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# Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

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Tel.: +31 70 30 689 80  
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## **Working Group on Water Supply and Sanitation Development in Africa**



*Main Report,*

*Manila, 1997*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	Acknowledgments.....	4
II	Executive Summary .....	5
	a) Introduction .....	5
	b) The Initiative .....	5
	c) General Objective .....	5
	d) Co-ordination and Working Group Meetings .....	6
	e) Funding .....	6
	f) Sector Review Report.....	6
	g) Important Issue Areas Identified by AWG .....	8
	h) Recommendations and Strategies .....	8
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.1	PREAMBLE .....	11
1.2	AFRICA WORKING GROUP AND THE CCWSS .....	12
1.3	MEMBERSHIP .....	13
1.4	THIS REPORT BARBADOS TO MANILA.....	13
<b>2</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP .....</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1	OVERVIEW A DIFFICULT TASK.....	13
2.2	SECTOR REVIEW REPORT .....	14
2.2.1	<i>Data Collection and Questionnaire</i> .....	14
2.2.2	<i>General Observations</i> .....	19
2.2.3	<i>Policy Issues</i> .....	20
2.2.4	<i>Political profile of the sector and the politicisation of water</i> .....	20
2.2.5	<i>Institutional issues</i> .....	21
2.2.6	<i>Community Management</i> .....	21
2.2.7	<i>Sector Investment</i> .....	22
2.2.8	<i>Operation &amp; Maintenance</i> .....	22
2.2.9	<i>Payment for Services</i> .....	22
2.2.10	<i>Involvement of International Agencies and NGOs</i> .....	23
2.2.11	<i>Review and adoption of the Sector Report at Addis Ababa Meeting</i> .....	23
2.3	MEETINGS OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP .....	23
2.3.1	<i>Harare</i> .....	23
2.3.2	<i>Addis Ababa</i> .....	23
2.3.3	<i>Abidjan</i> .....	24
2.4	FINAL SYNTHESIS OF THE WORK OF THE ADDIS ABABA AWG MEETING .....	24
2.4.1	<i>Recommendations and strategies</i> .....	25
2.4.2	<i>The Addis Ababa Plan of Action</i> .....	26
2.4.3	<i>Other issues</i> .....	26
2.5	COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION MEETINGS .....	27
2.5.1	<i>Mid Term Review - London</i> .....	28
2.5.2	<i>Advocacy and Communications Working Group - the Hague</i> .....	28
2.5.3	<i>Ad hoc Council Meeting - Geneva</i> .....	28
<b>3</b>	<b>OTHER AFRICAN INITIATIVES.....</b>	<b>28</b>

<b>4</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>32</b>
4.1	<b>THE ROLE OF THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP.....</b>	<b>32</b>
4.2	<b>PRIORITIES AFTER MANILA.....</b>	<b>32</b>
APPENDIX 1	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE.....</b>	<b>33</b>
APPENDIX 2	<b>LIST OF MEMBERS.....</b>	<b>34</b>
APPENDIX 3	<b>HARARE MEETING PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>38</b>
APPENDIX 4	<b>ADDIS ABABA MEETING PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>39</b>
APPENDIX 5	<b>ABIDJAN MEETING PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>44</b>
APPENDIX 6	<b>REPORT OF WORKING SESSION DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICA - BARBADOS GLOBAL FORUM.....</b>	<b>47</b>
APPENDIX 7	<b>LIST OF FOUR PROPOSED PAPERS FOR THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP.....</b>	<b>49</b>
APPENDIX 8	<b>HARARE PLAN OF ACTION.....</b>	<b>50</b>
APPENDIX 9	<b>SECTOR REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE.....</b>	<b>52</b>
APPENDIX 10	<b>REVIEW OF THE SECTOR REPORT AT ADDIS ABABA MEETING.....</b>	<b>62</b>
APPENDIX 11	<b>ADDIS ABABA PLAN OF ACTION.....</b>	<b>68</b>

## II ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to seize this opportunity to thank all those who have made it possible for the activities of the Africa Working Group to have reached this level, particularly , Len Abrams of Water Policy Africa, the author of the Africa Sector Review Report, who assisted me in Working Group meetings and also in proof reading this report.

To my Honourable Minister. Alhaji Aliyu Yelwa, who gave his unalloyed support, I offer my special thanks. Without his blessings and support it would have been most difficult to execute the activities of the Africa Working Group. I also want to thank my Director General, Engr. Aliyu Dogondanji, my former Director, Engr. James Bassey and my present Director, Mr. Jubril Hanidu, whose understanding was most appreciated.

I offer my gratitude to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Mr. Gouri Ghosh, the Chief of Water Environmental Sanitation Cluster of UNICEF, New York, through whose efforts the Working Group was greatly supported and funded. Similarly, I thank Mr. Ibrahim Fall, the Resident Representative, UNICEF, Lagos who was very supportive to the AWG. I thank Colin Davis, formerly of UNICEF, Lagos, with whose support communication was made a great deal easier, and Mansoor Ali who took over from Colin Davis and Dr. Comfort Olayiwole, all of UNICEF, Lagos. They all behaved as true colleagues and friends.

I also thank the Co-Chairpersons of the Africa Working Group, Mr. Abbe Mpamhanga of Zimbabwe and Mr. Patrick Kahangire of Uganda for their understanding and support:

To Ranjith Wirasinha, the Executive Secretary of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva, who, despite his heavy schedule always reacted to my inquiries and needs promptly. I thank you, for I often wondered how you could cope with all that work. I must also express my gratitude to Doraine, Ranjith's secretary for her assistance.

My appreciation and thanks go to Tunde, Chris, Philo, Anthonia, Mrs. Olatunji and Mr. Falade of UNICEF Lagos, and to our staff in Abuja, Stella, Tina, Patience, Bello and Adegeye for their support.

My gratitude is also extended to the WHO Lagos staff for their support and assistance.

Similarly, I salute my secretary, Tony Effor and Peter Okwoli my office assistant for their total support and faithfulness to duty through out my tenure. They never for one day complained about being over worked during public holidays or weekends.

I will not forget to thank Dr. Dennis Warner of WHO Geneva, whose paper "Africa a Continent In Crisis," provoked discussions that led to the formation of the Africa Working Group.

My thanks to all the Working Group members, especially Dr. Uhaa of UNICEF/ESARO, for their participation and contribution.

Finally, I extend my greetings to all those too numerous to mention who, in one way or the other, assisted me in executing my assignment as the Coordinator of the Africa Working Group.

**Ebele Okeke,  
Co-ordinator  
Africa Working Group**

November, 1997

### **III EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **a) Introduction**

Water next to air is the most precious commodity to man. Wars have been known to have been fought over ownership and control of major rivers, streams, springs, etc.

Water is very much sought after in Africa and the rural women and children walk miles on end in search of water of very doubtful quality for drinking and doing their domestic chores.

The situation of water supply and sanitation in Africa has often been a source of major concern as poverty, few economic opportunities, poor health leading to high infant mortality and short life span of adults are all associated with unsafe water supply and inadequate sanitation.

All African countries have been making efforts to provide these facilities to their populace but their successes have often been reduced or eroded by poor maintenance culture, leading to facilities running below design capacities, population increases, severe economic, political and environmental problems.

A number of conferences, seminars and workshops have been held, various Initiatives have been set up, yet, the problems still persist.

At the end of the UN's International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990) it was discovered that Africa was lagging behind the other continents in meeting the goals of the decade . Consequently, at the 3rd Global Forum of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council held in Barbados 1995, in view of the need to focus on Africa's water supply and sanitation problems, the African delegates present proposed that a Working Group On Water Supply and Sanitation Development In Africa be formed. The Group was therefore mandated to critically review the status of the Sector and come up with a plan of action to address and solve the problems of the Sector.

#### **b) The Initiative**

The setting up of this Group was seen as a new initiative. This Initiative, unlike other Initiatives for Africa which hitherto have been externally driven, is internally driven by African professionals, for Africa, with a view to finding African solutions to Africa water supply and sanitation problems.

#### **c) General Objective**

The general objective is the placement of Water Supply and Sanitation high up on the developmental plans of the African Governments through advocacy with national governments, sub-regional and regional groups / institutions.

##### **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives are the identification of potential modes of advocacy available to the countries; promotion of achieving 80% access to adequate water supply and sanitation as per the UN's System wide Initiative On Africa; reviewing new and current Initiatives with a view to identifying the positive experiences which may be incorporated into other national developmental plans; and finally, the identification of ways

of improving co-operation amongst Governments, External Support Agencies (ESAs) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Communities and the Private Sector.

**d) Co-ordination and Working Group Meetings**

The Africa Working Group is co-ordinated by Ms Ebele Okeke of Nigeria and co-chaired by Messrs Abbe Mpamhanga of Zimbabwe and Patrick Kahangire of Uganda. The group is made up of mainly African professionals assisted by WHO and UNICEF. The African professionals are drawn from all sectors such as government ministries and parastatals, NGOs, private sector and Africans working in international agencies. Also, representatives of External Support Agencies participated fully.

The Africa Working Group met in Harare, April 1996; Addis Ababa, October, 1996 and Abidjan March 1997.

At the Harare meeting which was attended by a core group, the Objectives and Terms of Reference for the Group were drawn up. It was also agreed that in order to have a basis for working, a water supply and sanitation sector review of the African continent should be carried out. At the Addis Ababa meeting, apart from reviewing the Sector Report, a major advocacy outreach was made, as the OAU, ECA, Embassies, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, Habitat, UNEP, UNDP etc were represented. The AWG has the endorsement of Africa 2000 and the UN's System-wide Initiative for Africa.

At Abidjan another advocacy move was made, as a Courtesy Call was made on the Prime Minister of Cote D'Ivoire.

**e) Funding**

The AWG owes a lot of gratitude to UNICEF and the Governments of Norway and Netherlands for supporting her activities. UNICEF showed a lot of commitment as the Sector Review Report, the Harare/Addis Ababa meetings were totally borne by UNICEF including the tremendous logistical support/assistance offered the Co-ordinator throughout the two year period.

**f) Sector Review Report**

The AWG based its work on existing documents, information obtained from members, but most especially from the Africa Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Review Report which Mr. Len Abrams of South Africa, a member of the Working Group was commissioned to carry out using funding from UNICEF. This project was done within a very limited time frame and included the drafting of a Concept Paper and a Questionnaire which were sent to 44 countries in Africa. Len Abrams visited 8 countries (Malawi, South-Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso) where detailed discussions were held with sector professionals from government and developmental agencies. The information from the returned questionnaires and the country visits were compiled into a report. The questionnaire was quite detailed, and divided into the following sections:

- Respondent Information
- General Country Information
- Water Supply and Sanitation Policy
- Institutional Framework
- Budget Priorities
- Current Development Programmes and Projects

- Capacity Building and Human Resources Mobilisation
- Country Level Collaboration
- Possible Areas of Support by the Collaborative Council

Supplementary Questions

- Institutional Details
- Strategic Planning For Sector Development

**The findings of the Sector Review Report are as follows:**

**Policy:** Very few countries in Africa have formal water supply and sanitation policies. Many have strategic plans, targets and projects but these exist largely in a policy vacuum. There appears to be a reluctance in some political circles to develop policy, because then, there would be a public standard against which performance can be measured.

**Institutions:** The institutions responsible for water supply and sanitation, and the professionals in them battle against enormous odds to fulfil their functions/mandate. However, even with inadequate resources and frequent political changes to institutional structures there are many dedicated people working on the problems. Some enduring problems are the conditions of service and the poor salary scales / remuneration's of professionals which result in rapid staff turnover.

**Community Management:** After fifteen to twenty years of promotion, the practice of community management is finally becoming the dominant concept in water supply and sanitation development. There is some cynicism that acceptance of community management may be a way of "passing the buck" in the face of enormous demands. It seems that where government has had the least involvement in being the provider of services at local level, the results have been most sustainable.

**Sector Investment:** It appears as though foreign investment in the sector is diminishing rapidly. This is a problem because there was a tendency for governments to redirect scarce resources out of the sector when foreign funding for water supply and sanitation was popular. It is very difficult to encourage a reallocation of government budgets back to the sector.

**Operation and Maintenance:** This issue is enjoying increased emphasis. Much of the present investment in the sector is being spent on rehabilitation which should have been avoided through proper operation and maintenance( O&M). The linkage between O&M and community management is key and is gaining recognition.

**Payment for Services:** There is a growing recognition that the sector will remain unsustainable for as long as recurrent costs are not borne by the users at all levels. This remains a dilemma for very poor communities to pay for water with money that they do not have or have an unsustainable service! The sustainability of many services is jeopardised through the promises of free water from some politicians looking for short-term gains. This should be addressed urgently by senior statespersons.

**Political Profile of the Sector:** The report emphasizes the critical importance of political support, without which little is achievable. Most countries confirmed that water supply was becoming increasingly important politically, yet, little has changed with regards to budget allocation when compared with other sectors such as defence spending. Ways of lobbying for increased political support need to be found by sector professionals.

**Involvement of International Agencies and NGOs:** There remains considerable international support for water supply and sanitation development in Africa which is to be encouraged. One of the problems though, is the lack of co-ordination between organisations and between organisations and the government. Rural support remains very limited.

**g) Important Issue Areas Identified by AWG**

The AWG after studying the report through task groups and plenary sessions agreed that all the issues identified fall into four main categories. **"It was therefore emphasized that all the issue areas identified should be treated with commitment and passion, bringing the very best of our faculties and skills to bear"**, to address the following areas:

**Political Profile**

It was unanimously agreed that advocacy activities to raise the political status and commitment of the sector be a major objective of the AWG. This is necessary as the political profile of the sector and the degree of the political will of the politicians and eminent leaders on the continent will determine the achievement rate of all the other objectives.

**Structural Issues**

Most of the identified areas of concern, such as policy development, institutional reforms and conditions of service are structural issues within the sector and are closely linked to the political profile existing in a country. Adequate attention towards the improvement of these should be given.

**Collaboration & Communication**

This area covers the various aspects of country level/regional/global and intra/inter sectoral collaboration and communication which are very much needed, and, upon demand, the initiative can be embarked upon immediately at the country level.

**Implementation Issues**

Capacity building, community management, operation and maintenance, gender advocacy and payment for services fall under this category. Again, all these issues depend on the political will at country level.

**h) Recommendations and Strategies**

**i) Specified Studies**

The Africa Working Group will set up a mechanism, either through sub-committees or through the commissioning of specific studies, to look in depth at the following topics:-

**Water policy development in Africa** - ways of promoting policy development, what is good policy; effective policy implementation; setting up a data base of African water policy; lessons from other developing countries.

