

## AGENDA

### 10<sup>th</sup> Roundtable on Financing Water: Regional meeting on Africa

22-23 November 2023

Noom Hotel, Abidjan

For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our [website](#) or contact: [Aude Farnault](#) (OECD) and/or [Samuel Blazyk](#) (AfDB)

*Both sessions and side events will be in hybrid format.*

### DAY 1 - 22 November

**Welcome coffee – 8:30 – 9:00**

**Opening remarks – 9:00 – 9:45**

Water is a driver for growth and sustainable development globally, and most specifically in Africa. Only 58% of the continent's population has access to safely managed drinking water and 72% has no access to basic sanitation. The amount of foregone economic output incurred by the continent due to lack of access to safe water, polluted water or poor sanitation is estimated at 5% of its GDP each year, while the amount lost due to droughts and floods can range between 5-25%. Investments in water in the continent are lagging, despite the strong economic case to invest in water. Meeting the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals would require an additional USD 43-56 billion in annual investment in the water sector, over and above current investment levels, estimated at USD 10-19 billion per year. The challenging macroeconomic context and the decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa have reduced the capacity of African countries to invest in crucial sectors, including water and sanitation.

The opening session will position the Roundtable meeting as part of the global water agendas and set objectives for the Roundtable meeting.

| Time        | Moderator: Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Coordinator, African Water Facility, African Development Bank (AfDB)  |
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| 9:00 – 9:45 | <p><b>Walid Oueslati</b>, Head of the Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, OECD Environment Directorate</p> <p><b>Osward M. Chanda</b>, Director of Water Development and Sanitation, African Development Bank <a href="#">[online]</a></p> <p><b>Keynote address: H.E. Serigne Mbaye Thiam</b>, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senegal</p> <p><b>Loïc Fauchon</b>, President, World Water Council <a href="#">[recorded video message]</a></p> |

## Session 1. Setting the scene: Investing in water, a condition for the prosperity of African economies - 22 November, 9:45 to 10:30

Investing in water is a prerequisite for the sustainable development of African economies, as the road to achieving development goals in Africa is the most challenging and, at the same time, the continent is particularly exposed to climate change and vulnerable to water scarcity. A significant proportion of the population in Africa still does not have access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services, and this lack of access has considerable social and economic consequences. Despite this strong economic case, investment in water in Africa is woefully inadequate.

Session 1 will aim at defining the specific challenges and opportunities for financing water-related investments in the continent, the scale of financing needs and capacities, paving the way for regional solutions and giving African perspectives on the global water agendas (UN 2026 Water Conference, SDG summit, COP 28...) and the debates on the global financial architecture.

| Time         | Moderator: Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Coordinator, African Water Facility, African Development Bank (AfDB)  |
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| 9:45 – 10:30 | <p><b>Fatouma Toure Ibrahima Wane</b>, Water Practice Manager for West Africa, World Bank</p> <p><b>Niels Vlaanderen</b>, Coordinator International Water Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands</p> <p><b>Yvonne Magawa</b>, Executive Secretary, ESAWAS regulators association</p> |

## Morning tea – 10:30 to 11:00

## Session 2. The untapped power of regional and national development banks - 22 November, 11.00 to 12:30

Regional and national development banks represent an untapped potential source of funding for the water sector in Africa. Despite the fact that banks have a good knowledge of the local context (which is essential for financing water), many banks do not yet have the mandate and can still acquire more expertise to invest in water. This is partly due to the poor financial performance of stakeholders in the sector. To tap into this potential, the Water Finance Coalition – a global coalition of public development banks working on water finance – is providing technical assistance to national development banks to include the water sector in their strategies and portfolios. They started a pilot with three of them in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America.

Session 2 will discuss the challenges and opportunities for regional and national development banks for finance water in Africa, and the role of multilateral development bank to support them in their endeavour to integrate water into their portfolios.

| Time          | Moderator: Catarina Fonseca, Advisor, Water Finance Coalition, IRC WASH  |
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| 11:00 – 12:30 | <p><b>Carlos Puente</b>, Co-Chair, Water Finance Coalition / Director of Water, Energy and Environment, BANOBRAS <a href="#">[online]</a></p> <p><b>Cyprian Marowa</b>, Head of Infrastructure Finance Coverage – Transport Logistics and Bulk Water division, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)</p> <p><b>Oumar Tembely</b>, Director of the Energy and Natural Resources Department, West African Development Bank (BOAD)</p> <p><b>Sumbi Shimwambwa</b>, Senior Programme Officer, Water Infrastructure, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)</p> <p><b>Mtchera Johannes Chirwa</b>, Coordinator, African Water Facility, African Development Bank (AfDB)</p> |

