
Lusaka, Zambia
10 - 11 December 2008
Table of Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations........................................................................................................... v

Executive summary .......................................................................................................................... 1

A. Background .................................................................................................................................. 3

B. Attendance ..................................................................................................................................... 3

C. Opening Session (Agenda item 1) ............................................................................................. 4

Account of Proceedings .................................................................................................................... 8

Election of the bureau, adoption of the agenda and programme of work
(Agenda Item 2) ................................................................................................................................. 8

The SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (Agenda item 3) .......... 9

Issues paper on water and sanitation in Southern Africa” (Agenda item 4) ...................... 10

Sustainable financial support for Water and Sanitation programmes, projects and
policies in Southern Africa: Issues and challenges” (Agenda item 5) ................................. 12

Presentations by discussants (Agenda Item 6) .......................................................................... 12

Presentation of Group work to plenary (Agenda item 7) .............................................................. 17

Adoption of findings, recommendations and conclusions (Agenda item 8) ...................... 17

Any Other Business (Agenda item 9) ........................................................................................... 20

Closure of the Meeting (Agenda item 10) .................................................................................... 20

Annex I: List of Participants ............................................................................................................ 21

Annex II: Outcomes from Group Discussions ................................................................................ 29
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AfDB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
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<td>AU</td>
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<td>AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission</td>
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<td>AU-SARO</td>
<td>African Union-Southern Africa Regional Office</td>
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<td>AWV</td>
<td>Africa Water Vision</td>
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<td>CMSS&amp;T</td>
<td>Community Management Support Services and Training</td>
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<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>CoP</td>
<td>Community of practice</td>
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<td>CSOs</td>
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<td>DBSA</td>
<td>Development Bank of Southern Africa</td>
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<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Danish International Development Agency</td>
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<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>ECA</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<td>The ECA Office in Southern Africa</td>
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<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus./Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.</td>
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<td>IWSD</td>
<td>Institute of Water and Sanitation Development</td>
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<td>Integrated Water Resources Management</td>
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<td>GTZ</td>
<td>German Development Cooperation</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>Municipal Development Partnership Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>New Partnership for Africa's Development</td>
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<td>Small, medium and micro enterprises</td>
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<td>WASAT</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>WSSD</td>
<td>World Summit on Sustainable Development</td>
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Executive summary

This is the report of the joint ADB, AU and ECA-SA Seminar on “Water and Sanitation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC): Innovative Approaches for Resource Mobilization and Policy Implementation”, which was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 10 - 11 December 2008. The seminar aimed at enhancing water and sanitation policies in the subregion and accelerating the attainment of the related MDGs. It was attended by Representatives from the SADC member States, experts from intergovernmental, United Nations and development partner organizations and a number of organizations from the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions.

Main presentations were made on the SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation, the issues paper on water and sanitation in Southern Africa and the sustainable financial support for Water and Sanitation programmes, projects and policies in Southern Africa: Issues and challenges. A panel discussion comprising five discussants made presentations on the following topics: (1) Water supply and sanitation to household through NGOs and community initiatives to safeguard human health and environment: lessons from the Mvula Trust; (2) Improved sanitation facility, gender and education linkages: lessons from Southern Africa; (3) Issues and challenges on integrated Water and Sanitation in Southern Africa; (4) DBSA developmental financing and support to the water sector in Southern Africa: Lessons learnt; and (5) Indigenous Private Sector Development and PPPs in Water and Sanitation Services Provision.

The seminar noted that the SADC countries have serious challenges in meeting the MDGs targets on WASAT and identified various factors constraining the sector’s development including the inadequate funding mechanisms, weak institutional performance, insufficient infrastructure development and use of appropriate technologies, poor monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and weak knowledge management.

The participants recognized existing success stories in the subregion and the need for their up-scaling and replication. Further recommendations to strengthen water and sanitation development in the subregion included the need for member states to demonstrate commitment and political will towards meeting the WASAT MDG through mandatory budgetary allocations and innovative funding mechanisms, the introduction and promotion of simple and cost-effective technologies for harvesting and purifying rainfall and institutional reforms towards developing the private sector, commercialization and establishment of PPPs in the sector. Translating agreed strategies into actions, defining appropriate monitoring mechanisms and mainstreaming the IWRM philosophy and principles in WASAT will improve service provision in the subregion. UNICEF needs to assist countries in developing and promoting a social marketing strategy to raise the profile of sanitation issues among the donor community. Methodologies for more effective community participation and indigenous private sector development need to be promoted and the domestic financial system strengthened to reduce the dependency on foreign aid in WASAT development in the subregion.
A. Background

1. The ECA Office in Southern Africa (ECA-SA), in collaboration with the African Union-Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) convened a seminar on: “Water and Sanitation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC): Innovative Approaches for Resource Mobilization and Policy Implementation” from 10 to 11 December 2008 in Lusaka, Zambia as part of the effort to enhance water and sanitation policies in the subregion and accelerate the attainment of the related MDGs. The seminar also contributed to the consultative and preparatory meeting for Africa’s participation at the 5th World Water Forum held from 12 to 13 December 2008 in Lusaka, Zambia.

2. The seminar aimed at supporting the new momentum in advocacy for intervention in WASAT in Africa as defined by the Heads of State and government of the AU at the 11th Ordinary Session in Sharm El-Sheikh, on the 30th June to 1st July 2008 and other major African engagements including; the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa and the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa and the MDGs.

3. The meeting was expected to share experiences on ways to overcome the constraints and increase awareness on the role of WASAT in sustainable development and sensitize all stakeholders on effective resource mobilization for accelerated implementation of policies on water and sanitation.

B. Attendance

4. Representatives from the following member States attended the Seminar: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

5. The following intergovernmental, United Nations and development partner organizations participated in the meeting: the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union, Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the World Bank.

