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**REPORT OF H.E. MR PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA ON THE PROGRESS ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION ASSEMBLY/AU/516(XXII) FOR  
FAST TRACKING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JULY 2008  
ASSEMBLY DECLARATION ON THE SHARM EL-SHEIKH  
COMMITMENTS FOR ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF  
WATER AND SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA**

**The Kigali Action Plan Resources Mobilisation and Implementation Strategy**

## I. BACKGROUND

1. Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.516 (XXII) was taken by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government (HoSG) of the African Union at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session in January 2014. The decision, among others, designated His Excellency President Paul Kagame to provide leadership, in 2015, in the implementation of activities aimed at redressing deficiencies in the provision of water supply; and hygiene and sanitation services in Africa, particularly at rural household level. This followed from the information gathered for the *2011 Africa Water Sector Report to the AU Assembly* indicating that Africa will miss the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets for water supply and sanitation by gaps of 16% and 22% respectively.

2. The *2011 Africa Water Sector Report*, while presenting the status of water and sanitation on the African continent, also highlights the need for a great deal of effort to improve access to basic sanitation in Africa. Ailments related to poor sanitation impact on the labour force and, in turn, adversely affect economic productivity as well as household incomes and savings. Indeed, an estimated 1.7 million lives are lost annually in Africa due to causes related to poor sanitation! Furthermore, Africa's water and environmental resources, which are critical to the release of Africa's development potential as well as sustaining growth and development, are faced with severe degradation in part due to inadequate sanitation.

3. The vitality of securing sanitation in Africa cannot, therefore, be overemphasised.

4. In testament to the conscience of the African Union to improve the current situation, the Assembly sought the favour of His Excellency President Paul Kagame to mobilise at least 50 million euros –partly by championing the forgoing of water and sanitation events in Africa – to support direct action at community level. In this respect, no water related gathering<sup>1</sup> of 20 or more people shall be convened under the auspices of the African Union, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA) by either the administrative organs of those institutions or their partners during 2015 and 2016. In essence, marking both years as ***Blank Years of Water and Sanitation Events***.

5. The cost and, more importantly, the person-hour savings shall instead be contributed to other resources mobilisation efforts to translate existing commitments into action with the aim of extending water and sanitation services to at least an additional five (5) million people in ten (10) AU Member States.

6. A key aspect of the decision is to promulgate best practice while establishing a culture of peer-to-peer action-oriented experience sharing amongst AU Member States. The Republic of Rwanda's commitment to achieve the sanitation targets of both the MDGs and the Africa Water Vision 2025 was evident in the *2011 Africa Water and Sanitation Report to the AU Assembly*. Indeed, Rwanda has surpassed the related targets of both the MDGs and the Africa Water Vision 2025 by increasing

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<sup>1</sup> Including meetings, conferences, workshops, symposia, ceremonies, festivals, seminars, forums, retreats and others of a similar nature

the proportion of its population with access to basic sanitation from 3% in 1990 to 78% in 2011. This achievement should be celebrated and shared continent-wide.

## **II. THE KIGALI ACTION PLAN**

7. The Kigali Action Plan will constitute a pioneering evidence based targeted initiative utilising the outcomes of the *Annual Africa Water Sector report* to the Assembly of the African Union to inform the review and or design of interventions that are responsive to both the real water sector needs and the commitments of the HoSG of the African Union. As highlighted in the foregoing, the action plan will draw on the lessons learnt from the experience of the Republic of Rwanda which is based on a community management approach.

### **8. Insights from Rwanda's Success in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

- A) Through the Community Based Environmental Health Promotion Programme (CBEHPP) and Community Hygiene Club (CHC) model, the Republic of Rwanda has been able to significantly reduce the debilitating national hygiene and sanitation related disease burden and, in so doing, contribute significantly to poverty reduction outcomes. The focus of the programme is centred on eradication of open defecation; treatment of drinking water; monthly community work (*umuganda*); hygiene promoters at village level (*umudugudu*); a hand washing campaign that includes the tippy-tap (*kandagirukarabe*) in public places especially in schools; and the clean country and cities campaign.
- B) Success of the programme is hinged to a great extent on complementary initiatives that include a waste management programme promoting resources recovery from organic waste streams and their re-use in agriculture and bio-gas production; as well as innovative and pro-poor funding mechanisms for environmental management, rainwater harvesting, management of water supply systems and conservation and protection of water bodies and their catchments.

