

CSOs Statement to the AMCOW/Regional Implementation Forum

CSOs Forum During the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (Panafcon) 6 – 13 December 2003

Preamble

We members of African Civil Society, having met during the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (Panafcon), held from 6 to 12 December 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, reaffirm our commitments to achieving the MDGs and the JPOI targets on water in Africa;

Appreciating the leadership of AMCOW, the support of Regional Implementation Forum through the United Nations system, and development partners to the civil society's participation in this conference;

Recognising that water for sustainable development is a prime responsibility of our Governments;

Recognising the commitments of the Heads of States and Governments, at the Millennium and WSSD Summits, and their acknowledgement of the valuable role of CSOs if we are to meet the international development targets;

Recognizing that although water is a basic need and a fundamental human right, we have not made adequate progress towards reaching the specific water related targets set in the MDGs;

Hereby express the following concerns:

That:

1. The development of water resources in Africa has not been sustainable as well as community owned and driven;
2. The impact of conflicts in the use and access to water resources affect very significantly the socio-economic well being and livelihoods of people in Africa, exert pressure on the environment, including shared water resources;
3. Policies have failed to adequately address the needs and access of the communities in sustainable water supply;
4. There are minority groups who are marginalized and sidelined from the MDG's and the AMCOW processes.
5. There are also whole regions, due to conflict or no recognition, also left outside the MDG's and AMCOW processes.
6. Sensitive and fragile zones in Africa, such as dry lands as well as the peoples in these zones (including pastoralists) have been marginalized as a result of unfavorable and uneven water resources development;
7. The management and use of water resources have not adequately addressed the central role that women and youth play;
8. The management and valuation of water resources have not adequately taken into consideration the contribution of indigenous knowledge systems, and capacity building of stakeholders;
9. Deforestation and degradation of water catchments areas have been going on without adequate checks;
10. The internationally agreed targets on water cannot be reached with the existing financing mechanisms.

In pursuance of the above, we urge all African Governments and their partners in development to further commit themselves to the challenges posed by the MDGs and the JPOI and to:

1. Recognize and promote peace as a pre-requisite for sustainable development, including water resources development;
2. Appreciate more the vital role of water resources in attaining food security, alleviating poverty and enhancing peoples health;
3. Protect watersheds by, among others, the protection of forests;

4. Better manage knowledge, including through the mainstreaming of indigenous knowledge in the modern decision making process;
5. Acknowledge the role of science and technology in water resources management;
6. Enhance the role of women in water resources management by adequately empowering them;
7. Establishing and making available to users for purposes of decision making reliable water resources data base at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
8. Integrate and harmonize national policies on water and set up regulatory frameworks to govern water use and address the problems of unsustainable water supply;
9. Put in place sub-regional water resources facilities that can be used to assist in the integrated management of national water resources;
10. Introduce innovative incentives to promote corporate social responsibility and good practices in production/business, as well as establish enforcement mechanisms (polluter pays mechanisms)
11. Build capacity across the board including training in such areas as training and technology program in IWRM;
12. There is need for inclusion and recognition of rights of people living in marginalized areas (dry lands, conflicts affected areas, areas without recognition, etc) and minority groups, their control over resources critical for the livelihood, recognition of their peculiarities and need for their empowerment.
13. Give recognition to the rights that minorities have to water and ensure their involvement in decision making processes in pursuance of the Ouagadougou outcome;
14. Put in place the necessary and appropriate infrastructure for water management and access;
15. Strengthen coordination and cooperation for the mobilization of both internal and external resources and the wise use of such resources as well as make increased effort to allocate more budget for water resources and urge developed country governments to honor their financial and other commitments without any conditionality;
16. Domesticate the various international agreements to which our Governments are parties; and
17. Promote enhanced urban governance through land use planning and mechanisms to deal with informal urban settlements in a manner that will facilitate improvements in the quantity and quality of urban water supply.

We call upon the Regional Implementation Forum to formalize CSO participation in the regional process and ensure proper follow up of commitments on water, sanitation and human settlement as well as make public the budget and work plans, through multi-stakeholders dialogue at the regional and sub-regional level for interfacing and engagement with civil society, for further implementation of the MDGs and WSSD targets.

We also call upon African governments and other partners to recognize the role that civil society can play in awareness raising, capacity building and in implementation and scaling up of water resources programs at all levels, financially and technically.

On our part, we commit ourselves to participate in Africa's water resources management, including:

1. Project design and risk management;
2. Capacity building;
3. Promotion of IWRM at all levels and sectors taking into account all the time traditional water management practices;
4. Building community awareness and strengthening information exchange;
5. Conflict resolution at all levels; and
6. Drought management.

In conclusion, we reiterate and reinforce our commitment to the principles of partnership as well as to open scrutiny, transparency and accountability.

Water is life

Participants to the CSOs Forum prior to and during the AMCOW / Africa Regional Implementation Conference:

1. Kenya NGO Forum on WSSD (Kenya)
2. Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements (CREUMHS – Kenya)
3. Eau vive (Niger)
4. Organisation de Défense de l'Environnement au Burundi (ODEB - Burundi)
5. Women's land and Water Rights in Southern Africa (regional)
6. African Reference Group on Water (ARGOW)
7. Green Earth Organization (Ghana)
8. Center for Environment and Community Development (CECD - Nigeria)
9. African Civil Society Network on Water (ANEW)
10. Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA)
11. Collectif Pro-Femmes (Rwanda)
12. SADC Youth Movement (regional)
13. Southern Sudan Community Development Aid (SSCDA - Southern Sudan)
14. Green Cross (Burkina Faso)
15. Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS - Botswana)
16. MNC Cameroon
17. Earth Care Africa (regional)
18. Arid Lands Resources Management Project (Kenya)
19. Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) – Egypt
20. Arab Network for environment and Development (RAED) – Egypt
21. Sustainable Development and Environment Network of Kenya (SENKE - Kenya)
22. Forum of African civil Society Organisations for Sustainable Development (FACS – regional)
23. Johannesburg +10 Institute (South Africa)
24. ENDA TM (Dakar)
25. Environmental Policy and Legislation (Ethiopia)
26. Alliance Nationale pour la Nature (ANN - Congo Brazzaville)
27. Association tchadienne pour la défense des droits des consommateurs (ADC – Tchad)
28. Africa 21st Century Development Organisation (Kenya)
29. Young Volunteers for Environment (Togo)
30. Global Water Partnership (GWP – Eastern Africa)
31. Kenya Water Partnership – KWP
32. Foundation for Environmental Development and Education in Nigeria (FEDEN – Nigeria)
33. Centre régional pour l'eau et l'assainissement (CREPA)
34. Coopérative féminine pour la protection de l'environnement - Mali (CO.FE.P.E)
35. Collectif Interafricain des Habitants (CIAH – Cameroun)
36. Coalition des ONG et des OCB du Cameroun oeuvrant dans le domaine des Etablissements Humains (CONGEH)
37. Développement Communautaire et Assainissement du Milieu – Bénin (DCAM - BETHESDA)
38. Association pour la protection et la défense des droits des femmes (APDF – Mali)
39. East African Wildlife Society in Kenya
40. Mundri Relief Development Association – South Sudan (MRDA)
41. Gender Water Alliance (West Africa)
42. CIDRI
43. Water Aid Ethiopia
44. Living Water International (Kenya Office)
45. Centre de Recherches Concertées sur le Développement (CRCD) Togo
46. Groots Kenya
47. Ghana Coalition of NGOs on Water and Sanitation (Ghana)