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United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**REPORT OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WATER IN AFRICA**

**25-27 January, 2000
Accra, Ghana**

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**REPORT OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WATER IN AFRICA
Accra, Ghana, 25-27 January 2000**

Organization of the Meeting

The seventh annual meeting of the Interagency Group for Water in Africa (IGWA) was held at Accra, Ghana from 25 to 27 January 2000. The meeting was convened and organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as the secretariat of IGWA and was hosted by the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Participation

The meeting was attended by representatives from the following organizations: African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD); Regional AGRHYMET Center (CILLS); Water Resources Commission (WRC) of Ghana; The World Bank (WB); Zambezi River Authority (ZRA). Representatives from the following UN agencies participated at the meeting: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also representing United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations University (UNU); United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); and ECA Subregional Development Center for North Africa (ECA-SRDC-NA). The list of participants is included at Annex 1 to this report.

The meeting was opened on behalf of Mr. B.F. Dada, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa by Mr. Patrick Tesha, Director of Field Operations Branch of the FAO Regional Office for Africa. Mr. Tesha welcomed the participants to the FAO Regional Office and to Accra, Ghana.

Reading Mr. Dada's opening statement, Mr. Tesha highlighted that more and more countries were faced with water scarcity while the demand was growing fast and that lack of water impedes economic growth and poverty reduction as well as leads to tension and conflicts, often across international borders. He noted that water had been over the last decade the subject of several events and still occupies top place on the international agenda, especially with the preparation for the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference which was to be held from 17 - 22 March 2000, in The Hague. He informed the participants that in May 1999, FAO organized two expert consultations to formulate a long-term regional vision on water for food. He drew the participants' attention to the fact that only an integrated approach to water resources management could take into account the conflicting needs of various sectors which contribute to human development which is the ultimate goal. Nevertheless he stressed that water allocation to agriculture has always ranked first when other uses are considered and that agriculture was at risk of losing its priority unless efforts are made to improve on its productivity. He called for a regional framework for co-operation on integrated water resources management, harmonization of policies, exchange of experiences and co-ordinated strategies for mobilization of financial resources. Mr. Dada's statement included the hope that the dialogue at this IGWA meeting would establish a basis for agreement on interagency joint activities in the water sector in Africa. The full text of Mr. Dada's statement is included at Annex 2 to this report.

Following this opening statement, Mr. Azm Fazlul Hoque, Senior Economic Affairs Officer and Team Leader for Water Resources at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) made some opening remarks with a view to help set the tone of discussion during the meeting. In his opening remarks, Mr. Hoque welcomed all the participants to the meeting and thanked the FAO Regional Office for Africa for hosting it and for making all physical arrangements and providing all logistics for the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Tesha for taking time out to open the meeting and for having delivered an opening statement on behalf of Mr. B.F. Dada.

Mr. Hoque informed the meeting that IGWA was established by a group of United Nations and other agencies in 1992 at the request of the UN

Administrative Committee on Coordination - Subcommittee on Water Resources which is a global body for coordinating UN agencies' activities in water sector at the global level. He noted that the objectives of IGWA identified by the organizational meeting in 1992 were to coordinate the water activities of UN agencies and other IGOs in Africa in order to avoid duplication of efforts; and to promote joint interagency activities to enhance their impacts on African countries.

He further noted that during the eight years existence of IGWA, there had been a number of initiatives jointly undertaken by the IGWA member agencies and that interagency collaboration had been quite effective over these years. He then cited the examples of cooperation between ECA and such agencies as WMO, IAEA, UNEP and others. He also noted that there were a lot of examples of such cooperation between and among other IGWA member agencies. He reminded the meeting that a lot more remained to be done in the water sector in Africa and that there was ample room for more cooperation among the IGWA member agencies.

Mr. Hoque mentioned that while the agenda for the IGWA meetings always included discussion on topical technical issues and exchange of information on member agencies' activities, it also includes items on identification of joint activities for interagency collaboration. He noted that this year, particular attention would be paid during the course of the meeting on specific areas where interested member agencies could collaborate with each other. He emphasized that this was an area where more attention needed to be paid in order to make IGWA more active. He observed that what was needed was to come up with some concrete ideas and plans for interagency collaboration in at least one or two focused areas among the member agencies.

Mr. Hoque also noted that there was a need for more coordination and collaboration between the work of IGWA and that of the Working Group on Water of the UN Special Initiative on Africa (UNSI) since most of the UN agencies belonging to IGWA are also members of the UNSIA Working Group on Water. He then invited the participants to discuss the role of UN agencies in general and the IGWA member agencies in particular in the forthcoming World Water Forum at the Hague in the Netherlands. He informed the meeting that there would be a day-long session during the Forum devoted to African water

issues. He expressed the hopes that during the course of this IGWA meeting the participants would discuss and exchange ideas on how the member agencies could collectively and individually advocate the case of Africa in water sector in The Hague global forum.

