

CONCEPT NOTE

AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATION TOWARDS THE 11th WORLD WATER FORUM

This concept note presents the key elements of coordination for the Africa Region in the framework of the eleventh World Water Forum 2027. It includes the background of the coordination, strategic framework, structure, lines of action and the roadmap towards the Forum.

BACKGROUND

Introduction

The World Water Forum (WWF) is the world's largest water-related event and is co-organized every three years by the World Water Council in close collaboration with partners, the host city and country. The Forum brings together the international community with the aim to build political commitment, promote awareness, and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels. Following the 10th WWF, successfully held in Bali Indonesia, the 11th WWF in 2027, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will no doubt be the perfect stage to present the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy and review its First Implementation Plan 2026-2033 and other high-level commitments. For Africa, this Forum represents a defining moment following the launch of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy in 2026 under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and coordinated by the African Ministers' Council on Water. Building on the legacy of the Africa Water Vision 2025, the new Vision extends the continent's aspiration for "a water-secure and resilient Africa with safe sanitation for all". It places water and sanitation at the core of Agenda 2063, aligning the sector's strategic direction with Africa's broader transformation and climate-resilience agenda.

Water and sanitation remain fundamental to human health, economic prosperity, and environmental integrity. The continent's population – projected to exceed 2.5 billion by 2050 – faces mounting demand for water services, while the impacts of climate change exacerbate scarcity, flooding, and ecosystem degradation. Despite progress achieved under the July 2008 Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments, the 2015 Ngor Declaration, and other AU-endorsed frameworks, Africa remains off-track to achieve SDG 6. The latest [2024 WASSMO report](#) highlights persistent challenges in financing, infrastructure, data systems, and institutional capacity, yet also notes growing investment momentum and stronger coordination mechanisms emerging through AMCOW's leadership.

High-Level Commitments and Progress:

Since the launch of the previous Africa Water Vision 2025 (AWV2025) in 2000, at the entry of the new Millennium, the continent has witnessed an array of high-level commitments, declarations and events. These have rightfully elevated the profile of the water and sanitation sector. These include the 2008 Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals Declaration; the 2004 Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture in Africa (both made at the African Union level); the 2003 Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON); the 2008 AMCOW eThekweni Commitments on Sanitation; and the 2015 Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene, the 2023 Swakopmund Declaration on Accelerated Actions for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery in Africa, among others. These high-level political commitments have broadened the understanding of water and sanitation sector as a key driver for socio-economic development across all levels. These efforts reflect a recognition of the imperative to prioritize water and sanitation for Africa's economic growth and prosperity.

Progress and Challenges:

AMCOW's *Pan-African Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring and Reporting System (WASSMO)* recent reports show some positive and worrisome trends. The *2024 Annual Report of the Commission on the implementation of the July 2008 Assembly Declaration on the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/ Decl. 1 (XI))*,¹ shows notable improvement in the proportion of the African population with access to safely managed water and sanitation, including tangible results that demonstrate the impact of targeted investment and governance reforms. Some Member States have met or exceeded irrigation development targets, unlocking agricultural potential. Infrastructure investments are seeing results, as some Member States have developed more than 30% of their irrigation potential to bolster food security. Governance reforms are gaining traction, with continent-wide Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) implementation reaching 54%, and 15 countries strengthening institutional coordination. A few countries have reduced untreated wastewater by 80%, while some have virtually eliminated open defecation. However, insufficient sector funding represents a challenge to Africa's sustainable development objectives.

Despite progress, the Continent is still off-track to achieve the related continental goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets on water and sanitation. Financing shortfalls threaten sustainability as only a few countries met the 0.5% GDP allocation for sanitation and hygiene. The overall average of the percent of national budgets allocated to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene is 2.9%, which is far below the 5% target. Overreliance on external aid – reported at 84.3%, well above the 25% target for sector financing – risks long-term resilience. Equitable access is still far-fetched as services to deliver safely managed drinking water are accessible to only 48.5% of the population, and open defecation persists at 14.5% continent-wide. Wastewater treatment remains largely unmonitored, climate vulnerability is acute with data gaps in adaptation planning, hindering proactive responses, especially to reduce direct economic losses from water-related disasters in relation to national GDP. Data scarcity is impeding progress as insufficiency of information on key parameters for analysis under thematic areas of water infrastructure for growth; managing and protecting water resources; and climate change and disaster risk management. These constrains evidence-based decision-making.