## Lunch break – 22 November, 12:30 to 14.00

## Session 3 – Leveraging private finance for water - 22 November, 14:00 to 15:30

While the main sources of finance for water in Africa are likely to remain public and concessional financing, there is potential to mobilise private capital for water in Africa more effectively. Water-related investment has historically been financed by public budgets, including international transfers, with contributions users via tariffs, abstraction charges, and other economic instruments. Blended finance, PPP models and private equity investments for water in Africa are emerging but have not reached scale. Strengthening the enabling environment (policies, regulations, institutional arrangements...) and developing innovative financial arrangements aimed at diversifying financing sources and mitigating risks represents opportunities to tap into private sources (users, industries, philanthropes, domestic commercial banks, private investors...) more effectively, while ensuring a fair distribution of risks and rewards between the public and private sectors. Approaches to mobilising private capital may be tailored to different types of water-related investments, as each sub-sector has a different risk-return profile and a distinct maturity in terms of history of access to finance.

This session will explore opportunities related to incentives, innovative instruments and the enabling environment for private investment in water in Africa.

| Time          | Moderator: Aude Farnault, Water Policy Analyst, OECD Environment Directorate  |
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| 14:00 – 15:30 | <p><b>Fatoumata Sissoko-Sy</b>, Manager Infrastructures and Natural Resources West and Central Africa, IFC</p> <p><b>Babacar Gning</b>, Deputy CEO, Fonds Souverain d'Investissements Stratégiques (FONSIS)</p> <p><b>Ernest Kofi Poku</b>, Executive Director, Africa Water Infrastructure Development (AWID)</p> <p><b>Wanjiru Waithaka</b>, Regional Director for Africa, Incofin Investment Management</p> <p><b>Sylvain A. Migan</b>, General Director, Benin National Rural Water Supply Agency</p> <p><b>Slav Gatchev</b>, Managing Director, Sustainable Debt, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)<br/> <a href="#">[online]</a></p> |

Afternoon tea – 15.30 – 16:00

Keynote address from H.E. Mr. Bouaké Fofana, Minister of Sanitation and Hygiene, Ivory Coast – 16.00 – 16:30

# ROUNDTABLE on Financing Water

## Side event 1 – Towards the launch of the High-Level Panel Investment Action Plan: enhancing financing for national, and transboundary water projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – 22 November, 16:30 to 18:00

Organised by the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

The African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa will present the Investment Action Plan for the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP). The Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the AIP as part of Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) in February 2021. The Investment Action Plan will detail specific actions needed to mobilise an additional USD 30bn/year to close the water investment gap and support implementation of the High-Level Panel's landmark report, Africa's Rising Investment Tide, which was named a significant outcome of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

PIDA is a strategic continental initiative poised to achieve Africa's regional integration, boost connectivity, and drive sustainable economic development through the advancement of essential infrastructure projects in transboundary water, energy, transport and information & communication technologies. The session will also shine a spotlight on the PIDA Water portfolio—and its enormous investment potential. The session will explore innovative financing mechanisms and actions for project preparation and implementation, including national and transboundary water projects, and discuss best practices for cultivating partnerships that can effectively mobilise the resources necessary to address Africa's water infrastructure financing gap.

## DAY 2 – 23 November

### Side event 2 – Utility challenges to service delivery and opportunities for financing in Africa

**22 November, 08:00 to 09:30**

Organised by Global Water Intelligence / 300 Water Leaders Initiative

This side event aims to discuss solutions to overcome challenges faced by utilities in Africa and explore how different modes of finance can be mobilised to address them. It is designed to inspire utility leaders to take the next step towards delivering SDG6 and develop viable pathways that will accelerate their service delivery targets. This session is organised by the 300 Water Leaders Initiative which is a new global network designed to offer peer-to-peer solutions to utility leaders across the globe, stimulate opportunities and facilitate the forging of new partnerships.

**Morning tea – 09.30 – 10:00**



## Session 4 – The Global Value of Water and Biodiversity in Africa - 23 November, 10:00 to 11:30

There is growing recognition that the global economy is dependent on water and biodiversity, and that countries are interdependent through the global water cycle (blue and green water). Recent work from the Water Footprint Network and the Fair Water Footprint evidence the dependencies of economies on water use beyond their borders to produce the food, clothes and goods they consume. According to the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, based on the work of Johan Rockström and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the hydrological cycle should be considered as a global common good.

Acknowledging interdependencies through the global water cycle is recognising that solutions to the water crisis are collective (including disclosure of water footprints, trade agreements, collective commitments such as the Freshwater challenge...). In addition, recognising the value of water and biodiversity in Africa to economies is a condition to scale up finance for water.