Mr. Hoque concluded his remarks by thanking all IGWA member agencies for their organizations' interest and commitment in water sector in Africa in general and in the work of this Group in particular. The full text of Mr. Hoque's opening remarks are included at Annex 3.

During the opening session, the representatives of UNFPA and UNIDO also made introductory remarks. The UNFPA representative noted that her agency was interested in the water sector activities as the population issue is directly linked with water matters all over the world. She mentioned that UNFPA would in the future take more interest in the activities of IGWA. The representative of UNIDO thanked the IGWA secretariat for carrying the torch and providing support to IGWA over the years. He noted that UNIDO had a history of collaboration with ECA, UNEP, and other UN agencies on industrial water sector and expressed interest to collaborate further in the future with all IGWA member agencies particularly with the WB and the UNCHS.

Election of Bureau for the Meeting (Agenda item 2)

The meeting unanimously elected the following as the members of the Bureau:

Chairman:	Mr. Moise Sonou, Senior Water Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa
Vice-Chairman:	Eng. M.J. Tumbare, Chief Executive, Zambezi River Authority (ZRA)
Rapporteur-General:	Mr. M.S. Boulahya, Director-General of African Center of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD)

- Vice Rapporteurs:
1. Dr. S.M. Donkor, Senior Regional Advisor for Water, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
 2. Mr. S. Bangoura, Water Resources Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa (FAO)
 3. Mr. Jose de Pedro, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA Subregional Development Center – North Africa

Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work (Agenda item 3)

The meeting deliberated extensively on the provisional agenda proposed by the IGWA secretariat and adopted it with some amendments. The adopted agenda is included at Annex 4. The adopted programme of work is included at Annex 5.

Proceedings of the Meeting

Presentation by ECA-SRDC/NA on “Water Guidelines and Technologies” to be followed by discussions and recommendations (Agenda item 4)

Dr. J.L. de Pedro of the ECA/SRDC-NA presented a paper entitled: “Water Guidelines and Technologies in Africa”. The paper analyzed a set of guidelines, tools and technologies in water sector available in some areas of the continent, especially in the Northern and Southern Africa subregions. He noted that the main sources of information for the paper were inputs from some IGWA member agencies and the irrigation and water management seminar organized by the SRDC-NA in Cairo in October 1999. The paper included among other, the following set of guidelines and tools for water management:

- National laws, acts and country agreements on water courses
- Water management for refugee situations

- Safety rules for water analysis laboratory
- Egyptian water assessment, monitoring and simulation projects
- Egyptian water re-use and monitoring programmes

With regard to proven technologies for water supply, the paper made a detailed technical analysis of the following:

- pumps for underground water lifting
- boreholes drilling techniques and
- water treatment techniques and technologies.

The issues of filtering technologies for micro-irrigation, injection of chemicals and fertilizers into water pipelines and computerized irrigation were also analyzed. In view of the fact that the cost of wastewater recycling using chemical treatments is expensive. Two experiences in stabilization lagoons and biological systems being used in Morocco and Tunisia were cited.

Discussions

Discussions concentrated on the poor inputs provided by the IGWA member agencies to prepare the paper. Some participants expressed surprise by the little information on guidelines provided by the paper on other regions than the North and Southern Africa. The Group was informed on new sources of data and information to be contacted in the case that the paper needed to be extended. The question of linking technology to social development was suggested by the World Bank. Finally, a proposal was made to know whether it would be convenient to extend the paper as to cover new issues or to be enriched with examples of guidelines and technologies throughout Africa.

Recommendations

After these discussions the meeting recommended the following:

- To intensify the dissemination of more water guidelines and tools available in Africa.

- To promote updating of local legislation on water quality and re-use.
- To develop appropriate technologies for water monitoring and management.
- To promote development of appropriate water lifting and drilling machineries.
- To stimulate the generation of local technologies for wastewater recycling, storage and utilization as well as for water resources assessment.

Presentation by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on “Vision on Water for Food in Sub-Saharan Africa” to be followed by Discussion and Recommendations (Agenda item 5)

The paper summarized the proceedings of the two FAO sub-regional consultations on Water Vision for Food in Sub-Saharan Africa. It pointed out the priorities and the challenges that led to the vision statement.

The paper noted that the main priorities for the Sub-Saharan countries in the next 25 years is food security. Food security is both physical and economic access to adequate food at all times by all people. Taking into consideration the slow growth rate of food production (e.g. 2% year) against 3% per year for population growth, a significant greater growth in food production is needed in order to avoid dependency on commercial or concessionary import.