Bridging the Gap in Africa:

Building on the lessons learnt from the AWW2025, Africa proposes focused interventions in the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy as follows:

- **Mobilise domestic resources:** elevate the profile of water and sanitation in national development plans; institutionalise innovative financing mechanism – green bonds, blended finance, public-private partnerships; and reduce aid dependency.
- **Close the sanitation gap:** scale-up community-led solutions to end open defecation; align policies with the Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines; and invest in faecal waste management.
- **Harness digital transformation:** expand tools like remote sensing for real-time water accounting; climate risk forecasting; and infrastructure planning.
- **Foster peer learning:** create regional platforms for sharing best practices – like Senegal's pro-poor tariff models or Botswana's wastewater treatment innovations.
- **Embed water in climate resilience:** mainstream water security in National Adaptation Plans and leverage climate funds for basin-level interventions.

Looking Back at Africa's Engagement in WWF Editions

Since the first edition held in 1997 in Marrakesh, Morocco, the World Water Forum has served as an important platform for bringing Africa's water security and sanitation challenges as well as solutions to global attention. The past Forum editions have helped strengthening partnerships in tackling water and sanitation issues on the continent. More importantly, the past editions have helped provide greater awareness and visibility to what the

¹ <https://amcow-online.org/2024-africa-water-and-sanitation-sector-monitoring-wassmo-report/>

continent is doing at political, sub-regional and country levels. The launching of the African Water Vision at the 2nd WWF in 2000, at The Hague, laid the foundation for regional strategy on water and sanitation targets for 2025. Since then, targets and aspirations set out in the Africa Water Vision 2025 have remained the key drivers for the continent's water agenda towards an agreed vision of *“an Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment”*.

In 2003, the 3rd WWF, in Kyoto Japan, served as the forum for launching of the AMCOW flagship initiatives: the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiatives (RWSSI) and the Africa Water Facility (AWF). Both initiatives are hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The 4th and 5th WWF held in Mexico in 2006 and Istanbul in 2009 respectively took place during the period that witnessed major continental commitments, outlining the position of Africa on various key issues. The period saw African Heads of State and Government demonstrating great political leadership and commitment. The commitments carried Africa's water crisis and policy challenges from the margins to the centre stage of the continent's development agenda.

In 2012, the 6th WWF in Marseille, France, provided a unique platform for Sector and Finance Ministers from Africa to consider ways to mobilise resources for the water and sanitation sector in Africa. AMCOW in partnership with the African Union Commission, the AfDB, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Government of France, used the occasion to mobilise resources for the RWSSI and AWF. This was a concrete response to the Heads of States request made during the 2008 Summit in Sharm El-Sheik. Heads of States called on African Ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the AfDB and development partners, to hold a meeting of Ministers of Water and Finance to develop appropriate financing policies.

The 7th WWF in 2015, in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, South Korea, provided the stage for rallying calls to African governments and development partners to double efforts at implementation level to deliver the much-needed water and sanitation services. This rallying call resonated with an earlier call of the AMCOW, on the urgent need to address the unfinished MDGs targets on water and sanitation, under in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Africa also used the Forum to call for a dedicated post-2015 development agenda on water to sustain enhanced levels of global support to the sector. Africa also used the 7th WWF to support Senegal's bid to host the 9th WWF in Dakar, Senegal.