6. A number of organizations from the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions also attended the meeting. These included: Plan International, Mzuzu University, Institute of Water and Sanitation Development (IWSD), Mvula Trust, IWRM Centre of the
University of Zambia, Engineers without Borders, Water Aid Zambia, Municipal Development Partnership Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA) and the media. A list of participants is presented in Annex I.

C. Opening Session (Agenda item 1)

7. Opening statements were delivered by the Director of ECA-SA, Ms. Jennifer Kargbo, AfDB Representative, Mr. Teferra Wouddeneh, the SADC Representative, Mr. Obonetse Masedi and The Guest of Honour, Mr. Benny Chundu, Director of Planning and Information, Ministry of Energy and Water Development of the Republic of Zambia.

8. The Director of ECA-SA welcomed the participants, and thanked the AU-SARO, the AfDB and the SADC for their partnership with ECA-SA in jointly conveying the seminar and stressed the need to cooperate and collaborate further in order to tackle Africa’s development challenges.

9. She emphasized the role of water and sanitation in sustainable development, alleviation of poverty and the achievement of all the MDGs and recalled the commitment from The Heads of State and Government of the AU at their 11\(^{th}\) Ordinary Session in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in July 2008 underscoring the importance of water and sanitation for sustainable development in Africa and the need to develop the related infrastructure and institutions.

10. She linked the Sharm El-Sheikh declaration with other major African commitments on water issues such as; the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa; the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa, the Tunis Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating Water Security for Africa’s Socio-Economic Development, the eThekwini Declaration on Water and Sanitation and the MDGs. She highlighted progress made by the SADC countries towards improving access to clean water supply and mentioned major instruments developed on the issue, namely the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses Systems, the SADC Regional Water Policy and Strategy, the Southern African Vision for Water, Life and the Environment and the Regional Strategic Water Infrastructure Development Programme.

11. The ECA-SA Director noted that although progress towards improving access to basic water supply had been made, progress towards improving sanitation still lagged behind. She identified challenges faced by the subregion including, lack of relevant and poor maintenance of infrastructure, unsustainable government funding; highly variable service quality, lack of political will, poor knowledge on the sector, poor institutional delivery structure, low private sector participation, and limited human capacity especially in the context of decentralization.
12. She noted the importance of the seminar in supporting SADC’s ongoing efforts to improve the water and sanitation programmes at national and sub-regional levels by recommending solutions to some the challenges faced. She underscored the expectations from the seminar in terms of identifying issues and challenges in water and sanitation, defining strategies to accelerate the attainment of the related MDGs, through better WASAT programmes, and strengthen resource mobilization capacity of all stakeholders.

13. In concluding her remarks, she called for a holistic approach in dealing with challenges related to water and sanitation and identified the presence of a diverse group of water experts from government institutions and sub-regional bodies, the private sector, SADC institutions, civil society and development partners, in this seminar, as an opportunity to succinctly and comprehensively deal with the water and sanitation challenge before wishing fruitful deliberations to the participants.

14. The African Development Bank representative commended the AU-SARO and ECA-SA for accepting to partner with the African Water Facility in organizing the seminar and the consultative meeting, which would be held immediately after the seminar.

15. He narrated the historical background of the African Water Facility and its ambitions towards water infrastructure development in Africa. He presented some of the flagship initiatives of the Bank in the African water and sanitation sector namely the RWSSI. This was the most important water initiative in Africa ambitioning to bring water to 80% of the African population in 2015.

16. He expected that the seminar would provide valuable comments and recommendations to enhance both the implementation of the AWF activities in Southern Africa and to strengthen the Africa region participation in the World Water Forum, early in 2009.

17. The SADC representative thanked the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the warm welcome to the beautiful city of Lusaka and highlighted the SADC goal of regional integration noting that the approach applied to WASAT could make the difference and inspire other sub-regions.

18. He recalled that the SADC wide agenda on water was consolidated in its Regional Strategic Action Plan on IWRM and Development. He underscored the fact that up to 40% of the known diseases in the subregion were water and sanitation related and that cholera epidemic continues to claim many valuable lives of the SADC population.

19. He informed the seminar on the progress made so far in the development of the SADC Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Programme noting that efforts are at an advanced stage. He highlighted other water related activities being implemented by the SADC and supported by the German government through KFW/GTZ and DANIDA. Theses include the Pilot WASAT
Projects that are trans-boundary in nature – the first one being the Kunene- and the IWRM demonstration projects carried out by communities in few of our member states.

20. He expressed the hope that the seminar would assist in responding to some of the challenges faced by the water supply and sanitation development in the subregion and strengthening the implementation process. He called upon member states to demonstrate commitment and ownership in supporting this common instrument.

21. The Guest of Honour from the Ministry of Energy and Water Development welcomed all participants to the seminar on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia. He reaffirmed the timeliness of the seminar as it supported the growing awareness on water and sanitation as key drivers of sustainable development in the subregion and the continent as a whole. He alluded to a SADC conference on Infrastructure focusing on water that had been held the previous week in Lusaka.

22. Mr. Chundu indicated that investments in water supply and infrastructure in many African countries were inadequate to meet the growing demand. He highlighted the current coverage levels established at 62 % for water supply and 60 % for sanitation in Africa and noted that the number of people without access was estimated to increase from 300 million to 400 million between 2008 and 2020 in Africa, the majority of these being rural, informal and peri-urban dwellers.

23. He outlined the major challenges in the water and sanitation sectors as being: poor sector policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks, the overemphasis on the social character of water services leading to unattractive tariffs and unsustainable services, inefficient water utilities and political interference in the sector. He stressed that above factors have caused potential private investors to shun the sector, perceiving it as risky. The Director indicated that there was little prospect for improvement in the sector unless broad institutional reforms aimed at raising levels of financial autonomy and transparency were put in place towards an increased private sector participation.

