

About the AWG

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation was launched in Johannesburg in 2002 and is being implemented through the EU Water Initiative – Africa Component. The purpose of this partnership is to make an effective joint (Africa-Europe) contribution to the achievement of water and sanitation related MDGs.

The strategic partnership has created an Africa Working Group (AWG) consisting of representatives from AMCOW-TAC, EU Member States, EU Commission, civil society and the private sector working as a joint platform on water-related development issues.

AWG News

Since March 2009 (when the last AWG news letter was issued), the AWG has been busy with the revision of the AWG strategy, as agreed during the AWG meeting in London, December 2008. The results of this participatory process were shared and further discussed during the AWG meeting in Stockholm, on 19 August. To inform all members of the AWG on the outcome of this important meeting, this newsletter consists of the minutes of this important meeting.

Welcome and opening of AWG meeting

The co-chairs, Mr. Tahir Abdel-Aziz Awan (Africa co-chair 2009) and Mr. Robert Burtscher of Austria (EU co-chair 2009) welcomed participants.

Overview since London 2008

Thomas Zipper from Austria gave a short update on AWG activities since the previous meeting in London in December 2008. The biannual newsletter, published in March 2009 and available on the web-site, also gave an earlier update. The AWG has concentrated on four activities.

1. The aid of mapping study was completed and is going to be presented to the Council of the EC. However, it still needs to be taken forward in terms of follow-up activities.
2. In 2009 the AWG submitted proposals to the OECD DAC to disaggregate future reporting of Official Development Assistance for sanitation, through the Creditor Reporting System. These changes were accepted in May 2009. The key change is that reporting and analysis of ODA for water supply and sanitation will be disaggregated which are currently lumped together. This is very much in line with the recommendations of the eThekweni Declaration and the Africa-EU Statement on Sanitation which commit to separate government budget lines for sanitation.
3. The AWG contributed to the new set-up of the EU Water Facility (WFac) under EDF. In March of this year, a meeting took place with EU member states and Civil Society to discuss and advise on the new set-up of the WFac (start of 2010). The findings of these discussions have been brought to the attention of EuropeAid.
4. The AWG strategy is being revised. At the end of 2008, the Water Facility commissioned an audit (ROM exercise) which mentioned that a new strategy should be in place to allow for further funding of the WFac. Furthermore, during the London meeting, people clearly stated that there is a need to develop the strategy work plan further. In Istanbul, a strategy task team was created to begin the process. The team met in Abuja in late July and on August 16th in Stockholm. Subsequently, the strategy will be finalized and can hopefully be approved during the next AWG meeting in Johannesburg, during the 2nd Africa Water Week. The revised workplan of the AWG will be submitted to the WFac in October in order to get the revised workplan approved by the WFac in this calendar year. It will also be used for applying to other funding sources.

Dates for your Diary

Most probably, the next AWG meeting will be held on **Sunday 8 November in Johannesburg**, South Africa, back-to-back with the second **Africa Water Week (9-13 November)**.

Please check the AWG pages on the EUWI-website

www.euwi.net/wg/africa

for the latest news or contact Coline van der Ven at ven@irc.nl.

Abuja meetings

To introduce the round table discussions, Paul van Koppen outlined the strategy development process so far. The presentation is available on the EUWI web-site. The results of the Abuja workshop (phase 1) and the workshop on 16 August (task team + Troika + TAC) are incorporated in the strategy note V1 (in FR and EN) which was distributed to the participants of the meeting and can be found on the AWG web site.

Round table discussion on EUWI AWG strategy

The two rounds of discussions were done in a 'world café' set-up, meaning that participants rotate groups after the first round and that the second round of discussions starts with the results of the first round. Each of the 4 main objectives in the new strategy was discussed at one of the 4 tables.

Outcomes

– as plenary presented after the two rounds.

Objective 1. Support to the implementation of declarations

facilitator & rapporteur:
Andy Cotton & Edward Kairu

The objectives within objective 1: Objective 1, 3 and 6 should remain. Objective 2 should be taken up by the FWG. Objective 4 and 5 should become objective 4.

The main activities (specific, focused, short term) that AWG should focus on are:

- a) Implement the main declarations (e.g. eThekwini, Sharm el Sheik and Africa G8 declarations)
- b) Simplify and disseminate the declarations in a form suitable for practical use at local levels. For example, defining how AWG can contribute to and coordinate

with the WSP with regard to the eThekwini declaration. Furthermore, have simple mapping studies of EU member states work on sanitation in Africa.