At the 8th WWF held in 2018, in Brasilia, Africa stressed that the rate of progress being made on water-related challenges was insufficient. Africa noted that expanding investments in sustainable water management was required in Africa, especially in areas most heavily hit by climate change impacts. It was also sounded alarms that the challenges linked to climate change increased the difficulty of making the 2030 Agenda a reality. Tailored regional approaches to achieving water security, taking into account climate variability, was noted as essential. During the 8th WWF, an effort to bring more attention to sanitation issues was made through regular and special sessions such as 'Sanitation Services in Small Towns', 'Whole Sanitation Approach, Sanitation Chain, Innovation' and the session on 'Addressing the Sanitation Gap'.

In 2022, the 9th WWF held in Dakar, Senegal, was the highest point in the history of the Forum as it marked the first of its kind to be held in Sub-Saharan Africa. Apart from focusing on the 2030 Agenda for transformative action, at the 9th WWF, a "Blue Deal" on water security for peace and development was launched. Developed by stakeholders to respond to current water challenges, the Blue Deal sets five principal domain areas for action. These include the following:

- Acceleration of the implementation of the rights to water and sanitation.
- Ensuring the availability and resilience of water resources.
- Ensuring adequate financial resources to invest in water and sanitation.
- Ensuring inclusive water governance.
- Enhancing cooperation in the domain of water and sanitation.

The Dakar Declaration was intended as a contribution to a broader diplomatic process on water issues that culminated in the once-in-a-generation UN 2023 Water Conference held in March 2023 in New York.

The 10th World Water Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2024, advanced the global dialogue on “Water for Shared Prosperity.” The Forum emphasized the urgent need for integrated, inclusive, and climate-resilient water management as a foundation for sustainable development and peace. It further reinforced Africa’s position in global water diplomacy by advancing the principles of the Blue Deal toward concrete action. For Africa, the Forum served as a strategic platform to align the newly adopted Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy with global priorities, mobilize partnerships, and advocate for increased investment in the continent’s water and sanitation agenda. The Forum strengthened collaboration between African governments, regional institutions, and development partners—helping to shape financing commitments, innovation exchange, and policy coherence.

The 11th World Water Forum and the Regional Process

Under the theme "Action for a Better Tomorrow", the 11th WWF is scheduled to take place from 22 - 28 March 2027 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As is the tradition, the Forum will be made up of the following primary components:

- **Political Process:** This foundational gathering brings together a diverse group of global water experts, policymakers, private sector leaders, and civil society representatives to define the Forum’s strategic direction, key priorities, and action-oriented outcomes.
- **Thematic Process:** The Thematic Process is essential in shaping policies and strategies that address the most pressing water-related challenges worldwide. It facilitates the exchange of best practices, fosters cooperation among stakeholders, and influences policy decisions. It creates a structured approach where knowledge is translated into real-world solutions, ensuring sustainable water management.
- **Regional Process:** Water challenges vary widely across regions, requiring localized strategies that account for geography, climate, and socio-economic conditions. The Regional Process provides a platform for governments, stakeholders, and communities to collaborate on context-specific solutions, knowledge-sharing, and policy alignment. Strengthening regional dialogues ensures that global commitments translate into context-specific customized actions, fostering sustainable water management practices that reflect local priorities and promotes global learning from grassroot level innovation.
- The **Fair and Expo** which is a space for all stakeholders to showcase their contributions.
- The **Water Prizes**, a reward to motivate water management at global governance and grassroot innovation level. **Networking Opportunity:** Opportunities for policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to collaborate, share best practices, and form partnerships

The Regional Process is one of the key processes for the WWF. It provides an opportunity to pull together regional voices and priorities. It also helps feed into the other processes for in-depth understanding of regional perspectives on status of thematic issues and political water agenda. This process also facilitates the exchange of new knowledge and sharing of experiences as well as best management practices across different regions. The Regional Process has its core value in developing, analysing, and presenting case studies and practices related to issues at the local and regional levels.

The Regional process incorporates local and regional perspectives throughout its preparatory process and other processes. The Regional Process is interlinked with other processes, bearing in mind that the importance of each sub-theme for the Thematic Process varies in every regional or local context. While the challenges in a particular region might be comparable, understanding the priority issues and solutions in each region or local context is paramount. The Regional Process also drives the political process through policy recommendations, commitments, and sharing of knowledge and experiences from a regional and local perspective.