**Institutional and Legislative Reform** - what is the status? what agencies are active in reform promotion and support, existing guidelines for reform, successes and failures, lessons from



other developing countries.

**Conditions of Service** - detailed assessment of conditions of service in the sector especially for public servants; review the impact of poor conditions (working conditions and logistical support) of service on the sector, highlight and publish the issue.

**Cost recovery** - gather information and case studies, seek to identify what works and what does not; seek to identify cultural and social indicators for successful cost recovery, what are the African solutions?

**Sustainability at Local Level** - How are the communities being mobilised to ensure the sustainability of systems put on ground? Lessons learnt from different developing countries.

ii) **Formation of Strategies**

Apart from the above mentioned specific studies, the AWG will develop strategies amongst its members to continue to advocate for the following:

- raising the political profile of the sector,
- greater resources allocation to the sector,
- capacity building and support for professionals in the sector,
- continued promotion of community based development,
- improved sectoral and inter-sectoral collaboration and the building of relationships within the sector on the continent.
- gender consideration in all activities.

iii) **Advisory Body to Other Initiatives.**

Apart from the various programmes and activities supporting water supply from various established institutions e.g the African Development Bank, World Bank, UNICEF etc. the recent major Initiatives set up for African Water Supply and Sanitation are:

- a) United Nation's System-wide Initiative,
- b) Africa 2000,
- c) Water Utility Partnership and
- d) AWG Initiative.

In order to improve the synergy of action of initiatives and maximize available resources, it has been recommended that the AWG becomes an Advisory Body to the other African Initiatives and other relevant Global Initiatives. It has been agreed that an Africa Consultative forum be held in 1998 including a Ministerial meeting and all other African Initiatives have been invited to participate.

iv) **Sector Ambassador**

A sector Ambassador for Africa Water Supply and Sanitation should be identified. This has to be an international figure of high standing who should be able to open doors and mobilise funds for the sector very easily.

v) **Placement On OAU Agenda**

The activities of the Africa Working Group and the Water Supply and Sanitation sector are to be put high up on the OAU Agenda by the presentation of a resolution to the OAU by an African Head of State. Work is presently in progress.

vi) **Regional Professional Body**

It has been recommended that even though the AWG has done a substantial amount of work in the last two years, a lot still has to be done. As such, the Africa Working Group should become, after the Manilla meeting, a Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Consultative Body with a Secretariat. An Executive Secretary is to head the organisation which should be affiliated to the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council.

Therefore, it is recommended that the AWG continues beyond Manilla as a focal group for Africa and be assisted to work towards establishing a Regional Consultative Body.

vii) **Collaborative Council**

Very little is known about the Collaborative Council or its activities in Africa. There is an urgent need to educate the political leadership in Africa of the existence and the role of the Council. A suitable strategy should be developed for this process.

viii) **Collaborative Council Statement On Africa**

A Council statement on Africa should to be prepared and disseminated within Africa and globally. A document has been prepared by the Council Secretariat.

ix) **World Wide Web (WWW) Page**

A web page to be established on the INTERNET and connected to the Council's web page.

x) **Advocacy Materials**

Advocacy materials on Africa Water Supply and Sanitation to be prepared and disseminated on a regular basis.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## • 1.1 Preamble

"Africa is a continent at a critical turning point in its history. It is a continent beset by economic and social crises, yet it is also a continent on the march, full of promise" - UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.

The African continent is large. It is made up of people of diverse cultures, political orientation and priorities.

In most reports on Africa a great deal of generalisations are made but this should not be taken as the true picture for there are many success stories as well as failures in some others. No two countries are similar except perhaps in their lingua franca.

In the eighties and nineties, African countries have been beset with economic problems with 58% living in absolute poverty. 35 African countries are undergoing "the standard prescription" for the cure-all-types of economic problems for the so called developing countries called the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). They have been struggling with SAP for over a decade. It is being said that most of these countries have successfully put in place the expected economic reform measures but to most Africans who live with SAP, SAP has only brought more economic hardship and has successfully put a yoke of extreme poverty existence on the populace.<sup>1</sup>

It is therefore not surprising that out of the 47 Least Developed Countries of the World, 33 are in Africa and of the 25 countries listed by UNDP as low human development areas, 22 are African countries.

The population growth rate is another problem. This is borne out of the fact that family planning is not an acceptable practice amongst most African cultural settings. For Africa to become industrialized and overcome the poverty cycle, control in population increases has to be taken cognisance of. The present population growth rate for Africa varies between 3% and 8%, making it the highest in the world. If this is not controlled, poverty will continue to increase rather than decrease as the benefits of economic or developmental achievements made would be wiped out by uncontrolled population increases.

During the period of the UN's declared Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981 - 1990, Africa joined the comity of nations in addressing her water supply and sanitation problems with the greatest success recorded within that period. This however was not enough. At the Delhi Forum marking the end of the Decade, the conclusion reached was that the African and Asian continents were lagging behind other continents with Africa being the most affected. It was in the light of the above that the Delhi declaration of "Some for all rather than more for some" was made. In order to maintain the momentum of the achievements made, the UN endorsed the setting up of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council.

The Council, during its third forum in Barbados at the end of October/early November 1995, because of the recognition of the special needs of Africa, and upon the request of the Africans present, formed a Working Group of the Council to focus on Africa, called the Water Supply and Sanitation Development In Africa Working Group (Africa Working Group - AWG).

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics from UN System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa

• **1.2 Africa Working Group and the CCWSS**

The Africa Working Group is special in nature as it is propelled by African professionals who are trying to find African solutions to Africa Water Supply and Sanitation problems. The work of this group is assisted by WHO and UNICEF as requested by Council in Barbados 1995. UNICEF has funded the Africa Working Group to a very great extent and also funded the production and printing of the AWG Sector Review Report On Africa Water Supply and Sanitation. Also, financial contributions were also received from the Dutch and Norwegian Governments. These contributions made the work easier to accomplish.

**The general objective of the Africa Working Group** is to place water supply and sanitation high up on the development plans of African Governments through advocacy with national governments, sub-regional and regional groups/institutions.

**The specific objectives of the group are as follows:**

- Identify potential modes of advocacy available to the countries for Water Supply and Sanitation.
- Promote the achievement of 80% access to adequate safe Water Supply and Sanitation within a reasonable distance in the next decade or earlier in line with the United Nations System-wide Initiative on Africa.
- Find ways to strengthen planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of Water Supply and Sanitation programmes to ensure sustainability.
- Review new and current sub-regional Initiatives with a view to identifying positive experiences that may be incorporated within other national developmental plans.
- Identify ways to improve co-operation amongst governments, ESA, NGOs, communities and the private sector.

**The Terms of Reference of the Africa Working Group are:**

1. Review the potential modes of advocacy to the National Governments for Water Supply and Sanitation Development in Africa.
2. Identify major shortcomings and ways of strengthening the planning, implementation and operation of Water Supply and Sanitation projects by governments in Africa to ensure sustainability.
3. Review current regional and sub-regional development Initiatives for Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa to identify positive experiences and how they can be used to improve programme implementation in other countries.
4. Review existing collaboration in Africa between governments, External Support Agencies, NGOs, Communities and the Private Sector, and recommend changes for improvement.
5. Identify constraints and solutions for effective resource mobilization in Africa.
6. Identify constraints and solutions for effective capacity building in Africa.
7. Suggest ways that the Collaborative Council could support regional and sub-regional Water Supply and Sanitation programmes.
8. Present to the African Consultative Forum and later recommend to the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council:-
  - a) appropriate ways of advocacy for African Water Supply and Sanitation needs;
  - b) appropriate ways of collaboration between national governments, External Support Agencies, NGOs and the Private Sector;
  - c) actions by which donor co-ordination in Africa can be improved;
  - d) strategies and operational methods by which major regional Initiatives in Africa can be strengthened, made more responsive to country needs, and encouraged to become more collaborative with each other;
  - e) actions by which capacity building in Africa can be improved.

9. Review and promote gender equity in all aspects of programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
10. Identify available Council's resources and experience for use in the above activities.

- **1.3        *Membership***

Membership of the Africa Working Group is open to all water supply and sanitation sector professionals working in Africa. The group has been diverse in its membership since its establishment in Barbados at the 3<sup>rd</sup> global forum meeting of the Collaborative Council on Water Supply and Sanitation. Members represent the full scope of diversity which is found on the African continent including representatives from Anglophone, Francophone, Lucaphone and Magreb Africa.

The Co-ordinator of the group is Ms Ebele Okeke of Nigeria while the Co-chairpersons of the Africa Working Group are Mr. Abbe Mpamhanga of Zimbabwe and Mr. Patrick Kahangire of Uganda.

- **1.4        *This Report - Barbados to Manila***

This report covers the period from the inception of the Africa Working Group at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum of the Collaborative Council on Water Supply and Sanitation held in November 1995 in Barbados until the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the Council to be held in Manila in November 1997

- **2            *Activities of the Africa Working Group***

- **2.1        *Overview - a difficult task***

The past two years of activities with the Africa Working Group have been both a challenge and a great encouragement. From the first meeting of the Group in Harare in April 1996, it became evident that a great deal of work needed to be done on the African continent in relation to water supply and sanitation. However, the magnitude of both the problem and the vast area of the continent have presented a daunting challenge.

There have been problems with communications and travel logistics. There have also been difficulties with lack of resources. To counter these difficulties, however, there has been tremendous enthusiasm and commitment of Africa sector professionals throughout the continent and our friends from abroad working through many different agencies both within our countries and from elsewhere in the international community.

• **2.2 Sector Review Report**

• **2.2.1 Data Collection and Questionnaire**

The first meeting of the AWG took place in Harare and was attended by a core-group. The meeting agreed that a total picture of the status of water supply and sanitation in Africa should be known. Only then could the AWG come up with a meaningful output to use in advising the Council and African countries on further action in the sector.

However, it became obvious that, due to scarcity of funds, the initial detailed plan of carrying out the study could not be followed. Given that Africa, being a large continent with diverse water supply and sanitation problems, and that countries are at different levels of progress, the initial plan was for a study comprising reports written by Sub-Consultants from the Francophone, Anglophone West Africa, Lusophone / Southern African, East African and Magreb countries of Africa. These inputs would then be combined into a final report by the Main consultant. However, this detailed process was discarded due to lack of funds. UNICEF agreed to fund the study using an AWG member to undertake the Sector Review Report.

Mr. Len Abrams, a member of the AWG from South Africa was identified and commissioned to carry out the study.

The study was executed through a very detailed questionnaire (See Appendix 9) accompanied by a Concept Paper and personal visits to several Sub-Saharan countries.

Both the questionnaire and the Concept Paper were prepared by Len Abrams and vetted by the Co-ordinator and the Co-chairpersons.

The questionnaire which focused on

- Respondent Information
  - General Country Information
  - Water Supply and Sanitation Policy
  - Institutional Framework
  - Budget Priorities
  - Current Development Programmes and Projects
  - Capacity Building and Human Resources Mobilisation
  - Country Level Collaboration
  - Possible Areas of Support by the Collaborative Council
- Supplementary Questions
- Institutional Details
  - Strategic Planning For Sector Development

**Africa Working Group**

Collaborative Council on Water Supply and Sanitation

**AFRICA REVIEW - CONCEPT PAPER**

JULY 1996

**A new approach to an old Problem**

Sub-Saharan Africa has suffered many ills in its history and it has seen many victories. During the last few decades, after the end of the colonial period, the emphasis has been on development. Many countries had to rebuild themselves after protracted conflicts. Africa is a continent of contrast in the midst of enormous beauty and strength; there is the stark reality of poverty and a great deal of suffering.

The development of Africa has been the business of all the world. Countless conferences, workshops and projects have been undertaken by dozens of agencies to address the problem. Some success have been achieved. Gains have been made, but not enough. Africa remains in deep crisis. Her people continue to struggle for survival.

A new approach is needed to solve the problem. A new awareness is growing on the continent. We as Africans have a problem. It is not the world's problem, it is our problem. We cannot rely on the world's solutions, we need our own solutions.

The project has received the endorsement of the Africa 2000 and the United Nations Initiative as part of the Secretary General's focus on the Continent.

**Seeking An African Solution**

At the third global forum of the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation, held in Barbados in November 1995, delegates from Africa proposed that an Africa Working Group take responsibility for mapping out a strategy to address the problem and to seek an African solution to the water supply and sanitation crisis in Africa.

During the first core group meeting of the Working Group in Harare in April 1996, the mandate given to the group in Barbados was put into concrete terms.

It was decided to undertake a brief study of the water supply and sanitation situation in Africa. Many such studies have been carried out in the past, but not from a uniquely African perspective. The working group wishes to begin a new way of looking at the issue - we need to go back to African values and redefine our own future.

This will mean looking for new keys to unlock the problems surrounding water supply and sanitation in Africa. This is the objective of the Working Group, which is made up entirely of African professionals in the Sector.

**Identifying the keys to the problems**

The conventional approach to the problem has largely been on a project-by-project basis in terms of numerical targets determined on the basis of the un-served population in each country. This approach often misses some of the uniquely African fundamentals. Although the figures indicate the overall status of services in each country, they do not give any real indication of the underlying causes and the many other interrelated factors which contribute to the problem.

The concern of the Africa Working Group is to find the true indicators and factors which will help to establish a new strategy for the future. The elements which will be looked at in the study will be the following: sector policy, institutional framework, budget priorities, the strategic planning for water supply and sanitation development, economic efforts such as cost recovery, country level collaboration and the political status given to the problem.

The initial programme of action of the Working Group is to undertake a study of these factors in sub-Saharan Africa, both through direct study of selected countries and through the compilation of relevant information on most other countries.

### **Policy**

Good policy for any sector is a fundamental prerequisite for success. This is particularly the case for water supply and sanitation. Policy provides clarity to the sector, both within government and amongst private and international agencies.

Policy is an expression of political will and provides the framework for development. Policy is required to ensure integrated development and proper interaction between different sectors and government departments. Policy should never be static - it provides the basis for strategic planning and should be continuously amended with the insights gained through experience.

### **Institutional Framework**

The institutional framework of the water sector at country level has a direct impact on developmental implementation. There are many different models and structures of institutions in Africa because institutions are directly influenced by country level circumstances. Questions such as the role of regional structures, the delegation of responsibilities to local level, the lines of communication and authority, and other such points, are all important institutional features. It is clear that some institutional structures are more effective than others in achieving sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector. Many countries have undergone institutional reform in recent years and a number are engaged in reform at present.