### **9. Formulation of the Kigali Action Plan**

- A) As part of ongoing activities to implement AU Assembly Decision DEC. 516 (XXII), the Government of the Republic of Rwanda constituted a working committee of representatives from the African Union Commission's (AUC) Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture; the Secretariat of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the various line ministries in Rwanda. In addition, the Government of Rwanda has conducted a series of consultative meetings to develop a strategic approach to the implementation of the Assembly decision. The meetings commenced on 24 February 2014 with representatives of such potential partners as the Executive Committee of AMCOW; the African Development Bank (AfDB); and the Steering Committee for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the African Water Sector, which includes representation from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

- B)** Among the key outcomes of ongoing engagements between the Government of the Republic of Rwanda; the Executive Committee of AMCOW; the Secretariat of AMCOW; the Commission of the African Union; the African Development Bank (AfDB); and the Steering Committee for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the African Water Sector, have been an agreed roadmap for the implementation of the Assembly Decision, as well as the selection of the following ten (10) AU Member States to contribute to the formulation and implementation of the **Kigali Action Plan**: ***Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and South Sudan***. The selection process for the pioneer Member States is detailed in Annex I.
- C)** It must also be noted that except for Lesotho and Mauritania, the other listed Member States are – according to the AfDB definition – **Fragile States**. Activities will therefore be designed as fast-track complementary actions to deliver directly to vulnerable communities thereby contributing to livelihood improvements and, in turn, unlocking productive potential and nurturing future growth. With due cognisance of the challenges that come with state fragility, implementation arrangements will provide for a level of flexibility that is sufficient to allow for timely responses to prioritised needs and thus managing expectations.
- D)** Plans are underway to engage the above-mentioned AU Member States to determine their individual water and sanitation priorities from among which the **Kigali Action Plan** will be formulated. A key element of the implementation strategy of the Action Plan will be the signing of **Implementation Agreements** linking the resources mobilised to individual Member State's prioritised interventions.
- E)** The Kigali Action Plan is envisaged to be implemented in the 10 Member States for a period of 5 years starting from 2015.
- F)** Resources mobilisation activities shall commence in 2014 and continue for the duration of the programme.
- G)** Regular reporting to the Assembly by H E President Kagame will provide information on the status of progress on both the efforts to mobilise the minimum of 50million Euros to fund the intervention; and the provision of rural water and sanitation services to an additional 5 million people in Africa.
- H)** The African Development Bank shall host and manage the fund. The bank's governance; operational; fiduciary management; and project implementation procedures shall apply.

### III. RESOURCES MOBILISATION

**10. Funding mechanisms for the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan** shall include:

- A)** Contributions from AU Member States as well as those from the AU's sovereign and non-sovereign development partners to the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) Trust Fund at the AfDB. A fundraising campaign utilising such opportunities as the AU Summit meetings; the AfDB's Golden Jubilee Celebrations; the World Economic Forum on Africa meetings; and the Friends of AMCOW (water sector resources mobilisation) Conference series will be implemented to mobilise resources to fund the Kigali Action Plan. The AfDB's Operations, Water and Sanitation Department, as well as the Resources Mobilisation and External Finance Department will also be supporting the fundraising campaign.
- B)** Direct investments of participating Member States towards implementation of their prioritised action plans, including (re)prioritisation of their Country Strategic Papers in such a way as to utilise the African Development Fund (ADF) and or the Fragile States Facility to cover some – if not all – of the activities in the individual Member State's Action Plan Implementation Agreement.
- C)** Resources channelled through bi-lateral programmes of development partners in beneficiary Member States to support projects prioritised in the Action Plan.
- D)** In-kind contributions by participating Member States to facilitate implementation of their individual prioritised action plans.
- E)** Savings realised from forgoing water and sanitation events: in this regard, it is desired that for the duration of 2015, AU Member States will not host water and sanitation gatherings of 20 or more people. At the same time, Member States will be requested to coordinate their representation at similar events in Africa and beyond to ensure that no more than 20 essential delegates represent Africa. An appeal will also be made to Member States to apply the 2015 budget currently earmarked for meetings, conferences, workshops, symposia, seminars, forums, retreats and others of a similar nature to direct action to alleviate the suffering of the people at grassroots level. Similarly, development partners shall be requested to use the events budgets to bolster funding to practical activities in bi-lateral development programmes. Both Member States and development partners will be invited to make contributions of the funds saved to the RWSSI Trust Fund at the AfDB, for use in financing the implementation of the Assembly Decision.
- F)** Direct financial contributions by individuals through a donation-based crowdfunding platform that will utilise both the Kigali Action Plan website and mobile payment services. Arrangements will be made for the funds raised through the platform to be initially collected and hosted by a participating reputable financial institution in Rwanda before being transferred to the RWSSI Trust Fund by the Government of Rwanda.
- G)** Private sector financing through spin-off Corporate Social Responsibility Projects with private firms in such subsectors as mobile money transfer

services; bottled drinks; utilities; and foods and beverages. Focus will be placed on enlisting support particularly from those companies active in the participating Member States and, furthermore, those firms the operations of which are either dependent or impact on the water resources of the Member States.

