

# International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

Convenors: African Ministers' Council on Water, United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, African Development Bank, Global Center on Adaptation, and Global Water Partnership



TERMS OF REFERENCE

# 1.0 Rationale

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The need for the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa (the Panel) was identified at the High-Level Ministerial Conference - Water Dialogue for Results on 1 July 2021, and the African Regional Water Dialogue for Results on 26 May 2021. Both events were convened as part of the preparatory process for the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action in 2023.

Current water and sanitation sector investment in Africa stands between US\$10 billion and US\$19 billion per year.<sup>1</sup> The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that US\$64 billion should be invested annually to meet the 2025 Africa Water Vision of Water Security for All. As a result, US\$45 billion-US\$54 billion annually is required to close the water investment gap to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 water related targets and meet basic socio-economic needs of the continent.

There is need for increased investments at domestic level, international level, and by private sector investors.

It is intended that the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa will drive high-level political support and international engagement to narrow the water investment gap and enhance efforts to meet the socio-economic needs of the continent, SDG 6 water related targets, and address the twin challenge of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Panel is expected to galvanize the necessary support and international commitment to mobilize US\$30 billion annually towards the water investment gap.

The Panel will support the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme's (AIP) efforts to respond to the shortfall in delivering water investments on the continent. The Panel's work will be sustained through the AIP Water Investment Scorecard that has been initiated to track progress in attracting water investments, identifying bottlenecks, and enhancing mutual accountability and commitment for action.

The AIP was adopted by African Heads of State, during the African Union (AU) Ordinary Summit in February 2021, to address the need to accelerate delivery of water investments on the continent to meet SDG 6 water related targets and mobilize US\$30 billion annually to narrow the water investment gap.