Irrespective of the structure of the institutions engaged in water management and supply, is the question of the capacity of the institution to fulfil its function. Institutional capacity and capacity building programmes at all levels, from national to village level, are therefore of interest to the study.

### **Budget priorities**

There are always difficulties in determining budget priorities - the demands always exceed the resources. Priorities, however, are indicated by the actual allocations made. The proportion of the budget allocated to the water and sanitation sector is an indication of the importance given to the sector in relation to other sectors. There may be good reasons for these differences, but because of the impact which water and sanitation have on health and development generally (especially with regard to the poorest sections of the population), the proportion of the budget allocated to water and sanitation is often inadequate. It is also often the case that the moneys allocated to the sector are not released.

A related issue is that of cost recovery which is often undermined for political reasons making it impossible to sustain the sector on an economically viable footing.

### **Strategic planning for development**

Sound policy and efficient institutions are not in themselves sufficient to achieve development without adequate planning. (Strategic plans, in the absence of sound policy, efficient institutions and political will, are also unlikely to succeed). As many countries have been through a succession of planning phases with little effect, an important issue to the Africa Working Group is the status of planning at country level in different countries.

### **Country level collaboration**

A great deal of development on the continent is achieved through bi-lateral and multi-lateral partnerships between governments, international development agencies, non-governmental organizations and other bodies. Such collaboration ensures optimum use of resources and in order to achieve as full a picture as possible of the status of water supply and sanitation in Africa, one of the objectives of the study is to document the various collaborative programmes presently being undertaken in Africa.

### **Political status of water supply and sanitation**

In the final analysis, the political status of water supply and sanitation in a country is the real measure of how successful and sustainable development is likely to be. The provision of such services, however, seldom enjoys much political status, except as a campaign promise which is seldom followed through. One of the objectives of the study is to review the relationship between the real political will to deliver what may be regarded as mundane services on the one hand, and the level of services in each country on the other. Methods to raise the political profile of water supply and sanitation will be investigated.



**Project Survey**

The Survey will comprise two main elements. The first will be a study of the available information, a great deal of which has already been collected at country level and by numerous international agencies. The information will, however, be reassessed from the perspective of the Africa Working Group in terms of the issues raised in this concept paper. This study will be augmented with information from a questionnaire which will be sent to various government and other agencies.

The second element of the survey will be a more detailed investigation of a number of selected countries.

**Country Visits**

Country visits will, of necessity, be brief, because of the time constraints of the programme. The objective will be to speak with key persons in government and other water/sanitation sector bodies to provide the opportunity for direct input to the study.

The countries to be visited are:

**Southern Africa:**

- Malawi,
- South Africa and
- Zimbabwe

**West Africa:**

- Nigeria,
- Cote d'Ivoire,
- Burkina Faso.

**East Africa:**

- Kenya,
- Ethiopia and
- Uganda

**Report**

The objective of the report will be to present and synthesize the information gathered during the project, and to present an analysis of the results. The analysis will include a strategic overview of the situation in the sub-continent and observations on a regional and sub-regional basis.

The report will:

- \* identify major problem areas in the planning, implementation and operation of water supply and sanitation projects
- \* review current regional and sub-regional development initiatives
- \* suggest ways that the Collaborative Council could support existing regional and sub-regional water supply and sanitation activities
- \* review existing collaboration in Africa between governments, external support agencies, NGOs, communities and the private sector
- \* identify constraints and solutions for capacity building and resource mobilization
- \* review the potential modes of advocacy to increase the priority of rural water supply and sanitation on the agenda of national governments.

**The way ahead**

This project, the first of Africa Working Group, will help both the Group and the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation to plan a way forward.

This will be of assistance to both the group and the water sector in Africa. It is however, clearly understood that this is not an exhaustive study and will only provide indicators to assist in the development of strategy.

The questionnaire was distributed to 44 African countries to which 28 organisations / agencies in 23 countries responded. Responses were received from

-	Angola	National Water Directorate
-	Central African Republic	MPECO
-	Chad	Directorate of Water
-	Congo	Direction de l'Hydraulique
-	Cote d'Ivoire	Direction de l'Eau
-	Cote d'Ivoire	Minist Are du Logement, Cadre de Vie et l'Environnement
-	Eritrea	Water Resources Department
-	Ethiopia	Ministry of Health
-	Ethiopia	Ministry of Water Affairs
-	Ghana	UNICEF
-	Guinea Bissau	Ministry of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources
-	Kenya	African Medical & Research Foundation
-	Madagascar	Ministry of Energy and Mining
-	Mali	UNICEF
-	Namibia	Department of Water Affairs/UNICEF
-	Nigeria	Federal Ministry of Water Resources & Rural Dev.
-	Nigeria	Anglican Diocesan, Jos
-	Nigeria	National Water Resources Institute
-	Sao Tome e Principe	UNICEF
-	Senegal	UNICEF
-	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone Water Company
-	Sudan	National Water Corporation
-	Swaziland	Rural Water Supply Branch, Government
-	The Gambia	Department of Water Resources
-	Togo	UNICEF
-	Uganda	Ministry of Natural Resources
-	Uganda	UNICEF
-	Zaire	Direction du Programme National d'Assainissement

Country visits were made to eight sub-saharan countries namely Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cote D'Ivoire, during which interviews and discussions were held.

A number of documents were submitted with the questionnaires and some collected during the country visits from governmental organisations, ESAs, NGOs and the private sector.

The fact that only sub-saharan countries were visited has been questioned, but once the issue of lack of funds was understood it was agreed that the Sector Review report should be updated periodically to ensure the gathering of first hand information which would ensure a more enriched sector review.

The information from the questionnaires returned by 23 countries and the country visits were compiled into the Africa Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Review Report.

### **2.2.2 General Observations**

The water and sanitation sector in Africa is very varied and characterised by both successes and failures. A striking observation is the commitment of people within the sector throughout the continent who often work in very difficult circumstances and particularly in the case of public servants, with very little reward.

There is a general acceptance which was found everywhere that the engagement of communities at grassroot level is key to the success and sustainability of development programmes. Acceptance of the notion of community engagement, however, is very different from genuinely implementing such a policy. Similarly, there was general agreement that water supply and, in some cases sanitation, enjoyed a high political priority but this is not generally translated into adequate budget allocations and implementation support from politicians.

The main areas of difficulties in the water supply and sanitation sector observed during the country visits and through the questionnaires were as follows:

- Lack of follow through on political support for the sector
- Lack of finances.
- Frequent institutional changes in government structures.
- Lack of policy
- Lack of human resources
- Poor conditions of service in the sector, particularly for government employees
- Different approaches by NGOs and development agencies in the same country.
- Increasing stress on water resources and the environment in many parts of Africa
- Inefficiency and excessive bureaucracy.
- Lack of collaboration within the sector between all players
- General conditions due to poverty and weak economies.
- Lack of genuine handing over of responsibility and authority to local levels.
- Emphasis on physical delivery and technology without adequate local training and awareness creation.
- Ethos of entitlement on the part of people "the government must provide".
- Problems with local payment for services and economic sustainability

This list of difficulties should not mask the effort and commitment made by many people on the continent with a real concern for those who suffer because of lack of adequate services. Many of these difficulties are inter-linked. The objective of this exercise is to attempt an honest and genuine review of these difficulties.

It was mentioned by some readers of the initial draft of this report that major programmes undertaken in some countries as joint projects between their governments and the international development agencies in the recent past were not mentioned. The information gathered was on the basis of interviews undertaken and the questionnaires filled out. If a major programme undertaken a few years ago was not mentioned by the country professionals concerned, this reflects on the impact and sustainability of the programme.

### 2.2.3 Policy Issues

Very few African countries have developed their policy statements for the sector. From the respondents only seven countries have developed sector policy statements . These are

- Namibia
- Nigeria (Draft)
- Uganda (Proposed)
- South Africa
- Burkina Faso
- Malawi
- Guinea Bissau (Water Code)

There is a growing awareness of the need to prepare national sector policies, but the problem is lack of political will. In most cases there are projects, strategic plans, and targets which exist in a policy vacuum.

Even though there is an awareness for the need of a policy framework to guide and guard the sector, there is obvious reluctance from the "politician" as it would immediately provide a public standard against which performance can be measured. This is because policy provides the foundation for planning and the drawing up of developmental strategies.

Policy however, on its own is of limited value without political will and the resources to implement it. Also, plans and strategies without policy tend to be haphazard and this provides a free ground for aid donor agencies to have a free hand in dictating the tune.

### 2.2.4 Political profile of the sector and the politicisation of water

Water is a very valued commodity in the continent. Women and children waste many productive hours walking very long distances to fetch water of very questionable quality. Everybody, even a four year old understands and appreciates the high importance accorded to water supply in their villages, and also in towns and cities as urban, the peri and semi-urban dwellers are not left out.

The politician, being a "son of the soil" realizes how dear the subject matter is to the hearts of the women and children who form the greater majority of the electorate, uses water as a strategy to attain a political status. These promises are hardly kept when the politician has been voted into power.

Water has been over politicised, for, if a community makes the unforeseen error of voting for the defeated candidate, through out the tenure of the successful candidate, that community would not receive such amenities as water and sanitation.

Also the "achievement syndrome" of the politicians which is purely for their political and personal aggrandisement automatically erodes the funding for operation and maintenance, for it makes more sense to the politician to count the number of new projects, such as roundabouts he constructed during his tenure than to allocate funds for maintaining (e.g. the water supply and sanitation systems) that his predecessors put in place.

Although water occupies one of the highest political profiles, this is not usually matched with the same level of funding. In most countries the budget allocated to defence takes the lead and interestingly enough when it comes to releasing the already diminutive water budget only about 50% gets released.

Political support and will affects all aspects of the sector, and once this is not there, the sector suffers, as the institution, the professionals, the funding, etcetera etcetera would be affected.

The sector professionals must urgently find ways of lobbying political support for commensurate funding for the sector.

### **2.2.5 Institutional issues**

Interestingly, even though most African countries on the attainment of independence have virtually changed everything that might remind them of the colonial days, the only enduring legacy that has refused to acquire a post independence outlook has been government institutions, for even colonial names such as "Permanent Secretary" or "High Commissioner" still persist. Are these institutions still appropriate within the African context?

In most countries, because of the prevailing harsh economic and political situations, there exists constant change in the institutions handling the sector. Often, government ministries/departments are suddenly merged or de-merged which have very negative effects on the progress of the sector and the professionals involved. And these negative effects are felt right down the tiers of governments to the communities.

In most countries, government officials work under very harsh conditions with very minimal resources at their disposal. Their salaries are very low and approved working budgets which often have been reduced from what was originally requested for are not released as planned. All these are because of the economic and political upheavals these countries are going through. Despite all these, there is evidence of impressive commitment on the side of the professionals. The Government departments/ ministries are under-resourced with the number of professionals employed for the sector within the public service being inadequate. Poor or non existent institutional arrangement is the bane of rural water supply and sanitation because, the ESAs, NGOs, the Private Sector and the Communities have a field day as each intervenes without any reference to the other, resulting in fund wastage and duplication of efforts.

### **2.2.6 Community Management**

**"Whilst they undoubtedly do not have the technical or administrative skills, poverty and illiteracy should not be confused with a lack of wisdom"-Africa Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Review Report.**

In most African countries a number of sector professionals are still under the misconception that the rural communities cannot operate and maintain water supply and sanitation facilities within their communities.

But the concept of community management is now being widely accepted, even though in most places it is rarely observed. This wide acceptance is because most of the works previously constructed without the communities' involvement have now ground to a halt because of the economic realities of the time. This has now provided an enabling environment for sector professionals to look inwards with a view to using acceptable technologies which can be easily operated and maintained by the communities themselves, thus ensuring sustainability.

Community management should not be seen as a way of "passing the buck" rather as a way of working closely with the communities for sustainability of projects. The process requires sensitivity and skills (multi-disciplinary approach) which generally are not part of the training of conventional engineers and technicians.

### 2.2.7 Sector Investment

Throughout the continent, government spending on water supply and sanitation is very low and the proportion is usually less than 1% of the national budget. In no case was the water budget within the top 4 (four) of the national budgets despite the political status it occupies. The case of sanitation is pathetic as many countries do not have sanitation budgets as they do not have sanitation projects.

The report advocates the dire need for alternative sources of funding to be indentified. This is most critical as the burden of recurrent costs for operating and maintaining existing service is beyond the resources of many African Governments, resulting in an unending cycle of unsustainable development. Revenue generation from users would have provided an alternative source, but such obstacles as extreme poverty of communities and worse still such political pronouncements as water is free, militate against such.

Global economic down turn and the tendency for industrialised countries to "punish" any developing country that has deviated from that view of "expected norms" has reduced drastically the inflow of external finances. These hitherto had been readily available to this "very attractive sector to development oriented agencies and NGOs". With the availability of foreign finance, governments had often redirected the funds which otherwise would have been available to the sector to other areas. But in the face of dwindling resources the countries find it difficult to reverse their habit and this is most damaging to the sector, as a number of sector professionals tend to be attracted to greener pastures like joining the ESAs, the private sector or leaving their countries for others.

### 2.2.8 Operation & Maintenance

Lack of operation and maintenance is one of the obvious problems of the sector. O&M culture is very low as in most cases funds are not allocated to it by government, with the tendency for its inclusion to be made during the planning of the budgets. The resultant effect which is now glaring across the continent is the number of rehabilitation projects being funded by multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies at exorbitant foreign exchange costs compared to what the same governments would have spent on O&M.

### 2.2.9 Payment for Services

In many African countries the governments took upon themselves the responsibility of covering the costs of water provision with the result that the populace grew to expect free services. With this approach, the burden of recurrent expenditure for most governments became great leading to the collapse of services, while in some cases the entire water budget became absorbed by operating subsidies, resulting in the inequitable situation of most being without service while some had.

In most countries the great debate of whether the populace should pay for services received is still on. While the debate is on, cost recovery for recurring costs is non-existent with schemes becoming unsustainable. Where government utilities supply water there is the semblance of cost recovery e.g. flat rate/tariffs where in effect, the poor subsidize the rich.

For efficient and sustainable service, there must be willingness to pay leading to cost recovery. Somebody has to pay for services to be sustained effectively, and this, the users must do - even in very indigent communities. There are ways within the African culture of taking care of the indigent.

