



21<sup>ème</sup> Congrès International & Exposition  
de l'Association Africaine de l'Eau  
21<sup>st</sup> African Water Association International  
Congress & Exhibition

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7<sup>ème</sup> Conférence Internationale sur la Gestion  
des Boues de Vidange.

7<sup>th</sup> International Faecal Sludge Management  
Conference

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**ABIDJAN 2023**

## **ABIDJAN DECLARATION**

for a sustainable management of resources  
and access for all to water and sanitation  
in Africa

We, the Ministers in charge of water and sanitation issues present at the 21st Congress of the African Water Association and the 7th International Conference on Sludge Management,

1. **Guided** by the principles and ideals of the United Nations Charter;
2. **Recognizing** that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is essential for economic and social development;
3. **Recognizing** the need to implement integrated water resource management to ensure the use of water for all present purposes and the preservation of water for future purposes;
4. **Bearing in mind** the commitments of the international community on water and sanitation enshrined in UN resolution 64/292 (2010), the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Daegu Declaration and the establishment of the International Decade of Action on Water for Sustainable Development;
5. **Reaffirming** the relevance of the Africa Agenda 2063 and the African Water Vision 2025 on access to water resources and quality sanitation in Africa and the world;
6. **Concerned** that it will be difficult for many African countries to achieve, by 2030, Sustainable Development Goal 6 as defined in the United Nations 2030 Agenda: "Ensure access to water and sanitation for all and ensure sustainable management of water resources";
7. **Recognizing** that access to water should no longer be considered a choice;
8. **Recognizing** that the most vulnerable populations, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, access water and sanitation services under inequitable conditions (higher prices, long distances to travel)
9. **Concerned** about the time spent by women to ensure water supply to the detriment of other tasks and especially access to school for girls;
10. **Aware** that the lack of access to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure can be a barrier to schooling for both boys and girls;
11. **Concerned** about the lack of funding for sanitation when it has been proven that poor sanitation jeopardizes health and hygiene gains;
12. **Concerned** about the lack of funding for the maintenance and upkeep of both water and sanitation infrastructure;
13. **Aware** that the difficulties encountered in achieving SDG6 stem not only from insufficient funding for investments but also from the difficulty of financing planning and preliminary studies;
14. **Determined** to act for a sustainable management of resources and access to water and sanitation for all so that no one is left behind, whether in rural or urban areas, men or women, young or old, and so that boys and girls have equal opportunities;

15. **Aware** that coordination at all levels (States, Ministries, Agencies, Basin Authorities) is a condition for universal and equitable access to drinking water and sanitation services,

CALL ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO:

**1. Guarantee access to quality water and sanitation for all by considering the right to water and the right to sanitation as elements of a single right;**

- 1.1. Plan and manage drinking water and sanitation infrastructure in an integrated manner;
- 1.2. Develop projects that address access to safe water and sanitation in an integrated manner;
- 1.3. Use technologies that reduce the burden of water supply, especially for young children and the elderly in rural areas;
- 1.4. Take into account the specific needs of women, especially girls in schools, in the construction of sanitation infrastructures.

**2. Guarantee the availability of resources in quantity and quality for access to water and sanitation;**

- 2.1. Promote scientific knowledge in the field of water resources, both surface and groundwater, in order to build knowledge-based policies;
- 2.2. Adopt and promote the implementation of integrated water resources management plans;
- 2.3. Promote the implementation of water resources mobilization and regulation assets to take into account seasonal variability;
- 2.4. Adopt national and transnational action plans to fight against pollution linked to anthropic activities;
- 2.5. Promote and strengthen transboundary cooperation in the management of transboundary hydrological and hydrogeological basins.

**3. Ensure sustainable financing of water and sanitation services:**

- 3.1 Mobilize sufficient and sustainable financial resources for the budgets of African countries for the financing of planning and preliminary studies, the financing of new investments and the financing of the maintenance and management of drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural, peri-urban and urban areas;
- 3.2 Encourage the financing of drinking water and sanitation facilities in critical infrastructures such as health centers and schools;
- 3.3 Create incentives for the implementation of innovative financing and the involvement of the private sector in the financing of drinking water and sanitation services, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas.

## **THEREFORE**

- **RECOMMEND** that the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire submit this Declaration as a contribution to the mid-term review conference of the Water Decade (2018-2028) to be held in New York in March 2023;
- **RECOMMEND** that the Unit for the Follow-up, Promotion and Capitalization of the Results of the 09th World Water Forum include the conclusions of this Declaration in the advocacy on the endorsement of the Blue Deal for Water and Sanitation Security for Peace and Development;
- **INVITE** the Ministries in Charge of Water and Sanitation Issues and all technical and financial partners to ensure the effective implementation of the commitments of this declaration;
- **CALL** for the creation of a ministerial platform for coordination and experience sharing between the different African countries to follow up on the commitments and to pool advocacy efforts on water and sanitation issues;
- **CALL UPON** the African Ministers' Council on Water to take ownership of the commitments made in the Blue Deal for Water and Sanitation Security for Peace and Development and the Abidjan Declaration;
- **COMMIT OURSELVES** to strengthen our cooperation through periodic meetings to review the progress of the commitments made and to reflect on common strategies;

**THANK** the Head of State, the Government, the People of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Ministers and representatives of Senegal, Niger, Malawi and Madagascar.

Done in Abidjan on February 22, 2023