The 11th Forum therefore marks a pivotal moment – not just to discuss, but to act. It calls on governments, innovators, youth, and communities to move from dialogue to delivery – scaling solutions, mobilizing financing, and forging inclusive partnerships. This is a global rally to break silos, localize action, and generate lasting impact across every region, river basin, and generation. The WWF11 will reinforce regional processes that articulate

thematic and political issues from local and regional perspectives. This will result in more customized political commitment for action at the local level and practical solutions for thematic areas.

The regional process also targets understanding different regional experiences and knowledge in water management. To do this, a wide range of multi-stakeholders from regions and sub-regions are invited to draw localized solutions that could be realized in the regional context. Each region is invited to choose at least three (3) topics from the thematic framework considering its water priorities. The six (6) subthemes for the 11th WWF as well as their related topics are summarised in the table below. AMCOW proposes to assign thematic leads to facilitate deep discussions around each subtheme and related topics.

1.	Sub-Theme	Related Topics
1.	Water Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1A. Groundwater and Surface Water: Determining availability and promoting equitable, cross sectoral and transboundary management in rural and urban areas. • 1B. Water-Related Disasters: Mitigating and adapting to floods, droughts, and desertification through planning, early-warning, and nature-based solutions and mitigation infrastructure, including dams and water storage infrastructure. • 1C. Integrated Water Resource Management: Expanding IWRM using basin-level and source-to sea approaches under climate and demographic pressures. • 1D. Closing the Loop in Water Resources Management: Enhancing demand efficiency, promoting reuse and circular economic principles, strengthening resilience by integrating nonconventional resources • 1E. Securing Water for Food Security: Advancing sustainable agriculture through efficient irrigation, equitable allocation, alternative water, and climate-resilient transformation.
2.	Water Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2A. Applying Innovative Water Financing Mechanisms: Scaling emerging tools like fintech, green/blue bonds, adaptive tariffs, and ecosystem payments beyond blended finance. • 2B. Private and Public Sectors Engagement: Opening New Corridors: Aligning and mobilizing PPPs, corporate and impact investments, and smart subsidies under strong public frameworks. • 2C. Funding for Water Resilience and Climate Adaptation: Prioritizing investment in WASH, climate-smart f, and scalable, nature-based adaptation solutions. • 2D. Funding and Loans for Multiscale Projects: Expanding access to finance for small and midscale projects and for smaller entities or stakeholders using microfinance, decentralized funds, and inclusive models. • 2E. Enabling Conditions for Scaling up Strategic and Inclusive Water Financing: Strengthening legal frameworks, institutional capacity, and risk management to unlock multi-scale finance.
3.	WATER FOR PEOPLE AND ECOSYSTEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3A. Enhancing Access to Safe Drinking Water Services for All: Guaranteeing safe drinking water as a human right through resilient service delivery, inclusive governance, cost-effectiveness, and nature-based solution • 3B. Developing Access to Sanitation Services and Improve Wastewater Collection and Treatment: Ensuring full sanitation access and manage the entire wastewater chain from containment to reuse and safe discharge. • 3C. Protecting and Restoring Water Ecosystems and Aquatic Biodiversity: Restoring freshwater and coastal ecosystems through nature-based solutions, watershed protection, and pollution control. • 3D. Improving Water Quality in a One Health and Multi-Sectoral Approach: Enhancing water quality by addressing pollution across sectors through a One Health lens linking people, animals, and nature. • 3E. Water-Energy-Food-Health-Ecosystems-Education Interlinkages: Positioning water as the core connector across sectors through a new horizontal, cross-cutting approach.
4.	WATER GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4A. Adopting Policy, Regulatory Frameworks, and Institutional Mechanisms: Aligning national and local governance to catalyze multi-level partnerships and deliver on SDG water targets. • 4B. Strengthening Political Will and Coordination: Bridging the gap between global goals and local implementation through coordinated, accountable action and resource alignment. • 4C. New Instruments for Water Sustainability Policy Consensus: Empowering actors from local to transboundary levels to co-develop water policies via inclusive, multi-scale cooperation. • 4D. Towards Holistic Water Advocacy and Public Awareness Programs: Elevating water through education, civic engagement, stakeholder dialogues, and broad awareness platforms. • 4E. Engaging Unheard and Vulnerable Voices: Promoting human rights-based governance by including women, youth, Indigenous people, and cross-sectoral actors in decision-making; innovating new water diplomacy solutions to provide water and sanitation to communities in humanitarian crisis and conflict zones
5.	INNOVATION FOR WATER MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5A. Hydro informatics and AI Tools for Water Management: Leveraging AI, Earth observation, and digital tools with strong governance, cybersecurity, and tech-sector collaboration.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5B. Deploying Cutting-Edge Water Technology: Moving from pilots to full-scale adoption of innovative technologies, environmentally sound and socially equitable over the long term, including reuse, desalination, and smart sensors. • 5C. Data and Overcoming the Lasting Challenge: Modernizing water information systems with real-time data, digital twins, and decision-support innovations. • 5D. Engaging Citizen Science and Community-Based Knowledge: Combining traditional knowledge and citizen-led innovation with technologies tailored through local participation. • 5E. Knowledge Sharing: Advancing open data, peer learning, capacity building, and lifelong training opportunities
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OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL PROCESS

