



24 Nov 2010

WWAP – UN-Water/Africa

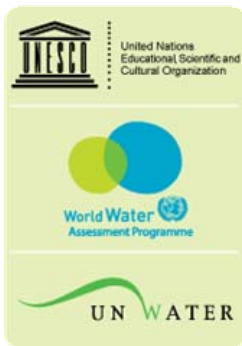
Joint Side Event

– 12:30-14:00 –

UNCC Small Briefing Room

THE STATE, USE AND MANAGEMENT OF WATER IN AFRICA FROM A MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PERSPECTIVE

The conveners:



The **United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)**, founded in 2000, is the flagship programme of UN-Water. Housed in UNESCO, WWAP monitors freshwater issues in order to provide recommendations, develop case studies, enhance assessment capacity at a national level and inform the decision-making process. Its primary product, the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR), is a periodic, comprehensive review providing an authoritative picture of the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources.

The **UN-Water/Africa** group started in 1992 as the Inter-Agency group on Water in Africa (IGWA). It was the African response to a request by the former UN Administrative Committee on Coordination (UNACC) Sub-Committee on Water, to coordinate and harmonize water activities in Africa by various UN agencies and other sub-regional IGOs. It is a pioneering example of how the UN can "deliver as one". The group's work covers all aspects of freshwater in Africa including both surface and groundwater, the interface between fresh and sea water, the assessment of quality and quantity of water resources, their development, use, management, protection, and conservation. The group's work also includes sanitation – both access to, and use of sanitation by Africa's population – and interaction between sanitation and freshwater, water-related disasters, emergencies and water-related extreme events and their impacts on human security. The major achievements in the water resources field stem from the formulation in 2000 of the African Water Vision 2025 by all stakeholders under the leadership of ECA, AfDB and the OAU. This Vision was developed as part of the preparatory processes to the 2nd World Water Forum and has served as the Framework for all activities by the major stakeholders (AU, AMCOW, AfDB, UN Water/Africa and the Regional Economic Communities) in the water sector in Africa



The side event:

The WWDR, released every three years in conjunction with the World Water Forum, is a collective product of the 28 UN agencies and their partners making up UN-Water. The 4th edition that will be launched in March 2012 has "water management under conditions of risk and uncertainty" as overarching theme. It includes regional reports, of which one on Africa. During this side event, WWAP will present and discuss with the participants the contents of the draft Regional Report on Africa. Recent water-related developments, most important external drivers, main challenges for Africa, principal risks and uncertainties in the region will be addressed. Interesting examples of how some countries are dealing with these challenges will also be presented.

Sound water resources management should be based on a quantitative understanding of the state of the resource. However, hydrologic data are inadequate in both spatial coverage and frequency of observation in Africa. Monitoring, observation and continual assessments of the status of water resources should be given more attention and more resources in order to reduce uncertainty and facilitate decision-making. WWAP and UN-Water will stimulate the discussion regarding periodic water resources assessments on a regional basis.

Agenda

12:30 Welcoming speech
Bai-Mass Taal, Executive Secretary, AMCOW (TBC)

12:35 Welcome and Introduction
Ms Michela Miletto, WWAP Deputy Coordinator

WWAP Regional Report on Africa: a contribution to the 4th ed. of the UN World Water Development Report

Chair: Ms Michela Miletto, WWAP Deputy Coordinator

12:40 Brief presentation of WWAP, WWDR4, and its regional report component
Ms Michela Miletto, WWAP Deputy Coordinator

12:50 Presentation of the contents of the draft regional report on Africa
Mr Michael Mutale, WWAP Consultant

13:00 Discussion with participants
Rapporteur: Mr Michael Mutale
Facilitator: Mr Abou Amani, UNESCO-IHP Regional Hydrologist

13:15 Wrap-up of the discussions
Mr Michael Mutale

The need to revive the African Water Development reporting process and link it with the WWDR

Chair: Dr. Josue Dione, UNECA / Mr. Bert Diphooorn, UN-HABITAT / Dr. Mounkaila Goumankode, UNEP (TBC)

13:20 Introduction
Dr. Josue Dione / Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis (TBC)

13:25 Presentation: the African Water Development Report 2006 and its process
Mr Stephen Maxwell Donkor, Chair, UN-Water Africa

13:35 Discussion with participants
Facilitator: Mr Stephen Maxwell Donkor
Rapporteur: Mr Alexandros Makarigakis, Science Programme Specialist, UNESCO Addis Ababa

13:50 Wrap-up of the discussion
Rapporteur: Mr Alexandros Makarigakis

13:55 Closing remarks
Ms Michela Miletto