

5TH WORLD WATER FORUM 16-22nd MARCH 2009, ISTANBUL, TURKEY
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE AFRICA REGIONAL DAY WEDNESDAY
MARCH 18, 2009

(19th Feb 2009 Version)

1. Introduction

1.1 The World Water Forums organised by the World Water Council, are significant global water events that take place every three years. Africa's participation in the Forums dates back to the 1st Forum in Marrakech in 1997. The 1st Forum underlined the basic human need for access to clean water and sanitation and called for actions. Since then, the centrepiece for Africa's participation has been the Africa Day events rooted around key regional water challenges and development agenda.

1.2 The African Water Vision and Framework for Action was launched on the Africa Day at the 2nd World Water Forum in The Hague in 2000. The Vision serves as an overarching water development framework for the region. The Regional Days at subsequent Forums have also served as platform for bringing African water challenges to the attention of the international community and sharing progress and experiences.

1.3 The 5th Forum in Istanbul in March 2009 presents another very important opportunity for Africa to report on progress and strengthen partnerships on meeting the MDGs and achievement of long term goals. The African Development Bank has received a request from AMCOW, the World Water Council (WWC) and the 5th WWF Secretariat to coordinate the regional participation and organise the Africa Day event. The Bank has established the necessary coordination mechanisms and launched the regional preparatory process centred on the Africa Day event as indicated below.

2. Objective of the Africa Regional Day

2.1 The 5th World Water Forum event takes places in the wake of the high level commitments made in 2008 by the political leaders with respect to addressing the main water and sanitation development issues. These are the Ministerial declarations on Sanitation, Water Security and Water for Agriculture and Energy and the Sharm El Sheik AU Heads of State and Government Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa made in July 2008.

2.2 The main theme of the 5th World Water Forum is set as "Bridging Divides for Water". In the African context, 'bridging the water divide' means Implementation of the high level commitments made in 2008. These are centred on attaining the MDGs; integrating water as key to poverty reduction and socio-economic development and building water infrastructure assets to achieve this; fostering transboundary cooperation; mobilising the financial resources; strengthening institutional and technical capacity; fostering partnership at all level; aligning African agenda and the policies of Development Partners; tackling the climate change challenges and building resilient adaptation systems.

2.3 The main objective of the Africa Day Programme is therefore to enable Africa to bring to the attention of the international community the high level political commitments made in 2008 and foster partnership for implementation in bridging the water divide in Africa.

2.4 The Africa Day will serve as platform for launching the Africa Regional Paper that will provide the status of development and actions for implementation of the high level political commitments. It will also serve as platform for engaging Africa's governments,

stakeholders and partners in advancing the regional commitments to water and sanitation and mobilising broad regional and international support to complement commitments by the political leadership.

3. Africa Day Programme

3.1 The Africa Day event will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at the main Forum venue. The event will span over 4hrs and will be held in Amphitheatre 2 of 1100 capacity at the SUTLUCE venue. The programme is designed to achieve the above objectives in three integrated sessions as follows:

- **Session I - Opening:** The opening will be presided over by high level representation of regional bodies and international partners who will make opening statements regarding the main African water agenda.
- **Session II - Launching of the Africa Regional Paper:** The Regional Paper is the centre piece of the Africa Day and will present the regional position to accelerate implementation of the regional commitments. The session will commence with a key note Address on Africa's political commitments followed by the presentation of the regional paper. Invited representatives of stakeholders and partners will provide brief statements of support.
- **Session III - Addressing Africa's Water Challenges and Priorities:** This session provides an opportunity to go into more details on four main priority water challenges. High level speakers will make presentations on (i) Water Supply & Sanitation : Accelerating Action to Meet the MDGs (ii) Water Security: Building the infrastructure assets for social and economic development and climate change adaptation in a framework of transboundary cooperation (iii) Institutional framework and capacity building: Building the institutional framework, skilled manpower, information and knowledge centres and monitoring (iv) Financing Water & Sanitation Infrastructure : Requirement and mobilisation action plan. The presentations will be followed by specific reaction from the participants.

3.2 The Africa Day will also provide an opportunity to promote the 2nd African Water Week planned to take place in South Africa in 2009 and proposed hosting of the 6th World Water Forum in Africa.

4. Participation and Outcome

3.4 The Africa Day is expected to attract over 1000 participants and high representative of governments, regional organisations CSOs, development partners and other stakeholders. This will include AMCOW EXCO and TAC with Ministers responsible for water resources; the AU Commission; ECA; UN Water Africa (FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UN HABITAT, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO); UNSGAB; AfDB, World Bank, EU, G8, IsDB, Bilateral Development Partners; RECs, ANBO and RLBOs; IWMI, GWP, ANEW, professionals, researchers, mayors, parliamentarians; and the WWC, the Government of Turkey and the 5th World Water Forum Secretariat among others.

2.5 The expected outcomes from the Regional Day are broad dissemination of the political commitments and the actions designed to operationalise them; commitment from all actors to support implementation for achieving expected results and inclusion of issues highlighting the African cause in the Forum outcomes.

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Time	Event
0830-1000	Session I :Opening
0830 - 0845	Welcoming remark – Chairperson of the Regional Steering Committee
0845 – 1000	Opening Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW President • President of WWC • Chairman of UNSGAB • Executive Secretary of the 5TH World Water Forum • Representative of the Government of Turkey • AU Commission
1000 - 1100	Session II :Launching of the Africa Regional Paper
1000 - 1015	Key Note Address by an Eminent Personality
1015 – 1030	Presentation of the Regional Report by ADB
1030 – 1100	Reaction to the Regional Report - Stakeholders & Partners
1100- 1115	Short Break
1115 -1300	Session III: Addressing Africa’s Water Challenges and Priorities
1115-1200	Key Note Presentations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water Supply & Sanitation : Accelerating action to meet the MDGs by AMCOW 2. Water Security: Building the infrastructure assets for social and economic development by ANBO 3. Institutional framework and capacity building for sustainable development by UN Water Africa 4. Financing Water & Sanitation Infrastructure : Requirement and mobilisation by ADB
1200 -1230	Reaction from Audience
1230-1245	Promotion of 2 nd African Water Week and hosting of the 6 th World Water Forum by AMCOW/ South Africa
1245-1300	Wrap-up and Closing of the Regional Day