The following summarises objectives for the Africa Regional process:

- Launch the First Implementation Plan of the Africa Water Vision and Policy and the flagship initiatives that for its realisation.
- Showcase the Africa Common Position as Africa’s common message and an action framework for realising the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy and the First Implementation Plan for the period 2063 and Policy.
- Catalyse peer regional learning and exchange of experiences through technical sessions that foster understanding around shared water challenges, innovative practices, management and governance models.
- Identify and agree on models and approaches to enable stakeholders to sustain the elevation of water and sanitation on the political and economic agenda and provide actionable inputs for the implementation of the Africa Common Position.

AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATOR

The African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) was established in 2002, in Abuja Nigeria. AMCOW’s mission is to provide political leadership, policy direction, and advocacy in water management, as well as the provision of sanitation and hygiene services for sustainable social, economic and environmental development as well as maintenance of Africa’s ecosystems. AMCOW’s organs and structures serve as the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) of the African Union.

Since its establishment, AMCOW has led and supported a series of WWF’s regional processes. In partnership with the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other development partners, AMCOW has utilised its convening power and organs for strategic global engagement and further the water agenda. AMCOW is also well aware of the scale of the challenges that its member states face in pursuit of the ambitious targets under the Africa Water Vision 2025 and SDG6.

AMCOW also understands that the water and sanitation challenges of the African continent cannot be overcome by any single entity, whether that be government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector or civil society. AMCOW firmly believes in the value of collaborative action to develop robust and equitable solutions for managing water resources and delivering WASH services. As an intergovernmental organization, AMCOW actively work with partners who can bring complementary perspectives, expertise and resources to the table. AMCOW serves the needs of AU member states in their mandate to manage the water resources in their respective countries toward the interest and needs of citizens.

AMCOW through the **AfricaSan** and **Africa Water Week** conferences makes a substantial contribution to knowledge management in Africa’s water and sanitation sectors. The conferences also support policy dialogue, sharing of best practices and experience in implementation of water and sanitation programmes. In addition to the conferences, other AMCOW initiatives include the following:

- **Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System (WASSMO):** This is the first ever continent-wide automated web-based system. It exclusively captures data on water and sanitation across member states using harmonised progress indicators.
- **African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG):** The ASPG Initiative aims to provide support and guidance to strengthen an enabling environment for sanitation in Africa. AMCOW seeks to utilise the ASPGs to align Member States' sanitation and hygiene policy environments to international best practice.
- **AMCOW Pan African Groundwater Program (APaGROP):** The vision of APaGROP is that through improved groundwater policy and practice, groundwater is used sustainably and equitably. It also seeks to increase resilience around water and food security, leading to improved livelihoods across Africa.
- The **Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiatives (RWSSI)** and the **Africa Water Facility (AWF)** hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB). These serve as vehicles for quick catalytic trust funds to support the preparation of water and sanitation sector bankable projects to attractive investments.
- **The AMCOW Knowledge Hub:** An open-source web-based Knowledge Hub that collect, store and share indigenous water and sanitation information. It promotes knowledge for evidence-based policy advisory services and planning. The objective is to make knowledge easily accessible for member states as well as water and sanitation sector actors, across Africa and beyond.

