



ECOWAS COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO  
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

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

**MEETINGS OF THE PERMANENT COORDINATION AND  
MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA (PCMF/IWRM-WA)**

---

***REPORT OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL EXPERT  
COMMITTEE (TEC): preparatory Phase to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the  
Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) on Integrated Water Resources  
Management (IWRM) in West Africa  
Abuja-Nigeria, 25 - 27 June 2024.***

## I. Introduction

From 25 to 27 June 2024, the 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) was held in the Event Center of the Bolton White Annex Hotel, Abuja – Nigeria, in preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in West Africa.

These meetings (TEC and MMC) aim to give new impetus to the regional IWRM process in West Africa since its last proceedings organised in Dakar in November 2015.

The meeting of the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) was attended by:

- IWRM National Focal Points,
- the Focal Points of the Basin Organisations,
- Representatives of partner (regional, international) organisations,
- ECOWAS bodies (environment directorate, legal affairs directorate, Project Preparation and Development Unity - PPDU, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - ECREEE, Fouta Djallon Massif programme),
- ECOWAS Water Resources Management Center staff (WRMC-ECOWAS).

The attendance list is appended to this report.

## II. Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was chaired by Director of Water Resources Planning and support services, on behalf of the Nigerian Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation and Chairman of the West Africa IWRM Ministerial Monitoring Committee.

The opening ceremony featured four speeches delivered respectively by **Mr Maxwell Ejikeme**, representative of the IWRM Focal Point for Nigeria; **Mr Kouakou Alexis KOUASSI**, Director of WRMC, representing the Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation (IED) of the ECOWAS Commission; **Dr Rachid MBAZIIRA**, Executive Secretary of African Ministers' Council of Water - AMCOW; and **Mr Adeyinka ADENOPO**, representative of the Minister for Water Resources and Sanitation of Nigeria.

In his introductory speech, Mr Maxwell Ejikeme warmly welcomed participants to this important session of the TEC, which will help beneficial prospects to be identified for better management of water resources in West Africa. He urged all participants to work together to achieve their objectives and wished them fruitful deliberations.

In his speech, the WRMC Director began by expressing his heartfelt gratitude to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting this 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the TEC. He then welcomed all the participants and took the opportunity to thank them for their straightforward and loyal cooperation with the WRMC. After recalling the context and the

milestones that have characterised the regional process of integrated water resources management in West Africa, he highlighted the stakes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the MMC, which will have on its agenda issues of paramount importance for furthering IWRM in West Africa, in particular the review of *(i) two draft directives on : the development of hydraulic infrastructures, and the management of shared water resources; (ii) the status of implementation of the promotion of new transboundary basin organisations, (iii) the proposed establishment of a West African water fund, (iv) the accession of member states to the 1992 Water Convention, (v) the WRMC's Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2035, as well as (vi) the regional initiative for water security and climate resilience.*

He concluded his speech by thanking the technical and financial partners, whose support has been unwavering since 1998. He reiterated his thanks to the Minister's representative, whose presence had enhanced the glamour of the opening ceremony of the TEC meeting.

The AMCOW Executive Secretary congratulated ECOWAS for holding this meeting in Abuja and reaffirmed his full support for WRMC in promoting IWRM in West Africa. He thanked the Government of Nigeria for hosting this very important meeting. While stressing the importance of water security, he highlighted that strengthening water resources management is a key component of AMCOW'S strategic priorities. He reiterated AMCOW'S commitment to supporting ECOWAS in maximising on the opportunities that water presents to ensure social transformation and economic growth in the region. He invited the audience to the Africa Water Week scheduled for 12-17 October 2024 in Cairo, Egypt.

In his opening speech, the Representative of the Minister for Water Resources and Sanitation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the present Chairman of the MMC, welcomed all participants to Abuja and wished them a pleasant stay. He expressed Nigeria's pride in hosting these meetings of the Permanent Coordination and Monitoring Framework of the IWRM in Abuja, which are being held nine years after those held in Dakar in November 2015, and voiced out his belief that these would revitalise the regional IWRM process in West Africa. He urged the audience to participate fully in this meeting to achieve the objectives set.