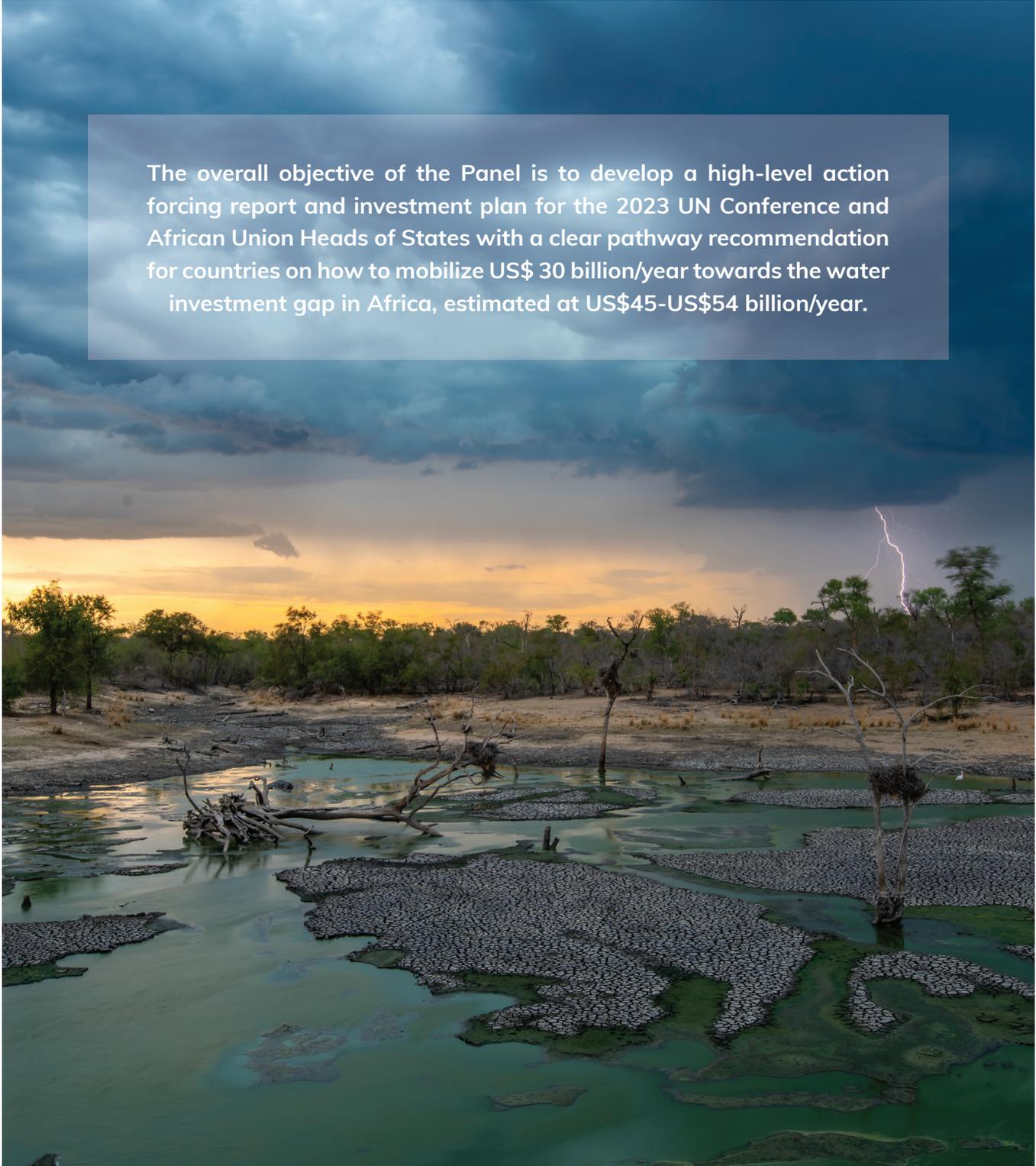


<sup>1</sup>Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, 2018

## 2.0 Goal and Objectives

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The goal of the Panel is to mobilise the high level political commitment and leadership required to transform and improve the investment outlook for climate resilient gender transformative water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful, and equitable African society.

A landscape photograph showing a dry, cracked riverbed in the foreground, with scattered dead trees and sparse vegetation. The background features a line of green trees under a dramatic, stormy sky with dark clouds and a bright lightning bolt striking down. The overall scene conveys a sense of environmental hardship and climate impact.

The overall objective of the Panel is to develop a high-level action forcing report and investment plan for the 2023 UN Conference and African Union Heads of States with a clear pathway recommendation for countries on how to mobilize US\$ 30 billion/year towards the water investment gap in Africa, estimated at US\$45-US\$54 billion/year.

## 3.0 The systemic challenge and gap addressed

The Panel will address a specific gap that impedes progress on delivery of water investments for inclusive growth and development on the African continent:

***International high-level political commitment and leadership required to narrow the water investment gap for the achievement of SDG 6 water related targets and to address the Covid-climate emergency falls short of requirements for the socio-economic needs of the continent and 2025 Africa Water Vision.***

The Panel will address this gap and recommend ways for sustained engagement at the international level by leveraging ongoing global and continental

efforts to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6 water related targets and the 2025 Africa Water Vision for Water Security for All.

## 4.0 Proposed Functions



The Panel will have three functions:

- 1 High-level Advocacy**

The Panel will champion the urgency to accelerate water investments on the continent, and related challenges in SDGs for health, energy, food, gender, and climate change – including the need to improve sector efficiency in order to translate investments into sustainable, inclusive, and resilient outcomes.
- 2 Resource Mobilisation**

The Panel will support resource mobilisation and implementation of water investments towards national economic recovery efforts post Covid-19, contributing to climate resilience efforts.
- 3 Peaceful dialogue**

The Panel will support efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of conflicts, as well as amicable win-win solutions related to sharing of transboundary water resources.

## 5.0 Panel Deliverables



The Panel will develop a high-level action-forcing report and investment plan for the 2023 UN Conference and African Union Heads of States with a clear pathway recommendation for countries on how to mobilize US\$ 30 billion/year towards the water investment gap in Africa, estimated at US\$45-US\$54 billion/year.

The Panel's High-Level Report and Investment Action Plan will be launched during the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action in March 2023 and presented to the AU Heads of State Summit in June 2023.

- a** The High-Level Report and Investment Action Plan will identify key lessons from the global pandemic related to water security and climate change and will recommend ways to narrow the water investment gap, increase efficiency, and accelerate progress on SDG 6 water related targets to support the AU Agenda 2063.
- b** The High-Level Report will utilise the findings of the AIP Water Investment Scorecard for benchmarking country progress in mobilising investments and increasing efficiency towards SDG 6 water related targets.
- c** The Panel will promote development and implementation of regional and national climate resilience and inclusive water investment programmes as a means to address the bottlenecks that constrain water investments and progress,

with particular attention to countries that are lagging and need more attention.