Session 4 will discuss the importance of water and biodiversity in Africa for the global economy, challenges and opportunities for fairer water footprint and the importance of valuing water and biodiversity to access finance.

| Time          | Moderator: Sareen Malik, Executive Secretary, Fair Water Footprint / African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation (ANEW)  |
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| 10:00 – 11:30 | <p><b>Nick Hepworth</b>, Executive Director, Water Witness International / Fair Water Footprint</p> <p><b>Fredrick Kihara</b>, Africa Water Funds Director, The Nature Conservancy</p> <p><b>Leonard Akwany</b>, Freshwater Director, Conservation International</p> <p><b>Anthelem Iragena</b>, Principal Water Officer, Ministry of Water and Environment, Directorate of Water Resources Management, Uganda (Freshwater Challenge)</p> |

## Morning tea – 11.30 to 12.00

## Session 5 – Water-related risks and implications for financial institutions in Africa - 23 November, 12:00 to 13:30

Water, vital for Africa's socio-economic development, faces significant challenges: including too much too little and polluted water and well as disruptions to freshwater cycles. Degradation of water resources and climate change worsen these challenges, affecting urban and rural areas alike. Economic activities are exposed to these risks, notably agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism which rely heavily on water, making them particularly vulnerable. The financial sector, through investments and insurance, is also exposed. Yet, the financial materiality of water-related risks is often overlooked in risk management practices.

This session explores the importance of identifying, understanding, and managing water-related financial risks, for safeguarding against financial shocks but also for promoting responsible investment practices. It also looks at existing financial market initiatives and regulatory guidance in Africa that contribute to enhancing the management of water-related risks within the realms of both natural and climate risk considerations.

| Time          | Moderator: Claire Elsdon, Global Director of Requesting Authorities, Capital Markets, CDP  |
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| 12.00 – 13.30 | <p><b>Antoine Godin</b>, Head of Macroeconomic Modelling Unit, AFD <a href="#">[online]</a></p> <p><b>Marina Finken</b>, Partnership Coordinator, Making Finance Work for Africa (MFW4A)</p> <p><b>Habil Olaka</b>, CEO, Kenya Bankers Association (Sustainable finance initiative)</p> <p><b>Stéphane Henri Alluy Fofana</b>, Head of Credit Institutions Department, Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)</p> <p><b>Levis Kavagi</b>, African Regional Coordinator for Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNEP <a href="#">[online]</a></p> |

**Lunch break – 13:30 to 15:00**

## **Session 6 – Financing sanitation - 23 November, 15:00 to 16:30**

In 2019, lack of sanitation is estimated to have cost Africa USD 56 billion, with only about 10% of urban premises served by centralised sewerage systems. Multiple factors perpetuate this situation, including rapid urbanisation, ageing infrastructure, lack of investment financing, operational inefficiencies, poor governance, water stress, and climate change impacts. The lack of political priority given to sanitation services, along with the lack of systematic management and unsuitable investment mechanisms, undermines sanitation development.

A paradigm shift is needed, focusing on sustained service delivery, tailored to different African cities and inhabitants through the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) approach. This approach integrates sanitation with water supply, drainage, solid waste management, land use, and housing development, promoting flexibility and adaptability. Innovative financing mechanisms are essential, with private sector involvement and new initiatives like the African Development Bank's Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative (AUSII) aimed at catalysing investments to address the urban sanitation crisis in Africa. AUSII's objectives include promoting CWIS, supporting new technologies and business models, and mobilising financing.

The session will focus on the financing gap, achieving success in attracting private and climate financing, strengthening sanitation business cases, and introducing AUSII to the audience.

| Time          | Moderator: Samuel Blazyk, Chief coordination and program officer, African Water Facility (AfDB)  |
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| 15.00 – 16.30 | <p><b>Yvonne Magawa</b>, Executive Secretary, ESAWAS regulators association</p> <p><b>Victor Ndiege</b>, CEO, Kenya Climate Ventures</p> <p><b>Naoll Cyrille Mary</b>, Senior Operations Officer, Water PreInvestment, Municipal and Natural Resources Infrastructure Africa, IFC</p> <p><b>Mtchera Johannes Chirwa</b>, Coordinator, African Water Facility (AfDB)</p> <p><b>Yahaya Silla</b>, Water Sector Engineer, EIB</p> |

**Afternoon tea – 16:30 to 17:00**



# ROUNDTABLE on Financing Water

**Conclusion. From Abidjan to Bali and beyond - 23 November, 17:00 to 17:30**

| Time          | Moderator: Aude Farnault, Water Policy Analyst, OECD Environment Directorate   |
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| 17.00 – 17.30 | <p><b>Antoine Koffi Djaa</b>, Deputy Chief of Staff, Minister for Water and Forests, Ivory Coast</p> <p><b>Amine Idriss Adoum</b>, Director Infrastructure, Industrialisation and Trade, AUDA-NEPAD</p> <p><b>Mtchera Johannes Chirwa</b>, Coordinator, African Water Facility (AfDB)</p> <p><b>Walid Oueslati</b>, Head of the Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, OECD Environment Directorate</p> |



Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management