Wishing the meeting every success, he declared the 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the PCMF/IWRM-WA Technical Expert Committee (TEC) open.

### **III. Setting up the Table Office**

In accordance with the rule that the IWRM Technical Committee in West Africa should be chaired by the Focal Point of the country holding the Presidency of the ECOWAS Conference of Heads of State, Mr. Maxwell Ejikeme, representative of the IWRM Focal Point of Nigeria, was appointed to chair the proceedings.

A Bureau composed as follows chaired the meeting:



**Chairman: Mr Maxwell EJKEME, Nigeria**

**Rapporteur 1: Mr Gninpale KONLANI, Togo**

**Rapporteur 2: Mr Antonio Pedro PINA, Cabo Verde.**

#### **IV. Agenda**

Following introductions of participants, the proposed agenda, spread over the three days of the TEC meeting, was considered and adopted as follows. The detailed point of different sections is there in annex.

#### **V. Conduct of sessions**

##### ***5.1. Status of implementation of the resolutions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the TEC***

The WRMC reported on the status of implementation of the 17 resolutions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the MMC as follows:

- ✓ 5 resolutions are 100% fully implemented (resolutions 1, 2, 4, 5, 15);
- ✓ 1 resolution is 80% complete (resolution 3);
- ✓ 2 resolutions are 75% complete (resolution 6, 10);
- ✓ 1 resolution is 60% complete (resolution 14);
- ✓ 1 resolution is 50% implemented (17);
- ✓ 2 resolutions are 40% completed (resolutions 8, 11);
- ✓ 1 resolution is 20% complete (resolution 9);
- ✓ 1 resolution is executed continuously (resolution 16);
- ✓ 3 resolutions were not implemented (resolutions 7, 12, 13).

Details of the status of implementation of the resolutions can be found in the appendix.

##### ***5.2. Submission of the WRMC 2016 - 2023 review report***

The WRMC presented a review of its activities over the period 2016 - 2023, highlighting the main results achieved and the major issues.

The main results are as follows:

###### ***5.2.1. Under Programme 1: on "Direct support for the water sector".***

###### **❖ Country-specific support:**

The WRMC has supported the following countries to set up a national IWRM plan: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

❖ **Support for cross-border basins:**

The results obtained include

- Support for the establishment of the Mono Basin Authority in 2014;
- Support for the process of setting up a Comoé-Bia-Tanoé basin organisation;
- Support for the creation of a cross-border basin office within the Mano River Union.

**5.2.2. Programme 2: Integration and development of the water sector**

❖ **Development of the strategic framework**

Progress over the 2016-2023 period has included:

- Validation of the draft directive on the management of shared water resources at a regional workshop held in Dakar in May 2017;
- The adoption of the directive on infrastructure development by the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the ECOWAS Statutory Council of Ministers held on 02 June 2017 in Monrovia;
- The organisation of a regional workshop on the involvement of transboundary basin organisations in the regional IWRM process in West Africa held in Dakar in May 2017.

❖ **Managing and sharing information**

Progress made in this area between 2016 and 2023 has focused in particular on:

- Acquisition of technical equipment (Personal Computer, AO plotter, software printer);
- The arrangement for 2 training seminars for key players in the Regional Water Observatory on the management of water observatories and SNIEau-Regional Observatory-Basin Observatory interactions;
- The organisation of a workshop to launch the project and a workshop to validate the technical report and monitoring-evaluation actions;
- Support in filling in the indicators in the reference list on the status of implementation of the IWRM at national and regional levels.

❖ **Capacity building**

Progress made during the 2016 - 2023 period includes:

- organising a regional capacity-building workshop to help stakeholders adapt to water-related climate change;
- organising a regional capacity-building workshop for civil society stakeholders in the Senegal Basin from 09 to 10 March 2016 in Dakar in collaboration with IUCN/PAGE;

- organising the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of ECOWAS experts on the programme to revise hydrological standards in West and Central Africa in April 2016 in Abidjan, in collaboration with UNESCO;
- the organisation of the regional workshop on institutional capacity building and sustainable and autonomous financing of West African Transboundary Basin Organisations from 24 to 29 July 2017 in Conakry in collaboration with IUCN/PAGE.

