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**REGIONAL ORIENTATION COMMITTEE  
FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION**

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**REPORT OF THE  
INAUGURAL MEETING  
OF THE  
REGIONAL ORIENTATION COMMITTEE  
FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION**

**ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE**

**SEPTEMBER 9-11, 1991**

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**Secretariat: African Development Bank  
01 B.P. 1387  
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Cote d'Ivoire**

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## BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In May 1990, delegates from countries across the African continent assembled at a major conference to plan their approach to tackling the immense task of providing clean water and sanitation in the 1990's. A common vision and renewed sense of purpose came from that Forum. The delegates felt that a mechanism was needed to keep that spirit alive until the next such Forum. The Conference requested the ADB to set up a Regional Orientation Committee to "strengthen regional consultation and coordination for the development of the sector".

The Inaugural Meeting of the Regional Orientation Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation (ROC) was convened by the African Development Bank, with support from the World Bank. The WASH Project of the USA prepared Draft Terms of Reference and a Draft First Annual Work Plan for consideration at the Meeting, at the request of the ADB, with support from the USAID Regional Economic Development Support Office (REDSO) and the Regional Housing and Urban Development Office (RHUDO).

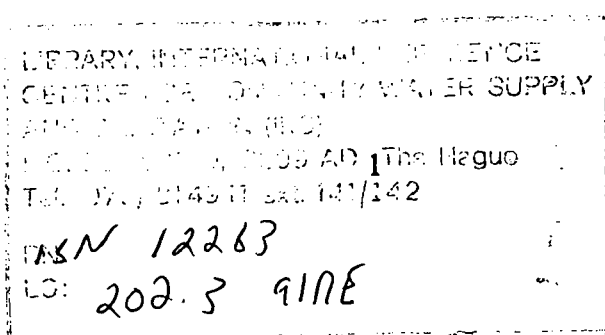
The meeting began with an opening address from Mr. T. Gedamu, Vice President of the ADB. After welcoming the participants, Mr Gedamu reviewed the origin of the ROC idea, its mandate, and possible areas of collaboration between the ROC and the ADB in sector policy planning. The text of the Vice President's speech is attached as Annex A.

That opening was followed by an address by Mr. A. Rotival, Chairman of the WSS Collaborative Council. Mr Rotival pointed out how the African region has taken a lead in program coordination, expressed the importance that the Collaborative Council places on the ROC initiative, and pointed out some lessons of experience from the Council's work.

The rest of the first day and the second were spent reviewing key issues in the establishment of the ROC, including purpose and goals for the ROC, strategy and tactics, composition, officers, secretariat, regional initiatives, workplan, modus operandi, and funding requirements and sources. The Agenda and outline of the discussion topics is attached as Annex B.

On the third day, a draft Meeting Report was presented to the Meeting, summarizing the discussion and outlining the conclusions on each topic. This was reviewed, revised and provided to the participants as a final Meeting Report. In addition a Declaration for the Oslo Conference was prepared, reviewed and adopted by the Meeting for immediate use in announcing the birth of the ROC. This Declaration is attached as Annex C.

The Meeting was Chaired by Mr. E. M. Musa, Chief, Infrastructure and Industry Development Policy Division, Central Projects Department, of the African Development Bank. Mr. A. Wyatt of WASH served as Rapporteur. A full List of Participants is provided in Annex A. The Meeting Statement is Annex D.



# **1. PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE ROC**

The Meeting reviewed the precise statement of purpose and goals for the ROC, as outlined in the Guidelines for the Development of Country Strategies for the 1990's from the Abidjan Conference. Taking into account this statement, ideas from the Draft Terms of Reference for the ROC, and other input presented at the Meeting, the following refined goals for the ROC were formulated. The objectives of the ROC are:

- *To act as the voice for Africa* : to represent the Africa water and sanitation sector, to encourage mobilization of financial resources, and to foster dynamic exchange and dialogue:
  - with international agencies (including ESAs),
  - in international fora (such as the WSS Collaborative Council),
  - at sectoral conferences, and
  - with representative sectoral groups from other regions.
  
- *To foster collaboration in regional projects and programs* : to offer guidance to programs and initiatives undertaken by ESAs and other international and regional bodies, thus extending ownership of such programs/initiatives and encouraging coordinated efforts.
  