**11. Hosting Arrangements:** for all funding mechanisms involving the AfDB, the funds raised shall be hosted into the RWSSI Trust Fund.

#### **IV. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUND**

**12.** The Governance Structure; management; and implementation arrangements of the RWSSI Trust Fund shall apply.

**13.** The AfDB's RWSSI field structures and resources in Burundi, Central African Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Sierra Leone and South Sudan shall be utilised to support implementation of the Kigali Action Plan in those countries. For the other participating Member States – Chad, Lesotho and Mauritania – appropriate operational and management arrangements shall be put in place.

**14. Disbursement mechanism under the Fund:** Whereas the RWSSI Trust Fund management and implementation arrangements shall define the overarching framework, arrangements shall be put in place to provide for flexibility and expedited disbursements; thus enabling the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan to respond to the priority needs of the **Fragile States** in a rapid manner.

**15. Fund Accountability, Monitoring, Evaluation and reporting mechanisms**

- A)** Accountability, monitoring, evaluation and reporting periodicity and mechanisms shall follow the stipulations of the RWSSI Multi-donor Grant Arrangement (see Annex II).
- B)** The Government of Rwanda, on behalf of the initiative, shall join the RWSSI Trust Fund Steering Committee, and thus be entitled to receiving financial and other related reports on the Kigali Action Plan funds contributed to the Trust Fund. It will assume responsibility for synthesising this information into the appropriate reports for the various financial, development and implementing partners and stakeholders.

#### **V. SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OUTLOOK**

**16.** As part of the Decision dissemination and awareness creation campaign, all AU Member States shall be encouraged to adapt measures similar to the approach being pioneered under the Kigali Action Plan in their respective countries as a means to drive direct action to secure sanitation and meet the MDGs targets relating to water and sanitation. The activities to be implemented under the initiative will be derived from national priorities targeting pressing community needs, thus harnessing opportunities for synergy with national programmes and assuring continuity.

**17.** Sustainable operation and maintenance of the facilities shall be assured by community ownership and empowerment. Every effort will be made to involve the

beneficiary communities at every step during the planning and development stages of the projects. The project implementing teams will work in close collaboration with the beneficiary communities and, wherever possible, transfer knowledge and skills through advice and learning-by-doing. An approach that encourages local contributions to the construction of facilities with materials and or labour shall be pursued for all projects to the extent it is possible.

**18.** A key and lasting contribution of the implementation of the **Kigali Action Plan** is the anticipated setting up of the **African Water Management Investment Guarantee Fund** at the AfDB, endorsed by an AU Assembly decision affirming Member States' commitment, to serve as an investment insurance facility providing sorely needed assurances to boost investors' confidence in overcoming the political and other non-commercial risks with which investments in the water sector in Africa are perceived and or associated.

## **VI. ROADMAP**

**19.** The table below lists the key steps and the proposed activities:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>
<b>A)</b>	AU Assembly endorsement of the Resources Mobilisation Strategy; the participating Member States; and the Roadmap for implementing the Assembly Decision, at the June 2014 AU Summit of Heads of State and Government	27 Jun 2014
<b>B)</b>	Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and the African Development Bank on the hosting and fund management arrangements for the Kigali Action Plan on the margins of the June 2014 Summit	27 Jun 2014
<b>C)</b>	Launch of the Resources Mobilisation; and a Decision dissemination and awareness creation campaign	27 Jun 2014
<b>D)</b>	Engaging the participating Member States to initiate preparation of their individual Priority Action Plans for compilation into the Kigali Action Plan	04 Jul 2014
<b>E)</b>	Training of Focal Point Persons of participating Member States on how to prepare their individual national Priority Action Plans	31 Jul 2014
<b>F)</b>	Data gathering and completion of Priority Action Plans	31 Aug 2014
<b>G)</b>	Compilation of the Participating Member States' Priority Action Plans for use in Drafting the Kigali Action Plan	20 Sep 2014
<b>H)</b>	Drafting of Implementation Agreements to be signed with each participating Member State	08 Oct 2014
<b>I)</b>	Validation of compiled Priority Action Plans (draft Kigali Action Plan) and draft Implementation Agreements by the participating Member States	08 Oct 2014
<b>J)</b>	Review of draft Kigali Action Plan by the Government of Rwanda, AUC and AMCOW	17 Oct 2014

