



AfricaSan 4, May 2015, Dakar, Senegal – Ministerial Statement  
The Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene  
Adopted by the African Ministers responsible for sanitation and hygiene on 27 May  
2015 at AfricaSan4

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## Preamble

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for sanitation and hygiene in Africa, together with senior civil servants, academics, civil society, development partners and the private sector at the 4<sup>th</sup> African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (AfricaSan), convened by the Government of Senegal with support from the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in Dakar, Senegal, May 25-27, 2015:

*Recognizing* that while an estimated 133 million people living in Africa gained improved sanitation since 1990, the level of progress has not kept pace with demographic change; many countries do not have adequate high-level leadership, financial and human resources to implement existing policies, fail to tackle equity, do not build, manage or maintain sanitation systems and services, or create the large-scale hygiene behaviour change;

*Mindful* that an estimated 61% of people living in Africa do not have access to improved sanitation and that 21% still defecate in the open;

*Noting* that this lack of access to improved sanitation together with poor hygiene practices result in a huge burden of disease and that the associated economic, human, social, health and environmental costs are a major burden on African countries;

*Reaffirming* the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all;

*Welcoming* the aspiration of the draft Sustainable Development Goals which include an explicit target to “By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and an end to open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations” committing to integrating these in national policies and plans;

*And recognizing* that the time has come to incorporate the lessons from the eThekweni commitments and replace them by the “Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene”, setting out in particular clear indicators for monitoring progress;

**The Vision** articulated by African Ministers responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene at AfricaSan 4, Dakar, Senegal, is summarized below:

**Achieve universal access to adequate and sustainable sanitation and hygiene services and eliminate open defecation by 2030.**

## Commitments

To realise this vision our governments **commit** to:-

1. Focus on the poorest, most marginalised and unserved aimed at progressively eliminating inequalities in access and use and implement national and local strategies with an emphasis on equity and sustainability;