## **2.2.10 Involvement of International Agencies and NGOs**

There is quite a number of development agencies working within Africa, the concentration varies from one country to the other. These are in four categories, namely Domestic NGO's - formed by nationals, "Expatriate" NGOs e.g. with their head offices outside the African soil; they are similar to domestic NGOs. Bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies e.g. SIDA, ODA, and International Development Agencies e.g. United Nations (UNICEF, UNDP) and the World Bank.

The big NGOs tend to work through government while the others intervene in most cases without making any contact with Government. There is the need for the activities of all the NGOs to be streamlined within the existing regulations and institutions set up by the government of the host country, rather than, some of them thinking that as they are bringing finance to the sector they can dictate to the host government. Such an attitude is negative and does not augur well for the agencies, the government and the populace of that country. Country level collaboration must be advocated to ensure that sustainable operations of projects are put on ground.

## **2.2.11 Review and Adoption of the Sector Report at Addis Ababa Meeting**

The Report was well received and because of its importance it was thoroughly reviewed by the members of the Working Group, the ESAs, Embassies, OAU, and ECA participants present at the Africa Working Group meeting in October 1996 in Addis Ababa.

## **2.3 Meetings of the Africa Working Group**

Three main meetings of the Africa Working Group were held between Barbados and Manila. These were as follows:

- Harare 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1996
- Addis Ababa 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1996
- Abidjan 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1997

### **2.3.1 Harare**

The first meeting of the Africa Working Group was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in April 1996 and was attended by a core group. (See appendix 3 for the attendance list.) At this meeting the Objectives and Terms of Reference for the Africa Working Group were agreed upon along with the general modus operandi of the Group. It was agreed that four Conceptual Papers would be drafted as the basis for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Review Report. This was later amended to a single paper.

### **2.3.2 Addis Ababa**

The Addis Ababa meeting was held late October 1996, at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, ( ECA).

In order to achieve the main objective of the AWG which is advocacy, the meeting was thrown open to a number of organisations, namely, the OAU, ECA, Embassies, World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, HABITAT, UNEP, SIDA, UNICEF/ESARO, UNDP/World Bank Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, UNDP, UNESCO amongst others. Four African Ministers attended the opening ceremony and the Minister from

Guinea Bissau participated throughout the period. The Ministers are:

- i. H.E. Ato Shiferaw Jarso, Minister of Water Resources, Ethiopia.
- ii. H.E. Mr. Wolde Michael Chamo, Minister of Information and Culture Ethiopia.
- iii. H.E. Haile Assegede, Minister of Urban Planning Ethiopia.
- iv. H.E. Joao G. Cardoso, Minister of Energy, Industry & Natural Resources, Guinea Bissau.

The keynote address was presented by H.E. Alo Shiferaw Jarso, Honourable Minister of Water Resources of Ethiopia and a statement was presented by the Officer-in-Charge of the Natural Resources Division representing the Executive Secretary of the ECA.

At this meeting the draft copy of the Sector Review Report was carefully studied and the Addis Plan of Action was drawn up. The Plan of Action considered mainly those "do – able" actions which could be achieved before the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council meetings in Manila in November 1997.

### **2.3.3 Abidjan**

This meeting was held directly after the Country Level Collaboration Working Group meeting of the Collaborative Council held in March 1997 and directly before the Planning meeting for the 1998 Africa 2000 meeting. An advantage of the venue and the related meetings was the high proportion of francophone delegates who were able to attend.

The work of the meeting was to take forward the Addis Plan of Action, to work out the details of establishing the Africa Working Group as a permanent regional structure, and to establish details of the function of the proposed African Water Sector Ambassador.

### **2.4 Final synthesis of the work of the Addis Ababa AWG Meeting**

After working in groups, the issues identified were brought together and deliberated upon. These are listed in alphabetical order as

- capacity building in the sector
- collaboration between all role players in the sector and between the various sector initiatives
- community management and community based development
- conditions of service of sector professionals
- cost effective appropriate technology
- cost recovery
- field co-operation
- gender mainstreaming
- information, communication and co-ordination
- institutional reform
- linkages with other sectors
- low resource allocation
- monitoring and evaluation
- operation and maintenance



- population growth issues
- private sector participation
- social and economic benefits
- the political profile of the sector
- water for integrated development
- water supply and sanitation policy development
- water quality management

From the discussions, the Working Group concluded that all the areas of concern identified by the task groups fall into four main categories and it was emphasized that all of these issues **should be approached with commitment and passion, bringing the very best of our faculties and skills to bear, to address the following areas:**

- **Political Profile:** There was general agreement that the political profile of the sector and the degree of political will of politicians and eminent leaders on the continent will determine the extent to which all of the other objectives will be achieved. Therefore, advocacy activities to raise the political status and commitment of the sector is a major objective of the Africa Working Group.
- **Structural issues:** Many of the concern raised, such as policy development, institutional reform and conditions of service, are structural issues within the sector. They require attention and are closely linked to the political profile of the sector.
- **Collaboration and communication:** This area incorporates the numerous aspects of collaboration and communication which are needed throughout the sector and between sectors. Upon demand, the initiative can be started at country level immediately.
- **Implementation issues:** This area includes such issues as capacity building, community management, operation and maintenance, gender advocacy and payment for services. Again these issues depend upon political will at country level. Although the Africa Working Group recognised that it could not address all of the issues identified during the course of the meeting, it strongly believed that it should try to carry out some activities in each of the four main areas of concern. Together, these activities constitute the operational plan of action of the Working Group leading up to the next Collaborative Council Global Forum, scheduled for November 1997 in Manila.

#### 2.4.1 Recommendations and strategies

##### i) **Specified Studies**

The Africa Working Group will set up a mechanism either through sub-committees or through the commissioning of specific studies, to look in depth at the following topics:-

**Water policy development in Africa** - ways of promoting policy development, what is good policy; effective policy implementation; set up a data base of African water policy; lessons from other developing countries.

**Institutional and Legislative Reform** - what is the status? what agencies are active in reform promotion and support, existing guidelines for reform, successes and failure, lessons from other developing countries.

**Conditions of Service** - detailed assessment of conditions of service in the sector especially for public

servants; review the impact of poor conditions (working conditions and logistic supports) of service on the sector, highlight and publish the issue.

**Cost recovery** - gather information and case studies, seek to identify what works and what does not; seek to identify cultural and social indicators for successful cost recovery, what are the African solutions?

**Sustainability at Local Level** - How are the communities being mobilised to ensure the sustainability of systems put on ground? Lessons learnt from different developing Countries.

ii) **Formation of Strategies**

Apart from the above mentioned specific studies, the AWG will develop strategies amongst its members to continue to advocate for the following:

- raising the political profile of the sector,
- greater resources allocation to the sector
- capacity building and support for professionals in the sector,
- continued promotion of community based development,
- improved sectoral and inter-sectoral collaboration and the building of relationships within the sector on the continent.
- gender consideration in all activities.

### **2.4.2 The Addis Ababa Plan of Action**

An Addis Ababa Plan of Action (See Appendix 11) was drawn up which constituted the operational plan for the AWG covering October 1996 - May 1997 at which point the Executive Summary and the Main Report of the AWG would have been prepared in readiness for the Manila forum of the Council. The do-able actions before the Manila meeting are:-

- The need for more effort to be made to ensure that all the forty four countries that received the questionnaire react to it to ensure a more detailed report. Also there is wisdom in the other countries outside sub-saharan Africa being visited in the future, as it was agreed that there is the necessity for the report to be updated from time to time.
- The compilation of the various Initiatives for water supply and sanitation in Africa was done and presented in Abidjan with some updating thereafter.

### **2.4.3 Other issues**

#### **Collaborative Council Statement On Africa**

The Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a Collaborative Council statement on the AWG. This was done and presented at the Abidjan meeting

#### **OAU Resolution**

It was resolved that the Africa Working Group should be placed high up on the OAU agenda for the June 1997 meeting in order to advocate to all the African Heads of State. The resolution is to be tabled by one of the African Heads of State. Action is on to ensure that this is accomplished, as soon as possible.

**African Ambassador For Water Supply and Sanitation**

A prominent international African is to be identified to act as an ambassador for African Water Supply and Sanitation. The person should be able to open doors to advocate for the sector and also mobilize funds. The machinery has been put in motion.

**African Consultative Forum**

During the Harare meeting it was felt necessary for an African Consultative Forum to be held before the Manila meeting during which the deliberations of the AWG would be presented to the representatives of all the African countries and all other stake holders in the sector like the NGOs and ESAs and the private sector. At the Addis Ababa meeting it was felt that the Consultative Forum would be better held after Manila in 1998. Plans are already on to ensure that a hitch free meeting involving all the other interested Initiatives is held.

**Advisory Body to Other Initiatives On Africa**

The AWG is to act as an advisory body to all the other Initiatives on Africa. It was in line with this that discussions are going on the possibility of having the Africa Consultative Forum and the Africa 2000 1998 conference merged into one conference.

**Regional Consultative Body.**

The AWG has worked hard within the period available to it, that is between the Babardos and Manila fora to come up with a meaningful out put, bearing in mind the limited financial resources initially available to it produced a Sector Review Report to guide their deliberations. Armed with this document which was prepared within a short time frame, the AWG commenced work with inputs from sector professionals who brought to bear their varied experiences. However, it was concluded that a lot of work still has to be done, and Africans have to take their fate into their own hands. A more permanent body (as against using the AWG) should be envolved to take care of the sector's problems. It therefore has become necessary for a Regional Consultative Body of all stakeholders to be formed. The Consultative Body should have a permanent secretariat to be headed by an Executive Secretary and affiliated to the Collaborative Council.

**World Wide Web Page**

A web page is to be established on the INTERNET and connected to the Council's web page.

**Advocacy Materials**

Advocacy materials on Africa Water Supply and Sanitation are to be produced and disseminated regularly.

***2.5 Collaborative Council on Water Supply and Sanitation meetings***

A number of meetings were held in relation to the Collaborative Council business and other Working Groups during the period of this report to which members of the Africa Working Group were invited. All of these meetings had a bearing on the work of the Africa Working Group.

### **2.5.1 Mid Term Review - London**

The mid term review meeting of the Collaborative Council was held in London in November 1996 to take stock of the work done by the Council a year after the Barbados Global Forum. The meeting was chaired by the outgoing chairperson Ms. Margaret Cartley-Calson, and the incoming chairperson Mr. Richard Jolly. Also present were all the coordinators of the various working groups and the task group chairpersons. The discussions centered on the reports presented by the Executive Secretary, the coordinators and the task group managers.

The Africa Working Group requested the other groups to ensure that issues concerning Africa be brought to the attention of the Africa Working Group and that at least one member of the Africa Working Group be invited to attend the working sessions of the other relevant working groups. The Africa Working Group also expressed the intention to play an advisory role to other Initiatives on Africa and would be glad to work with any such Initiatives.

### **2.5.2 Advocacy and Communications Working Group - the Hague**

The Advocacy and Communications Working Group of the Collaborative Council held a meeting in the Hague in May 1997 to which the Africa Working Group was invited. As per the request of the Africa Working Group, the Advocacy and Communications Working Group is looking at various ways in which it can assist the other working groups of the Council in developing advocacy programs.

### **2.5.3 Ad hoc Council Meeting - Geneva**

An ad hoc committee meeting was held in June 1997, chaired by the in-coming chairperson of the Collaborative Council, Mr. Jolly. The objective of the meeting, which was attended by a core group of invited members of the Council, was to review the working of the Council and to reassess the Council's vision for the water supply and sanitation sector. The Co-ordinator of the Africa Working Group was invited to attend as a member of the core group.

## **3 Other African Initiatives**

There are a number of Initiatives currently under way on the African continent which are sponsored and supported by a variety of organisations. It is important that the Africa Working Group is both aware of these Initiatives and engaged with them where appropriate. Some of these initiatives are described in the text box below. There are many other important activities which are not included here but which are, nevertheless, very significant to the well-being of our people and continent.

### **Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council**

#### **MAJOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION INITIATIVES IN AFRICA**

#### **Working Group on Africa**

**Abidjan March, 1997**

Africa has a variety of programmes and activities supporting water supply and sanitation services. Some are long-term water and sanitation programmes of established institutions, such as the World Bank, UNICEF and the African Development Bank (ADB), while others are Initiatives established specifically for African water supply and sanitation development, such as AFRICA 2000 and the Water Utility Partnership, or for

general African development, as in the case of UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. Another type of special programme is the Global Initiative containing an African regional component, such as the UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme and the Global Water Partnership.

All of these programmes, Initiatives and related activities, as well as, the many others supported by African governments, External Support agencies, NGOS, local utilities and Communities constitute the universe of water supply and sanitation services in Africa.

#### **OAU / UNICEF Initiative**

A number of initiatives have arisen in Africa in the last few years to promote either overall, social and economic development or more specific water and sanitation development. In November 1992, in Dakar, Senegal, the Organization for African Unity at the International Conference on Assistance to African Children called on African governments to become promoters, active leaders and co-ordinators of development in the region. Accepting the proposition that water supply and sanitation were the most crucial interventions for the future of African children, the OAU recommended that countries set achievable targets on the basis of National Plans of Action (NPA), that a regional body be established to assist in national promotion campaigns, and that entire populations be mobilized for awareness of the needs for a healthy environment.

#### **United Nations System-wide Special Initiative On Africa**

In February 1995, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, requested a major United Nations effort to raise the priority given to development over the entire African continent. A Steering Committee was formed of the executive heads of all the UN agencies under the chairmanship of UNDP and UNECA. Five working groups were established to carry out the programme of the Special Initiative: water (headed by UNEP), food security (headed by FAO), governance (headed by UNDP), social and human development (headed by UNESCO), and resource mobilization (headed by the World Bank).

The aim of the Special Initiative is "to identify and develop practical proposals to maximize the support provided by the UN system to African development, and to raise the priority given to Africa in the international agenda" The water component includes household water security (i.e. water supply and sanitation), freshwater assessments and water for food production. The Initiative states that the expansion of services in Africa will require an additional US\$4.5 billion of internal resources and US\$2.5 billion of external resources over the next decade.

Formally launched on 15 March 1996, the Initiative has been the subject of numerous meetings and consultations within the UN system. To handle the water issues, an Informal Water Working Group was established in April 1996. Chaired by UNEP and the World Bank, the group also includes representatives from all other UN agencies interested in water development (UNICEF, UNDP, WMO, WHO, FAO, DDSMS, UNCHS, IAEA and DPCSD). This group has identified four major priority areas, including

- (1) assuring sustainable and equitable freshwater,
- (2) household water security
- (3) freshwater assessment and
- (4) water for food security.

