



Economic Commission for Africa

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

# MESSAGE FROM LUSAKA

*The Southern Africa Stakeholders Consultation Meeting towards Africa's participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was held at the COMESA Conference Centre, Lusaka, Zambia on 10 - 13 December 2008. The Stakeholders Consultations were held back-to-back with the AU (SARO)-ECA (SRO-SA)-AfDB Seminar on "Water and Sanitation in Southern Africa Development Community (SADC): Innovative Approaches for Resource Mobilization and Policy Implementation". The event brought together sixty*

*one delegates and participants from the water and sanitation sector in SADC, including representatives from Government departments responsible for water supply and sanitation in the fifteen SADC countries, the private sector, civil society and community based organizations, media representatives, representatives of inter-governmental organizations including SADC, the African Union Commission and the UN organizations*



**Delegates at the seminar took note of the following situation of the region with respect to water and sanitation:**

- Only 40% of the fifteen SADC countries are on track to meet the MDG target on water supply;
- 13% of the SADC countries are on track to meet the MDG target on sanitation;
- 33% of the SADC countries are not likely to meet any of the twin targets on improved water supply sources and safe sanitation.
- The participants took note of the SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation which outlines the measures for the attainment of the MDG targets on water and sanitation in Southern Africa

In view of the foregoing, the following recommendations were adopted at the conclusion of the deliberations:

1. Financial assistance from the G8 countries is needed in the SADC Member States as well as the alignment of resources with existing gaps in national budget processes. Funding water and sanitation should receive higher priority because of the potential impact it has on food production, improved health and the attainment of other MDGs.
2. SADC Member States should place greater emphasis on sanitation by establishing water supply and sanitation departments where they do not exist and direct substantial resources to capacity building at all levels and infrastructure development.
3. There is need for Peer Learning and experience sharing on water and sanitation management among member countries and need to promote water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes in schools.
4. There is need for creation of a database for credible regional and national water and sanitation data in SADC and national situation analysis and reality checks to stimulate better planning, resources mobilization and to recommit efforts towards the achievement of the MDG targets.
5. There is need to promote water and sanitation as a basic human right to all citizens, and to ensure the sustainability of water and sanitation services delivery through mandatory budgetary allocations and innovative funding mechanisms.
6. The strategic importance of water and sanitation as a development resource need to be recognized and adequate resources allocated to the management of this important resource.
7. Preparedness, information sharing skills and action plans on adaptation to climate change need to be promoted.
8. Put in place legislation and harmonize policies to enhance the smooth implementation of water and sanitation programmes.
9. Methodologies for more effective community participation and indigenous private sector participation and development need to be promoted.
10. Promote partnerships for the mobilization of resources with commitment and accountability for actions among all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, the achievement of the MDGs on Water and Sanitation and the African Water Vision 2025.