The paper further noted that agricultural production growth is inconceivable without water, which is scarce and erratic in most Sub-Saharan countries. In West and Central Africa up to 80% of the food is produced under rainfed agriculture. Therefore, the sustainability of food production, hence food security for the societies can be achieved through the development of water resources by cost-effective techniques and technologies (e.g. small scale irrigation, water harvesting etc.). Greater effort is needed in research for rainfed

agriculture development, water resources conservation and development for food production.

The main challenges facing the region (rapid population growth, urbanisation and related food demand) need to be addressed with a vision. The vision has three (3) guiding principles:

1. All people have fundamental rights to sufficient water for drinking and sanitary purposes and for food.
2. Each generation has the moral obligation to preserve the global heritage for their successors.
3. People should have a say in making decisions that affect them, including those related to water allocation and management.

The driving forces expected to influence water use for food and rural development are mainly: demographic, economic, social, political and institutional forces, technological and environmental.

To make the vision a reality, possible strategies and actions have been outlined in the paper as follows:

- Availability of balanced diet for all people;
- Water as economic and social good;
- Negotiated optimised use of available land and water;
- Improved water availability and management;
- Farming as a business;
- Gender awareness in water resources management.

The paper recommended that emphasis and goals should be focused on food security while food self-sufficiency should be pursued on an economically viable basis up to the limit of renewable water and other resources available to the countries without sacrificing the rights and privileges of their neighbors and incurring non-reversible ecological damages.

The paper further suggested that FAO was in a good position to take a lead role in the following four areas:

1. Provide policy support for governments in priority setting for investments in agriculture, such that initiatives likely to lead to higher yields per unit of water or land are being funded.
2. Collect data and information on best practices in water harvesting, supplementary irrigation, simple and cheap drip irrigation systems, soil and water conservation, and institutional arrangements for privatized irrigation systems, and disseminate the information to the water users.
3. Assess the performance, including cost-benefit analysis, of all measures that are likely to raise yields in farmers' fields. This should be done world-wide according to a common format to facilitate comparison among various measures and locations in order to identify the necessary conditions for successful introduction of different measures.
4. Stimulate research in (a) integrated water resources management with special attention to the management of groundwater and the effect on downstream water users of hydrological changes introduced elsewhere in the watershed, and (b) the development of the crops and crop species that produce well under conditions of limited water supply or saline conditions, by conventional plant breeding methods and through modern biotechnology.

Discussions and Recommendations

During the discussions, the participants focused on the following issues:

- The state of water efficiency in arid and semi-arid zones;
- Drought and flood problems to be considered as a challenge;
- Co-operation in good governance;
- Emphasis on climatic changes within the region.

After the discussions, the following main recommendations were made:

- To put more emphasis on the research on drought phenomenon;
- To consider women's role in the strategies outlined and to propose specific actions for women;
- Water should not only be considered as economic good but also as a social element;
- To develop joint activities with other agencies in food security programme.

Presentation by IGWA Member Agencies on Their Activities: **(Agenda item 6)**

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development **(ACMAD/AGRYHMET)**

The representative of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) agreed with the recommendation made by the NASRDC in its document concerning the need for utilization of advanced technologies for weather forecasting and hydrological monitoring. He also agreed with the recommendation of the FAO paper in the field of technology and environment. He mentioned the three phases followed by ACMAD since it was established in 1992.

He then provided detailed information on the following activities:

- Projects for ensuring rural communication in Africa e.g. RANET (Radio Internet);
- Introduction of digital radio transmission via satellite and activities linked to different training within the World Space Foundation Programme for Africa;
- The seasonal weather forecast project within the PRESAO Process.

The representative of AGRYHMET after briefing the meeting about its mandate and current activities gave information about two main programmes of

the Centre namely: Information and training in hydrology. He made a detailed explanation of objectives and output of three main projects carried out in collaboration with other agencies namely: PRESAO, WCA-HYCOS and WCA-FRIEND projects.

The meeting discussed important topics of the presentations specially:

- The need to give more attention to drought prediction through research (FIRMA, SIRSNET-Africa);
- The advantage of ACMAD to work on climate prediction in its application;
- The number of trainees and training courses in AGRHYMET;
- The shortage of trainees that AGRHYMET is facing because of lack of available scholarship;
- The irregularity of contributions and the possibility to set-up a Foundation for ensuring regular funding for climate/environmental related projects and institutions;
- The importance of capacity building of national hydrological services for the collection of sound quality data;
- Feed back of information is crucial. Data collectors should also be data beneficiaries.