- *To ensure the transfer of knowledge* : to promote systematic exchange of information, ideas, experience, and lessons learned as well as technology transfer among countries in the region and between those countries and other organizations interested in the water and sanitation sector.
  
- *To champion the spirit of Abidjan* : to guide and coordinate the development of the water and sanitation sector and the implementation and updating of the strategy recommended by the Abidjan Conference.

**These goals were formally adopted by the Meeting.**

The Meeting also discussed the name of the ROC, considering that while the name may be clear to those involved, it may be ambiguous to outsiders. Thus the Meeting officially adopted the name:

**Regional Orientation Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation.**

## 2. STRATEGY AND TACTICS

### 2.1 Basic Strategic Issues

First, the Meeting considered the fundamental strategic choice as to whether the ROC will be a new implementing institution, on the one hand, or will be a committee of a Forum where ideas and information is exchanged, and other existing institutions are encouraged to implement programs, on the other hand. The Meeting discussions reflected a **strong consensus that the ROC should be a committee**, and not a new institution. There are regional and sub-regional institutions in place which can serve as operational bodies. What is needed is a mechanism to bring them together.

The vision of the ROC as a Committee of a broader Forum is a fundamental to defining the identity, strategy, tactics and composition of the ROC. The 1990 Abidjan Conference (and those fora that will come in the future) involved all the African countries, regional institutions, external support agencies (ESAs) and global bodies, A Committee is by necessity smaller and composed of representatives from the broader Forum. In addition, the Forum participants form the constituency and "mailing list" of the Regional Orientation Committee. This vision was discussed and confirmed at the Meeting, which laid the foundation for much of the discussion over the three day Meeting.

Second, the Meeting considered the question as to whether the ROC will operate at the country level in any way. A number of the participants expressed the opinion that the ROC should not be seen to "interfere" in policy or program issues at a country level. **The conclusion of the discussion was that the ROC could, at the invitation of the country, get involved in or initiate national level activities, in selected types of activities. More specifically, the ROC could provide information; encourage local personnel to document experiences, prepare case studies, films; or other similar projects.** Such efforts would be carried out by other regional sub-regional or national groups, for the benefit of the entire region, probably with the support of ESAs.

In discussing strategic issues, the Meeting also discussed the range of concerns to be addressed by the ROC. Most speakers recognized that water supply and sanitation issues are closely linked to integrated water resource management, irrigation, urban drainage, solid waste management and general environmental concerns. In certain countries the Ministries or Agencies which work on water supply and sanitation also address these areas. **The final consensus of the Meeting was to focus initially on the issues of drinking water supply and sanitation (including excreta/wastewater, solid waste and hygiene education) within the overall sphere of integrated water resources and waste management.**

## 2.2 Basic Tactical Options: (Activities)

The group considered basic tactical options and developed the following list:

- Meetings
- Newsletters
- Networks
- Participation in international meetings/conferences
- Co-sponsorship of sub-regional or regional workshops
- Offer guidance to regional or sub-regional programs
- Periodic re-assessment of the Abidjan strategy
- Periodic review of the mandate, strategy and tactics of the ROC.
- Possible creation of sub-regional "mini-ROCs" in the future.

There was considerable discussion of the need to avoid duplication of efforts with other existing organizations. The Meeting decided that the ROC must **build on the strengths of existing implementation organizations** such as the UADE, CIEH, CREPA, ITN training centers, etc. It was recognized that individually these organizations have a sub-regional perspective (with the possible exception of UADE) and the ROC will serve an important role in linking up their programs, and creating a forum where such linkages can be developed.

The tactic of providing guidance to regional and sub-regional programs was carefully reviewed. The ROC should avoid targeting resources to certain countries or organizations, but **emphasize improved coordination to avoid duplication of effort and ensure optimum use of scarce resources**. If, over a period of time, the ROC could demonstrate an ability to offer constructive guidance to achieve coherence and coordination, ESAs would come to the ROC for guidance on formulating regional and sub-regional programs.

While discussing ROC tactics, the Meeting noted that **activities will have to take place at the sub-regional level** to bring the countries within the sub-regional Groups together for their own dialogue and exchange. Structures and procedures to facilitate such communication and coordination are discussed in more detail under the topics of Composition and Modus Operandi.