Objective 2. Aid Effectiveness and Efficiency

facilitator & rapporteur:
Erma Uytewaal & Stephen Young

The discussion focused on harmonization and alignment; however, aid effectiveness is more than H&A. The activities of this objective have been grouped together.

- a) The subject of SWAPs is worth taking forward. Activities concerning SWAPs, such as understanding them and what they can deliver to Africa should be addressed in a policy note. This can then be linked to the next AWG meeting.
- b) Further analysis on donor Orphans with regard to aid effectiveness. What are the barriers preventing financial flows to Africa?
- c) Outcomes from EU aid (EU MS and EC) at country level. What outcomes are being achieved? The AWG should look at the whole sum of aid being received and find out the effects of this.
- d) Look at the types of financing (grants, loans, etc) and how do they come together at national level. Have more dialogue, e.g.. with AfDB and AfWFac. Perhaps try to link to country financing mechanisms.
- e) At this meeting, there is far less African representation compared to the Abuja meeting. The AWG needs to bring more African stakeholders to their meetings and involve them in the activities.

Objective 3. Strengthening ownership of Af-EU Partnership by stakeholder involvement

facilitator & rapporteur:
Maria Vink & Thomas Zipper

There needs to be engagement with the partners in the 2nd Africa Water Week. It was concluded that the specific strength of the AWG and the EUWI is the strong involvement of CSOs.

The group proposed a number of aims.

- The AWG needs to show the Af-EU partnership what it is doing and why they need us in their partnership
- AWG needs to continue strengthening the involvement of the Africa society in AWG activities, this is the competitive edge of EUWI
- The AWG should train and help the CSOs to come up with proposals during the next EU-ACP WFac call for proposals
- There should be a strong link with the new WFac and the AWG should get involved in it in different ways.
- Focus on specific results. Create task teams that can take a role and present in next AWG meetings results made by the AWG. AWG needs to think how to involve new partners, especially parliamentarians.

Objective 4. Advocacy and knowledge sharing

facilitator & rapporteur:
Simon Thuo & Paul van Koppen

- a) Define the declarations and identify the responsible authority. Look at the PRSPs

- b) Support the AMCOW secretariat
- c) AWG has limited funds. How can it leverage with other partnerships who have their own communication infrastructure?
- d) Produce policy briefs, questions to MP's. Donor support to other countries
- e) Sanitation campaign is very successful, how can we build on this?
- f) Do not only stay in water community, but go to other sectors
- g) The Africa Water Week in November 2009 should be used to discuss issues, such as climate change
- h) Utilize other budgets which are available for communications activities
- i) Organize competitions, to get awareness and communications
- j) Get facts, data to support the messages that AWG sends out, eg from aid effectiveness study

Conclusions and recommendations

The feedback from the Stockholm meeting will be incorporated in the next version of the strategy note. This note will be prepared in the period directly after Stockholm and used for further work by the task team and for final feedback by the members, envisaged for an AWG meeting at AfWW-2.

Linked to the finalisation of the AWG strategy, the revision of the work plan for the EUWF contract will be prepared. An application for a contract amendment in terms of activities, budget lines and time frame will be prepared until early October 2009.

To keep momentum in the AWG activities, it was proposed to try to present two subjects at the African Water Week, namely SWAps and Sector Financing strategies (the latter together with FWG). The meeting agreed to use AWW-2 to make the case for these issues and to aim for in depth activities on the sub-regional level, based on clearly expressed demand and in cooperation with respective institutions. The following task team was formed:

- Johan Holmberg (FWG)
- Maria Vink
- Edward Kairu
- Simon Thuo
- Erma Uytewaal
- Moussa Badji
- Thomas Zipper

Planning EUWI AWG 2009 activities

There are 3 key follow-up activities:

- The final phase of the revision of the strategy and the workplan of the AWG. (Strategy task team)
- The amendment of the current EUWF contract. (Co-chairs and support group)
- The preparation of the proposed sessions during AWW-2 (on SWAps and country financing strategies (with FWG)). (Task team).

Contact us

This Newsletter has been prepared by Paul van Koppen, Andrew Cotton and Thomas Zipper on behalf of the Africa Working Group troika. If you have any comments on this Newsletter, or suggestions for the next Newsletter, please send them to Coline van der Ven (ven@irc.nl) or Thomas Zipper (thomas.zipper@hydrophil.at). The next Newsletter is scheduled for Winter 2009/2010, feel free to send any information or opinion that you would like to share in this next issue.