24. Mr. Chundu recalled that the UN was celebrating 2008 as the “International Year of Sanitation”, a crucial objective of which was to create awareness of the positive impact of providing sanitation on the MDGs attainment. He emphasized the need to promote water sector reforms aimed at good governance, accountability and transparency in water supply and sanitation utilities to increase accessibility in the subregion. He underscored the need to involve all the actors in the sector, the media, community leaders, traditional rulers and public in these reforms.

25. He stressed the importance of taking cognizance of the needs of women and children and incorporating their special needs in the design and implementation of water and sanitation programmes and the related reforms. He also emphasized the need to give higher priority to sanitation and hygiene along with water to maximize improvements in health standards from
sector reforms. Further, he underscored the need to combine different interests and responsibilities in the sector to effectively address the challenges of delivering safe and sustainable water and sanitation services to communities.

26. He ended by urging the seminar to come up with practical recommendations focusing on mechanisms and strategies to strengthen water and sanitation programmes in the subregion, institutional and financial human capacity requirements and specific roles of key stakeholders.

27. Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, the AU Regional Delegate to SADC delivered the Keynote Address on: “Africa Water Vision 2025: the relevance of resource mobilization and policy implementation in water and sanitation in the SADC”. He conveyed the warm greetings of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, to all the delegates and participants. The core of his message dwelt on the importance of Africa Water Vision and critical actions necessary for the mobilization of resources and policy implementation.

28. He stated that the Africa Water Vision 2025 represents a vital landmark document for the attainment of the objectives of Africa on water and sanitation and promotion of sustainable economic growth and development. He further stressed that this policy was formulated from the understanding that the sustainability of water resources cannot be taken for granted since it is threatened by natural phenomena and human factors.

29. He drew attention to the expected financial requirements of the Vision. In the long-term the sum of US$20 billion per annum was expected for the vision implementation while in the short-term, US$10 billion per year was calculated for the initial takeoff. He emphasized that these targets had not been met in most African countries, including those in the region which are consequently lagging behind in the attainment of the targets of the Vision, the relevant MDGs as well as the SADC Regional Water Policy commitments. He opined that these essentially arose from certain internal and external constraints in the mobilization of resources.

30. He noted that, internally, savings in many African countries were generally low and as a result investment in WASAT remained very low. Low internal savings was a direct consequence of low income while, externally, number of countries were burdened by external debt as a major limitation in mobilizing resources for WASAT. He further highlighted that in many countries external trade has not expanded partly as a result of the frustration in several years of WTO negotiations in the Doha Development Round. Also, the flow of foreign direct investment remained low notwithstanding their liberal investment policies. In addition to these, He underscored that the developed countries have generally failed to honor pledges made in several international agreements to increase in foreign aid.

31. Thus, the AU Regional Delegate emphasized the need to encourage through appropriate policies higher savings and investment in WASAT at the national level noting that this was necessary to reduce dependence on external financial resources and ensure sustainable funding for WASAT activities. Externally, development partners should embark on more meaningful
debt cancellation to reduce the burden of external debt through which more resources could be released at national level for WASAT. He called upon the development partners to also fulfil their commitment to aid flow and take advantage of the liberal foreign investment policies of most of the countries in the region.

32. With respect to policy implementation, the AU Regional Delegate stressed the need to have strong institutional framework in order to provide the arrangement for effective policy internalization and action. In this connection, he added the need for full complement of skilled labor force to efficiently interpret and operationalize the policies on WASAT.

33. He concluded by restating that water had a vital role to play in the individual and collective efforts to surmount the socio-economic problems militating against sustainable development in the region and urged the experts to generate robust recommendations that would be useful to all stakeholders for the attainment of the WASAT goals in the region.

Account of Proceedings

Election of the bureau, adoption of the agenda and programme of work (Agenda Item 2)

34. The meeting elected the following countries to constitute the bureau:
   
   Chair:    Lesotho  
   Vice Chair:  South Africa  
   Rapporteur:  Malawi

35. The meeting adopted the proposed agenda as follows:
   
   1. Opening of the seminar  
   2. Election of the Bureau  
   3. Presentation and discussion on the SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation  
   4. Presentation and discussion on issues paper on water and sanitation in Southern Africa  
   5. Presentation and discussion on Sustainable financial support for Water and Sanitation programmes, projects and policies in Southern Africa: Issues and challenges  
   6. Discussants’ presentations to plenary:  
      – Water supply and sanitation to household through NGOs and community initiatives to safeguard human health and environment: lessons from the Mvula Trust
The SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (Agenda item 3)

36. The SADC representative presented the SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation. He informed the meeting that the programme sought to contribute to the socio-economic growth of the REC through promotion of good public health and provision of sufficient water for economic activities while protecting the environment. The presenter focused on the programme’s elaboration process, its importance, and also discussed the challenges to implementation process which included: the lack of political will and demonstration of commitment, weak resources mobilization and management, low sustenance of ICPs and capacity constraints, lack of coordination and harmonization of programmes on the ground, weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, disparities in economic development among member states and competing needs.

37. He underscored the need to integrate water supply and sanitation and strengthen the national ownership through sustainable national contribution to the process. The enabling environment, mutual trust and confidence need to be enhanced and the roles of different players clarified, the member states and cooperating partners strongly committed. The subregion needed to promote capacity building, advocacy and awareness building process if the gap on water and sanitation was to be filled. He finally proposed interventions for enhancing WASAT development in the sub-region.

38. In considering the SADC presentation, the participants recommended that the SADC develop monitoring tools to track progress among member states, while also playing a key role in encouraging the private sector (international donors and local investors), to engage in the implementation of programmes.