### **3. COMPOSITION**

Numerous issues relating to composition of the ROC were discussed including:

- Types of organizations eligible for inclusion,  
(Country governments, ESAs, NGOs, private firms/companies, regional development agencies, universities, training institutes, research institutes, associations)
- Categories of membership (voting, non voting, observers)
- Size of the Committee

A key desire of the ROC was to establish a **core membership, exclusively of Africans, to form the nucleus of the group, holding the decision-making power of the Committee.** The Core framework was seen to be the six working group heads, representatives of selected other African organizations, and the ADB.

The ownership of the ROC, by all of Africa, is critical to its success. Such ownership would be fostered in two ways. First, all African countries were represented at the Abidjan Conference, and would participate in future regional Fora, which the ROC would foster. Second, the countries would participate in communications and dialogue at the sub-regional level. These sub-regional activities must be supported, as was raised earlier. The ROC must solicit financial and logistical support for these Sub-Regional Group communications.

In a dynamic fashion, **the Meeting decided on a two-tier composition for the ROC comprising:**

- Core Members:** Africans in the decision-making role in the ROC.
- Associate Members:** ESAs and international organizations as collaborators and financial contributors to the ROC

See diagram in Annex E.

The Meeting decided the Core would include 11 voting members:

- 1 Chairperson from the ADB
- 6 Sub-regional group conveners
- 1 Representative of African sector professional institutions (UADE)
- 1 Representative of African training institutions (ITN representative)
- 1 Representative of African NGOs (From the upcoming NGO forum)
- 1 Representative of African research centers.

Next, the Meeting proceeded to discuss the types of Associate Members and the selection process. Several organizations were viewed as essential Associate Members: World Bank, UNDP and the Collaborative Council. Participation of key bilateral ESAs actively involved in the sector in Africa as contributors to the ROC was viewed as essential, but a selection at this time could not be made. Also, there was considerable debate on other international

bodies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNCHS (Habitat), ECA and others. The Meeting decided to accept the World Bank, UNDP and Collaborative Council, and to publicize the ROC to the broader international community, inviting ESAs and others to offer their expression of support, and proceed to select additional Associate Members based on these responses. The precise number of Associate Members was left open for the present time.

#### **4. OFFICERS**

After reviewing options in the Draft Terms of Reference, and raising other options, the Meeting concluded that the ROC should have:

- A Chairperson drawn from the ADB.
- A Spokesperson from among the sub regional group conveners, and
- An executive Secretariat provided by the ADB (at least in the short term).

The Honorable Minister J.G. Cardoso of Guinea Bissau was nominated as the first Spokesperson for the ROC, for a period of one year.

The administrative level of the ROC Core Members was also discussed at some length. The desire to involve government personnel at the Minister or Principal Secretary was seen as important to allow the ROC to be viewed as the legitimate voice of Africa, and to carry the weight it deserves. For non-governmental organizations, individuals at the Head of organization level would be appropriate. The use of special very high level envoys for particular tasks and representations could also help address this issue.

#### **5. SECRETARIAT**

First, the Meeting discussed the number and types of positions required in the Secretariat, taking into account the limited financial resources which may be available in the short term. The Meeting decided that, at minimum, the Secretariat should include a ROC Manager and a Secretary.

A position of a part or full-time advisor was also seen as desirable, given the complexity of the issues involved in the water supply and sanitation sector. But the creation of such a position would depend on the ability of the ROC to raise funds for it. The Meeting concluded that the UNDP/World Bank Water and Sanitation Program should be approached to sponsor an African sector professional, on at least a part-time basis. This would help to support the ROC and strengthen the linkage between the ROC and this important regional program, as well as the UNDP and the World Bank.

Second, the Meeting discussed the duties of the Secretariat, by reviewing items listed in the Draft Terms of Reference. The Meeting decided on the following duties for the Secretariat, to:

- prepare logistical arrangements for ROC meetings and ROC participation in other international meetings;
- provide support to the Chairperson in preparing and running the ROC meetings;
- act as Rapporteur of the ROC Meetings
- prepare and distribute correspondence, Meeting minutes and newsletters
- act as a contact point for the ROC for all communications, information exchanges, and other requests
- mobilize financial resources for all activities
- develop annual Work Plans
- oversee and conduct activities under annual Work Plans
- prepare a ROC Annual Report.

Third, the Meeting reviewed the selection process and length of tenure of the Secretariat personnel. The Meeting discussed and agreed that the ADB recruit ROC Secretariat staff, using ADB normal procedures, to create a three year contract position, with a probationary period of 6 months. While these would officially be non-permanent staff of the ADB, every effort would be made to assure the autonomy of the ROC Secretariat.