#### ❖ **Financing the sector**

A guidebook to financing the water sector in Africa produced by WRMC in 2006 was updated in 2018.

#### **5.2.3. Under Programme 3: Coordination and Monitoring**

Since its inception, the PCMF/IWRM-AO has organised the following statutory meetings:

- 4 sessions organised for the MMC;
- 11 Sessions for the TEC;
- 2 Sessions for the Sub-Regional Water Resources Consultation Council (CRCRE).

#### **5.2.4. Major issues:**

- A shortage of staff (insufficient workforce, instability with the successive retirements of senior managers who have not been replaced);
- Some recurring difficulties linked to information circulation with the HQ.

#### **5.2.5. Outlook**

Major projects are already underway or planned. These include

- Staff beefing up: a recruitment process is underway to fill all the positions in the WRMC organisation chart, including 7 professional positions;
- Carrying out the institutional reform that will eventually make the WRMC a more effective ECOWAS specialised agency;
- Setting up a West African water fund;
- The development of the special proposed water and sanitation infrastructures for vulnerable populations across all ECOWAS Member States;
- Setting up a pipeline of regional and national infrastructure projects with a high impact on communities;
- Implementation of the water-food-energy-transport-ecosystems nexus;
- Setting up of an information and early warning centre based on the creation and/or strengthening of information and data collection centres among Member States and in existing cross-border and regional basins;
- Organising donor round tables to raise funds to finance all the projects identified.

### **5.3. Submission of the 2024 Work Programme and Budget**

The WRMC 2024 work programme includes around twenty (20) activities broken down into 5 programmes:

- ✓ Revitalisation of the bodies of the IWRM permanent coordination and monitoring framework (PCMF/IWRM);
- ✓ Forstoring integrated and sustainable management of water resources, ongoing;
- ✓ Promoting the development of investment projects in the water sector, currently underway;
- ✓ Promoting regional cooperation and integration, ongoing;
- ✓ ECOWAS Special Programme: Improving Access to and Use of Water (beneficiary countries for 2024: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone), ongoing.

### **5.4. Submission of the WRMC Draft Strategic Plan 2025 - 2035**

The strategic plan includes a vision, objectives with guiding principles, 05 pillars including 04 priority pillars selected for 22 specific actions to be carried out over the next 05 years (2025 - 2030). Shortcomings, issues and challenges were identified. The monitoring and evaluation plan was also submitted.

### **5.5. Submission of current or planned ECOWAS and Partner regarding IWRM in West Africa**

The following initiatives were presented:

- IWRM action plan to 2030 in the WAEMU region;
- Presentation on the regional Think Tank: Pole Eau Dakar;
- AMCOW programme;
- Implementation of the 1992 Water Convention in Africa: assessment and prospects;
- ACEWATER III Project (AUDA-NEPAD Networks of Water Centres of Excellence);

### **5.6. Development, Resilience and Valorisation of water for West Africa (DREVE) regional initiative**

This session focused in particular on:

- Submission of the consolidated note on the DREVE initiative and its regional pillar;
- Submission and discussion of a proposal for working groups (composition, terms of reference, operation);
- Submission of the technical and financial aspects - Roadmap, Timetable and next steps for the preparation of DREVE.

### **5.7. Queries to be submitted to the MMC**

The WRMC presented the following query sheets for submission to the MMC:

- **Sheet 1:** Draft directive on the development of hydraulic infrastructures in West Africa;
- **Sheet 2:** Draft directive on the management of shared water resources in West Africa;
- **Sheet 3:** Promoting the creation of new transboundary river basin organisations in West Africa;
- **Sheet 4:** Setting up a West African water fund within EBID;
- **Sheet 5:** Accession of ECOWAS Member States to the 1992 Water Convention;
- **Sheet 6:** Holding of forthcoming statutory meetings of the permanent coordination and monitoring framework for the IWRM in West Africa (PCMF);
- **Sheet 7:** WRMC's 2025-2035 strategic plan;
- **Sheet 8:** Development, Resilience and Valorisation of water for West Africa (DREVE) regional initiative.

