International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

Continental Africa Water Investment Programme - AIP

Progress Report
2021-2026

Convening partners of International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

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Commonly Used Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AIP	Continental Africa Water Investment Programme
AIPI	Africa Water Investment Programme Index
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COP	Conference of the Parties (UN Climate Change Conference)
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIP	Global Water Investment Platform
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWPSA	Global Water Partnership Southern Africa
HLPW	High-Level Panel on Water
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PIDA-PAP 2	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – Priority Action Plan 2
REC(s)	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive Summary

1. Background

1.1. In 2016, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim co-convened a High-Level Panel on Water, comprising 11 sitting Heads of State and Government, and one Special Adviser from Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Jordan, South Africa, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Tajikistan.

1.2. In 2018, the UN-Word Bank High-Level Panel on Water's outcome document called for the establishment of an Africa Water Investment Programme. The Programme would (1) accelerate the mobilisation of water investments; (2) ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; (3) advance the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6; and (4) contribute to the achievement of other SDGs that depend on the development and sustainable management of water resources, as well as the Africa Water Vision.

1.3. On 7 February 2021, the Assembly of the African Union (AU) Heads of States and Government adopted the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) to during its 34th Ordinary Session, as part of the second phase of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa-Priority Action Plan.

1.4. The goal of the AIP is to mobilise at least US$30bn annually by 2030, to close the water investment gap and accelerate the mobilisation of climate-resilient water and sanitation investments across the continent, in support of SDG6 and the Africa Water Vision.

1.5. On 25 March 2022, during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, H.E. Macky Sall, AU Chair and the then-President of the Republic of Senegal, launched the AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa comprising of sitting Heads of States and invited global leaders.

1.6. The objective of the Panel is to support AU Member States in mobilising at least an additional US$30bn annually by 2030 for implementing the AIP and closing the existing water investment gap in Africa.

1.7. The AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022-2032) recognises the AIP as a flagship initiative for transforming water systems.

1.8. On 6 September 2023, African Heads of State and Government committed to support implementation of the AIP as part of the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action.

2. Progress on Mobilisation of US$30bn Annually by 2030 and AIP Strategic Targets

2.1. The AIP set out to mobilise US$30bn towards climate-resilient water and sanitation investments by 2030.

2.2. The AIP has mobilised over US$10-12 billion in annual water investment pipelines towards the US$30 billion annual by 2030 target.

2.3. The project pipelines were mobilised during the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit 2025. The Summit was co-convened by the Republic of South Africa, African Union Commission, AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, and the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD, with support from the Global Water Partnership Africa. The Summit was hosted in the context of South Africa's G20 Presidency.

2.4. African Heads of State and Government, in the presence of other global leaders gathered for the Summit, welcomed the investment pipelines presented, which were estimated conservatively at US$10-12bn per year. The Summit Declaration is attached as an Annex to this preliminary report.

2.5. Over 80 transformative water and climate-resilient infrastructure projects, with a total project cost exceeding US$30bn, from across the African continent were presented at the Summit.

2.6. Also at the Summit, H.E. President Ramaphosa launched the Global Outlook Council for Water Investments, along with the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) which will serve as the world's premier high-level political and investment platform on water. The initiative will accelerate efforts for the mobilisation of additional resources for implementing the AIP and scale up globally across Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean.

3. Elevating High-Level Political Commitment and Leadership for Water Investments

3.1. The AU established a High-level Panel at the Heads of State level to strengthen political commitment and leadership for climate-resilient water investments.

3.2. The AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa has mobilised support and commitments for the AIP. The International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa released its High-Level Report, Africa's Rising Investment Tide, during the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York on 22 March 2023.

3.3. The High-Level Panel's Report outlined actionable pathways for countries to mobilise at least US$30 billion annually by 2030, for implementing the AIP and narrowing the existing water investment gap in Africa. The report set out three pathways to mobilise US$30bn in annual water investments:

- Pathway 1 - Achieving more impactful water spending and financial leveraging by improving water efficiencies and reducing water losses.
- Pathway 2 - Mobilising domestic resources by at least doubling current national budgets to water and increasing allocation to infrastructure by 20%.
- Pathway 3 - Securing global and continental investment and finance through legal and regulatory frameworks with appropriate risk-sharing mechanisms among public and private investors, as well as protection of water resources by corporate users.