The required qualifications of the ROC Manager were established to have:

- African nationality,
- a university degree,
- experience in the water supply and sanitation sector,
- fluency in English and French,
- experience in policies and programs in Africa at a senior-level,
- strong communications and interpersonal skills,
- ability to conceive new initiatives, and execute them,
- good health to allow travel throughout the region.

Fourth, the Meeting considered funding for the Secretariat. The African Development Bank will assist in funding the Secretariat. The proposal to approach the UNDP/World Bank Program was seen as promising. The Meeting also noted that Associate Members would be expected to provide support for the ROC, especially as the ROC develops.

## **6. REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

The Meeting reviewed and explored the potential linkages between the ROC and a variety of Regional initiatives. First the Meeting noted that the ROC can serve an important role in supporting regional initiatives of the Collaborative Council such as the Working Group on



Information, Education and Communication (PIP). Other regional activities such as the:

- policy development initiatives by the ADB (new policy, guidelines and planned workshops)
- UNDP / World Bank Water and Sanitation Program
- activities of other Regional institutions such as UADE, CIEH, ECA

would be areas where the ROC could play a key role in providing advice, guidance and orientation to foster coordination and partnership, and encourage adoption of the principles of the Abidjan Conference. An immediate activity of the ROC would be to conduct an inventory of existing regional efforts, which would yield an important body of data, useful for global, regional and national level bodies. In addition to helping guide existing programs, the ROC could serve a role in identifying and initiating needed regional efforts.

## **7. WORKPLAN**

The draft First Annual Work Plan was reviewed and reformulated by identifying activities, grouping them in relation to the 4 ROC goals, and briefly considered their relative priority.

### **1. Establishment of the ROC                      Action: ADB**

The following activities were identified:

- a. Definition of Purpose, Goals, Strategy and Tactics
- b. Definition of Composition, Officers, Secretariat and Modus Operandi
- c. Definition of Work Plan and Funding Strategy
- d. Announcement of the birth of the ROC
- e. Establishment of the Secretariat
- f. Development of funding.

These activities were viewed as clearly very first priority because without them the ROC cannot begin to function. Very considerable progress has been made on the first three of these, at this Meeting. The remaining activities can be initiated once this Meeting ends, in a variety of ways.

### **2. Acting as the voice for Africa                      Action: ADB and Spokesperson**

- a. Participation in the Oslo WSS Collaborative Council Meeting
- b. Participation in the Dublin (ICWE) Conference
- c. Participation in the Rio de Janeiro (UNCED) Conferences
- d. Publicity about the magnitude of the problems and strategies in the water and sanitation sector in Africa to a broader group of development agencies to help mobilize resources.

While the Oslo Meeting participation is a "fait accompli", the others are important but will depend on the establishment of the Secretariat.

The tasks below are all judged important, but can only begin when the Secretariat is in place. At that point they can be reviewed, prioritized more precisely, and a revised Work Plan developed.

### 3. To foster collaboration in regional projects and programs

- a. Inventory existing regional initiatives
- b. Invite existing initiatives to consult the ROC for guidance and steering
- c. Develop a strategy and mechanisms for fostering collaboration, and providing guidance and orientation.

### 4. To ensure the transfer of knowledge

- a. Develop a communications strategy, perhaps conducted by the IRC and an African partner with support from an ESA
- b. Develop a technology/skill transfer strategy emphasizing South-South exchanges and twinning, perhaps conducted by an African member of ITN
- c. Develop a clearinghouse strategy
- d. Participation in the Global Applied Research Network (GARNET) and other networks.

### 5. To champion the spirit of Abidjan

- a. Develop a data base of individuals and institutions at a country level involved in the sector
- b. Develop an inventory of policy documents and country strategy papers

In summary, the theme of the first year of the ROC will be to strengthen the establishment of the ROC; conduct an inventory of individuals, agencies, programs and key documents; and develop specific strategies for the ROC program.

## **8. MODUS OPERANDI**

The Meeting discussed a number of issues regarding meeting schedules and procedures, and then covered the role of the sub-regional groups in detail.

Frequency and Location of Meetings. The discussion covered the frequency of three type of Meetings:

- Sub-Regional Groups,
- ROC Meeting of Core and Associate Members, and the
- African Forum, such as was conducted in Abidjan in May 1990.