Following the WRMC submission, 2 emerging issues were also submitted by the TEC for the attention of the MMC:

- **Sheet 9:** African Centres of Excellence for water project (ACEWATER), phase III,
- **Sheet 10:** Endorsement of the recommendations of the AMCOW technical experts committee meeting.

## **VI. Recommendations**

Following all the presentations, the TEC made the following recommendations to the MMC:

### **1. Recommendation on the approval of the WRMC 2016 - 2023 Stocktaking Report**

Recommend approval of the WRMC 2016-2023 Stocktaking Report.

### **2. Recommendation on the approval of the WRMC 2024 Work Programme and Budget**

Recommend approval of the WRMC 2024 Work Programme and Budget.

### **3. Recommendation on the approval of the draft directive on shared waters in West Africa.**

Recommend to the MMC the approval of the draft directive on the management of shared water resources in West Africa.

### **4. Recommendation on the approval of the draft directive on the development of hydraulic infrastructures in West Africa.**



Recommend that the MMC, the approval of the draft directive on the development of hydraulic infrastructures in West Africa.

**5. Recommendation on the revision of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAWRP)**

Recommend that the MMC urge ECOWAS, in conjunction with WAEMU and CILSS, to conduct an evaluation study so as to revise the West African Water Resources Policy (WAWRP) at the latest 2026.

**6. Recommendation on the promotion of new transboundary basin organisations in West Africa**

Recommend that the MMC urge the States concerned and ECOWAS to finalise as soon as possible the process of setting up the Comoé-Bia-Tanoé Basin Authority (CBTBA) and the process of creating a transboundary basin office within the Mano River Union (MRU).

**7. Recommendation on the adoption of the WRMC 2025 - 2035 Strategic Plan**

Recommend to the MMC the adoption of the WRMC 2025-2035 Strategic Plan.

**8. Recommendation on the creation of a West African water fund within Ecowas Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)**

Recommend that a feasibility study be conducted to spell out the legal, institutional and financial aspects and add value through a West African water fund.

**9. Recommendation on accession to the 1997 New York Convention and accession to the 1992 Water Convention**

Recommend that the MMC urge the States of the region to accede to and implement the "Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of 17 March 1992" and the "1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses".

**10. Recommendation on Water Centres of Excellence**

We recommend that the MMC:

- ❖ **Urge** Member States to support the participation of river basin organisations from the Senegal, Volta, Niger and Chad river basins and academic partners, who are key co-partners in the implementation of the third phase of the African Centres of Excellence for Water and Environmental Research;
- ❖ **Encourage** the ECOWAS WRMC and the AUDA-NEPAD Network of West African Water Centres of Excellence (WANWATCE), coordinated by Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal), to finalise the pending Memorandum of Understanding.
- ❖ **Commend** the European Commission, the ECOWAS Commission and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) for their continued support to the AUDA-

NEPAD networks of water centres of excellence in promoting research and capacity development in West Africa and Africa as a whole.

### 11. Recommendation on coordination and support for new initiatives

Recommend that the MMC urge the WRMC to ensure sound coordination and support for new water initiatives in West Africa, in particular the Pôle Eau Dakar, ACEWATER III Project (AUDA-NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence), and the Senegal-Mauritania Aquifer Basin Initiative.

### 12. Recommendation on the endorsement of key decisions of the sub-regional ministerial committee and the experts' technical committee of the African ministers' council on water (AMCOW) of the west Africa region held in Dakar in June 2024.

Recommend that the MMC endorse the key decisions of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Committee and the Committee of Technical Experts of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) for the West African region held in Dakar in June 2024.