Recommendations

- The participants asked AGRHYMET/ACMAD to focus the training activities at the grass root level for front-line technicians;
- The two agencies should continue to give more attention to drought forecast;

- There is a potential area of co-operation with FAO for the use of rural radio/digital radio for product dissemination to final users.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The representative of UNIDO explained the excellent co-operation between UNIDO/UNEP and ROA on the National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPC) and the Municipal Waste Management Programme (MWM). He also mentioned that UNIDO worked with Zambezi basin and is now working in the Awash rivers in Ethiopia in industrial water management. UNIDO is also implementing a Monitoring System of Industrial Wastewater Management in Madagascar, Ethiopia and Kenya.

He noted that UNIDO could collaborate with IGWA in the area of development of national programmes, preparation of training material and training workshops (countries/region).

After the presentation, the discussions were concentrated on the following issues:

- Municipal waste management - solid waste and wastewater;
- Transfer of technology for water recycling;
- Gaps on legislation to prevent the discharge of polluted water to the watercourse;
- Health and wastewater impact with potential co-operative activities with UNU-INWEH.

The following recommendations were made:

- The need to develop a multilateral memorandum of understanding for wastewater management in the region.
- Co-operation between agencies should be strengthened in the area of municipal waste and industrial wastewater treatment.

United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The representative of UNESCO gave some detailed information on the activities carried-out by the agency in Africa. Those activities are conducted under the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) that started in 1974 and is being executed in a 6 year phase. The current phase, THP (1996-2001) deals with "Hydrology and water resources development in a vulnerable environment". The programmes under implementation are: IHP projects on FRIENDS (flow regime from international and experimental data sets). FRIEND-AOC, Southern Africa FRIENDS/SA, Nile basin FRIEND.

The meeting was also informed on water priority activities of UNESCO, which are as follows:

- Groundwater at risk (mapping groundwater pollution in mega cities aquifers);
- Integrated water resources management for arid and semi-arid areas;
- Special project on women and water supply.

The discussion focused on:

- How the actual priorities were selected and by whom
- How the vulnerable land projects was selected as a priority;
- The origin of the project on women and water resources;
- The aim of "groundwater at risk" which is to establish a network of scientists for early warning (Burkina Faso, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Benin and Senegal);
- The Humid Tropic Programme, in particular activities on wetlands hydrology (interior delta of the Niger River, Benin wetlands and northern parts of Cameroon wetlands).
- The origin, objectives and status of the Association of African Hydrologists and the journal of African Hydrology.

The meeting recommended partnership of IGWA member agencies with the Association of African Hydrologists.

The World Bank (WB)

The representative of the World Bank indicated that the Bank supports Water Resources Assessment in Africa aiming at improving water planning for drinking, industry, and other uses. Integrated sectoral and geographical approaches are utilized to meet these objectives. In particular, the Water Resources Assessment and Strategic Plans are essential tools for the identification of Action Plans and further programme prioritisation. Niger, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Ghana (Bensu river), among other countries are covered by these programmes. The representative also underlined the modalities for assistance to countries (especially through GEF funded programmes).

The main discussions underlined:

- The insufficient communication between the World Bank and the main actors of the projects.
- The need to take a stock of the initiatives and suggestions of the countries.
- The initiative undertaken jointly by the World Bank, UNDP and others to support constructive dialogue among 9 of the 10 countries of the Nile basin and the necessity to further strengthen co-operation among the Nile river countries.
- The need to build upon outcome of the workshop on water resources management in Sub-Saharan Africa where participants had expectations on policy review and reform.
- The need to follow-up on activities of the Lake Tchad Basin Commission.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The representative of the UNEP informed the meeting on recent changes that had taken place in the organization and especially on its sectoral basis policy orientation. He also briefed the participants on the present structure of UNEP (six divisions). Water issues are dealt in the "Assessment Division". He also spoke about the good co-operation existing among UNEP/ECA/UNESCO/UNIDO. The UN Special Initiative for Africa was mentioned as an example of international agencies co-operation. After raising a set of questions of weaknesses and opportunities to enhance IGWA functions, the representative made the following proposals:

- To strengthen the present structure of IGWA;
- To focus on one or two selected regional and/or sub-regional topics for the next meeting, looking for quality rather than quantity;
- To favour better partnership and co-ordination among international organizations dealing with water management.

The meeting then made the following recommendations:

- IGWA can focus on the identification of best practices (success stories) in the region;
- IGWA to prepare a report on the assessment of water resources in Africa;
- IGWA to co-ordinate efforts for inputs for land and water initiatives;
- Organisational nature of IGWA to be reviewed.

Identification of Interagency joint activities (Agenda item 7)

Under this agenda item, the ECA representative made a presentation on the reports of two sectoral meetings organized by ECA in 1999. These were:

- i) Meeting of the Chief Executives of Transboundary River/Lake Basin Organisations in Africa (RBO).
- ii) Meeting of Senior Water Resources Officials from the Zambezi River Basin countries for accelerating water development in the basin.