<b>K)</b>	Convening of a Kigali Action Plan Resources Mobilisation side event hosted by the Government of Rwanda, at the AfDB Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Abidjan to discuss the involvement of various partners in the implementation of particular aspects of the Action Plan. These will include Member States; development partners; representatives of RECs and Civil society; and the leadership of key private entities – incl. PEPSI-Co, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Diageo, SAB Miller, Nestle, utility companies, telecommunications companies – particularly those that are active in the beneficiary Member States	04. Nov 2014
<b>L)</b>	Work on the establishment of the <i>African Water Management Investment Guarantee Fund</i> to be led by AfDB and AUC for eventual endorsement by an AU Assembly decision affirming Member States' commitment	Dec 2015
<b>M)</b>	Presentation of the <i>Kigali Action Plan</i> , by H E President Paul Kagame, at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government	30 Jan 2015
<b>N)</b>	Side event, hosted by the Government of Rwanda, at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government, for the <b><u>signing of Implementation Agreements</u></b> between the Participating Member States, the Republic of Rwanda, the AUC and Secretariat of AMCOW for operationalising the Kigali Action Plan. Invitations to Member States, EU Bilateral Partners, AfDB, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; UN Agencies – UN-Water Africa, UNECA, UNDP and UNICEF; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); WHO; World Bank, EIB, Islamic Development Bank; World Economic Forum; the Arab Bank for Economic Development (BADEA); the OPEC Fund; Private Sector leaders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• launch the Kigali Action Plan;</li> <li>• invite partners to select aspects of the action plan to fund; and,</li> <li>• link beneficiary Member States with funding partners.</li> </ul>	30 Jan 2015
<b>O)</b>	Regular follow-up, technical assistance and monitoring of Implementation Agreements	31 Dec 2015
<b>P)</b>	Presentation, by H E President Paul Kagame, of the 2015 Africa Water Sector Report, including progress on the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan, to the AU Assembly; and handover of initiative to the African Union	29 Jan 2016

## VII. CONCLUSION

20. This pioneering exercise to utilise the *Annual Report of the Africa Water Sector to the AU Assembly* to inform the processes of planning for and implementing targeted interventions is a significant advance towards a genuinely needs-based approach to overcoming the challenges facing the water sector in Africa and, in turn, optimise the utilisation of available resources.

21. That this inaugural initiative focuses on securing sanitation particularly among vulnerable and underserved communities highlights the commitment to attaining Africa's aspirations of sustainable and all-inclusive economic growth and prosperity. Securing sanitation has the direct benefits of improved human well-being; economic prosperity; and the preservation of environmental capital, thus delivering on the prerequisite social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

22. It is also about time that we raised the profile of sanitation in Africa's development agenda especially given estimates of up to 80% of ailments impacting on the productivity of our labour force being attributed to poor hygiene and sanitation. The goal to achieve universal access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene in Africa is attainable and should be pursued with renewed vigour.

## VIII. RECOMMENDATION

23. Going forward, the Assembly is requested to endorse the list of participating Member States; the Resources Mobilisation Strategy; and the Roadmap for implementing the Assembly Decision AU/DEC. 516 (XXII).

24. The Assembly is further requested to launch the initiative and encourage all AU Member States; the African Development Bank; and the AU's Sovereign and non-Sovereign Partners, especially those active in the Water Sector in Africa, to support Africa's efforts to mark the ***Blank Years of Water and Sanitation Events in Africa*** by committing to direct action interventions at community level to improve hygiene and sanitation conditions, as well as the development, utilisation and management of Africa's water resources.

**DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE  
10 MEMBER STATES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE KIGALI ACTION PLAN**

1. To assure objectivity in the selection criteria and process, a meeting of the African Water Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee was convened on 12 and 13 March 2014 in Kigali. The Steering Committee comprises of representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC); the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW); the African Development Bank (AfDB); and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
2. The meeting, among others, considered the information contained in the Africa Water and Sanitation Report submitted to the January 2014 Assembly of the African Union – and on the basis of which His Excellency President Kagame was designated to champion the initiative. For this initiative, the relevant section of the report deals with achieving the MDGs targets for Water and Sanitation.
3. The committee ranked the Member States' progress towards achieving the targets. Focus was then placed on the 17 Member States that reported the least progress on the particular theme of Water supply and Sanitation.
4. The list of 17 was reduced to 10 on the basis of the size of the Gross Domestic Product of the Member States ranked in ascending order.
5. The Steering Committee submitted the suggested list of the 10 participating Member States for the review of the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture; the Representative of the President of the Executive Committee of AMCOW; the Minister for Natural Resources, Rwanda; and the Minister of State for Energy and Water, Rwanda.

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