For household water security, the Informal Water Working Group has accepted an objective of 80% coverage of safe water and sanitation within ten years, with special emphasis on the country level and assistance being provided to countries to achieve levels of access appropriate to their current capacities. It also defined household water security to include not only water supply and sanitation, but also community management of the water environment, including watershed protection, pollution control, livestock watering and other catchment areas issues.

In October 1996, the Informal Water Working Group decided to initiate concerted UN agency activities under the Special Initiative in four selected countries: Mali, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda and in the Zambesi River Basin. It was further decided to ask the executive heads of UNDP, UNECA and UNEP to visit the selected countries and secure their agreement to serve as prototypes for better co-ordination among the UN agencies in the implementation of the water objectives. The relevant UN agencies are now assembling information on their on-going and planned activities in the four countries.

### **AFRICA 2000 Initiative for Water Supply and Sanitation**

Institution of The AFRICA 2000 Initiative for Water Supply and Sanitation was requested by ministers of health of 46 sub-Saharan African countries at the 43rd WHO Regional Committee for Africa in September 1994. The objectives of AFRICA 2000 are to expand water and sanitation services through greater country leadership, increased reliance on African solutions and enhanced partnerships between countries and development agencies.

To date, almost all countries have appointed AFRICA 2000 Focal Points and 15 countries have held AFRICA 2000 national consultations to review their water and sanitation needs and to set out action plans for the immediate future. AFRICA 2000 activities have been initiated in most of the countries of the Region. WHO provides the secretariat to the Initiative.

In June 1996, the First Regional Consultation of the AFRICA 2000 Initiative was held in Brazzaville. Representatives from 46 African countries plus representatives of UN agencies, bilateral agencies and NGOs attended the meeting. The main outcome of the meeting was the Brazzaville Declaration which called for priorities based on the expressed desires of the people, mobilization of local resources for affordable solutions, new partnerships for health and development, and leadership by African governments; . In addition, the Consultation endorsed a seven-point action programme involving issues of finance, communication recommendation that AFRICA 2000 be linked to other Initiatives in Africa; that an annual AFRICA 2000 meeting be held and a permanent AFRICA 2000 secretariat be established. The Brazzaville Declaration and the accompanying recommendations of the Consultation were transmitted to the Heads of State of all African countries.

In a separate but related meeting, 40 participants at the AFRICA 2000 Regional Consultation met at the WHO Regional Office in Brazzaville to explore practical steps to link the AFRICA 2000 Initiative with the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. The participants strongly recommended that the WHO Regional Director write to the United Nations with the offer that AFRICA 2000, under the direction and leadership of the countries of Africa, be considered as the operational component of the UN Special Initiative in the field of Household Water Security. The alternative recommendation was for a few country representatives be included in the decision-making process of the UN Special Initiative.

Planning is now beginning on the Second AFRICA 2000 Regional Consultation, tentatively scheduled for June 1998 in Abidjan. This meeting will review progress in countries in the implementation of AFRICA 2000 recommendations and will formulate strategies for the future. It is hoped that the Second Consultation will include the participation of all countries on the continent of Africa.

### **Water Utility Partnership**

The Water Utility Partnership (WUP) is an initiative of the World Bank (Western Africa Department, Infrastructures Division) and several African institutions (Union of Africa Water Suppliers/Abidjan, CREPA/Ouagadougou, and TREND/Kumasi) to strengthen the water supply and sanitation sector in Africa by building upon the water and sanitation utilities that exist in almost all countries of the continent. Launched in August 1995 with an initial financial contribution of the World Bank, the WUP is concerned with the extension of drinking water and sanitation services in urban and peri-urban areas, with particular emphasis on the poor. The Partnership has a secretariat in Abidjan and is supervised by a Steering Committee.

Thus, the WUP is an open partnership for water utilities, donors, NGOs training and research institutes and others. It constitutes a network for gathering, disseminating and exchanging experiences. It also serves as a catalyst to improve sector performance at national and regional levels.

The objectives of the WUP are as follows:

- Improve performance of water and sanitation utilities in terms of cost recovery, service coverage and quality with emphasis upon institutional reforms.
- Develop collaboration between water utilities, NGOs and related groups, particularly in underserved settlements.
- Strengthen NGOs and related groups providing water supply and sanitation services to under-privileged populations not reached by water utilities.
- Establish collaboration between UAWS, CRFEPA, TREND and other training, research and information organizations, and coordinate external support in the initial three-year programme.

The WUP is not a capital development programme. Its emphasis is on institutional capacity building of water and sanitation utilities in urban and peri-urban areas. WUP activities (training advocacy, technical advisory services, information dissemination, etc) are expected to be added as an additional component to existing projects funded by external donor organization, such as ODA, ADB, World Bank, etc. Four criteria are used to identify WUP activities: regional in nature, use of best practices, catalyst to other activities and development of networking.

The current rolling three-year programme (1996-1998) of the WUP has a projected budget of US\$7,600,000 of which 10% is expected to be provided by the UAWS, 15-20% by the World Bank and the remainder by partners, external support agencies and the private sector. Six projects are planned for this initial period:

- (1) Institutional options for the management of the drinking water and sanitation sector
- (2) Performance indicators of water supply and sanitation utilities
- (3) Water utilities management and leakage control
- (4) Strengthening the public health protection capacity of water utilities
- (5) Strengthening the capacity of water utilities to provide sustainable services in low income urban areas
- (6) Setting up an Internet site

To date, activities are underway on the first three projects and plans are being developed for the remaining three. In addition to the core institutions, active partners in the WUP include SODECI (Cote d'Ivoire), ONEP (Morocco), RAND Water (South Africa), Umgeni Water (South Africa), Kaduna State Water Board (Nigeria) and WHO.

Lusophone African Countries Initiative of the Council.

The Lusophone African Countries Initiative came into being during the Morocco Global Forum of the Council in 1993. This came up due to reports presented by five Lusophone African countries. Thereafter actions were developed. These covered institutional framework, human resources development, and information management.

- A Co-ordinating Committee under the auspices of the Council was formed and included members from Portuguese speaking countries of Africa, Portugal, Brazil IRC and ESA and international organisations.

- The African countries identified an urgent need for education and training at the basic, intermediate and higher levels.
- Education and training activities to commence with the training of trainers. Countries to prepare their own programmes and work plans.
- IRC to carry out information management needs assessments in Cape Verde, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.
- The main actions to be considered at national level include: sensitization; information strategies and action plans; organizational issues; staff and resources; physical facilities; and finance.

However with the creation of the Africa Working Group Initiative, the Lausophone Initiative becomes an arm of the bigger continental Initiative.

## **4 Conclusions**

### **4.1 The role of the Africa Working Group**

The Africa Working Group should ensure that the various issue areas which have been identified during the deliberations of the Group over the past two years should be effectively followed-up by the Group. In particular, the Regional Consultative Body suggested by the Africa Working Group should be established to support the water supply and sanitation sector on the African continent.

The Regional Consultative Body must ensure the sustained co-ordination of initiatives in Africa in order to maximise the use of available resources and to minimise the duplication of effort.

### **4.2 Priorities after Manila**

Although the delegates at the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the Collaborative Council, meeting in Manila, will undoubtedly be deliberating on the work of the Africa Working Group for the next period of time, the following suggestions are given, based on the workings of the group over the past two years.

1. Establish a secretariat. This will include establishing a base for the secretariat and the recruitment and appointment of an executive secretary.
2. Organize the "Africa consultative forum" during 1998 to bring together a wide variety of players working in the water supply and sanitation sector on the continent.
3. Disseminate the advocacy materials prepared by the Africa Working Group, the sector review report and the Africa Working Group main report. These materials should be disseminated to decision makers throughout all the countries on the African continent.
4. Advocate for water supply and sanitation issues to have greater priority, particularly within the OAU agenda..



## APPENDIX 1

### TERMS OF REFERENCE of the Africa Working Group.

1. Review the potential modes of advocacy to the National Governments for Water Supply and Sanitation Development in Africa.
2. Identify major shortcomings and ways of strengthening the planning, implementation and operation of Water Supply and Sanitation projects by governments in Africa to ensure sustainability.
3. Review current regional and sub-regional development Initiatives for Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa to identify positive experiences and how they can be used to improve programme implementation in other countries.
4. Review existing collaboration in Africa between governments, External support agencies, NGOs, communities and the private sector, and recommend changes for improvement.
5. Identify constraints and solutions for effective resource mobilization in Africa.
6. Identify constraints and solutions for effective capacity building in Africa
7. Suggest ways that the Collaborative Council could support regional and sub-regional Water Supply and Sanitation programmes.
8. Present to the African Consultative Forum and later recommend to the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council:-
  - a) appropriate ways of advocacy for African Water Supply and Sanitation needs;
  - b) appropriate ways of collaboration between national governments, External support agencies, NGOs and the private sector;
  - c) actions by which donor co-ordination in Africa can be improved;
  - d) strategies and operational methods by which major regional Initiatives in Africa can be strengthened, made more responsive to country needs, and encouraged to become more collaborative with each other;
  - e) actions by which capacity building in Africa can be improved.
9. Review and promote gender equity in all aspects of programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
10. Identify available Council's resources and experience for use in the above activities

## APPENDIX 2

### LIST OF MEMBERS

#### MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

1. Ms Margaret Mwangwola  
Executive Director  
Kwaho  
P O Box 40128  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Fax: 254-2-543-265  
Tel: 254-2-506-941
2. Mr Joao G. Cardoso  
Honourable Minister  
Ministry of Energy, Industry  
and Natural Resources  
B.P. 399, Bissau, Guinea Bissau  
Tel: 245-221039  
Fax: 245-221050
3. Ms Ebele Okeke  
(Co-ordinator)  
Federal Ministry of Water Resources and  
Rural Development  
P.M.B. 159  
Garki, Abuja, Nigeria  
Tel: 234-9-2342733  
Fax: 234-9-2342509/2343714
4. Mr John Nunoo  
Regional Director  
Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation  
P O Box 194  
Head Office, Accra  
Tel: 666-029 - Direct 666-781/-7  
Fax: 663-552
5. Mr Patrick Kahangire  
(Co-Chairperson)  
Water Development Department  
P O Box 20026  
Kampala - Uganda  
Tel: 256 (41) 220560  
256 (41) 221678
6. Mr A. C. Mpamhanga  
(Co-Chairperson)  
Deputy Secretary, Development Planning  
& Co-ordination, Ministry of Local  
Govt. Rural and Urban Development  
Private Bag 7706, Causeway  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel: 263-4-705 776  
Fax: 263-4-792-307
7. Mr Len. Abrams  
L.J.A. Development Services  
47, Linden Road  
Bramley 2090  
South Africa  
Cellular Phone:  
082-5515-046

- Fax: (011) 440-1856
8. Mr Manuel Alvanrinho  
Snr. Adviser  
National Directorate for Water Affairs  
P.O. Box 1611, Maputo,  
Mozambique
9. Mr Felix M. Neto  
National Director  
National Directorate of Water  
Rua Rainha Ginge  
No. 210-1 and  
Luanda - Angola  
Tel: 244-2-390385 / 244-2-390387  
Fax: 244-2-334037 / 244-2-397979
10. Mr Abedelali Filali-Baba  
Office National De L'Eau  
Portable  
6 BIS  
Rue Patrice Lumumba  
Rabat Morocco  
Tel: 07-721030  
Fax: 07-731355
11. Representative of UNICEF  
Mr G. Ghosh  
Chief of WES Section  
3 United Nations Plaza,  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel: 212-824-6664/2  
Fax: 212-824-6480
12. Representative of WHO  
Dr. Dennis B. Warner  
Manager, Community Water Supply &  
Sanitation Unit  
Division of Environmental Health  
WHO, 1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland, Tel: 41-22-791-3545  
Fax: 41-22-791-0746
13. Mr. Tore Lium,  
  
OR  
Mr. Alain Mathys.  
RWSG  
East Africa, Kenya  
Fax: 254-2-720-408  
  
RWSG  
West Africa, Ivory Coast  
Fax: 225-441-687
14. Mr. Walter Rast,  
Chief  
Freshwater Unit,  
United Nations Environment Programme,  
P.O. Box 30552,  
Nairobi, Kenya.  
Fax: 254-2-226886  
254-2-226890
15. P. Afrika  
Director,  
Country Department - West  
African Development Bank  
01 B.P. 1387-Abidjan 01, Cote D'Ivoire  
Tel: 20.44.44, Telex: 23717, 23498, 23263

16. Mr. Piers Cross  
Executive Director  
Braafontein Centre  
Mvula Trust  
23 Jorissen Street  
Braafontein, Johannesburg,  
South Africa  
Tel: (011) 403-3425  
Fax: (011) 403-1260
17. Mr Ranjith Wirasinha  
Executive Secretary  
Water Supply and Sanitation  
Collaborative Council  
c/o WHO  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: 41-22-791 2111  
Fax: 41-22-791 4847
18. Mr. Mathew N. Kariuki  
Director  
NETWAS, Kenya  
P.O. Box 15614 Nairobi  
Kenya  
Tel: 254-2-890-555  
Fax: 254-2-890-554
- OR  
Dr Cheik Toure  
Manager  
CREPA,  
03 BP 7112  
Ouagadougou 03  
Burkina Faso  
Tel: 226-31-03-59  
Fax: 226-31-03-61
19. Mr Mansoor Ali  
Chief,  
Water & Environmental Sanitation  
UNICEF  
30 Oyinkan Abayomi Drive, Ikoyi - Lagos  
Nigeria  
Tel: 234-1-2690276-9  
Fax: 234-1-2690726
20. Dr Iyorlumun J Uhaa  
Regional Health Advisor (GW)  
UNICEF, ESARO  
Box 44145, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: 254-2-622667  
Fax: 254-2-622678y/9
21. Jan Janssens  
Sanitary Engineer  
World Bank  
1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20433  
Tel: 1-202-458-7247  
Fax: 1-202-473-5123