Consideration was given to the specific recommendations of these meetings and this served as a background for discussion and suggestions for specific joint interagency activities in the water sector in Africa. The presentation of the meetings set out the rationale for the meetings and the fact that they resulted from a recommendation of the 4th IGWA annual meeting in 1995 at Vienna and reiterated by the 6th Meeting in Rabat.

There was representation from all existing RBOs and nascent ones such as the Okavango Commission. Most of the major External Support Agencies were also represented.

The objectives of the RBO meeting were threefold:

- i) To discuss ways and means for strengthening the existing RBOs.
- ii) To exchange views, ideas and gain from each other's experiences and best practices.
- iii) To promote inter-RBO cooperation.

The major recommendations from these meetings of relevance to the current IGWA meeting were:

- The need for support from the ESAs in mobilizing resources for a regular RBO forum.

- The publication on a recurrent basis of an inter-RBO publication to keep each other and interested parties informed about their activities.
- The preparation of detailed studies on innovative approaches for self-financing by RBOs including prior needs assessments for each of them.
- Joint Identification and funding of projects in collaboration with individual ESAs or consortia.
- Provision of Advisory and Technical Assistance by ESA's as and when necessary.

Specific recommendations from the Zambezi Officials including a request for better communication by ESA's of available assistance and the necessary requirement in a timely and regular manner. They also stressed the need for any assistance to be gender sensitive and for child welfare to be mainstreamed as an explicit objective. It was also recommended that assistance by all ESAs to the water sector in the Zambezi basin should be coordinated with the SADC water Sector Unit in Lesotho.

Discussion of these recommendations touched on the fact that not all IGWA members were invited and that UN correspondence Protocol resulted in invitations arriving late or to the wrong recipients.

Funding was identified as the major problem and a view was expressed that donor funding might not be the best source if the objective is a sustainably operated RBO. The need for self supporting RBOs were raised to guarantee their credibility.

Various questions related to the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the status of it's plans and the specific issue of Interbasin water transfer were raised. In the absence of a representative, the secretariat (ECA) was asked to check on various issues raised with the Commission and inform IGWA members accordingly.

To ease the financial constraints of the RBOs it was suggested that future IGWA meetings be held at locations where RBOs are headquartered to both enhance their participation and show solidarity with them.

UNEP offered to help in the collation, editing and printing of the proposed RBO publication and indicated that it can work with UNESCO and UNIDO to raise funds to support the Inter RBO meeting.

It was suggested that an IGWA page be created on the ECA website to foster communication and dissemination of information and relevant material.

Specific proposal on areas of joint activities by IGWA members can be summarized as follows:

- Water Quality:
 - a) Study on Goundwater Vulnerability in Africa's mega cities.
 - b) Safe Water Reuse Studies in (peri-) urban areas for agriculture.
 - c) Wastewater study in North Africa.
 - d) Awash River Industrial Pollution Monitoring System in Ethiopia.
- Forum for joint planning and execution of research in water resources with national water research institutions (universities).
- Strengthening Cooperation and Networking between RBOs.
- Research and studies on climate impact and response strategies in water resources.
- New information and communication technologies for rural communities.
- Reports on WHYCOS, FRIENDS and Climate Preidction and its applications.

It was suggested that these activities could be clustered into three or four thematic groups with example themes as water quality, Information exchange, public awareness raising (Newsletter) and cooperation with existing water research institutes. Support for this approach was expressed by among others UNEP, UNFPA, and ECA.

On the relation between IGWA and UNSIA, UNEP expressed the view that may be better placed to handle the UNSIA activities on water resources as expressed earlier in discussion after the UNEP presentation. Reviewing the constraints faced so far in fulfilling the original UNSIA objective to obtaining added value for Africa, UNEP indicated that more action will be sought on UNSIA water in consultation with the other sister agencies.

Proposals for provisional agenda for the eighth annual meeting (Agenda item 8)

After considerable discussion and brainstorming, the following issues were suggested for discussion at the next meeting:

- Review of Implementation and constraints of past IGWA Recommendations
- Focus on Water Quality
- Follow-up actions on the Vision and Framework for Action of the 2nd World Water Forum and Ministerial meetings.
- Preparatory inputs into planned Earth Summit II
- WHYCOS data acquisition.
- Postponed presentation on Community Participation (7th meeting).

Date, Venue and Host Agency for the Eighth Annual Meeting
Agenda item 9)

The date was tentatively set for January/February 2001 at NBA Headquarters in Niamey. A consortium of IGWA members comprising AGRHYMET, NBA, and ACMAD will be the hosts with concrete support from UNEP, UNESCO and UNIDO.