The sub-regional groups should meet formally at least once per year. The location of these meetings should be up to the sub-regional group, but probably at a convenient location for all involved. Some staggering of these meetings would allow exchange between sub-regional groups. The sub-regional groups should also try to take advantage of other sub-regional meetings to have additional sessions as opportunities allow.

The formal ROC Meetings should also be at least once per year (in Abidjan) but the ROC should also try to take advantage of other meetings to assemble more frequently. An effort should be made to stagger the sub-regional meetings in relation to the ROC Meeting to facilitate reporting of sub-regional updates to the ROC.

The large meetings of the African Forum should be every three years, bringing together delegates from all the countries, the ROC Core and Associate Members, and all global and international bodies involved and interested in the sector. These would be the occasion to elect all sub-regional group conveners, and review the constituents of the sub-regional groups if desirable.

The necessary quorum for the ROC Meeting was defined to be a simple majority plus one. The agenda for the ROC Meetings would be developed by the Secretariat with input from the Core Members, and distributed at least 2 months in advance. ROC Meeting results would be communicated to all interested parties directly from the Secretariat in the form of simple minutes, or newsletter format.

The role and responsibilities of the sub regional conveners was carefully reviewed. Their duties within their sub-regions would be to:

- be accessible to the countries in the sub-region,
- know what is going on in their sub-regional countries in the W&S sector,
- meet periodically with the member countries one-on-one, and in groups,
- seek consensus among the countries as to the key issues affecting the sub-region
- represent these issues to the ROC.

In addition, these individuals, as ROC Core Members, would have responsibilities relating to the 4 major objectives of the ROC. Other ideas included involving the rapporteur of the

May 1990 Abidjan Conference in sub-regional coordination and networking, avoiding the creation of 6 secretariats, and assuring that the central ROC secretariat play an important role in communications directly to countries.

## **9. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND SOURCES**

A quick synopsis of funding needs and sources was prepared. The funding needs were separated into two categories: Core funding and specific project initiative funding.

For Core funding the following items were cited:

1. Secretariat (Staff, office supplies, communications, etc.);
2. Travel and per diem costs for Core Members to attend ROC Meetings;
3. Travel and per diem costs for the Spokesperson to attend international meetings and conferences;
4. Travel and per diem for country personnel to attend sub-regional meetings; and
5. Costs for communication and coordination efforts at the sub-regional level.

The Meeting decided to actively explore funding for these needs with the following inter alia:

ADB  
UNDP/World Bank WS&S Program  
Bilateral ESAs  
UNDP/NY  
Country-level UNDP Missions  
African country governments

Specific program activities for regional initiatives and promotional activities would be prepared as individual projects and submitted to interested ESAs for their support.

ANNEX A

REGIONAL ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

WELCOME SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT GEDAMU

Mr. Chairman,

Welcome to the Bank and to this first meeting of the Regional Orientation Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation Strategies.

As you are all aware, the idea of setting up the committee arose out of the May, 1990 Abidjan Conference on the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector, which many of you attended. That conference underlined the need to carry forward the collaborative efforts which were so clearly manifested during the conference and to seek mechanisms to ensure a regular exchange of experience within the Region. To this end, the Conference mandated the ADB to set up a Regional Orientation Committee, which would meet periodically, to review the implementation of Water Supply and Sanitation strategies in Africa in the coming years, and to recommend periodic modifications to the Guidelines formulated at the conference. We are delighted that our institution was given the mandate to help set up the Committee, and are pleased to see so many of you take part at its first meeting.

The magnitude of investments required to provide adequate water supply and sanitation services to our populations is immense. High population growth, stagnating or declining national economies, natural catastrophies, political and social conflicts, are factors which contribute to the ever increasing demand for resources. Moreover, additional resources are required to maintain established systems. It was with these in mind that a set of Guidelines for the Development of Country Strategies for the 1990s was drawn up at the May meeting.

The Guidelines are practical, and flexible, and their flexibility would enable countries to formulate their respective strategies, and collaborate in addressing common problems and challenges. This is where one major role of the Committee lies.

