



Document from the 7th Africa Water Week,
held in Libreville, Gabon, 29 October – 2
November 2018

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practice in the provision, use and
management of water resources for
sustainable social and economic
development and maintenance of African
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PLENARY SESSION DAILY REPORT
(RAPPORT JOURNALIER DE SESSION PLÉNIÈRE)
‘7TH AFRICA WATER WEEK’
« 7IÈME SEMAINE AFRICAINE DE L’EAU »
29 OCT. – 02 NOV. 2018

No.	AWW7-2018SS/14	Version No.	V1r0			Report Date: (Date du rapport)	30-10-2018
Date:	30-10-2018	Time: (Heures)	11:05 AM	to	12:11 PM	Language (Langue)	French
Theme:	Toward Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa						
French theme	‘Vers la Sécurité de l’Eau et des Services d’Assainissement gérés en toute sécurité pour l’Afrique’						
Sub-theme: (Sous-thème)	Choices, approaches and actions for safely managed sanitation in Africa by 2030.						
Session No.	SS14	Title: (Titre)	Reducing Inequalities in WASH – Working Together to protect the Foundations of Development				
Country: (Pays)	GABON	City: (Ville)	Libreville	Location: (Lieu)	Stade de l’Amitié Sino-Gabonaise, Angondje		
Rapporteurs (Rapporteurs):	Mr Brel-Maurel Mickongo Moukakou				Technical Partner: (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON	
Further details: (Informations complémentaires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation (NO) • Technical Documentation (NO) 						
Abbreviations and acronyms: (Sigles et abréviations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 						

IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEAD CONVENER AND CONTACT (IDENTIFICATION DES RESPONSABLES ET CONTACTS)

Lead Convener (Responsable):	ANEW
Co-convener (Coresponsable):	
Contact:	s.malik@kewasnet.co.ke

SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)

Moderator (Modérateur):	Sareen Malik, ANEW
Speakers (Intervenants):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately twenty participants

SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote dialogue and define mechanisms for cooperation between state actors and civil society on innovative ways of thinking and working. • Take an issues-based approach taking account of the constraints of the broader governance environment.

SESSION PLAN (PLAN DE SESSION)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather opinions on how to respond to the issue of sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Africa. • Draft a declaration to be presented at the closing ceremony.

SESSION SUMMARY (RÉSUMÉ DE LA SESSION)

- During the session on reducing inequalities in WASH, the aim was for all participants, notably including representatives of government institutions, representatives of NGOs, civil society and representatives of international organisations, to present various opinions on WASH.
- Discussions during the meeting emphasised the importance of stressing the regulatory framework where WASH is concerned. This includes developing South-South relations to allow countries to draw inspiration from progress achieved in other areas of Africa that share similar problems with water, sanitation and hygiene.
- In certain regions of Africa, notably in Gabon, the issue of inequality in the water sector is intrinsically linked to the problem of unplanned construction and the lack of government management of urban development of populated and as yet unpopulated areas. The public authorities should therefore take action upstream by resolving urbanisation issues, which would facilitate access to water supply infrastructure and help resolve hygiene issues.
- The conference was also an appropriate venue to state that reducing inequalities in WASH is not an act of charity, but rather an obligation for governments.
- Advocacy must be conducted with the public authorities on sanitation and hygiene issues. While reducing inequalities in the water sector requires financial support, sanitation and hygiene issues require public awareness on the importance of maintaining a healthy home. The public needs to be involved in the issue of sanitation, not only through the organisation of conferences and meetings, but by going directly to people living in rural areas and educating them on various sanitation and hygiene methods. This is particularly important because, when the government builds water-supply or hygiene infrastructure such as toilets in ministries, schools, high schools and universities, a lack of public awareness often leads to poor management of the infrastructure. The issue of drains clogged by household waste is a concrete example of the need to raise awareness.
- Consequently, the various speakers almost unanimously stressed the need to promote dialogue between the public authorities, the people, and non-governmental organisations, since the issue requires much more than public action. Indeed, while several governments say they implement follow-up, a number of difficult questions remain unanswered and much remains to be done, so that the only way to reach the next level in terms of reducing inequalities in WASH is to include the community in the debate.
- On the issue of financing, while some felt that it was important for states and international organisations to think about increasing financing for WASH projects, others felt it was time to increase African ownership of their own problems. According to some, this would solve a number of problems in the areas of sanitation and hygiene, because the African situation is worsened by the expectation of foreign financing.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (QUESTIONS ET RÉPONSES)

Question No.	1	Author (Auteur):	Sareen Malik, Moderator, ANEW
Wording (Libellé):	What contributions would you make to a declaration on reducing inequalities in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)		Speakers (Intervenants)	
Although we avoided the regulatory framework with regard to sanitation, the preamble to the declaration should state that water is both a right and a necessity.		Madame Tchilofia	
We need to think about financing of water. We need to talk about increasing funding for WASH.		WATERAID speaker	
Focus on the regulatory framework.		Speaker	
Human rights should be extended to include water.		Barbara	
We need to continue to work on bringing people together to discuss these issues at the government level.		Cynthia	

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SESSION (CONCLUSIONS DE LA SESSION)

To sum up, the goal of the panel was to share views on the problem of inequalities in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. At the outcome of these talks, a declaration could be made, which would be presented during the closing of the Africa Water Week sessions. Its aim would be to demonstrate the importance of teamwork between the various stakeholders involved in reducing inequalities in WASH.