Any Other Business (Agenda item 10)

Under any other business, two substantive items were discussed:

- ◆ The World Water Forum and Ministerial Meeting to be held in The Hague, Netherlands from 17 to 22 March, 2000.
- ◆ The need for closer collaboration between IGWA and the Water Working Group of the UNSIA of which most organisations represented at the meeting are also members.

The ECA explained the Vision process which is due to culminate in the Forum specifically the Africa Day on which among other activities Lake Chad, the Nile Basin and The African Vision on water in the year 2025 would be presented by the Africa Caucus. All IGWA members were encouraged to attend the Forum and their policymakers to attend the Ministerial Conference. Over 100 Ministers and Heads of State had already indicated their attendance and many more are expected including the UN Secretary General. The ultimate goal is to get *Political Commitment to Water issues in the face of projected scarcity in the coming decades*.

The ECA also invited IGWA members to make contributions by sending posters, documents or other exhibits to ECA for a Pavilion dedicated to Water in Africa. This must be done where individual organisations do not have space at the Pavilion and must be submitted by the end of February 2000.

On UNSIA Water Working Group , UNEP/UNHCS committed to consult with the co-chairs of the UNSIA Steering Committee (ECA and UNDP) to set up a Meeting with two objectives:

- Review Progress made by the Group uptill May 1999.
- The Water Group's relationship with IGWA and guidance on collaboration/rationalisation.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING.

The following recommendations were proposed and adopted by the meeting:

1. The UN organisations and other ESAs should promote (sub)regional cooperation on water issues on both bilateral and multilateral basis with specific references to the RBOs and National Institutions.
2. IGWA member agencies should actively support and initiate a coordinated form of Information Exchange and Public Awareness Raising through instruments such as the Inter-RBO recurrent publication and the proposed IGWA web page on the ECA website.
3. IGWA member agencies should actively support and where necessary fully coordinate its activities with the Water Working Group of the UNSIA. UNEP as the lead agent of the Working Group will consult the co-chairs of the UNSIA Steering Committee in evaluating progress made and constraints encountered in the UNSIA effort in collaboration with IGWA members.
4. IGWA member agencies should endeavor to participate actively in the Africa Day and Ministerial Conference of the World Water Forum in the Hague.
In this respect IGWA members are urged to submit their comments on the Africa Water Vision for the year 2025 to the ECA by the end of February 2000. Any poster or documentary contributions should also be sent by that same deadline.

5. The IGWA members should provide support to Africa's representatives in formulating common positions where feasible for the Earth Summit II.
6. The IGWA member agencies should review the outcomes, especially the Framework for Action and other Implications of the Major Water Conferences in 2000/2001 and strive to plan coordinated actions based on their outcomes.

Adoption of the Report (Agenda item 11)

The draft report of the meeting was presented by the rapporteurs at the closing session of the meeting. The report was thoroughly reviewed by the participants and a number of comments were made and changes suggested. Representatives of some agencies e.g. UNEP, UNIDO, WB etc. volunteered to provide the secretariat with reformulation of sections of report relevant to their respective agencies before the closure of the meeting. The secretariat was authorized by the meeting to incorporate the changes suggested into the report, finalize the same and disseminate the final report to all IGWA member agencies.

Closing of the Meeting (Agenda item 12)

The closing session was presided over by the Chairman of the meeting who also delivered the closing remarks on behalf of the Assistant Director of the African Regional Office of FAO. In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked all participants for their participation and contribution to the meeting and thanked IGWA for choosing FAO-African Regional Office as the venue for this meeting. He expressed hope that the IGWA member agencies would collaborate with each other effectively in implementing the recommendations of the meeting.

On behalf of ECA and the IGWA secretariat, the ECA Regional Advisor on Water thanked the Government and the people of Ghana for their hospitality to the meeting participants. He also thanked FAO Regional Office – specifically the Chairman of the meeting and his professional and support staff for their untiring efforts in making all arrangements, providing all logistics and for guiding the proceedings of the meeting and for their substantive contributions to the meeting. The Chairman then wished all participants Bon Voyage and closed the meeting.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WATER IN AFRICA**

25-27 January, 2000

Accra, Ghana

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WATER IN AFRICA**

**25-27 January, 2000
Accra, Ghana**

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

Bamidele F. Dada

Assistant Director-General/

FAO Regional Representative for Africa

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of FAO Director General to the opening session of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Interagency Group for Water in Africa being hosted by the FAO Regional Office based here in Accra. I understand that this is a roving annual meeting and the last session was hosted by WHO in Rabat. Morocco in 1998.