The High-Level Report and related analysis will consider previous high-level commitments, recommendations, and initiatives to facilitate coordinated efforts to accelerate implementation at the pace required to meet the SDG 6 water related targets, narrow the water investments gap, and address the Covid-climate emergency economic recovery efforts.

These include the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social, and environmental priorities; the UN SDG 6 Global Accelerator Framework; the Africa Water Vision; the AU agenda 2063; and others.

## 6.0 Convenors of the Panel and Duration

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The International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa will be convened at the Heads of State and Government level for 2021-2023, and will serve for 18 months.

The Panel will be convened by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), UNDP, UNICEF, and co-convened with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), AfDB, GCA, and Global Water Partnership (GWP).

## 7.0 Membership and Leadership

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Membership of the Panel will comprise of representatives drawn from the current and former Heads of States within Africa as well as internationally, captains of industry, foundation leaders, and other eminent influencing personalities.

The Panel's leadership will be appointed by the convenors and be led by two Co-Chairs, supported by an alternate Co-Chair, His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania. The convenors will propose the membership of the Panel.

## 8.0 Panel Road Map and Meetings

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The panel will meet formally three times during its tenure, back-to-back with key international meetings such as the United Nations General Assembly, World Bank Spring Meetings, AU Summit, AfDB Investment Summit and Annual Meeting, World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, UNFCCC Climate Change

Conferences or COPs, World Water Forum, Stockholm World Water Week, and others.

Annex 1 of this document shows a draft proposed road map for the Panel, including key dates and meetings. The Panel's members can arrange any other meetings as deemed necessary and urgent.

## 9.0 Panel Coordination

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The Panel's work will be supported by a joint virtual secretariat with focal points comprised from the convenors: AMCOW, UNDP, UNICEF, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP. The secretariat will be supported by the GWP Africa Coordination Unit in Pretoria, South Africa.

The joint virtual secretariat will provide the needed administrative support to the panel. This will include coordinating support for the planning of meetings and travels, sharing of information and relevant

reports, sending meeting invites, meeting agendas, minutes, and resources ahead of scheduled meetings.

The Panel's work will be supported by a technical expert group and Sherpas/Advisors to the Panel members. Support will include stakeholder consultations, inputs from the Technical Working Group for the AIP Water Investment Scorecard as well as other relevant strategic partners, bilateral finance partners, and donors.

## ANNEX 1

# Road Map for the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

Date	Milestone	Output	Responsible
June 2021	Consultations on establishment of the panel with potential convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP	Potential convenors of the panel agreed	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
July 2021	Draft Terms of Reference for the Panel	Draft TOR developed	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
August 2021	Discussion on convenors and panel members	Panel members agreed	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
7 September 2021	Convenors' consultative meeting on the Panel Road Map and preparatory meeting for the Launch of the Panel hosted by GCA on the margins of the 'Friends of GCA' High Level Leaders' Dialogue in the Netherlands.	Final TOR adopted and joint communique by convenors on the establishment of the Panel	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
<b>1-11 November 2021</b>	<b>High level event and Launch of the Panel on the margins of COP26, Glasgow, United Kingdom.</b>	<b>Panel launched</b>	<b>Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP</b>
1-4 December 2021	First Meeting of the Panel in Zanzibar, hosted by H.E. President Jakaya Kikwete and Presidents of Tanzania and Zanzibar	Panel minutes and reports	Panel Members
22-27 March 2022	Second meeting of the Panel in Dakar, Senegal during 9th World Water Forum, hosted by the President of Senegal	Panel minutes and reports	Panel Members
22-24 April 2022	High-Level Panel Private Sector Investment consultation dialogue on the margins of World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington DC, hosted by the World Bank.	International High-Level Panel Private Sector Finance and Investments Consultation report	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
April – May 2022	Africa high-level regional water financing and investments consultations meetings, hosted by AfDB	Africa High-Level Panel Water Financing and Investments Consultation Report	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
July 2022	Panel event hosted by AfDB, on the margins of the AfDB Annual Meeting	Panel report and minutes	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
September 2022	High-level panel event on the draft report and Investment Action Plan, hosted by UNDP and UNICEF in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly	First draft Panel report and Investment Action Plan hosted by UNDP and UNICEF adopted	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
<b>November 2022</b>	<b>Final meeting of the Panel to review the second draft Report of the High-Level Panel and Investment Action Plan during COP 27, Egypt</b>	<b>Final Draft Panel Report and Investment Action Plan hosted by UNDP and UNICEF adopted</b>	<b>Panel Members</b>
December 2022	Preparation of the High-Level Panel and Investment Action Plan final text	Final Text for the High-Level Panel and Investment Action Plan	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
January 2023 -February 2023	Production of Final Report	Final Report	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
February 2023	Report presented to the AU Heads of States Summit	Panel Report adopted by the AU Summit	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
22 March 2023	Panel Report launched during the UN Mid Term Review on the International Water Decade for Action, hosted by UNDP/UNICEF in New York	Panel Report launched	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP
June 2023	Final Panel Event hosted on the margins of the AU Summit to adopt the panel Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for implementation and kick-off	Kick-off event for implementation of Panel recommendations with agreed monitoring and evaluation framework	Convenors: AMCOW, UNICEF, UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, GCA, and GWP

