

**FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT AT THE 6TH
AFRICA WATER WEEK**

DAR ES SALAAM, 17 July 2016

650 million people around the world live without safe water
33% of Sub-Saharan Africans still do not have access to clean water
40% of people around Africa lack access to improved sanitation facilities
Diarrhoea is the third biggest killer of children under five years old in Sub-Saharan Africa¹

We only have less than 15 years to address these deficits

In light of the progressive commitments on water, sanitation and hygiene – including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with Goal 6 on WASH, N’gor Declaration, Africa Water Vision for 2025 and the African Union’s Agenda 2063 – (we as civil society, under the banner of the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation ANEW) - call on the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) to achieve Agenda 2030 and leave no one behind.

We understand that for the development of Africa, particularly regarding the health and dignity of our people, this requires demanding action from our governments. Only by prioritising and achieving the Global Goal 6, on water and sanitation, we will see the change we want and we recognise that we have a long way to go still.

A CALL FROM CIVIL SOCIETY...

We call upon African governments and ministries to:

1. Prioritise water, sanitation and hygiene as fundamental in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. Goal 6 must be a core pillar of development plans.
2. Recognise the centrality of Goal 6 in the achievement of all other sustainable development goals, by fostering cross-sector, integrated and collaborative ways of working to achieve this agenda.
3. Ensure the implementation of the N’gor Declaration, and AfricaSan and Sanitation and Water for All Commitments, and align these clearly with national level Goal 6 implementation plans to achieve Agenda 2030.

4. Ensure a stronger role for civil society at various levels for coordination, communication and improved accountability in the implementation of Goal 6.
5. Increase domestic resource mobilisation - and improve allocation and utilisation - to achieve sustainable service delivery and performance, by allocating adequate funding for maintenance, rehabilitation and subsequent support to facilities.
6. Strengthen the performance of relevant institutions by providing clear mandates, sufficient resource allocation, effective coordination, and accountability and transparency mechanisms, to ensure that capacity, skills and resources are improved at all levels.
7. Set and meet specific national targets - based on the principles of the human rights to water and sanitation - so that public investments prioritise the poorest and most marginalised, aiming to progressively reduce inequalities, and are focused on areas that have the greatest needs.
8. Ensure integrated water resource management in all development projects, specifically extractives and construction activities, to secure sustainable water sources.
9. Establish and invest in a robust, centralised system for data collection and ensure open, accurate, disaggregated data.

In conclusion

Together, we call on governments to recognise that we must work on finding solutions to maximise the various opportunities at hand. As civil society, we recognise we have a valuable contribution to make, and commit to working in partnerships, to overcome our shared challenges.

Now is the time to be ambitious and courageous so that we can ensure a better future for all.

Let's leave no one behind!

ⁱ Statistics sourced from WaterAid as of 2016: <http://www.wateraid.org/what-we-do/the-crisis/statistics#crisis> and WASHwatch <http://washwatch.org/en/wash-map/>