We all know how precious water is for life. Despite this fact, more and more countries are faced with water scarcity while the demand is growing fast. Lack of water impedes economic growth and poverty reduction. It leads to tension and conflicts, often across international borders. Hence, water has been over the last decade the subject of several summits, conferences of policy makers, expert consultations, workshops and seminars and still occupies top place on the international agenda. In the framework of the United Nations System Wide Special Initiative for Africa, water is a priority area.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This meeting takes place at a very important time since we are currently preparing for the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference to be held on 17 - 22 March, 2000 in The Hague. It is in this framework that the FAO Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with IPTRID, at the request of the World Water Commission, organised two expert consultations on Water for Food in Accra and Harare in May, 1999 for agriculture and water experts to formulate a long-term sub-regional vision on water for food. The vision is meant to move the world from where it is today to where it needs to be to meet future water needs and ensure the sustainable use of water.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentleman,**

At the Expert Consultation, participants recognised amongst others that most countries share their water resources and therefore depend on co-operation at river basin and regional levels and, that there is a need for appropriate and affordable technologies which are flexible and take into consideration traditional farming practices, values and capabilities.

Their recommendations also include the promotion of integrated land and water resources management in the region and the strengthening of river basin institutions to enable the formulation of integrated master plans for water development, management and utilisation at national and regional levels based on joint agreed data on land and water.

I know that these important issues are on your agenda for the meeting and will be discussed for formulating interagency joint activities in the water sector in Africa.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is estimated that by the year 2025, some 15 countries including 9 African countries will suffer from water stress; nine others including 5 African countries will experience water scarcity while a third group of 22 countries, including 10 from this region will have met a 'water barrier'.

In general, Africa has less surface water and has a higher evaporation per unit area than other regions of the world. However, for the time being, only 3.8% of the total renewable water resources of the continent (3.991Km³) is withdrawn for all uses.

Water allocation for agriculture has always ranked first when other uses are considered. This is a fact. More and more countries are faced with water scarcity and the need to rationalise water resources allocation. The aim is to increase the productivity of each volume of water allocated to agriculture, industries, human consumption or recreational activities. Only an integrated approach to water resources management can take account of the conflicting needs of sectors which contribute to human development. In this competitive context, agriculture is at risk of losing its priority if we do not endeavour to improve on its productivity.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The main objective of this meeting should therefore be to identify joint interagency activities in the water sector and explore the modalities for their effectiveness as well as find ways and means to avoid duplication in intervention to the extent possible. The meeting will also have to address some critical water issues in Africa as it enters the 21st Century. It will also be an opportunity to exchange information and views geared towards enhancing interagency co-operation and collaboration in the water sector in Africa.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

All over the world, people are getting together to discuss water use and management. They recognise that if a crisis is to be avoided, people using water for different purposes - fishing, irrigation, the maintenance of eco-systems, hydro-electric power generation and household use - all need to have a voice in finding comprehensive solutions.

At regional level, a framework is needed for co-operation on integrated water resources management, harmonisation of policies, exchange of experiences and co-ordinated strategies for mobilisation of financial resources.

The options for solving the world water crisis are limited. Any solution has to be comprehensive, stacking different uses of water against each other.

I expect that your dialogue will establish a basis for agreement on interagency joint activities in the water sector in Africa.

I thank you for your attention.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WATER IN AFRICA**

25-27 January, 2000

Accra, Ghana

**OPENING REMARKS BY
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)**

Your Excellency Mr. B.F. Dada,
FAO Assistant Director-General and
Regional Representative for Africa ably represented by
Mr. Patrick Tesha,
My Colleagues from sister UN Agencies and
Other Regional Intergovernmental Organizations,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do not intend to make a full statement but only to make a few remarks which will hopefully help set the tone for discussion during our meeting for the next 2-3 days. But before I do that, please allow me to begin first by welcoming you all to this seventh annual meeting of the Interagency Group for Water in Africa in this hot but lively and beautiful city of Accra. Next, I would like to thank most sincerely our host for the meeting, the FAO African Regional Office for making all arrangements for the meeting. In particular, I would like to express our gratitude to the distinguished representative of Mr. B.F. Dada, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa for taking time out from his busy schedule to open our meeting and for having delivered an inspiring statement. So, thank you Mr. Thisa for your time and interest in the work of this important Interagency Group for Water in Africa.

Your Excellency,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Interagency Group for Water in Africa, briefly called IGWA was established by a group of United Nations and other agencies in 1992 at the request of the UN Advisory Committee on Coordination - Subcommittee on Water Resources. The Subcommittee is a global body for coordinating water activities at the global level. The objectives of IGWA identified by the organizational meeting in 1992 were to coordinate the activities of UN agencies and other IGOs in Africa in the water sector in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote joint interagency activities to enhance their impacts on African countries.