39. On the political will and support, SADC explained the governance structure underpinning the formulation of programmes related to water and sanitation. These programmes involved
all stakeholders in various forums, starting at technical level (in the Water Resource Technical Steering Committees), moving to permanent secretary level, then to ministers committee and finally endorsed by Heads of State. On this basis, there was clear participation and political will. Challenges arose at the implementation phase where issues of finance and lack of implementation capacity adversely affected delivery on political undertaking to provide this basic service.

40. Furthermore this political will was covered in the RISDP where it was clearly stated that halving the number of people without access to drinking water remained the ‘super’ goal by 2015, as per the related MDG. In pursuit of this goal, the AfDB developed two projects: one that is all-encompassing, seeking to develop water infrastructure for all uses, including energy, agriculture, household consumption, and others; the second project is dedicated to sanitation. The latter project was largely in response to less attention given to sanitation when water provision is discussed. Indeed, it was suggested that providing good sanitation would contribute towards meeting other MDGs, including health and education. This provision of sanitation facilities had to be accompanied by hygiene education, thus going a long way of averting sickness such as the now emerging cholera epidemic in the sub-region.

**Issues paper on water and sanitation in Southern Africa**
(Agenda item 4)

41. The ECA Regional Advisor presented the “*Issues paper on water and sanitation in Southern Africa*” (Agenda item 4). The paper discussed the current status of WASAT in the sub-region and the ongoing effort and initiatives in promoting WASAT development in Southern Africa focusing on issues, challenges and lessons drawn.

42. The presenter highlighted different international commitments on water and sanitation noting that the 1980s were established as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. He stressed the place of WASAT in the attainment of the MDGs and recalled the commitment to halving by 2015 the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation as advocated by the WSSD held in Johannesburg in 2002 noting that the Sharm El-Sheikh AU Summit declaration was in line with these engagements.

43. He indicated the trend of water supply and sanitation coverage in SADC and progress made by countries in the attainment of the water related MDGs noting that only Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were on track to meet the MDG target on improved water supply coverage. He identified main issues keeping access to water and sanitation low in SADC as being the low income and rapid urbanization of the countries, high population growth rates, high level of poverty, poor learning from experiences or good practices from others, lack of legal status and security of land tenure and problem in planning large scale expansion.
44. He highlighted some good practices for the water and sanitation development in SADC in terms of political will translated in a coherent policy; partnerships involving the private sector, communities, small scale providers and municipal actors, adaptation of service standards and choice of options; strong communication, promotion and capacity building functions and reliable financial mechanisms.

45. As follow-up recommendations, the presenter emphasized the need to formulate regional and country level policy, strategy and detailed action plans, develop appropriate regulatory framework and partnership arrangements with the small scale independent service providers and community managed system to enable them access micro-finance on a commercial basis, promote appropriate financing strategies or mechanisms and establish an African water supply and sanitation programme unit.

46. In the discussions that followed, participants raised issues of getting the private sector on board in the provision of water and sanitation infrastructure, the distribution of water and cost issues. Ways of solving private sector’s lack of interest were for the governments to entrench property rights and ownership. Participants argued that no private sector would engage unless the activities were profitable. Therefore, their partial engagement would be confined to urban areas, and it would shun peri-urban and rural areas. The example of Zambia was made to illustrate this point. It was suggested that government could provide incentive contract to entice private participation in rural areas. Here, the private sector would take part some of the revenues made in provision of water while the government would also provide subsidies to the poor.

47. Furthermore, government should consider establishing cost-sharing mechanism, involving agriculture, households and other users of water. Revenues generated had to be of such magnitude as to make it attractive to private investors, with the remaining revenue being earmarked for the extension of water services to other deprived areas, as well as to ensure maintenance work on existing water infrastructure.

48. Some participants expressed alarm at how poorly governments were performing in catching rainfall in the sub-region. They relied on more expensive remote catchment areas that raised the cost of delivering to the rural areas. Participants therefore urged for more effort, especially in rural areas, to introduce simple technology for harvesting rainfall and installing equally simple and inexpensive technology systems for purification purposes.

49. Participants further raised the issue that the inability to attract the private sector into water infrastructure provision also stemmed from their lack of capacity to provide a compelling case and proposals to the private sector and donors to pull them into the water services sector. Participants therefore called for more capacity training and thorough research on needs assessment. Countries should be able to assess the per capita water needs of its communities, make an estimate of how many boreholes they will need to meet these needs, how much this equipment would cost in acquisition and maintenance. The basic research would feed into bankable proposals that donors and investors can buy into.
There was a need to promote innovative approaches in funding water and sanitation initiatives comprising Public-Private-Partnership, incentives and subsidies to bring the private sector on board especially in the peri-urban and rural areas. Stakeholders needed to learn from some best practices and experiences within the sub-region and draw lessons from some sub-regional experiences.

**Sustainable financial support for Water and Sanitation programmes, projects and policies in Southern Africa: Issues and challenges** (Agenda item 5)

The AfDB representative highlighted the main regional water resources development challenges in Africa and articulated the AfDB response to these challenges through its main initiatives mainly the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative, the NEPAD Water Programme and the Infrastructure Consortium. He presented the AWF as an instrument supporting the implementation of the Africa Water Vision (AWV) for 2025.

He highlighted the facility’s focus in assisting African countries to mobilize and apply resources in order to strengthen water governance, catalyse investments to meet water needs, strengthen the financial base and improve water knowledge. He presented the AWF’s special characteristics and unique niche in the sector as a truly demand driven, fast processing and flexible facility.

The presenter informed the seminar of the facility’s programme in SADC Member States in terms of activities under implementation and consideration both at national and regional levels. He discussed the related key challenges and lessons in terms of mobilizing adequate financial resources, managing expectations, ensuring effective and accountable project implementation, showing impact and results on the ground, developing institutional capacity and strengthening cooperative working relationships with partners, developing beneficiaries’ implementation capacity and follow-up investment.