The ADB for its part regularly organizes meetings which bring together the principal actors of a particular sector with the view not only to exchanging views and experiences, but also to formulating common approaches and policies. Some of you may have been here in 1986 when the ADB hosted a seminar attended by external support agencies, NGOs, financing institutions, and sector specialists from member countries. Last year's conference was preceded by a three-day workshop on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation. We therefore welcome the establishment of this Committee, which is in line with our policies. I would like to take this opportunity to cite paragraph 4.2.11 of our Sector Policy Paper on Water Supply, which states :

"The Bank Group supports, and will participate in, sectoral planning on international and regional levels. It recognizes the value of collaborating and participating with External Support Agencies and member countries in international programmes, conferences, seminars and assemblies. The Bank Group intends to play a much more active role in support of external assistance to national sector programmes".

The ADB has prepared comprehensive guidelines for the use of its staff as well as member countries in the preparation of projects for financing by the ADB and other institutions. Plans are at an advanced stage for holding seminars/workshops to introduce these to sector specialists in member countries. This could be one activity your committee might wish to be involved in, and we would naturally welcome it.

Mr. Chairman, this a gathering of specialists : specialists who are fully conversant with the problem of the sector; specialists who have put together very practical guidelines for the formulation of strategies for the decade of the 1990s. The establishment of this Committee to monitor the implementation of these strategies is not only an essential follow-up of your earlier efforts, but an initiative which would greatly facilitate the identification and design of programmes and projects which institutions like

the ADB would finance. We look forward to your contributions and counsel in this and future meetings; and have little doubt that you will respond effectively to the goals and challenges you set for yourselves.

I thank you for your kind attention.

ANNEX B

AGENDA  
FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE  
SEPTEMBER 9-11, 1991

September 9, 1991

- 9:00 Official Opening Addresses
- Mr. T. Gedamu, Vice President, ADB
  - Mr. A. Rotival, Chairman of the WSS Collaborative Council
- 9:45 Review of Agenda
- 10:00 Discussion of Draft ROC Terms of Reference  
(Purpose & Goals, Strategy & Tactics)
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Continued Discussion of Draft ROC Terms of Reference  
(Purpose & Goals, Strategy & Tactics)
- 11:30 Discussion of Draft ROC Terms of Reference  
(Membership)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:30 Continued Discussion of Draft ROC Terms of Reference  
(Membership)
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Continued Discussion of Draft ROC Terms of Reference  
(Officers and Secretariat)
- 5:00 Close
- 5:30 Cocktail Hosted by ADB

September 10, 1991

- 9:00 Election of ROC Officers



**PRELIMINARY AGENDA  
FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL ORIENTATION COMMITTEE  
(Continued)**

- 10:00 Discussion of ROC role in Regional Initiatives
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Continued Discussion ROC Role in Regional Initiatives
- 11:30 Discussion of Draft First Annual Work Plan
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:30 Continued Discussion of Draft First Annual Work Plan
- 4:00 Break
- 4:15 Discussion of ROC Modus Operandi
- 5:30 Close

**September 11, 1991**

- 9:00 Discussion of ROC Funding Requirements and Sources
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Follow-up discussion on previous or other topics
- 11:30 Adoption of the Terms of Reference and Workplan
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:30 Discussion of specific steps for Workplan implementation, including planning for Oslo Meeting
- 3:45 Break
- 4:00 Planning for next ROC Meeting (Dates, Location, Agenda)
- 5:00 Close

ANNEX C

~~ANNEX C~~ **DECLARATION TO: C C - OSLO**  
18-20/9/91

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the appointed Spokesperson of the newly-constituted Regional Orientation Committee representing the Water and Sanitation sector in Africa, it gives me great pleasure to address this first forum of the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation. I would like to extend the thanks of our Committee to our hosts, the Government of Norway, for giving us this opportunity to address you.

In May 1990 representatives of 45 of the 51 countries on the African continent, together with numerous ESAs and NGOs as observers, met in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to review the state of the water and sanitation sector in Africa and to prepare ourselves for the Global Consultation in New Delhi in September 1990. At first the meeting was somber, as we reflected on the large numbers of people - more than half of the population of the continent and generally the very poorest - without access to basic water supply and sanitation services. We also reflected on the poor condition and low reliability of many of the water and waste schemes that we have, and on the risks to our environment that these pose. We shared a very real concern for the impact of our sector on the health of our people and the state of our economies. At this point, recognizing the scale of the challenge that we face in Africa, the meeting determined to take up the challenge and we set to work to develop a consensus on the way forward. Those of us that attended the meeting believe that we made great strides in five days in achieving a common sense of vision and purpose.