During its existence of almost eight years, there have been a number of initiatives jointly undertaken by the IGWA member agencies and I can say that interagency collaboration has been quite effective over these years. But a lot more remains to be done in the water sector in Africa and there is ample room for more cooperation among the member agencies.

With this in mind, while the agenda for the IGWA meeting always includes discussion on topical technical issues and exchange of information on member agencies' activities, it also includes items on identification of joint activities for interagency collaboration. This year, particular attention will be paid during the course of the meeting on specific areas where interested member agencies of IGWA can collaborate with each other. I will elaborate further on these areas when I introduce Agenda item 7 during the proceedings of the meeting. I believe, this is an area where we need to put more emphasis in order to make IGWA more active. What we should aim at is to come up with some concrete ideas and plans for interagency collaboration in at least one or two areas between our agencies.

The second point I wanted to make is that there is a need for more coordination and collaboration between the work of this Group and that of the Working Group on Water of the UN special Initiative on Africa – since most of the UN agencies represented here are also members of the UNSIA Working

Group on Water. I hope during the proceedings of the meeting we will have an opportunity on how to enhance this coordination.

My last and final point is related to the role of UN agencies in general and the IGWA member agencies in particular in the forthcoming World Water Forum at the Hague in the Netherlands. As some of you may know there will be a day long session during the Forum devoted to Africa.

During the course of this meeting, perhaps we can discuss, exchange ideas on how IGWA member agencies can collectively and individually advocate the case of Africa in water sector in the global forum.

These are my brief opening remarks. I would sincerely hope that the meeting would take note of these points during adopting its agenda and also during the discussion.

Once again I thank you all for your agencies' interest in water sector in Africa and in the work of this Group, I wish you fruitful discussion during the next few days and a pleasant stay here in Accra.

Thank you.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WATER IN AFRICA**

**25-27 January, 2000
Accra, Ghana**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and opening remarks by the representatives of the following:
 - (a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - (b) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
 - (c) Any other member agencies
2. Election of Bureau of the meeting
3. Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work for the meeting
4. Presentation by ECA-SRDC/NA on "Water Guidelines and Technologies in Africa" to be followed by discussion and recommendations by the meeting participants
5. Presentation by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on "Vision on Water for Food in Sub-Saharan Africa" to be followed by discussion and recommendations by the meeting participants
6. Presentation by interested IGWA member agencies on their future water activities in Africa with special relevance to interagency cooperation and collaboration
7. Identification of interagency joint activities in water sector in Africa
 - (a) Presentation by ECA on two recent ECA meetings:
 - (i) Meeting of Chief Executives of existing transboundary river/lake basin organizations in Africa

- (ii) Meeting of Senior Water Resources Officials from the Zambezi river basin countries for accelerating water development in the basin
 - (b) Consideration of the recommendations of these two meetings leading to possible interagency joint efforts for implementation of these recommendations
 - (c) Discussion and formulation of specific joint interagency activities in water sector in Africa
8. Proposals for provisional agenda for the eighth annual meeting of IGWA
 9. Date, venue and host agency for the next meeting of IGWA
 10. Any other business (Activity of Water Working Group of UNSIA, Global Water Forum in the Hague)
 11. Adoption of report of the meeting
 12. Closing of the meeting

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
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**25-27 January, 2000
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PROGRAMME OF WORK

Tuesday, 25 January 2000

Morning

09.30 - 12.30	Registration
12.30 - 14.30	Lunch

Afternoon

14.30 - 15.00	Opening of the meeting by Mr. B.F. Dada, UN Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Africa
	Opening remarks by representative of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
	Opening remarks by interested IGWA member agencies
	Election of the bureau for the meeting - Chair, Vice-chair, Rapporteurs
15.00 - 16.30	Adoption of Agenda
	Adoption of programme of work
	Presentation by ECA Sub-regional Development Center - North Africa (ECA-SRDC/NA) (Agenda item 4) to be followed by discussion and recommendations
16.30 - 17.00	Coffee break
17.00 - 18.30	Presentation by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) (Agenda item 5)

Wednesday, 26 January 1999

Morning

09:00 - 10:30	Presentation by IGWA member agencies (Agenda item 6) to be followed by discussions and recommendations
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 13:00	Agenda item 6 to be continued
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break

Afternoon

14:30 - 16:00	Presentation by ECA (Agenda item 7 (a) (i) and (ii) Agenda item 7 (b)
16:30 - 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 - 18:00	Agenda item 7 (c) Agenda items 8, 9, 10

Thursday, 27 January 2000

Morning

09:00 - 13:00	Draft report preparation
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break

Afternoon

14:30 - 16:00	Draft Report Review
16:00 - 18:00	Adoption of the report Closing of the meeting