prosperity in Zambia and in all Africa states.

Further acknowledge that we have a responsibility to protect Africa's precious water resources for future generations and the generations that come after them to pass on states with water that can sustain life.

Note that the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) was adopted at the 34th African Union Heads of Summit in February 2021 as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan 2 (PIDA-PAP 2) to transform the investment outlook for water and sanitation in Africa.

Recognising that US\$30 billion a year needs to be invested to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 6

target on water and sanitation. Yet currently, only US\$10-US\$19 billion is invested each year.

Note that the AIP aims to close the water investments gap of US\$11-US\$20 billion/year by mobilising US\$30 billion/year by 2030.

Welcome the launch of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa by His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chair of the African Union.

Commend the convenors of the High Level Panel and encourage ongoing joint efforts by AMCOW, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, UNDP, UNICEF, GCA and GWP to support the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments in Africa;

Recognising that the objective of the High-Level Panel of sitting and former Heads of State, including H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal; H.E. Hage Geingob, President of Namibia; H.E. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, is to mobilise resources

for implementing the AIP and develop an investment action plan with actionable pathways to mobilise US\$30 billion/annually by 2030

Noting that the High-Level Panel's Report and Investment action plan will be presented at the 2023 UN Conference on water for sustainable development and the AU 2023 Mid-Year Coordination Summit.

Affirm the critical role that will be played by the High-Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa through the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) in mobilising partners to respond to the Africa water investment gap.

Recognising that the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was approved at the 35th African Union Heads of Summit to track progress in mobilisation of water investments and enhance efficiency and mutual accountability for action;

Commend AUDA-NEPAD and partners for the development of the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard as a PIDA instrument to set benchmarks, identify bottlenecks, enhance mutual accountability, and take

action to meet the investment needs to achieve SDG 6 targets on water and sanitation. The progress on the implementation of the Scorecard will be reported bi-annually to the African Union Heads of Summit.

Further note, that response strategies will be developed to address the identified challenges and bottlenecks working with national governments and partners.

Note, that the key three pillars of the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard 1) enhancing the enabling environment with strong, forward looking, and inclusive governance systems; 2) mobilising financial resources for diverse sources and 3) ensuring efficiency and sustainability of water investments. Will be critical elements to address in closing the water investment gap.

Acknowledge the support by partners on accelerating water investments in Africa and supporting the implementation of the AIP-PIDA Scorecard; and welcome support offered by AUDA-NEPAD, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, and FAO; Development Finance Institutions the World Bank, African development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA); Global Centre on

Adaptation, Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), SADC and other partners.

Urge, the AIP Partners to continue collaborating with countries in responding to bottlenecks in transforming the water investment outlook in Africa and support the development of investment programmes to urgently mobilise the resources needed to ensure clean water and sanitation for all in Africa.

Request AUDA-NEPAD to prioritise investments into AIP-PIDA to implement Agenda 2063, in a way that achieves alignment at a national, regional, and pan-continental priorities.

Commend, the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the formal launch of the Zambia Water Investment Programme by H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia. The Water Investment Programme was developed by Zambia's Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation in a consultative manner with our stakeholders under ZAWAFE and in collaboration with GWPSA- Africa and the with inputs from AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard partners led by AUDA-NEPAD and other development partners and local stakeholders.

Note that Zambia, like many African countries, faces increased water security challenges due to climate change, growing population and increased water demand, heavy dependence on groundwater, aging infrastructure, and an inadequate roll out of the required water infrastructure projects, there is a need to urgently deliver inclusive climate resilient water investment solutions. Further, noting the need to diversify water sources there is need for investments to explore the feasibility of underground fresh water to enhance climate-resilient water security.

Note, that the Zambia Water Investment Programme comes with a first of its kind mutual accountability tracking tool-the AIP PIDA Water Investment Scorecard.

Recognising, that the Zambia Water Investment Programme is aligned to the Four Strategic Development Areas of Zambia's Eighth National Development Plan, 2022-2026.

Note, the need to urgently mobilise up to \$6 billion in water security investments to enable access to clean water and decent sanitation and create about 200,000 formal jobs by 2030. In addition, the Programme envisages that at least

800,000 indirect jobs will be created for vulnerable and poor youths, women, and other marginalized groups.

Note that the Government of the Republic of Zambia cannot achieve this alone. The Private sector will be an important development partner in ensuring effective implementation of the Zambia Water Investment Programme through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to water resourcing via the Blended Finance approach, as a viable way of making development priorities on water more investable.

Acknowledge that the Zambia Water Investment Programme is the first water programme designed following the launch of the International High Level Panel.

Commend Zambia's efforts to enhance job creation through gender sensitive investments in water security, industrialization, and climate resilient development. The Zambia Water Investment Programme is structured around three focus areas, namely: Water investments to support economic transformation; resilience building through water Investment; and water and sanitation governance and institutional strengthening.

We, the Partners take this opportunity to issue this Joint Call to Action to:

- I. support transformation of the water and sanitation investment in Zambia to narrow the water and sanitation investment gap as part of the post COVID-economy recovery.
- II. support the Government of Zambia in the implementation of the Zambia Water Investment Programme (2022 – 2030) with a total budget USD 5.75 billion and ensure sustainable water and sanitation service provision.
- III. Call upon Partners and specifically the private sector to mobilise investments to support the implementation of prioritised projects and initiatives in the Zambia Water Investment Programme and support other countries in the SADC Region and Africa
- IV. Support Government of Zambia to establish an international public private Africa water investment partnership as a platform to support the High-Level Panel in championing and promoting climate resilient water investments, mobilise blended finance for the

Zambia Water Investment Programme and other countries and foster peer-peer knowledge exchange experiences with other African countries and globally.

- V. call upon countries to implement AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard through development of response strategies and investment programmes aimed at ensuring adaptation to climate change, climate resilient WASH, combating pandemics, ensuring food security, and
- VI. Furthermore, call upon partners to support SADC in efforts to mobilise climate finance for countries.

We the African Union Commission AUDA-NEPAD, Co-Chairs of the High-Level Panel: The Government of Senegal, The Government of Namibia, The Kingdom of The Netherlands, GWPSA-Africa, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank, and DBSA take this opportunity to thank the Government of Zambia for their excellent hosting and facilitation of the High-Level Zambia Water Investment Programme Conference.