The discussions emphasized the need for countries to increase their contributions to the African Water Facility (AWF) and enhance the continent’s ownership of the facility. The region as a whole was encouraged to explore innovative ways of funding WASAT sector in the context of low savings and international financial crisis and differentiate endogenous projects, which should be internally funded and exogenous projects to be submitted to the donors. A conducive environment should allow the local capital and communities, and indigenous private sector to actively participate in the WASAT development process in Southern Africa.

**Presentations by discussants (Agenda Item 6)**

A panel discussion comprising five discussants made presentations on the following topics:
a. Water supply and sanitation to household through NGOs and community initiatives to safeguard human health and environment: lessons from the Mvula (Mvula Trust);
b. Improved sanitation facility, gender and education linkages: lessons from Southern Africa (African Health and Development);
c. Issues and challenges on integrated Water and Sanitation in Southern Africa” (IWRM Centre –UNZA);
d. DBSA developmental financing and support to the water sector in Southern Africa : Lessons learnt (DBSA); and,

56. The discussant from Mvula Trust addressed “Water supply and sanitation to household through NGOs and community initiatives to safeguard human health and environment: lessons from the Mvula”. He presented Mvula Trust and its historical context noting that its creation responded to the acute need for a dynamic and innovative approach to the provision of community water and sanitation services before the 1994 Constitution establishing the universal right to clean water and sanitation in South Africa. Mvula Trust was therefore mandated to assist the new democratic Government to provide water and sanitation services to disadvantaged rural communities.

57. The discussant identified Mvula’s strength as being its contributions to policy development and good practices advocacy, its strong focus on project sustainability, innovative approaches and technologies supporting municipalities and conducting and publishing research findings into water and sanitation related issues.

58. He highlighted some lessons rising from the Mvula experience namely: the evidence that sanitation alone cannot deliver sustainable health and hygiene, the pertinence of government investments in operational and maintenance costs and the need for the community-based organisations or SMMEs development to provide water and sanitation services to poor households. He recommended the use of participatory, community-based approaches as a standard requirement for all water and sanitation projects.

59. He noted the negative impact of HIV/AIDS on water and sanitation development and stressed the need to integrate food security into water and sanitation programmes in order to enhance the health and hygiene conditions of the poor. He called upon NGOs and CSOs to play advocacy role in both provision and regulation of water and sanitation services and noted that current procurement policies and tender requirements are detrimental to the survival and participation of NGOs in service delivery and advocated ring fencing of funding for NGOs and CSOs.

60. The plenary discussion acknowledged the good work done by Mvula Trust in promoting better water and sanitation programmes, policies and projects in South Africa and emphasized
the need to learn from this innovative NGO, especially in its innovative mechanisms to enhance the community contribution to the sector.

61. The discussant from African Health and Development addressed the “Improved sanitation facility, gender and education linkages: lessons from Southern Africa”. The presenter discussed the linkages between gender, education and improved sanitation facilities from a holistic point of view and how they affect the right of citizen’s participation and development. She highlighted the key challenges that impede the provision of adequate and safe sanitation facilities within the education sector and households and their positive or negative impact on gender.

62. The discussant examined the visible lack of consistency in gender inclusive sanitation policy implementation and development in Southern Africa despite the commitments made in conferences and high levels. She underscored the lack of integrated approach, the gap in the human capital skills required to implement comprehensive and gender sensitive sanitation and hygiene programmes, poor funding mechanisms and unclear roles and responsibilities definition as major constraints to gender mainstreamed WASAT development.

63. She highlighted the gains in improved sanitation facilities and the linkage to education in terms of increased attendance and completion rates in schools, especially for girl children, increased general awareness of hygiene and sanitation requirement, and reduced incidence of cholera in schools and other water borne diseases.

64. The plenary discussions underscored the need to face the cultural taboos around sanitation and to enhance the awareness building process on the issue in order to close the gap between water provision and sanitation development initiatives in the subregion.

65. The discussant from IWRM Centre of the University of Zambia addressed “Issues and challenges on integrated Water and Sanitation in Southern Africa”. He highlighted the IWRM environment in the SADC subregion noting that countries have already adopted IWRM and put in place policy and institutional frameworks and management instruments that are IWRM pro-focused. Among theses he cited the Regional Strategic Action Programme for IWRM and development, the SADC vision on Water, Life and Environment, the Regional Water Policy and the establishment of several River Basin Commissions.

66. He presented issues and challenges related to the IWRM development in the sub-region as they rely on climate change and variability, surface water limited resources, unevenly distributed and over-exploited, high population growth rate in urban areas and water-related diseases and HIV/AIDS incidence, poor water and sanitation coverage and service delivery, underdeveloped monitoring and evaluation tools and high competition between multiple water users. He emphasized the need to push the sanitation agenda into the governance arena by outlining the costs and benefits of good sanitation in socio-economic development.
67. The plenary discussions underscored the fact that IWRM bodies should not be part of universities but be incorporated in Government institutions to facilitate the implementation of WASAT project in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

68. The discussant from DBSA addressed the “DBSA developmental financing and support to the water sector in Southern Africa : Lessons learnt”. The presenter noted that water sector is one of the major sectors in which the DBSA gives developmental financing and support and recognised that many of the water sector projects in Southern Africa are faced with sustainability challenges making it difficult to attract private sector participation.

69. He highlighted lessons learnt and compiled by the DBSA in its effort to ensure continued improvement in its service in the water sector in Southern Africa. He also discussed how these lessons can be useful in developing appropriate measures that the sector can put in place to ensure sustainability of water sector projects.

70. The seminar congratulated in its effort to review and make recommendations for improved implementation in the water projects it supported and encouraged countries to put in place IWRM agencies which can manage projects from national and basin levels. The bank should also analyze the cost implications related to its process of probing its clients’ ability to borrow and assess the impacts of the activities on the ground.

