

SWAKOPMUND DECLARATION ON “ACCELERATED ACTIONS FOR INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SANITATION AND HYGIENE SERVICES DELIVERY IN AFRICA”

1. **We**, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for water, sanitation, hygiene and related affairs in Africa;
2. **Together** with the representatives of: all levels of civil service; civil society; development partners; academia; the private sector; and other stakeholder groups at the 7th Africa Sanitation and Hygiene Conference on: “*Strengthening systems and partnerships for accelerated action on safely managed sanitation and hygiene*”, during the period November 06 – 11, 2023, in Swakopmund, Namibia;
3. **Acknowledging** existing declarations, protocols, and frameworks, on assuring safe sanitation and hygiene services delivery in Africa;
4. **Recognizing and affirming** our related continental and global commitments as encapsulated in ***Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation; the 2015 N’gor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene; and the 2021 Windhoek Multi-Stakeholder Resolutions for Accelerating Water Security and Access to Safely Managed Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa;***
5. **Mindful** that the 7th Africa Sanitation and Hygiene Conference is taking place at the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Africa’s progress on which is at risk of not achieving key targets;
6. **Concerned** by the statistics of the number of our people that are yet to adequately have access to safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene services;
7. **Additionally concerned** by the fast-fading aspiration of actualising, by 2025, the Africa Water Vision which seeks to realise an Africa where there is, among others, sustainable use, management of water resources and sanitation for all to achieve poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and a healthy environment;
8. **Aware** of the negative impacts on Africa’s health systems and economic activity, that result from climate exacerbated public health emergencies of preventable diseases associated with sanitation failures;
9. **Committed** to raising the profile of water and sanitation in national systems for economic planning as an integral element of mechanisms to improve domestic allocations and attract investments to the water, sanitation and hygiene sector;
10. **Further committed** to mobilising funding to implement AMCOW initiatives, especially the Africa Water Facility (AWF) hosted by the African Development Bank;
11. **Additionally committed** to utilising the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPGs) towards inclusive, sustainable and resilient sanitation and hygiene

services delivery in Africa, especially given the lessons learnt from combatting the COVID-19 pandemic;

12. **Welcoming** the call for support towards closing the water, sanitation and hygiene sector funding gap by leveraging US \$30 billion in investments by 2030;
13. **Cognizant** of the imperatives of taking stock of the status of the implementation of the **2008 Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa**, and the call to begin the stakeholder consultations towards the adoption of the post-2025 Africa Water and Sanitation Vision;
14. **Commending** the leadership provided by the Republic of Namibia; the Africa Union Commission (AUC); the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW); and other partners to organise this 7th edition of the Africa Sanitation and Hygiene Conference.

15. WE UNDERTAKE:

- 15.1. **To revitalise** the pursuit of the targets of the Ngor declaration through promoting *“Accelerated Actions for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery in Africa”*.
- 15.2. **To release** the development potential of the sanitation economy to benefit business and society in Africa. Of particular urgency, is the need to address the sanitation failures associated with floods and or droughts subsequently causing disease burden constraining productivity of the labour force and degrading the environment in most of the Member States. The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPGs) provide the framework for promoting the sanitation economy.
- 15.3. **To promote** *Assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063* as the theme of the African Union for 2026 when the post-2025 Africa Water Vision comes into effect.
- 15.4. **To act**, with urgency, on our declarations and political commitments the implementation of which will contribute to the following outcomes:
 - 15.4.1. Governance and sanitation enabling environment**
 - a. strengthened AMCOW governance arrangements that contribute to raising the profile of sanitation and hygiene and strengthen Member States' and partners' pandemic preparedness and response capabilities;
 - b. Member States' enabling environments for sanitation and hygiene services provision are aligned with global and continental commitments, and reported on biennially to the Governing Council to facilitate consolidation of improvements; and,
 - c. mechanisms are institutionalised by all Member States for formulation of policies and implementation of approaches that create conducive conditions for empowerment and equitable participation of women and youth in all sanitation and hygiene related decision-making processes.

15.4.2. Partnerships for action

- a. streamlined and coordinated partnerships for accelerated action to achieve safely managed sanitation and, eventually, broader and deeper impact on the service delivery landscape; and,
- b. enhanced private sector confidence to invest in delivering, maintaining, monitoring, growing and improving water, sanitation and hygiene services for all as a profitable business.

15.4.3. Innovative financing and resource mobilization

- a. strengthened mechanisms for tracking sector financing – at AMCOW level – and strengthened mechanisms for coordinating, leveraging, and improving efficiency of utilising investments to the sector; and,
- b. increased human and financial resources targeting both inclusive hygiene behaviour change programmes and the availability of services.

15.4.4. Inclusion, hygiene and behaviour change

- a. functional institutional arrangements across sectors for integrated and gender responsive hygiene services provision and behaviour change; and,
- b. systematised development of a society with an aptitude for sanitary living through utilisation of existing technological preferences; indigenous knowledge and cultural practices; local values; and traditions of community learning.

15.4.5. Research, knowledge creation, capacity development, and learning

- a. enhanced institutional capacities for generating, applying and brokering information and knowledge resources to enable delivery of inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services;
- b. improved access to reliable and complete data and information to assure science-based policy formulation and implementation as well as timely decision making for interventions at all levels; and,
- c. a raised level of prestige and attractiveness of sanitation and hygiene related occupations to strengthen Member States' capacities particularly in the fields of waste disposal; water quality and wastewater management.

16. In conclusion, we remain committed to the mission of achieving inclusive, sustainable, and resilient sanitation and hygiene services delivery in Africa.

Done this 10th November 2023 in Swakopmund, Namibia