



ECOWAS COMMISSION
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CENTRE DE GESTION DES RESSOURCES EN EAU (CGRE)
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CENTER (WRMC)
CENTRO DE GESTÃO DOS RECURSOS HIDRICOS (CGRH)

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

OF THE 5th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) IN WEST AFRICA

On 28 June 2024, the 5th Ordinary Session of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) for IWRM in West Africa was held in Abuja (Nigeria), at the Event Centre conference room of the Bolton White Annex Hotel.

The meeting was attended by:

- The Water Resources Ministers of **The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria** and **Sierra Leone**;
- Duly authorised representatives of the Water Resources Ministers from **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal** and **Togo**;

Also, in attendance were:

- National Focal Points from **Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone** and **Togo**;
- The Focal Points of the Basin Organisations: Mono River Basin Authority (ABM), Niger Basin Authority (ABN), Organization for the Development of the Gambia River (OMVG), Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), as well as those in creation, Comoé-Bia-Tanoé basin authority (ABCBT), Mano River Union Basin Authority (ABMRU);
- Representatives of sub-regional institutions and partners: WAEMU, CILSS, GWP-WA, AMCOW, AWF/AfDB, World Bank, UNICEF, ACEWATER/AUDA-NEPAD, IWMI;

- ECOWAS bodies concerned with the issue of water resources (Environment Directorate, Legal Affairs Directorate, Project Preparation and Development Unity - PPDU, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - ECREEE, Fouta Djallon Massif programme);
- The staff of ECOWAS Water Resources Management Center (WRMC).

The opening ceremony was chaired by **the Honourable Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun UTSEV**, Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, current Chairman of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in West Africa, in the presence of **Mr Sediko DOUKA**, ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation (IED), and **Mr Christophe DEGUENON**, Director of the Environment, representing the Commissioner in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment of the WAEMU Commission.

The opening was featured by two speeches: the introductory speech by **Mr Sediko DOUKA**, ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation, and the opening speech by **the Honourable Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun UTSEV**, Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, current Chairman of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee. In this capacity, the Honourable Minister chaired the meeting.

The agenda of this session included the review of the report of the 11th session of the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in West Africa and the adoption of resolutions.

The Chairman of the Technical Expert Committee (TEC), **Dr. Nicholas Dumebi MADU**, IWRM National Focal Point for Nigeria, read out the report of the 11th Ordinary Session of the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) held in Abuja from 25 to 27 June 2024 to the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC).

After examining the report of the TEC, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation discussed certain fundamental issues, in particular the revision of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAWRP), the implementation of the Directive on the Management of Shared Water Resources in West Africa and the Directive

on the Development of Hydraulic Infrastructures in West Africa, the regularity of the statutory meetings of the Permanent Coordination and Monitoring Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management in West Africa (PCMF-IWRM-WA), the acceleration of the process of recruiting additional staff for the Water Resources Management Center (WRMC), the promotion of new transboundary basin organizations in West Africa, the accession of the ECOWAS Member States to the 1992 Water Convention.

At the end of the discussions, the Ministerial Monitoring Committee approved the Report of the Technical Expert Committee and adopted the following resolutions:

- ❖ **Resolution 1: on the approval of the Water Resources Management Center's 2016-2023 Stocktaking Report;**
- ❖ **Resolution 2: on the approval of the Water Resources Management Center's 2024 Work Programme and Budget;**
- ❖ **Resolution 3: on the approval of the draft directive on the management of shared water resources in West Africa;**
- ❖ **Resolution 4: on the approval of the draft directive on the development of hydraulic infrastructures in West Africa;**
- ❖ **Resolution 5: on the revision of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAWRP);**
- ❖ **Resolution 6: on the promotion of new transboundary basin organisations in West Africa;**
- ❖ **Resolution 7: on the adoption of the Water Resource Management Center's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan;**
- ❖ **Resolution 8: on the setting up of a West African water fund within Ecowas Bank for Investment and Development (EBID);**

- ❖ **Resolution 9: on the accession of ECOWAS Member States to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses;**
- ❖ **Resolution 10: on Water Centres of Excellence in West Africa;**
- ❖ **Resolution 11: on coordination and support for new water initiatives in West Africa;**
- ❖ **Resolution 12: on the endorsement of the Key Decisions of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Committee and the Experts' Technical Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) of the West African Region held in Dakar in June 2024;**
- ❖ **Resolution 13: on the Regional Initiative for the Development, Resilience, and Valorisation of Water for West Africa (DREVE);**
- ❖ **Resolution 14: On the holding of the next statutory meetings of the Permanent Coordination and Monitoring Framework for IWRM in West Africa (PCMF/IWRM-WA).**

The IWRM Ministerial Monitoring Committee congratulated the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) and the Water Resources Management Centre (WRMC) on the quality of the preparatory work and the documents submitted for its appraisal.

He asked ECOWAS to take the necessary steps to ensure the regular functioning of the PCMF/IWRM-WA bodies in order to avoid the breakdowns that have been observed.

The Representative of Senegal informed the meeting of the co-organisation of the next United Nations Conference in 2026 by his country and the United Arab Emirates, and invited the countries of the region to pay attention to this.

Technical and Financial Partners pledged to provide the necessary support for water-related initiatives in West Africa (the World Bank for the DREVE regional

initiative and the African Water Facility/AfDB for a feasibility study on setting up a West African water fund, etc.).

At the end of the meeting, the Ministerial Monitoring Committee thanked the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm welcome and all the facilities provided for hosting this meeting, as well as all the technical and financial partners for their continuous support to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) process in West Africa.

Prepared in Abuja, 28 June 2024

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERIAL MONITORING COMMITTEE



Honourable Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun UTSEV,
Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.