3.4. On 2nd December 2023 at COP28, Dubai, the AU Commission and High-Level Panel released Africa's Rising Investment Tide: Investment Action Plan, which outlined five priorities to mobilise an additional US$30bn for African water and sanitation, the levels at which these actions are required, and the responsible persons to implement those actions. The five actions were:

1. Prioritise continental and country-level platforms that match funding sources to investment opportunities that are looking for finance;
2. Commit to the long-term strengthening of the enabling environment and bankability of service providers and projects;
3. Create the legal and regulatory environment that promotes water stewardship amongst commercial water users;
4. Enable African governments to access cheaper capital for water and sanitation; and
5. Strengthen data and information systems so we know if we are making progress and where our obstacles are located.

4. Improving Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency for Water Investments

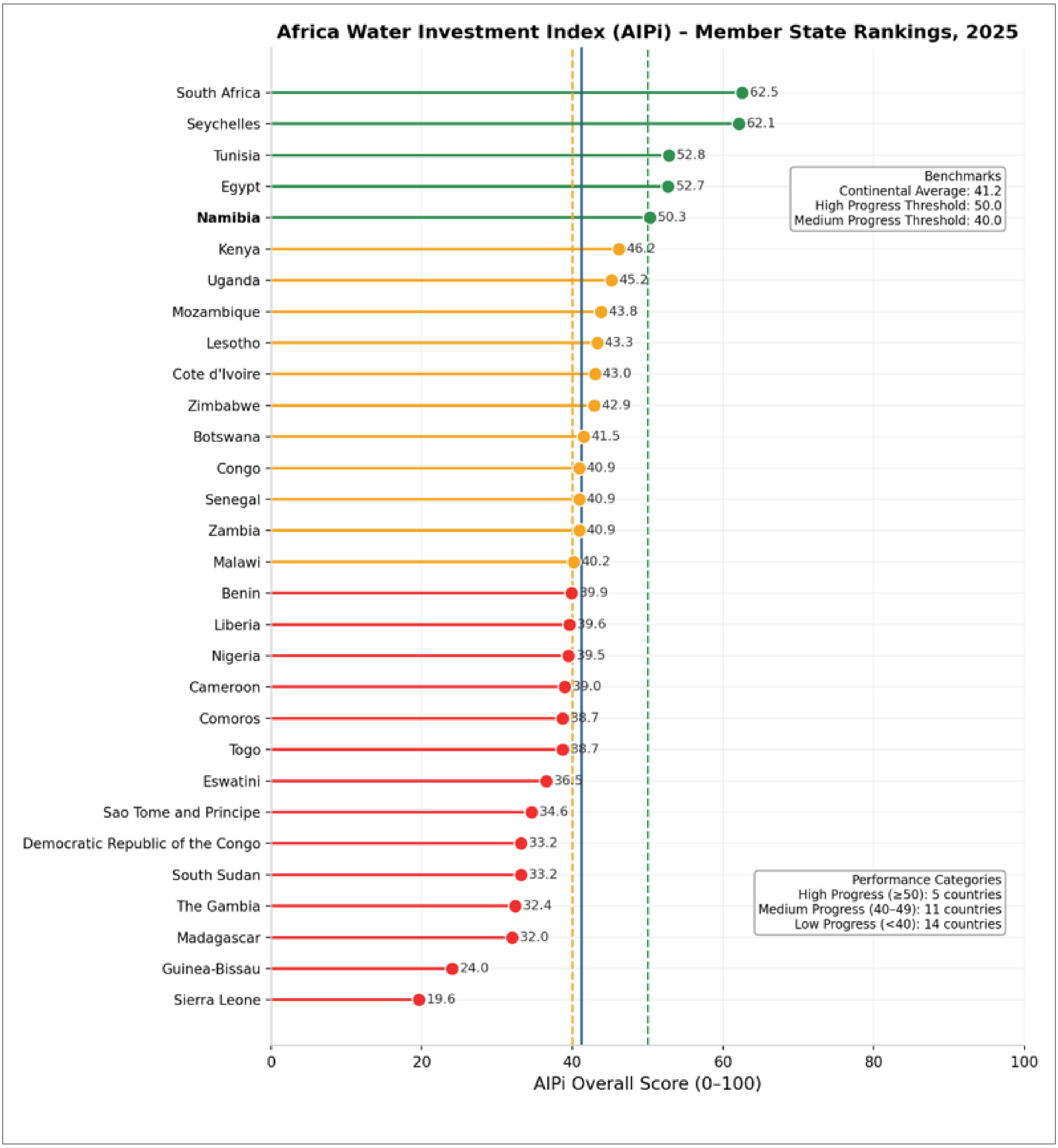
4.1. The AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa set out to develop a Water Investment Scorecard to enhance transparency and accountability in the mobilisation of investments, track progress, set benchmarks, identify bottlenecks, and take action to meet Africa's water investment and financing needs.