71. The discussant from UNICEF addressed the “Indigenous Private Sector Development and Public-Private Partnerships in Water and Sanitation Services Provision”. The presenter noted that at the current rate of progress the Millennium Development Goal targets for water and sanitation will not be met in SSA. It is also estimated that 35% of all rural water systems in Africa are non-operational.

72. He further noted that key macro-economic policies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), have inadequate focus on water and sanitation, and many policies promote approaches such as community management, which have failed to deliver acceptable sustainability levels. The links between water and sanitation and poverty needed to be better articulated and disseminated, especially with respect to national PRSPs.

73. He emphasized the fact that the potential for indigenous private sector participation was yet to be fully realised, especially in rural areas, and much of the resistance came from sector professionals rather than from communities. Meanwhile, unrealistic expectations were commonly placed on commercial utilities operating in urban contexts.

74. Indigenous private sector capacity was limited but could be developed if sufficient emphasis and time were given to this sector. New opportunities for private sector service delivery had to be explored and win-win situations created to encourage PPPs. Advocacy was needed for increased private sector involvement and strengthened regulatory frameworks.
75. The discussant outlined experiences and opportunities for PPPs for water and sanitation service provision and hygiene promotion, as well as experiences in developing indigenous private sector capacity to deliver services drawing primarily on experiences from Zambia with some examples from other countries and regions.

76. In the ensuing discussions, emphasis was made on the need to consider various options on WASAT management additionally to the PPP principle, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and community approaches should be part of the process. In terms of division of labour, community-based approaches were recommended to deal with simple issues at local level while complicated and technical issues such as repairing of machines would be left to the private sector to handle. With the initial support from governments, it was suggested too consider forming cooperatives especially in rural areas to manage WASAT.

77. Studies in some places such as Uganda have shown that community participation did not necessarily imply community management of WASAT. Empirical evidence showed that in some instances community management of WSS worked well while in other instances it did not. However, what was needed was a blend of interventions i.e., the private sector should complement the efforts of communities.

78. It was further proposed that instead of community management, the focus should be on community governance. This approach would limit the task of communities to oversee the provision of services rather than providing the services themselves. While community governance gave power to the community to own programmes it was important at the same time to realise that governance in some countries could be at different levels with different authority and resources.

79. There was a strong feeling of resentment about the data that had been presented on Angola regarding the country’s progress towards MDGs especially on WSASAT. According to the Angolan government official, the data used in the presentation was incorrect as the country had done a lot in the water and sanitation sector. He gave an example of the programme on “Water for All” designed by the Angolan Government to supply water to peri-urban and rural areas with a wide coverage. The Programme was fully sponsored by the Angolan government, World Bank and the African Development Bank and so far assessments show that Angola is on track to achieving the MDGs.

80. The seminar regrettably noted that many donors were not funding sanitation issues, but concentrated on water supply only and called upon UNICEF to promote a social marketing strategy to raise the profile of sanitation issues among the donor community.

81. It was generally acknowledged that the private sector could provide the necessary investments in water and sanitation but the dilemma was the level of water availability in the SADC countries where some countries (Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe) were classified as water thirsty countries. Given these realities, it was important to assess the existence of a proper
and conducive environment for effective water provision and management in SADC countries. The seminar encouraged the subregion to replicate and upscale the success stories identified in the subregion and elsewhere, based on good hard facts and credible evidence.

Presentation of Group work to plenary (Agenda item 7)

82. The plenary was divided into two discussion groups focusing on the following nominated discussion themes: (1) *The SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation: delivery and provision* and (2) *Mechanism for sustainable resources mobilization for water and sanitation programmes in Southern Africa*. The outcome of the group work is attached in Annex II.

Adoption of findings, recommendations and conclusions (Agenda item 8)

83. The seminar noted that the region as a whole has serious challenges meeting the MDGs targets on water and sanitation. Provision of water supply and sanitation in the region was constrained, to varying degrees among SADC member states, by the following:

a) **Inadequate financing and funding mechanisms**
   - Lack of bankable integrated WATSAN projects
   - Unsuitable environment for private sector participation in WATSAN development and management
   - Very low levels of internal financing of water supply and sanitation initiatives,
   - Inadequate cost recovery
   - Lack of efficient window for financing WATSAN development projects in existing development banks

b) **Weak institutional performance**
   - Weak coordination and duplication of roles and responsibilities among governmental institutions and other sector players
   - Inadequate human resources capacity for planning and management of WATSAN activities
   - Poorly resourced sector institutions

c) **Infrastructure development and support**
   - Insufficient infrastructure development and maintenance
   - Inadequate use of appropriate technologies for WATSAN service provision
   - Lack of effective MDG plans
d) Monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms
- Lack of harmonized data and common definitions of key indicators for reporting
- Poor M&E systems at local, national and regional levels
- Inadequate funding of M&E operations
- Shortage of human resources with M&E skills
- Poor data and information for effective planning and management

e) Information and knowledge management
- Low access to information
- Weak linkages between Research organizations and end users
- Poor knowledge sharing and dissemination mechanisms
- Lack of comprehensive and holistic stakeholder mobilization on WATSAN
- Poor coverage of WATSAN issues within school curricula
- Lack of learning from others’ experiences

f) Recognizing Success stories
- The seminar recognized some existing success stories in the subregion and emphasized the need to upscale them and learn from them on the drivers and constraints on WASAT in Southern Africa. Success stories were identified on main areas comprising:
  - Knowledge Management: SA – development & distribution of awareness materials, targeting end-users, councillors and public;
  - Promotion of water & sanitation legislation and policies: Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Namibia, etc;
  - Lesotho highlands water project – sharing of water resources with South Africa in return for investment capital; and
  - The Mvula Trust, UNICEF and DBSA programmes as best practices.