### 13. Recommendation on the Regional Initiative Development, Resilience, and Valorisation of Water for West Africa (DREVE)

We hereby recommend:

- ❖ to set up the following thematic working groups to jointly design all regional aspects of the DREVE programme:

WORKING GROUPS	LEAD PARTNER	MEMBERS
Implementation, fiduciary, safeguards, etc.	WRMC	UEMOA, CILSS, WB
Institutional, legal (reforms, West African agency/fund, Convention, etc.)	WRMC	UEMOA, CILSS, AMCOW, AWF, UNECE, OBTs
Incubator and revolving catalytic fund, financing	EBID	BOAD, PPDU, ARAA, AWF, WB, UNICEF
Hydromet and early warnings, water accounting, Regional Observatory	AGRHYMET Centre	WMO, Env/ECOWAS Directorate, CRC-Agrhymet, CEMR-AOS, IWMI, WASCAL, OBT, AMCOW
Education, training, research and innovation	ZIE	WASCAL, AUDA-NEPAD/ACEWATER, UNICEF, IWMI
Regional groundwater centre	OSS	IGRAC, UNESCO, GWP-WA, GTR BASM, OBT, Universities
Regional think tank, strategic foresight and hydro diplomacy	Pôle Eau de Dakar	WRMC, UEMOA, GWP-WA, AMCOW, CEE-ONU, UNICEF
Fouta Djallon Massif Initiative (MFD)	MFD	WRMC, ECOWAS Environment Directorate, GEF/UNEP, OMVS, OMVG, MRU, FAO, ABM, ABN
Initiative on irrigation in the Sahel	CILSS	UEMOA, ECOWAS Agriculture Directorate, ROPPA, Spanish Cooperation, World Bank, FAO, AFW/ADB

**N.B.:** The use of any expertise, including that of States, to participate in the thematic work of the working groups.

- ❖ The working groups are open;
- ❖ To convene the technical committee as often as possible as part of the process of preparing and implementing the DREVE Programme;
- ❖ Ask the WRMC, in conjunction with the WAEMU and the CILSS, to abide by the provisional timetable for the preparation of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of DREVE in partnership with the World Bank.

#### **14. Recommendation on the holding of forthcoming statutory meetings of the Permanent Coordination and Monitoring Framework for IWRM in West Africa (PCMF/IWRM-WA)**

Recommend to the MMC to hold the next statutory meetings of the PCMF as follows:

- An extraordinary meeting of the MMC to be held in the first half of 2025, preceded by a preparatory meeting of the TEC, which will be devoted in particular to reviewing the files relating to the regional initiative for the Development, Resilience, and Valorisation of Water for West Africa (DREVE);
- If necessary, organisation of other TEC meetings;
- Organisation of a Special Session of the Regional Consultation Council on IWRM (RCC-IWRM) during 2025;
- Organisation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the TEC and the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the MMC during the first half of 2026.

### **VII. Closing ceremony**

The closing ceremony was chaired by the representative of the Nigerian Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation (Chairman of the MMC).

It featured several Speeches delivered by:

The first speech was given by the Director of WRMC, representing the ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation. He warmly thanked the participants for the quality of the discussions, which had led to relevant recommendations securing the future of the PCMF.

The closing speech was delivered by the representative of the Nigerian Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, who also expressed his satisfaction with the smooth running of the deliberations and the results before closing the proceedings.

*Signed in Abuja on 27 June 2024*



**The Chairman**

### **Annexe: Agenda**

- Status of implementation of the Resolutions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the IWRM Ministerial Monitoring Committee in West Africa;
- Submission of the WRMC Activity Report for the period 2016-2023;
- Submission of the WRMC 2024 Work Programme and Budget;
- Submission of the WRMC Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2035;
- IWRM action plan to 2030 in the WAEMU region;
- Submission of the Pole Eau Dakar: context of creation and activities;
- AMCOW programme;
- Implementation of the 1992 Water Convention in West Africa: assessment and prospects;
- ACEWATER III project (AUDA-NEPAD network of Centres of Excellence for Water);
- Submission and discussion of a proposal for working groups (composition, terms of reference, operation);
- Submission of the technical and financial aspects - Roadmap, Timetable and next steps for the preparation of DREVE;
- Review of issues to be submitted to the MMC (directives, structural reform of the WRMC, regional water observatory, promotion of new transboundary basin organisations, DREVE, project to create a West African water facility);
- Detailed review of draft recommendations to be submitted to the MMC;
- Consideration of the draft agenda and work programme of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee;
- Adoption of the Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> TEC Session;
- Closing ceremony.