In addition, AMCOW has working relationships with different development partners to support the implementation of its work programme and priorities. AMCOW has also signed memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with selected organisation to lead and support delivery of thematic work under its work programme.

Proposed Actions:

AMCOW, in collaboration with the African Union, the African Development Bank, and other development partners, proposes the following actions as part of the regional process.

- 1. Dialogue with Member States**
 - AMCOW will engage its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Country focal persons across the Member States to help identify thematic issues and solutions in the water and sanitation.
 - Through TAC and Focal Persons, AMCOW will invite member states to review the position paper and documents from thematic leads.
- 2. Call for Case Studies and Best Practices**
 - AMCOW will engage member states and development partners to help identify case studies and good practices to present at the Forum.
- 3. Regional Consultation Workshops**
 - In collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AMCOW will organise and utilise its subregional consultation workshops to identify priorities and solutions under different themes of the Forum.
 - AMCOW will also utilise input from its statutory subregional meeting based on regional priorities from the first implementation plan of the AWW2063&P to solicit input into the themes of the Forum.
 - Inputs will also be solicited from the civil society organizations, youth groups, and various entities regarding the key issues and solutions to the sector in Africa. Regional consultations will be open to all entities including government agencies, operators, private sector, academia, and civil society.
- 4. Ministerial Dialogue Session**
 - AMCOW will also use the high-level ministerial statutory meetings to seek further guidance and consider proposals for action and recommendations to be presented at the Forum.

Regional structure:

To facilitate the 11th WWF regional preparatory process, AMCOW proposes to set up the following structure:

- 1. Regional Steering Committee: To guide and steer the Africa regional process.**
 - Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (Chair)
 - AMCOW President, Senegal

- Director of Water Development and Sanitation Department, AfDB
- AMCOW EXCO members (one representative per 5 sub-regions)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- UN-Water (Africa)
- African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)
- 11th WWF Secretariat
- AMCOW Executive Secretary

2. **Regional Co-ordination Committee:** To lead thematic consultations and synthesis of issues at various levels.

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| • AMCOW-TAC Chair (Co-Chair) | • ANEW |
| • African Development Bank (Co-Chair) | • ECOWAS |
| • TAC-West Africa | • SADC |
| • TAC-Central Africa | • ECCAS |
| • TAC-North Africa | • IGAD |
| • TAC- East Africa | • EAC |
| • TAC- Southern Africa | • AfWASA |
| • GWP-SA | • World Water Council - Africa Programme |
| • ANBO | |

Secretariat Support

AMCOW proposes to engage a consultant(s) to support with the synthesis of technical discussions and input. The consultants(s) main task will be to develop the Africa Regional Position Paper that synthesise and consolidate various technical inputs at all levels.

PROPOSED DELIVERABLES:

The Africa Regional Process will generate a set of strategic deliverables that consolidate Africa’s engagement before, during, and after the 11th World Water Forum. These deliverables will reflect the continent’s priorities, showcase regional progress and innovation, and support the translation of Africa’s water and sanitation agenda into concrete action. The following is a summary of the deliverables for the Africa Regional Process:

- **Regional Concept note:** The Regional Concept Note will serve as the guiding document for the Africa Regional Process. It will define the overall scope, objectives, coordination arrangements, key activities, timelines, monitoring approach, and stakeholder engagement strategy for Africa’s participation in the 11th World Water Forum. The document will align activities undertaken in the lead-up to the Forum with Africa’s strategic priorities and ensure coherence across Member States, regional institutions, development partners, civil society, private sector actors, youth, and other stakeholders.
- **Africa Regional Report:** The Africa Common Position will be presented at the 11th World Water Forum. This position is being developed through consultations with African Union Member States, under the leadership of the African Union Commission and AMCOW, in collaboration with UNECA, UNDP, AfDB, and other partners. The report will articulate Africa’s water and sanitation landscape, including key challenges, progress achieved, emerging opportunities, and priority actions required to advance the continental water agenda. It will build on the launch of the AU Theme of the Year on “assuring sustainable availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063,” as well as the endorsement of the Africa Water Vision and Policy. Positioned as an action-oriented framework, the Africa Common Position will guide the continent’s transition from policy endorsement to implementation. It will also present Africa’s unified priorities to the global community, demonstrating

how regional initiatives contribute to global water security, sanitation, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

- **Regional Process Showcase:** The Africa Regional Process will include a curated set of showcase sessions aligned with the Forum’s sub-themes and related topics. These sessions will provide a platform for Member States, regional institutions, and partners to highlight successful policies, programmes, partnerships, and implementation models. The showcase will facilitate peer learning, promote knowledge exchange, and increase the visibility of scalable initiatives across the continent. Sessions will be convened by Member States in collaboration with partners and mandated institutions, with a focus on practical solutions that can be replicated or expanded.
- **Africa Regional Commitments:** drawing from the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy, the common position for the region will articulate agreed upon commitments and focus areas for incorporation into the Forum’s final political and thematic outcomes. As guided, the commitments will be centred around the following:
 - Basin-scale resilience pacts or transboundary water cooperation frameworks.
 - Finance compacts, such as regional investment platforms, climate adaptation funds, or green bonds.
 - Policy charters, promoting regional standards for sustainable water governance or equitable access.
 - Commitments should be measurable, time-bound, and transparent, with a mechanism for post-Forum monitoring and follow-up
- **Innovation & Initiatives Portfolio:** the First Implementation Plan of the Africa Water Vision and Policy (2026-2033) comprise impact driven flagship initiatives towards accelerating the realisation of the vision and policy. These flagship initiatives will be showcased at the Forum. The purpose is to attract resources, partnership and solutions grounded in regional realities. The Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting (WASSMO) system will be used to track progress on the implementation of the flagship initiatives, common passion and Africa specific outcomes from the 11th World Water Forum

PROPOSED ROADMAP TOWARDS THE FORUM

Date	Regional Process Action/Milestone
1. March-May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept Note Finalization • Africa Regional Steering Committee Constituted (ToRs finalised) • Thematic leads identified and information (ToRs finalised) • Regional Process Consultant ToRs Finalised • Recruitment of Regional Process Consultant Finalised • Planning for the Regional Kick Off Meeting • Integration of 11th WWF Consultations into Subregional Consultations Meetings • Regional Consultations where applicable selected
2. June - August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-Off Meeting for Regional Process with Member States governments and development partners • Convene Regional Steering Committee meeting • Validate the Regional Process with Member States and Partners • Call for case studies and best practices. • Regional Consultation Sessions ongoing • Draft Plans and Agenda for the Africa Focus Day at the 11th WWF
3. August - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene Thematic Sessions with Thematic Leads • Draft Structure of the Africa Region Position paper • Draft Plans and Agenda for the Africa Focus Day at the 11th WWF

4.	October - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW Ministerial Statutory meeting on WWF Issues and Recommendations • Propose Africa Delegation at the 11th WWF • Convene Sessions with Thematic Leads • Development of the draft Africa Regional Position Paper • Draft Plans and Agenda for the Africa Focus Day at the 11th WWF
5.	January - February 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Africa Delegation at the 11th WWF • Convene Regional Steering Committee Meeting to review progress. • Review of the draft Africa Regional Position Paper • Validation and Finalisation of the Africa Region Position Paper • Translation and publication of the Africa Region Position Paper • Finalise Plans and Agenda for the Africa Focus Day at the 11th WWF
8.	March 22 - 28, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level Africa representation at the 11th WWF • Africa regional position paper is presented at the 11th WWF.

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