## ANNEX 2

# Convenors Resolution

## International High-Level Panel on Water Investments in Africa

We, representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Development Bank (AfDB), Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA), and Global Water Partnership (GWP):

- **Recognize** that in April 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General and President of the World Bank Group convened a High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), consisting of 11 sitting Heads of State and Government and one Special Advisor; from Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Jordan, South Africa, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Tajikistan; to provide the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive, and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation related services.
- **Recognize** that the outcome document of the UN-World Bank HLPW launched by the UN Secretary General on March 2018 called for the launch of an Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) to accelerate mobilization of water investments and ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, achievement of SDG 6, as well as to contribute to the achievement of the other SDGs that rely on the development and management of water resources and the 2025 Africa Water Vision.
- **Acknowledge** that on 7 February 2021, the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) as part of Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – Priority Action Plan 2 (PIDA-PAP 2) during the 34th ordinary session of African Union summit.
- **Note** that in February 2019, recognising the critical water security challenge Africa faces and mounting investment needs, the Governing Council of AMCOW adopted a Decision for transformation of Africa’s water investment outlook through increased partnerships and implementation of an African Water Investment Programme (AIP) with the vision of transforming the water investment outlook in Africa with a goal of mobilizing US\$30 billion annually in climate-resilient water investments by 2030.
- **Note** that the Governing Council of AMCOW commended efforts of the AMCOW Secretariat, AUDA-NEPAD, African Development Bank (AfDB), Global Water Partnership (GWP) and partners, to establish, through the AIP, a partnership to release Africa’s development potential to achieve both the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Note** that the Governing Council of AMCOW affirmed support for the partnership, particularly as it relates to accelerating implementation of water infrastructure initiatives contributing to Africa’s development agenda and urged continued cooperation and contribution of Member States to implement the AMCOW Strategy 2018 - 2030 and the AIP, in pursuit of the vision of a water secure Africa.
- **Recognize** that on 26 May 2021, the Africa Regional Forum-Water Dialogue for Results convened by AMCOW, and the Governments of Germany, South Africa, and Senegal, and supported by Global Water Partnership (GWP), called for the establishment of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa at the Heads of State level to champion

mobilization of water investments and accelerating efforts to meet SDG 6 and other related targets.

- **Note** that on 1 July 2021, the Africa 'Call to Action' at the High-Level Ministerial Conference in Bonn, called for international support in establishment of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, and that both the Africa Regional Forum-Water Dialogue in May 2021 and the July 2021 High-Level Ministerial Conference in Bonn were convened as part of the official preparatory process for the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action in 2023.
- **Acknowledge** that the water investment gap is largest in Africa, with Sub-Saharan Africa requiring most urgent action as delivery of water investments is lagging behind economic and social needs to meet the 2025 Africa Water

Vision of Water Security, the 2030 SDG 6 on water and sanitation, as well as related targets.

- **Agree** to cooperate and establish a partnership to convene the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa to drive global political mobilization and international engagement to narrow the water investment gap in Africa and enhance efforts to meet the social-economic needs of the continent, SDG 6 water related targets, and address the twin challenge of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Call** upon the international community, UN agencies, development finance institutions, Heads of State and Government, international organisations, private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders in Africa and globally to support the partnership for the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa.

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**Adopted at 2.30 pm CET by the convenors on 12 August 2021.**