We recommended that governments reconsider their roles in sector development, shifting from providers of services to facilitator and promoters, thus building the capacity of local agencies, the private sector and, most important, communities themselves to play key roles in service delivery and sustainability. We placed particular emphasis on the role of women, as the primary users of water and managers of family health. We recommended that sector financing strategies be reconsidered, that efficiency and effectiveness be improved and that alternative sources of financing be sought. We placed emphasis on the role of communities themselves in sharing costs, particularly of operation and maintenance, thus enhancing their self reliance. We also recommended guidelines for sector planning and management, which incorporated these institutional and financial principles. We believe that these clear and unequivocal messages from Abidjan served to strengthen the debate at the Global Consultation, and we were pleased to see them incorporated in the guiding principles of the New Delhi Statement.

The spirit of Abidjan was remarkable and the participants believed that the preservation of this spirit would greatly serve the sector in Africa as it battled with the enormous challenges that the 1990's would bring. For that reason, the Abidjan meeting formally mandated the establishment of a Regional Orientation Committee (or ROC for short), defined clear objectives and charged the African Development Bank with its establishment. Following an informal working meeting in August 1990, the ROC was formally inaugurated in Abidjan last week, on September 11, 1991.

***What is the ROC?*** The ROC is a mandated committee representing the broader Forum of the water and sanitation sector in Africa that gathered in Abidjan in 1990, with the overall goal of nurturing the spirit and promoting the recommendations of the Abidjan Forum in the 1990s. The membership of the Forum includes all those agencies present in Abidjan and is open to any other governmental or non-governmental agency, from Africa or elsewhere, that is concerned about and committed to the development of the water and sanitation sector in Africa. I must emphasize that the ROC is a committee of this Forum, not a new institution or agency.

***Who is in the ROC?*** The core of the ROC comprises 11 members: 6 sub-regional conveners, who were country delegates elected as chairmen of the working groups in Abidjan in 1990; 4 representative African institutions (one professional association - UADE, one training institution - a member of African ITN network; one NGO representative - to be nominated by an upcoming African NGO meeting; and one research institute) and the African Development Bank, as ROC Chairperson and host of the ROC Secretariat. The sub-regional conveners will be rotated by election at each African Forum of the water and sanitation sector, tentatively planned for 1994, 1997 and the year 2000. Associate membership of the ROC currently includes the UNDP and the World Bank, as ESAs that, along with the ADB, made the 1990 Abidjan Forum possible and have supported the creation of the ROC. Other ESAs that are prepared to support the ROC actively are invited to participate as additional associate members.

***What are the objectives of the ROC?*** The ROC has four objectives which were defined by the 1990 Abidjan Forum, and have been refined as follows:

1. **To act as the voice for Africa** : to represent the Africa water and sanitation sector, to encourage mobilization of financial resources, and to foster dynamic exchange and dialogue:
  - with international agencies (including ESAs),
  - in international fora (such as the WSS Collaborative Council),
  - at sectoral conferences, and
  - with representative sectoral groups from other regions.
2. **To foster collaboration in regional projects and programs** : to offer guidance to programs and initiatives undertaken by ESAs and other international and regional bodies, thus extending ownership of such programs/initiatives and encouraging coordinated efforts.
3. **To ensure the transfer of knowledge** : to promote systematic exchange of information, ideas, experience, and lessons learned as well as technology transfer among countries in the region and between those countries and other organizations interested in the water and sanitation sector.
4. **To champion the spirit of Abidjan** : to guide and coordinate the development of the water and sanitation sector and the implementation and updating of the strategy recommended by the Abidjan Conference.

***What will the ROC do?*** The ROC has defined its workplan for 1991/92 in terms of its objectives and in the knowledge that it is through effective action that the ROC will serve the sector in Africa. Our first year will be characterized by laying clear and precise foundations for action, in the form of inventories of essential information, such as of research under way in Africa and of regional projects and programs, and in the preparation of strategies for action, such as in the fields of communication of information and technology transfer. Major activities proposed include:

1. Acting as the voice for Africa at the upcoming Conferences in Dublin and Rio de Janeiro;
2. Fostering regional collaboration by starting with an inventory of regional initiatives and inviting such programs to consult the ROC;
3. Ensuring the transfer of knowledge by establishing strategies for communications and technology transfer and training, with a focus on South-South linkups.
4. To champion the spirit of Abidjan by starting the activities I just outlined, and setting up a dynamic database of people and institutions involved in the sector.