22. Mr. Jeff Racki. AFTUI  
Africa Technical G. for Water.  
Urban and Energy Division.  
The World Bank - J11 - 061  
1818 H Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433.  
Fax: (202) 473-8301
23. The Chairman Union of African Water Suppliers  
01 BP 1843 Abidjan 01  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Fax: (225) 24.26.29-24.61.57
24. Mr. Colin Davis Chief Water and Environmental Sanitation  
UNICEF,  
P.O. Box 1169,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-1-513304  
Fax:251-1-511628
25. Mr. Firdu Zawide Regional Adviser  
Promotion of Environmental Health  
WHO, Regional Office for Africa,  
Box 6, Brazzaville, Congo.  
Tel: 242-839111  
Fax:242-839900
26. Mr. Halifa Omar Drammeh Senior Programme Officer  
Water Branch,  
Programme Management Division  
P.O. Box 47074  
Tel: 254-2-624278  
Fax:254-2-624249  
UNEP Nairobi, Kenya
27. Laban O. Masimba Chief of Nutrition/OAU  
OAU Secretariat.  
P.O. Box 3243,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-1-515971  
Fax:251-1-512743

## APPENDIX 3

### HARARE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1  | Mr. A.C. Mpamhanga,<br>Deputy Secretary,<br>Ministry of Local Government<br>and Urban Development<br>P.M.B 7706,<br>Causeway Harare<br>Zimbabwe.   | Regional Health Adviser,<br>UNICEF,<br>Esaro,<br>Box 44145,<br>Kenya   |
| 2. | Ms Ebele Okeke (Co-ordinator)<br>Federal Ministry of Water<br>Resources and Rural Development<br>P.M.B. 159<br>Garki, Abuja, Nigeria<br>Tel: 234-9-2342733<br>Fax: 234-9-2342509/2343714 | 6. Mr Abedelali Filali-Baba<br>Director,<br>Office National De L'Eau<br>Portable<br>6 BIS, Rue Patrice Lumumba<br>Rabat Morocco<br>Tel: 07-721030<br>Fax: 07-731355  |
| 3. | Rose Lindonde<br>The World Bank,<br>Hill Park Building,<br>P O. Box 30577,<br>Nairobi,<br>Kenya.   | 7 Mr G. Nhunhama,<br>National Co-ordinator<br>Ministry of Local Government,<br>Rural and Urban Development,<br>P.M.B 7706,<br>Causeway Harare<br>Zimbabwe.   |
| 4. | Mr Len. Abrams<br>L.J.A. Development Services C.C.<br>47, Linden Road<br>Bramley 2090<br>South Africa<br>Cellular Phone: 082-5515-046<br>Fax: (011) 440-1856                             | 8. Dr. Dennis B. Warner (Represented by<br>Jose Heub Manager<br>Community Water Supply &<br>Sanitation Unit,<br>Division of Environmental Health,<br>World Health Organisation,<br>1211, Geneva 27<br>Switzerland. |
| 5. | Dr Iyorlumun J. Uhaa   |  |

## APPENDIX 4

### ADDIS ABABA MEETING PARTICIPANTS

1	Khatib O. J.	Head Health and Nutrition Division	OAU, P.O~ Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel.251-1- 513039 Fax No.:251-1-517844
2.	Yohannes Ghebre Medhin	Department Head of Water Supply and Sanitation Department of the Ministry Of Water Resources	P.O. Box 100816, AddisAbaba, Ethiopia, Tel. No.251-1-182967 Fax No.251-1- 611700
3.	Tesso Mosissa	Head Planning and Projects Department Mm. of Water Resources	P.O. Box 5744 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel.251-1- 185337 Fax No.251-1-611700
4.	John Nunoo	Ag.. Deputy Managing Director	GWSC, P.O. Box M.194 (Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation ) Head Office,Accra, Ghana, West Africa Tel. (021)666-029 - Office Fax No.021-663-552 Private, P.O. Box 11624 Accra- North,Ghana, W. AfricaTel House. 021-760-474
5.	Joao Gomes Cardoso	Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources P.O. Box 399 - Bissau Republic ofGuinea- Bissau	Ministry of Energy, Industry Tel .245-221925 Fax No.245-221050 245-221825
6.	Tore Lium	WS Sector Planner (RWSA-EA)	P.O. Box 30577 Nairobi Tel. 254-2-74141 Fax 254-720408
7.	Abdelali Filali-Baba	Office National De L'eau Potable	6, BIS Rue Patrice Lumumba Rabat, Morocco. Tel: 2127-721030 Fax: 2127-731355
8.	Magalhaes Miguel	Head of Water and Sanitation Department  Mozambique	Ministry of Public Works and Housing, National Directorate of Water 25 Setembro Ave., 942  P.O. Box 1611 - Maputo

- Tel No.258-1-421402 431054  
Fax No.258-1-422813
9. George Nhunhama National Coordinator for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Ministry of Local Government, P. Bag 7706, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel. No.2634-702910/790601  
Fax. No.2634-791490/792307
10. Firdu Zawide Regional Adviser Promotion of Environmental Health WHO, Regional Office for Africa Box 6 Brazzaville Congo  
Tel. No.242839111
11. Dennis Warner Chief, Rural Environmental Health, and Senior Technical Adviser, Water Supply and Sanitation WHO, Division of Environmental Health 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
Tel No:41-22-791-3546  
Fax No.41-22-791-4159
12. Jean H. Doyen Regional Manager Joint UNDP-WB WSS Joint WSS Program World Bank RM Program - RWSG-ESA, P.O. Box 30577 Nairobi, Kenya. Tel. No.254-2-714141  
Fax No. :254-2-720409
13. David Grey Senior Water Resources Management Specialist AFTUI, the World Bank, 1818 H. St. NW, Washington DC, 20433, USA  
Tel No.: 1-202-473-4125  
Fax No.: 1-202-473-8301
14. Mohamed M. Tawfik Regional Adviser Water Resources ECA/NRD P.O. Box 3001 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel No.: 251-1-517200 Ext. 217  
Fax No.251-1-514416
15. Halifa Omar Drammeh Senior programme Officer, Water Branch, Programme Management Division P.O. Box 47074  
Tel N.: 254-2-624278  
Fax No. :254-2-624249  
UNEP Nairobi Kenya
16. Roif Winberg Regional Adviser SIDA P.O. Box 30600, Nairobi Kenya  
Tel. No.254-2-229042/S  
Dax No. :254-2-220863
17. Margaretha Sundgren Senior Programme Officer, SIDA, 10731525 Stockholm, Sweden, SIDA Tel.No.468 6985331  
Fax No.4686985653



- |     |                          |   |  |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--|
| 18. | Laban O. Masimba         | Chief of Nutrition  | OAU Secretariat, P.O. Box3243,<br>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia<br>Tel No.:251-1-515971<br>Fax No.251-1-512743     |
| 19. | Moise Akle               | Chief of Environmental<br>Protection  | OAU Secretariat<br>P.O. Box 3243 Addis Ababa,<br>Ethiopia.<br>Tel. 251-1-510447<br>Fax No. 517844          |
| 20. | Muchie Kidanu            | Head, Water Quality and<br>Waster Management,<br>Convenor Team, Ministry<br>of Health | P.O. Box 62661, Addis Ababa,<br>Ethiopia<br>Tel. 251-1-156670<br>Fax No.251-1-519366                       |
| 21. | Colin Davis <sup>2</sup> | Senior Project Officer<br>WES UNICEF  | UNICEF Office, P.O. Box 1282<br>Lagos, Nigeria<br>Tel. No.234-1-2690276/78<br>Fax No.234-1-2690726         |
| 22. | Sering B.O. Jallow       | Human Settlement Officer  | UNCHS (HABITAT)<br>P.O. Box 30030<br>Nairobi, Kenya<br>Tel. No.:ny254-2-2-623 187<br>Fax No.: 254-2-624265 |
| 23. | Genet Abebe              | Officer of International<br>Organisation and<br>Economic Cooperation                  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br>P.O. Box 393 Addis Ababa<br>Tel. No.517345<br>Fax No.514500                 |
| 24. | Z. Ketsella Bendow       | Deputy Regional Director<br>UNICEF/ESARO  | P.O. Box 44145 UNICEF<br>Nairobi<br>TEL. No.254-2-622225/6222304<br>Fax No.254-2-622678/79                 |
| 25. | Revy Tuluhungwa          | UNICEF<br>Representative, Ethiopia  | P.O. Box 1169 Addis Ababa,<br>Ethiopia<br>Tel. 251.1.513304<br>Fax. No.251-1-511628                        |
| 26. | Gourisankar Ghosh        | Chief, Water Environment<br>and Sanitation Cluster,                                   | UNICEF, New York<br>3 UN Plaza (1~6A)<br>NEW YORK NY 10017   |

---

<sup>2</sup> Colin Davis is now at UNICEF Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Tel. 1 212-824-6664/6669  
Fax No.1-212-824-6480/6482  
E-mail :gghosh~unicef.org
27. Yilma Wolde Emmanuel EAO,ECAP.O. Box 3005,  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia Tel. 517200  
Fax No.251-1-554416
28. Mr. A. Fazlul Hogue Chief of Water, ECA  
Addis Environment and Marine P.O. Box 3005, Mrica Hall,  
Affairs Section, Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel. No.517200 ext.531  
Fax No.251-1-51-44-16
29. Ranjith Wirasinha Executive Secretary APPIA 12111211  
WSSCC Geneva27  
Switzerland  
Tel. 4122-7913685  
Fax No.41-22-7914847
30. Iyorlumun J. Uhaa Sr. Project Officer Health UNICEF Regional Office.  
P.O. Box44145, Nairobi,  
Kenya,  
Tel. No.254-2-622664  
Fax No.254-2-622678/9
31. Ebele Okeke Deputy Director, Water Federal Ministry of Water  
Supply Resources and Rural Development,  
Federal Secretariat PMB 159,  
Garki Abuja, Nigeria  
Tel. No.234-9-2342733  
Fax No.: 234-9-2343714/2342509
33. Brendan Doyle Senior Programme Officer, UNICEF New York,  
Water, Environment and 3 United Nations Plaza, (TA-26A  
Sanitation New York, NY 10017  
Tel No.212-824-6662  
Fax No: 212-824-6480-6482  
E-Mail: bdoyle~unicef.org
34. Harry Philippeaux Senior Project Officer UNICEF Addis Ababa  
P.O. Box 1169,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Tel. 251-1-513304  
Fax. No.251-1-511628
35. Mamady Laurive Coude Director/Representative  
UNESCO UNESCO, ADDIS ABABA,  
P.O. Box 1177 Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia, Tel. No.251-1-513953  
FaxNo.:251-1- 511414
36. Christopher C. Lwindi Liaison UNESCO/OAU C/O UNESCO Office  
Addis Ababa,  
P.O. Box 1177 Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia, Tel. No.251-1-513953  
FaxNo.:251-1- 511414
37. Mohamed Lugh Press Attaché Kenya P.O. Box 3301 Addis Ababa,  
Embassy Ethiopia Tel. No: 251-1-610033  
Fax N.251-1-:61 1433 Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia
38. Len Abrams Policy Adviser LJA Development Services  
47 Linden Road, Branley,  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tel No.27-11-786-6837  
Fax No.27-11 440-1856  
e-mail len.abrams@pixie. co.za
39. Patrick Kahangire Director Directorate of Water Development  
P.O. Box 20026, Kampala,  
Uganda  
Tel. No.041-220376/220901  
Fax No.220397/220775  
Plot No.22-28 Port Bell Road  
Kampala
40. Pierre A. Traore Officer-in-Charge P.O. Box 3005 Africa Hall,  
NRD/ECA Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Fax No.251-1-514416

## APPENDIX 5

### ABIDJAN MEETING PARTICIPANTS

#### AFRICA WORKING GROUP

#### Liste des Participants/ Participants List

Abidjan, 6th-7<sup>th</sup> March 1997

Nom & Adresse / Name & Address	Nom & Adresse /Name & Address
1. Mr Matthew N. Kariuki Executive Director NETWAS (Network for Water and Sanitation) P.O. Box 15614 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (254-2) 89-05-55/6-9 Fax: (254-2) 89-05-54/60 E;mail Netwas@ken.healthnet;org	5. Mr. Joao Gomes Cardoso Minister Ministry of Energy, Industry & Natural Resources BP 339 Bissau, Guinea Bissau Tel: 245-221925 Fax: 245-221050/221825
2. Ms. Ebele Okeke Deputy Director, Water Supply Federal Ministry of Water Resources PMB 159 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria Tel: 234 9 23 42 733 Fax: 234 9 234 3714	6. Mr. John Nunoo Deputy Managing Director (OPS) Ghana Water & Sewerage Corporation P.O. Box M. 194 Head Office, Accra, Ghana Tel: 233 021 666029 Fax: 233 021 663552
3. Mr. Moses Kagimu Gava Directorate of Water Development P.O. Box 20026 Kampala, Uganda Tel: 25641-220776 Fax: 25641-220397	7. Mr. Dennis Daniel Mwanza, Head, Water Sector Development Group Post Bag RW 291X Lusaka, Zambia Tel: 2601-226941/2 Fax: 2601-226904 E-Mail WSDG@Zamnet.zm
4. Mr. Cosmos Govati Chief, Hydrogeologist Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development Private Bag 390 Lilongwe 3, Malawi Tel: 265 783343 Fax: 265 784678	8. Mr. Abbey Mpamhanga Deputy Secretary & Chairman of NAC Ministry of Local Government of Private Bag 7706 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe Tel/Fax: 263-4-792307