84. The meeting reviewed the SADC Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, acknowledged that the key issues regarding water supply and sanitation service provision have been identified and recommended that the program be fully supported and resourced. The meeting noted that the region had serious challenges in meeting the MDGs targets on WASAT.

85. The seminar identified further recommendations to strengthen water and sanitation development in the subregion.
- Member states should demonstrate their commitment towards meeting the sanitation MDG through mandatory budgetary allocations and innovative funding mechanisms,
- Governments and other stakeholders should introduce and promote simple and cost-effective technologies for harvesting rainfall and also install technology systems for purification purposes, both in urban and rural areas,
• Considering that water and sanitation service provision as a social function has led to poor policy choices and curtailed private investment in the sector, there is therefore a need for institutional reform towards developing the private sector, commercialization and establishment of PPPs.
• Though there is a clear realization that water and sanitation are at the core of development, agreed strategies should be translated into actions that directly improve service provision and define appropriate monitoring mechanisms.
• WASAT reforms should not be left to technocrats alone, comprehensive and holistic dialogue involving all key players should be promoted with special attention to the needs of women and girls.
• The IWRM philosophy and principles need to be mainstreamed in WASAT services with sanitation and hygiene issues given the same prominence as water issues, at national and basin levels.
• The SADC needs to strengthen WASAT human resources capacity development programmes for effective policy implementation in the sector. This will require commonly agreed definitions of key concepts and indicators for monitoring developments and evaluation of outcomes in water supply and sanitation particularly regarding access, coverage and poverty,
• Concerted effort by the sector practitioners is required to engage the political establishment in the subregion and face the weak political will in supporting WASAT.
• Best practices demonstrated by UNICEF and Mvula Trust Programmes on WASAT need to be recognized and other stakeholders encouraged to learn from them,
• UNICEF should assist countries in developing and promoting a social marketing strategy to raise the profile of sanitation issues among the donor community and fill the gap between the donors’ involvement in water and their low support to sanitation issues,
• Methodologies for more effective community participation, sharing responsibilities and indigenous private sector development need to be promoted and strengthened.
• The domestic financial system should be developed in order to reduce the dependency on foreign aid in WASAT sector development. Windows on WASAT should be created or strengthened in existing development bank in the subregion and the option of creating WASAT specialized Banks should considered. These Banks could then approach the ADB and the DBSA for capitalisation to enable them finance WSS activities.

86. It was further noted that the current global financial meltdown would impact adversely on WSS. In light of this, the meeting proposed that internal mechanisms for raising funds for WSS should be vigorously pursued e.g., introduction of specific taxes and levies. It was generally felt and recognised that there was need to come up with innovative ways of raising funds for sanitation. However, some participants felt that introduction of new levies and taxes would not bode well for certain countries that are already overburdened with numerous taxes. It was felt that although taxes were a burden on society it was the only feasible and sustainable way of financing development. Taxes and levies have to be devised in such a way that they do not
become a burden on society. It was also suggested that there should be a clear separation on water bills between fees for water and those for sanitation.

87. Climate change was another important issue that was raised and that deliberate efforts should be made to engage donors in its address.

88. By way of information, the participants were informed that the ECA-SA had set up a knowledge management platform for interaction around development issues and was in the process of creating a community of practice (CoP) in the region. It was further stated that the CoP could be extended to cover WSS issues. The meeting welcomed the initiative from ECA on the creation of a knowledge platform and recommended that implementation of this programme required harmonization and coordination of the various efforts to avoid duplication.

89. The draft recommendations of the Seminar were adopted with amendments, which have been incorporated in this final report.

Any Other Business (Agenda item 9)

90. The AfDB Representative announced that the Southern Africa Stakeholders Consultative Meeting in preparation for Africa’s participation at the 5th World Water Forum would be held from 12 to 13 December 2008. The participants were reminded about its background, objectives and Programme and encouraged to attend.

Closure of the Meeting (Agenda item 10)

91. The AU Regional Delegate to SADC expressed his gratitude to the Government of Zambia for hosting the meeting and to COMESA for providing the venue of the meeting. He also acknowledged with great appreciation the active participation and high level of interaction during the deliberations, which contributed to the successful outcome of the seminar. He extended his appreciation to the Bureau of the seminar, the interpreters and the media for their commitment during the seminar. He encouraged the participants to bring the recommendations from the seminar to the implementation at the national level to lead the attainment of the MDGs in the subregion. He finally wished all participants safe passage to their respective homes and officially closed the meeting. The representative from Mauritius gave a vote of thanks to the people and government of the Republic of Zambia for their excellent hospitality and the organizers for a successful seminar.
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Annex II: Outcomes from Group Discussions

Group (1) focused on “The SADC Regional Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation: delivery and provision”.

The Group reviewed the SADC Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Programmes and proposed outcomes, outputs, activities and remarks to enrich the programme.