***How will the ROC function?*** I must again emphasize that the ROC is not an agency and will not directly implement projects or programs, but will request other organizations, such as African institutions or ESAs to undertake activities on its behalf. We have asked the ADB to provide the ROC Secretariat and will ask the UNDP/World Bank Program to provide additional advisory support to the Secretariat. We intend to approach different agencies to assist us in implementing various items of our workplan. We will also need limited financial support in holding small-scale, annual meetings of our six sub-regional groups and annual meetings of the ROC core group. The triennial African Fora will require substantial support; however, the first such meeting is 3 years away. As I have already said, we will welcome, as ROC Associate members, ESAs who would like to support our Africa-wide initiative, and we will be approaching the ESA community directly. We are already being assisted by the ADB, who is providing the leadership in our infancy, and by UNDP and the World Bank. However, we need significant additional support.

In summary, an infant is born of the 1990 Abidjan Forum, itself a child of the Decade and of the Collaborative Council. The ROC, in acting as the voice of the sector in Africa and the champion of the spirit of Abidjan, hopes to foster efforts across the continent to reverse the trends, to scale up efforts to reach poor people with water and sanitation services, to promote strategies that will ensure sustainability of those services, and thus to contribute to economic development. The ROC is the link from the African water and sanitation sector to you, the Collaborative Council, as well as to other international fora. We take pride in our initiative, we hope to develop rapidly from infancy to healthy adulthood, and we seek your encouragement and support.

Thank you.

## ANNEX D

### INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ORIENTATION COMMITTEE FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

ABIDJAN, COTE d'IVOIRE

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 1991

#### PARTICIPANT LIST

##### 1. Abidjan Conference Working Group Heads

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mr. Joao Gomes Cardoso,  | Secrétaire d'état, Ministère des ressources naturelles et de l'industrie, Guinee Bissau - Chairman of Working Group 1 |
| Mr. Komi Denyo Nenenene, | Chief, Service national d'assainissement, Ministère de la santé publique, Togo - Chairman of Working Group 2          |
| Prof. Kadima Mwamba,     | Secretary General, Comité nationale d'action de l'eau et de l'assainissement, Zaire - Chairman of Working Group 3     |
| Mr. Sandile Ceko,        | Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, Swaziland - Chairman of Working Group 4                |
| Mr. Peter Sackey,        | Director of Rural Water Development, Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation, Ghana, Chairman of Working Group 6.        |

##### 2. African Development Bank

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Mr. T. Gedamu,    | Vice President  |
| Mr. M. Masumbuko, | Director, Infrastructure & Industry Department (North Region) |
| Mr. E. M. Musa,   | Chief, Infrastructure and Industry Development Policy         |

	Division, Central Projects Department (Meeting Chairperson)
Mr. M. Kalala,	Principal Engineer, Procurement Division, Central Projects Department
Mr. S. Desai,	Chief, Public Utilities Division, North Region
Mr. S. Diakit�,	Senior Sanitary Engineer
Mr. K.H.M. Mhango,	Senior Sanitary Engineer
Mr. M. Leke,	Senior Transport Economist, Central Projects Department
Mr. P. Njuguna,	Senior Sanitary Engineer
Mr. W.T. Habte Selaisse,	Senior Sanitary Engineer

### 3. International Agencies

Mr. N. Koffi,	Administrative Secretary, Union Africaine de Distributeurs d'Eau (UADE)
Mr. A. Rotival,	Chairman, WSS Collaborative Council
Mr. A. Locussol,	Manager, RWSG/WA, UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Program
Mr. B. Wolde-Gabriel,	Program Officer, RWSG/WA, UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Program
Mr. D. Grey,	Senior Water Resources Engineer, Africa Technical Department, World Bank
Ms. E. Gasana,	Assistant to the Resident Representative, UNDP/Abidjan
Ms. K. Hirth,	Program Officer, UNDP/Abidjan
Mr. A. Wyatt,	Consultant, WASH Project (Meeting Rapporteur)

# Regional Orientation Committee Composition

## AFRICAN FORUM

All African Countries

Reps from other regions

Orgs from other sectors

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

World Bank

UNDP

## CORE MEMBERS

African Development Bank

Sub Regional Group Conveners

Representative African Institutions

Research, Training, Prof. Assoc., NGOs

Collaborative Council

Committed Bilateral ESAs

Other Bilateral Donors

Other African Institutions