9. Mrs. Mukami Kariuki  
RWSG-ESA  
P.O. Box 30577  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: 2542 714141/260300/400  
Fax: 2542 720408  
E:mail [RKARIUKI@World Bank,ORG@Internet](mailto:RKARIUKI@World Bank,ORG@Internet)
10. Mr. Sekou Toure  
Haut Commissaire  
Haut Commissariat a l'Hydraulique  
Cabinet du Premier Ministre  
BP v 278  
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire  
Tel: (225) 32-21-72  
Fax: (225) 33-21-92
11. Mr. André Toupé  
Ministère de l'Energie, des Mines et de l'Hydraulique  
Direction de l'Hydraulique  
Cotonou, Benin  
BP 385  
Tel: (229) 31 34 87/31 32 98  
Fax: (229) 31 08 90
12. Mr. Brou Djekou, Assistant Director  
WUP Programme  
Water Utility Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa  
C/O UADE  
PO Box 2642  
Abidjan 05, Cote d'Ivoire  
Tel: 225-240828/241443  
Fax: 225-240063  
E-Mail [UADEWUP@AFRICOM.Com](mailto:UADEWUP@AFRICOM.Com)
13. Mr. Souleymane Sow,  
Ingénieur Hydrogéologue  
Direction Nationale de l'Hydraulique et de l'Energie  
Mali  
BP. 66 BAMAKO  
Tel: (223) 22 25 88  
Fax: (223)
14. Mr. Tounkara Mahamadou  
CREPA  
03 BP 7112  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
Tel: 226-310359/60  
Fax: 226-310361
15. Mr. Mathewos Woldu, Regional Manager  
UNDP-WB Regional Water & Sanitation Group  
for West Africa  
Corner of Booker Washington & Jacques ADA  
Street, Cocody, Abidjan 02  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Tel: (225) 44-22-27  
Fax: (225) 44-16-87
16. Mr. Carel de Rooy  
Regional Programme and Planning Officer  
UNICEF Bureau Régional pour l'Afrique de  
L'Ouest et du Centre  
04 BP 443 Abidjan 04 -Cote d'Ivoire  
Tel: (225) 21 31 31  
Fax: (225) 22 76 0724.
7. Ms. Annie Savina  
UNDP-WB Regional Water & Sanitation Group for  
West Africa  
Corner of Booker Washington & Jacques ADA  
Street, Cocody, Abidjan 02  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Tel: (225) 44-22-27  
Fax: (225) 44-16-87
18. Mr. Ranjith Wirasinha  
Executive Secretary, WSSCC  
c/o WHO  
20 Ave. Appia  
CH-1211, Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Tel: 41-22- 791 3685  
Fax: 41-22- 791 4847  
E-Mail [Wiransinhar@who.ch](mailto:Wiransinhar@who.ch)
19. Mr. Derman Assouma  
Directeur Général de l'Hydraulique et de l'Energie  
Direction Générale de l'Hydraulique et de  
l'Energie  
Lome, Togo  
B.P. 335  
Tel: (228) 21 09 06  
Fax: (228)21 09 06

E-Mail: Toure@Crepa.crepa.bf

20. Mr. Compaore Athanase  
Directeur Général  
Direction Générale de l Hydraulique  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
03BP 7025 Ouagadougou  
Tel: 226 31 28 26  
Fax: 226 32 45 24
21. Mr. Jean Michel Ossete  
Directeur  
Direction de l Hydraulique & de l Energie  
Rep. du Congo
22. Mr N Dri Koffi  
Secrétaire Administratif  
Union Africaine des Distributeurs d Eau  
01 BP 1843 Abidjan 01  
Côte d Ivoire  
Tél : (225) 24-08-28  
Fax: (225)24-26-29
23. Mr. Souleymane Diabaté  
Project Officer  
Water, Environment & Sanitation  
UNICEF Cote d Ivoire  
04 BP 443 Abidjan 04 -Cote d Ivoire  
Tel : 225 - 21 31 31  
Fax : 225-22 76 07
24. Mr. Dennis Warner, Chief, Rural Environmental  
Health  
REH/WHO  
20 Ave. Appia  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211, Geneva 27  
Switzerland  
Tel: 41-22- 791 3546  
Fax: 41-22- 791 4159  
E.Mail: Warner@who.ch
25. Mr. Michael Saint-Lot  
Sr. Project Officer, Water, Environment &  
Sanitation Cluster, UNICEF  
3, UN Plaza - TA 26A - New York,  
NY, 10017, USA  
Tel: 212-824-6663  
Fax:212 - 824 6480  
E. Mail: msaintlot @ Unicef or

## APPENDIX 6

# REPORT OF WORKING SESSION DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICA - BARBADOS GLOBAL FORUM

<p>BARBADOS GLOBAL FORUM</p> <p>REPORT OF WORKING SESSION DISCUSSION ON</p> <p><b>AFRICA</b></p>	<p><b>SESSIONS</b></p> <p><b>I.1 &amp; II.5</b></p>
<p>Recognizing that Africa has special needs in water supply and sanitation, which are caused by low levels of investment, inadequate service coverage, and poor maintenance of facilities; and</p> <p>Noting that the common problems of poverty, poor health and lack of economic opportunities in African countries are often associated with unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation; and</p> <p>Being aware that African societies are making great efforts to improve the quality of life for their members but are often faced with severe economic, environmental or political problems; and</p> <p>Further noting that there are several regional initiatives currently operating to improve levels of water supply and sanitation services in Africa, among which is the Special Initiative on Africa, recently requested by the Secretary -General of the United Nations; and</p> <p>Recognizing also that the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (the Council) has the potential within its membership and within the organizations in which they work to influence the direction and progress of water supply and sanitation development in Africa;</p> <p>The Council, therefore, believes that it can and should act through the active participation and influence of its membership to promote increased rates of sustainable water supply and sanitation development in Africa. Such development, when linked with participatory approaches to community action, contributes to poverty alleviation, fosters equitable gender roles To carry out this role, the Council is requested to undertake the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Establish a Working Group on Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa. The first task of the working group should be to define its terms of reference regarding relevant issues, areas of actions, membership and methods of operation. The following issues and areas of action are provided as examples to illustrate the potential range of activities the working group could consider:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review the potential modes of advocacy available to the Council for water supply and sanitation development in Africa;</li><li>2. Identify major problems arising in the planning, implementation and operation of water supply and sanitation projects by governments in Africa;</li><li>3. Review current regional and subregional development initiatives for water supply and sanitation in Africa;</li><li>4. Review existing modalities of co-operation in Africa between governments, external development agencies, NGOs, communities and the private sector;and encourages the formation of local leadership skills.</li><li>5. Identify the constraints to effective donor coordination in Africa;</li><li>6. Suggest ways that the Council could support existing regional and subregional water supply and sanitation initiatives;</li><li>7. Recommend to the Council:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) appropriate modalities of advocacy for African water supply and sanitation needs;</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>	

- (b) appropriate modalities of co-operation between national governments, external development agencies, NGOs and the Private Sector;
- (c) actions by which donor co-ordination in Africa can be improved;
- (d) strategies and operational methods by which major regional initiatives in Africa can be strengthened, made more responsive to country needs, and encouraged to become more collaborative with each other.

8. Identify available council resources for use in the above activities that can be drawn from on-going Council working groups, current Council membership, and the many guidelines, tools and development models developed by the Council over the past few years.

Include representatives of the major African regional initiatives to participate in the Working Group. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Lusophone Initiative of the Council, Regional Orientation Committee, AFRICA 2000, UNICEF/OAU Dakar Initiative, UNDP/World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme, National Programmes of Action, Capacity Building Consortium for Utility Partnerships, and various regional programmes of bilateral support agencies and NGOs.

III Establish a strong working relationship with the UN Secretary - General's *Special Initiative on Africa*. This relationship could be established in the following manner:

- 1. Offer direct support through the Chairperson of the Council to the UN Secretary - General for his *Special Initiative on Africa*; and
- 2. Use the Working Group to maintain close contact with the *Special Initiative on Africa*.

IV Begin preparations immediately for the first meeting of the Working Group. As indicated above, this meeting should be used to develop appropriate terms of reference for the Working Group, taking into account overall Council support and the interests and influence of its members. It is recommended that the meeting take place in Africa and that a broad spectrum of African interests be invited to participate. It is further recommended that WHO and UNICEF assist in convening the meeting



## APPENDIX 7

### LIST OF FOUR PROPOSED PAPERS FOR THE AFRICA WORKING GROUP

#### Papers

- Paper 1      Review the potential modes of advocacy to put water supply and sanitation higher up on the development agenda of national Governments.
- Paper 2      Identify major problems arising in the planning, implementation and operation of water supply and sanitation projects by governments in Africa.
- Paper 3      a)      Review current regional and sub-regional development initiatives for water supply and sanitation in Africa;
- b)      Suggest ways that the Council could support existing regional and sub-regional water supply and sanitation activities;
- Paper 4      a)      Review existing collaboration in Africa between governments, external support agencies, NGOs, communities and the private sector;
- b)      Identify constraints and solutions to capacity building and resource mobilisation in Africa.

Harare April 1996

## APPENDIX 8

### HARARE PLAN OF ACTION

#### WORKING GROUP ON WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

#### PLAN OF ACTION

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	DATE	ACTION BY/ACTION TAKEN
1 Draft Terms of Reference	TOR prepared, circulated to secretariat, Core group.	Jan. 1996	Done
2	Comments received.	March 1996	Done
3 Invitation to Working Group meeting	TOR and Action Plan circulated to Working Group with invitation to meeting.	Jan to March 1996	Done
4 Core group meeting in Harare	Core group meets to prepare and adopt objectives; TOR; agree on plan of action and allocate tasks.	17 April 1996	Mpamhanga
5 Develop TOR for conceptual papers	To help address the WG-Africa TOR & Objectives.	Mid-May 1996	Uhaa/Brendan Doyle
6 Identify & appoint a consultant - Lagos	For preparation of conceptual papers.	April/May 1996	Okeke/Uhaa/Davis
7 Draft papers prepared by consultant	Draft papers prepared and received.	August 1996	Okeke
8 2nd Core Group meeting (including consultant in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire)	Plan for consultative meeting, review first reports.	14 - 15 October 1996	Davis/d'Rooy/Okeke
9 Working group meeting in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire	Review reports, agree on next steps, plan for consultative forum.	16 to 18 October 1996	Davis/d'Rooy/Okeke

- 
- |    |   |  |                        |                                      |
|----|---|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10 | Africa Consultative Forum, ESAs & NGOs forum ,Rabat-Morocco | Key papers from Working Group plus consultant's papers. Output is a consensus report and recommendations to Collaborative Council. To come up with an advocacy and operational strategy. | 10 to 14 February 1997 | Filali/Okeke/<br>Mpamhanga/Kahangire |
| 11 | Consultative Report   | 1st draft report and executive summary.  | 31 March 1997          | Mpamhanga/Okeke/<br>Kahangire        |
| 12 | 3rd Core Group meeting<br>Johannesburg - South Africa       | Core group & secretariat comments, review & finalise report.   | 29 to 30 April 1997    | Abrams/Cross/ Okeke                  |
| 13 | Submission - Final report & Executive summary               |  | 10 June 1997           | Okeke                                |

Harare April 1996

**APPENDIX 9**

**SECTOR REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE  
AFRICA WORKING GROUP**

Collaborative Council on Water Supply and Sanitation

Africa Review

**Water Supply and Sanitation Questionnaire**

**July 1996**

This questionnaire should be read with the Concept Paper of the Africa Working Group prepared for the review of water supply and sanitation in sub-saharan Africa. Please fill in as much of this questionnaire as you can. Please leave questions if you do not have the information and continue with the remainder of the questionnaire

Notes. Please see the last page of the questionnaire for relevant notes.

COUNTRY: .....

**Respondent Information**

(contact information of the person filling out this questionnaire)

Surname..... First Name ..... Initials ..... Title .....

Organisation or Agency .....

PostalAddress.....

.....

City..... Country .....

Telephone number ..... Fax Number .....

e-mail address.....

**General Country Information**

Estimated total population ..... Size of Country (Squarekm).....

Average annual rainfall .....mm/in

General climatic description (arid, semi-arid, sub-topical etc).....

Estimated urban population    Number ..... % .....

Estimated rural population    Number .....%.....

Urban population with water supply    Number .....%.....

Rural population with water supply    Number .....% .....

Urban population with sanitation    Number .....% .....

Rural population with sanitation    Number.....%.....

**Water Supply and Sanitation Policy**

Brifely describe the general policy of the government with regards to the :

**Water Supply sub-sector**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Sanitation sub-sector**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Briefly describe the policy of the government with regard to basic water supply and sanitation services to the un-served population in a) urban areas, and b) rural areas.

.....  
.....  
.....

Does the government have an official published policy document on water supply and sanitation ? If so, please provide details of the document.

.....  
.....  
.....

Does the government have an official published policy on development in general which covers water supply and sanitation issues together with other development issues? If so, please provide details of such a document.

.....  
.....  
.....

Is there a policy on water supply and sanitation which has been developed by NGOs, international development agencies or through collaboration with such bodies and the government? If so, please provide details of such a document.

.....  
.....  
.....

What is your opinion of the status of policy development in the water supply and sanitation sub-sector in the country?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What level of priority does water development enjoy amongst political leaders in the country?

.....  
.....  
.....

What level of seniority does the person who is politically responsible for water hold?

.....  
.....

**Institutional Framework**

Who is responsible for water resources management in the country?

.....  
.....

Is the responsibility of water resources management held at national level or are functions carried out at regional or sub-regional levels in the country?

.....  
.....

Who is responsible for water supply services and sanitation at local level?

.....  
.....

Briefly describe the organisational and institutional framework of the water and sanitation functions in the country at national, regional or provincial, and local levels.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Are there parastatal or government utility bodies which provide bulk water supply services?

.....  
.....

Is the private sector engaged in water supply and sanitation services? If so, how is it engaged?

.....  
.....

Briefly describe the role of international development agencies and NGOs in the institutional framework of the water supply and sanitation sectors in the country.

.....  
.....

What is your opinion of the institutional framework of the water and sanitation sector in the country?

.....

.....

What are the strong points?

.....  
.....  
.....

What are the weak points?

.....  
.....

What improvements could be made ?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Budget Priorities**

What is the annual national budget of the government? (If given in local currency, please give an indication of the U.S\$ exchange rate).

1993 Amount ..... Currency .....  
(1US\$.....)

1994 Amount ..... Currency .....  
(1US\$.....)

1995 Amount ..... Currency .....  
(1US\$.....)

Is there a specific budget for water resources management and if so, what is the annual budget amount?

Amount 1993..... 1994 .....  
1995.....



Is there a specific budget for water supply and if so, what is the annual budget amount?

Amount 1993 ..... 1994 ..... 1995 .....

Is there a specific budget for sanitation and if so, what is the annual budget amount?

Amount 1993 ..... 1994 ..... 1995 .....

What are the top four budget items on the national budget ?

First item:..... Amount .....

Second item: ..... Amount.....

Third item: ..... Amount .....

Fourth item..... Amount .....

**Current Development Programmes and Projects**

Briefly describe actual development programmes and projects which are currently underway, which were active in the recent past and/or which are planned for the near future. (Please provide details such as total cost, numbers of people served, time frame or project etc.) see note 2

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Are there any problems with these projects and if so, what are they?

.....  
.....  
.....

What are your views on the programmes?

.....  
.....

**Capacity Building and Human Resources Mobilisation**

What is the government's policy towards capacity building in the water supply and sanitation sector and the building of human resources?

.....  
.....  
.....

What training facilities are available in the country for sector professionals?

.....  
.....

What facilities are there for training public servants in administration skills?

.....  
.....  
.....

How are local people trained to operate, maintain and administer their local water schemes?

.....  
.....  
.....