Group. 1. Outcomes of the group (1) discussions: enriching the SADC Programme

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative financing and funding options</td>
<td>Increased flow of domestic and external funds for implementing WSS services in SADC States</td>
<td>Alternative options for financing WSS services to achieve MDGs and national targets developed and in use in SADC States</td>
<td>Identify and assess available funding sources.</td>
<td>Corporate partners are not interested in sanitation investments, governments should come in first. Consider the available options and their conditions of support. Recognize the basket funding from all possible sources. Consider long term benefits.</td>
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<td>Develop a communication and marketing strategy for funds mobilization</td>
<td>Action based studies to generate evidence based proposals, highlighting performance, gains and success stories.</td>
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<td>Document and market the success stories (and also the challenges)</td>
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<td>Institutional rationalization and strengthening</td>
<td>National institutional performance in WSS sector enhanced to the point that SADC states are able to achieve the MDGs</td>
<td>National WSS sector institutions have adequate capacity to formulate plans for achieving national and MDG targets</td>
<td>Take stock of the competencies available</td>
<td>Capacity assessment in all the member states and promote interchange in capacity building initiatives through ToTs.</td>
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<td>Develop a plan for capacity building.</td>
<td>Consider capacity utilization issues. Map capacity availability.</td>
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<td>Assess the institutional arrangements in the member states (governance structures)</td>
<td>Aim to rationalize institutions, policy, legal frameworks and their operations across national boundaries. Define and allocate mandates and responsibilities.</td>
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<td>Undertake CB in line with above studies.</td>
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<td>Propose national level institutional reforms.</td>
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<td>COMPONENT</td>
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<td>Infrastructure development support</td>
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<td><strong>Develop common standards and definitions for Water Supply and Sanitation in urban, peri-urban and rural areas</strong></td>
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<td>Definition of access, service levels, poverty indices</td>
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<td><strong>inventory of water and sanitation services and infrastructure available in the member states</strong></td>
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<td>Baseline investigations</td>
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<td><strong>Develop a plan for meeting the MDGs.</strong></td>
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<td>Define roles for the sector players (Government, CSOs, Private sector, and communities). Clear identification of the challenges and constraints and actions for redress.</td>
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<td><strong>Resource mobilization strategy for implementation.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Formulation and implementation of a WSS monitoring and reporting mechanism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Improved and harmonized assessment and monitoring of access to WSS and progress towards MDGs</strong></td>
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<td>Review current M&amp;E systems at the local, national and regional to the continental levels.</td>
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<td>Need for commonly agreed and harmonized indicators (based on different parts of the watsan ladder).</td>
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<td><strong>Design a region wide monitoring and reporting system with feedback system at local, national, regional, continental levels.</strong></td>
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<td>Community based monitoring system with feedback. Emphasize corrective actions by the regions and member states.</td>
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<td><strong>Establish a system for annual reviews and corrective actions and feedback to the member states.</strong></td>
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<td>Make it more frequent at the local level</td>
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<td>Knowledge management, advocacy and awareness creation</td>
<td>Improved knowledge management and learning process for effective planning and management of future schemes</td>
<td>Develop innovative ways of marketing sanitation to the sector players.</td>
<td>Targeting decision makers and donors for budgetary support and agenda setting, policy makers for regulations and enabling environment. The Private sector for investments, the communities with options.</td>
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<td>Identify and strengthen networks for lobbying and advocacy.</td>
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<td>Develop a strategy to engage the relevant authorities.</td>
<td>Target the cabinet, CEOs of companies, heads of delegations.</td>
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<td>Advocacy, lobbying information with targeted players</td>
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Group (2) focused on “Mechanism for sustainable resources mobilization for water and sanitation programmes in Southern Africa”.

The Group discussed outcomes and objectives for such a mechanism and made recommendation to strengthen resources mobilization for WASAT programmes, plans and projects development in the Southern Africa.

**Outcomes of the mechanism**

- MDG targets were expected to drive the outcomes, namely:
  - Half the proportion of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015 (from 1990 statistics)
  - Develop water infrastructure needed to double land under irrigation by 2015
  - Provide necessary support the Africa Water Vision 2025

**Objectives**

- Promote the regional approach in water and sanitation (Share water courses mobilization for WASAT)
- Strengthen socioeconomic growth, public health
- Enhance appropriate and accessible sanitation facilities and safer and sufficient water
- Sustain water provision for productive use
Recommendations made by the group (2) on different components:

1. **Alternative financing and funding options**
   - Repackage bankable sustainable projects in the framework of WASAT integration
   - Promote a more conducive environment for private sector participation to embrace a PPP model for investment
   - Promote taxes to mobilize internal funding for WASAT
   - Establish WASAT development banks at national and regional levels
   - Improve cost recovery mechanisms for WASAT project sustainability

2. **Institutional rationalization and strengthening**
   - Promote better coordination at the continental level (African Council of Ministers on Water and Sanitation)
   - Create and strengthen dedicated WASAT departments and ministries at country level

3. **Infrastructure development and support**
   - Encourage more international finance institutions to support WASAT plans, projects and policies in the subregion
   - Facilitate bankable sustainable projects to water and sanitation and submit to WASAT bank after receiving projects from member states for consolidation
   - Promote the use of appropriate technologies for water supply and sanitation provision

4. **Monitoring and reporting**
   - Strengthen the existing monitoring and reporting tools ((Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and Demography and Health Survey (DHS))
   - Promote the harmonization of data and definitions for reporting – development of M&E and reporting tools
   - Encourage the reporting processes at different levels, the Government being a key resource
   - Enhance the role of independent bodies and peer review mechanisms in reporting on WASAT

5. **Knowledge management advocacy and awareness**
   - Strengthen the linkages between research organizations and end users
   - Create and maximize the use of knowledge sharing platforms
   - Involve the active civil society, multi media through a Multi-stakeholder mobilization process
   - Enhance knowledge dissemination among all the stakeholders
   - Incorporate WASAT issues in school curricula
6. Success stories identified

- Knowledge Management: South Africa – development and distribution of awareness materials, targeting end-users, councilors and public
- Promotion of WASAT legislation and policies: Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Namibia, etc.
- Lesotho highlands water project – sharing of water resources with South Africa in return for investment capital.
- Improved data capture using the most recent technologies, eg., GIS, etc.
- Training in IWRM – training in IWRM
- Mvula Trust and UNICEF WASAT Programmes

Challenges highlighted

- Lack of technical capacity
- EIA and feasibility studies are a requirement for water projects - process too long
- Donor fatigue
- Fragile political environment
- Inadequate internal funding
- Low savings within SADC countries
- Wrong prioritization – sanitation not being a top priority compared to water supply
- Lack of credible information on WASAT
- Inadequate research and development funding mechanisms
- Gaps in policy and legislation and their implementation
- Climate change and related vulnerability