What, in your view, is needed in the country to develop human resources and to build capacity in the water supply and sanitation sector?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Country Level Collaboration**

What developmental agencies and NGOs are active in the country in the water supply and sanitation sector? Please, give details of the sorts of programmes and projects they are working on and an estimation of the value of their engagement per annum.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What mechanisms are used to encourage communication and collaboration between the various parties involved?

.....  
.....  
.....

Is this communication effective in your view and what could be done to improve it

.....  
.....

**Possible Areas of Support by the Collaborative Council**

What, in your view, is the most pressing areas of need where the Collaborative Council could be of assistance at country level?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What , in your view, is the most pressing area of need where the Collaborative Council could be of assistance in Africa as a whole?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

How do you think that the Africa Working Group could be of assistance in promoting the water supply and sanitation cause in Africa?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Supplementary Questions**

Please answer the following supplementary questions if appropriate and if time permits.

**Institutional Details**

In the department which is responsible for water, how many officials and other employees are employed on water functions?

.....  
.....  
What is the command or authority structure of the department?

.....  
.....  
Are there regional offices of the department? If so, how are these structured and what are their responsibilities?

.....  
.....  
What mechanisms are there for contact and communication between the department responsible for water and other departments responsible for such functions as health, public works, education, planning, housing, rural development, and other related functions?

.....  
.....  
How is local government structured in the country?

.....  
.....  
What functions do local government or tribal authorities have with regard to water supply and sanitation?

.....  
.....  
**Strategic Planning For Sector Development**

.....  
.....  
Is there a strategic plan for the management of the country's water resources? If so, what are the components of the plan? (Key targets, dates etc).

Is there a strategic plan for the development of water supplies to the population? If so, what are the components of the plan? (key targets, dates etc.)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Is there a strategic plan for the development of sanitation services for the population? If so, what are the components of the plan (key targets, dates etc)

.....  
.....  
.....

Notes:

If you are not sure of the exact answers to questions, give an estimate and indicate that it is an estimate.

If there is not enough space, use a separate piece of paper and clearly indicate which section it refers to.

If copies of policy documents, strategic plans or other relevant documents are available, please attach them to the completed questionnaire.

Please send all completed questionnaires to the address indicated in the covering letter or to the following address, clearly marked "AFRICA WORKING GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE".

**AFRICA WORKING GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE**

United Nations Children Fund

P. O. Box 4884

Pretoria 0001

South Africa

## APPENDIX 10

### REVIEW OF THE SECTOR REPORT AT ADDIS ABABA MEETING

#### Review of the Sector Report at Addis Ababa Meeting

The Report was well received and because of its importance was thoroughly reviewed by the members of the Working Group, the ESAs, Embassies, OAU, and ECA participants present in Addis Ababa.

The meeting broke into three Task Groups to study the report, with these guidelines:

Each group was directed to base her discussions on the following issue areas:

- The political profile of the sector
- Low resource allocation
- Capacity building in the sector
- Community management and community based development
- Collaboration between all role players in the sector and between the various sector initiatives
- Water policy development
- Conditions of service of sector professionals
- Cost recovery and sustainability
- Field co-operation

Also the following instructions were given:

- Review the list and add any additional issues which may be missing
- Prioritize the list in terms of the most important issues facing the water supply and sanitation sector
- Choose the three most important issues for the Africa Working Group to address.
- These may not be the top three items on the above priority list.
- Make recommendations of specific "do-able" follow up actions for the Africa Working Group to undertake, within the next 6 months on the three issues chosen above
- Revisit and make suggestions on the scope of action of the Africa Working Group
- Discuss and make recommendations for an Addis Ababa Action Plan for the work of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council in 1996 to 1997.

The submissions from the three Task Groups were as detailed below:

#### Report of Task Group A

Prioritizing issues

#### **New issues added**

1. Operation and maintenance
2. Information, communication and and coordination
3. Monitoring and evaluation
4. Water for integrated development

#### **Prioritization**

1. The political profile of the sector
2. Low resource allocation
3. Water policy development
4. Institutional reform

5. Capacity building in the sector
6. Operation and maintenance
7. Water for integrated development
8. Community management and community-based development
9. Collaboration between all role players in the sector and between the various sector initiatives
10. Cost recovery and sustainability
11. Conditions of service of sector professionals
12. Monitoring and evaluation
13. Field cooperation
14. Information, communication and coordination

### **Africa Working Group Action Areas**

1. The political profile of the sector
  - 1.1. Low resource allocation
  - 1.2. Water policy development
  - 1.3. Cost recovery and sustainability
  - 1.4. Institutional reform
  - 1.5. Conditions of service of sector professionals
  - 1.6. Water for integrated development
2. Collaboration between all role players in the sector and between the various sector initiatives
  - 2.1. Information, communication and co-ordination
  - 2.2. Field co-operation
  - 2.3. Monitoring and evaluation
3. Community management and community based development
  - 3.1. Operation and maintenance
  - 3.2. Capacity building in the sector

### **Scope of action of the Africa Working Group**

In all of the following actions of the Africa Working Group, African expertise should be used:

Advocacy  
Commissioning of studies  
Advisory services  
Promote networking  
Information collection and dissemination, particularly African information  
Promote African capacity and the use of African expertise (African Resources)

### **Potential Activities of the Africa Working Group - "do-ables"**

- 1) Political profile of sector
  - Core group to work out a high-level advocacy strategy
  - Compile list of meetings through OAU and others, both at continental and regional levels
  - Prepare advocacy materials, based on the Sector Review and the Addis Ababa meeting
  - Promote the Africa Working Group as an advisory group to other initiatives
  - The Africa Working Group should develop a strategy regarding private sector engagement
  - Promote gender considerations at all levels in all activities.
  - The use of gender advocacy groups to promote water and sanitation

2) Collaboration

Establish an Africa Working Group WWW page on the Internet through "Inter Water".  
Compile and disseminate a list of initiatives current in Africa.  
Review on-going initiatives of ESA and bilateral agencies to identify overlaps, successes and gaps.  
Complete, publish and disseminate the Sector Review Report.

3) Community Management

Compile and disseminate existing information/guidelines regarding community management.  
Promote community management advocacy to top political level

**Proposed Addis Ababa Plan of Action**

Core group to work out a high-level advocacy strategy  
Compile list of meetings through OAU and others, both at continental and regional levels  
Promote the use of tools produced by the Council of relevance to Africa  
Prepare advocacy materials, based on the Sector Review and the Addis Ababa meeting  
The Africa Working Group should develop a strategy regarding private sector engagement  
Promote gender considerations at all levels in all activities  
The use of gender advocacy groups to promote water and sanitation  
Establish an Africa Working Group WORLD-wide WEB (WWW) page on the Internet through "Inter Water"  
Compile and disseminate a list of initiatives current in Africa  
Complete, publish and disseminate the Sector Review Report  
Comment: It should be borne in mind that the Africa Working Group is made up of a small number of busy people with very limited resources.

**REPORT OF TASK GROUP B**

**Issues facing the water supply and sanitation sector in Africa (in order of priority)**

1. Community management and community-based development
2. The political profile of the sector
3. Water policy development
4. Collaboration between all role players in the sector and between the various sector initiatives
5. Cost recovery and sustainability
6. Field co-operation
7. Capacity building in the sector
8. Low resources allocation
9. Conditions of service of sector professionals
10. Information exchange and communication
11. Institutional reform
12. Population growth pressures
13. Linkages with other sectors
14. Private sector participation
15. Gender



\*Additional issue areas identified by the Task Group

**Four most important issues for the Africa Working Group to address:**

1. Political profile
2. Collaboration
3. Water Policy development
4. Information exchange and communication

**Potential Activities of Africa Working Group - "do-ables".**

1. Political Profile
  - Communicate with OAU, ECA, SADC, ECOWAS to draw political attention to sector needs.
  - Develop an Africa Working Group collaborative council statement on Africa
  - Africa Working Group to become an advisory body to African initiatives
  - Africa Working Group should promote the establishment/strengthening of inter-ministerial/agencies steering committees at national level.
  - Updating of national leaders/sector professionals on the work of the Collaborative Council.
  - Advocate meeting of sector ministers in Africa
  - Finalize and disseminate Africa Sector Review Report
2. Collaboration
  - Examine the recommendations of the Collaborative Council working group on country level collaborative and promote as appropriate
  - Convene an Africa consultative forum
  - The Africa Working Group to become advisory body to African initiatives
  - Hold next Africa Working Group meeting in conjunction with another sector meeting in Africa (Africa 2000).
3. Policy Development
  - Exchange information on national policies.
  - Prepare a framework for national policy development.
  - Prepare report on constraints to policy development.
  - Recommend that all CC work groups identify policy recommendations - relevant to Africa.
4. Information Exchange and Communication
  - Provide input to existing information networks (hard copy and electronic).
  - Compile an inventory of sector institutions in Africa.
  - Disseminate ACC report on water and sanitation in Africa.

**Proposed Addis Ababa Plan of Action**

**First Priority (immediate Action)**

- Communicate with OAU, ECA, SADC, ECOWAS to draw political attention to sector needs.
- Finalize and disseminate Africa sector review report.
- Develop an Africa Working Group collaborative council statement on Africa.
- Africa Working Group to become advisory body to African Initiatives.
- Convene an African Consultative forum.
- Hold next Africa Working Group meeting in conjunction with another sector meeting in Africa (Africa 2000).

- Recommend that all C.C. working groups identify policy recommendations - relevant to Africa.
- Provide input to existing information networks (hard copy and electronic).
- Disseminate ACC report on water and sanitation in Africa.

**Second Priority**

- Updating of National leaders/Sector professionals on the work of the collaborative Council.
- Advocate meeting of sector Ministers in Africa.
- Examine the recommendations of CC working group on Country level Collaboration and promote as appropriate.
- Prepare a framework for national Policy Development.
- Prepare report on constraints to policy development

**Third Priority (Longer term action)**

- Africa Working Group to promote the establishment/strengthening of inter-ministerial/Agency steering Committees at National level.
- Exchange information on National policies.
- Compile an inventory of sector institutions in Africa.

**REPORT OF TASK GROUP C**

Revision of issues in the sector review report.

1. Issue No.1 was modified to read "Low political commitment and will"
2. Issue No. 2 was not modified
3. Issue No. 3 was modified to read "Human Resources Development, Capacity Building of Communities in the sector".
4. Issue No. 4 was not modified
5. Issue No. 5: Add " country level" at the beginning.
6. Issue No. 6 was modified to read "Water Supply and Sanitation policy development and a mechanism for co-ordination".
7. Issue No. 7 was not modified
8. Issue No. 8 was modified to Poor conditions of service and logistics in the sector.
9. Issue No. 9 was not modified
10. Issue No. 10 was modified to read "Field co-operation, co-ordination and harmonization."

Five more issues were added to the list. They are:-

- Gender mainstreaming
- Water quality management
- Cost effective Appropriate Technology
- Social Capital Aspects
- Documentation and dissemination to best practices

The most important issues for Africa Working Group to address:

1. Low political commitment and will
2. Gender mainstreaming and
3. Documentation and determination of best experiences including a directory of players.

### **Scope of Action of the Africa Working Group**

The group agreed that the Africa Working Group should continue to be a non-political and independent group of experts which should provide a platform for sharing experiences and experts advice in the sector. The Africa Working Group should also use other platforms for success e.g. Africa 2000, UN System-wide special initiative on Africa etc.

#### **Recommended activities of the Africa Working Group - "do-ables" for the next 6 months:**

- The Working group should finalize the Africa Sector report for submission to WSSCC which in turn should promote a Pan-African Ministerial meeting in 1998.  
The report should emphasize social capital and Gender mainstreaming.
- To document and disseminate best practices in water supply and sanitation
- To compile and disseminate a directory of players in the Water and sanitation sector by the end of 1998.

#### **Activities to be included in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action**

- Africa Working Group Consultant should try to reach 100% response to the questionnaire which is part of the Africa Sector Review Report.
- Finalize the Africa Sector Review Report so that it will be submitted in time for the Global Forum meeting in Manila in 1997.
- Identify countries which can voluntarily compile reports on best experiences in the sector. These papers should be submitted in time for consideration at the next Global Forum meeting

## APPENDIX 11

### ADDIS ABABA PLAN OF ACTION

#### Addis Ababa Plan of Action

The following activities constitute the operational plan, termed the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, of the Africa Working Group for the period October 1996 - May 1997. The end date of May 1997 was chosen in order to submit the final report of the Working Group to the Collaborative Council secretariat in May 1997 as requested.

	Activity	Action	Date
1.	Mid Term Review, London	Ranjith Wirasinha and Ebele Okeke	13 - 14 November 1996
2.	Complete the Sector Review Report with a renewed attempt to get as many responses to the questionnaire as possible.	Len Abrams UNICEF/WHO to facilitate	December 1996
3.	Identify and compile a list of initiatives of ESAs, NGOs and other agencies currently underway on the continent	Dennis Warner WHO	end December 1996
4.	Finalise report of 2nd Africa Working Group Meeting in Addis Ababa.	Uhaa/Okeke	November 1996
5.	Prepare and disseminate Collaborative Council Statement on Africa and the work of the Africa Working Group, to include the key issue areas facing the sector in Africa as discussed in Addis Ababa and the Sector review Report.	Ranjith Wirasinha and Ebele Okeke	end December 1996
6.	Prepare and submit a resolution to the OAU meeting in June 1997.	Ranjith Wirasinha /WHO-Zawide/ Ebele Okeke	Dec 1996
7.	3rd Working Group Meeting.	Core meeting Africa Working Group Meeting	9-10 Feb 1997 12-13 Feb 1997
8.	Identify a highly regarded senior Africa personality to champion for the water supply and sanitation in Africa.	Okeke, Kahangire, Mpamhanga and Cardoso	end March 1997
9.	Africa Consultative Forum, (Abidjan, Nairobi or Ouagadougou).	Okeke, Zawide and Ranjith	May/June 1997

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|-----|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10. | To establish a Web Page on the Internet, connected to the Collaborative Council 's web page.   | Len Abrahams                       | end December 1996 |
| 11. | To explore ways in which the Africa Working Group can become an advisory body to other African and other relevant Global initiatives.  | Okeke, Zawide and Halifa           | end April 1997    |
| 12. | Prepare Africa Working Group final report for the Manila Global Forum meeting of the Collaborative Council.  | Ebele Okeke                        | end may 1997      |
| 13. | The Africa Working Group should authorise the UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia Mr. R. Tuluhungwa to work with the Executive Secretary of OAU to place water supply and sanitation on the organisation agenda. | R. Tuluhungwa,<br>Okeke, Kahangire |                   |