4.2. The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was adopted by AUDA-NEPAD as part of PIDA in February 2022.

4.3. In January 2026, the Scorecard released its first 30-country continental baseline and developed a composite index assessing countries' readiness to plan, finance and deliver water investment.

4.4. The preliminary AU-AIP Water Investment Scorecard Index places the continental average water investment readiness score at 41.2 points out of 100, across the 30 reporting Member States, signalling that important institutional foundations are in place but that change in investment and delivery is still required to meet 2030 targets. Five countries were found to have a high progress investment readiness score (above 50), 11 countries were found to have a medium progress investment readiness score (40-49), and 14 countries were found to have a low progress investment readiness score (below 40).

Figure 1: Preliminary AU-AIP Water Investment Scorecard Index Results



5. Development of National Water Investment Programmes

5.1. The AIP set out to develop capacity to formulate and implement national water investment programmes to narrow the water investment gap in AU Member States. The National Water Investment Programmes aim to support countries to mobilise resources for their priority water projects, promote the integration of water into national water economic planning, and advance the implementation of national economic growth targets towards SDG 6-related targets on energy, food, ecosystems, health, and others.

5.2. The AIP has supported the development of over 20 climate-resilient national water investment programmes in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership, European Commission, Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, and others.

6. Enhancing the Enabling Environment for Water Investments

6.1. The AIP set out to strengthen the enabling environment for investment mobilisation through strengthening of water governance and capacity to access finance. The AIP also focused on improving the efficiency and sustainability of water and sanitation investments and strengthening environmental protection.

6.2. The African Union Commission, in partnership with the Global Water Partnership Africa, has fast-tracked climate finance readiness through the AU-AIP Green Climate Fund Readiness Support Initiative in 15 AU Member States.

6.3. The AIP has contributed to the creation of fora and knowledge sharing on best practices for climate-resilient water investments, under the AU's Continental Knowledge Platform, as well as the development of AU guidelines for the development of AIP national and regional plans. The guidelines support countries in strengthening water governance, improving capacities to mobilise investment in the water sector, and effectively monitoring and reporting progress at the pan-African level.

7. Development of Blended Investment Mechanism (Global De-Risking Facility)

7.1. The AIP set out to establish an International Blended Investment Mechanism to support countries to leverage ODA and grant finance to de-risk priority water investments using a variety of innovative financial instruments and sources. An assessment led by the AIP, United Nations Development Programme, and partners investigated the need for such a mechanism.

7.2. Following the launch of the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) during the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit 2025, convened in the context of the G20, a Global Blended De-Risking Facility for the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) has been developed. The development of the Facility took place in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership Organisation. The Facility is a mechanism to support countries to reach financial close of over US$10-12bn water investment pipelines identified during the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit 2025.

7.3. The Global Blended De-risking Water Investment Facility will be launched in the presence of Global Leaders during the UN 2026 Water Conference as part of the GIP.

Call to Action and Recommendations

We, the Heads of State and Government gathered on the Margins of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, on 21 September 2026, for the inaugural International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa and Global Cooperation Leaders Event, convened under the auspices of the African Union, the AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa, the Republic of Namibia, Republic of Senegal in collaboration with the Republic of South Africa;

RECALLING the commitment of the African Union Heads of State and Government in July 2008, in terms of the Sharm El Sheik Declaration on Water and Sanitation (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(xii), which seeks to accelerate the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa. ALSO RECALLING the Africa Water Vision 2025, which envisions "An Africa where there is equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation and the environment".

ACKNOWLEDGING that inadequate investments in water have affected the gains made across all the Sustainable Development Goals and the critical role that water plays in climate change adaptation and mitigation and the goals of Agenda 2063.

RECALLING the commitment of the African Union Heads of State and Government and outcomes of the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit 2025 as outlined in the Final Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investments convened in the context of the G20 Presidency of South Africa, and adopted at the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union.

RECOGNISING the G20 2025 Leaders Declaration on water 'fully aware of the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring water-related ecosystems, we commit to work towards constructive outcomes of the 2026 UN Water Conference';

HEREBY COMMIT TO:

1. Accelerate efforts to create an enabling environment for enhancing investment for water and sanitation, aligned with national development plans, SDG 6, and climate resilience priorities.
2. Scale up domestic public and private finance for water investments, including through national budgets and innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AIP and GIP.
3. Commend the African Union Commission for providing leadership in the implementation of the Africa Water Investment Program (AIP), tracking progress using the AIP Water Investment Scorecard, and supporting Member States and Regional Economic Communities to develop national and regional climate-resilient water investment programs.
4. Request Global Leaders and the African Union Commission to support Member States and Regional Economic Communities in developing project pipelines to mobilise resources, including climate finance.
5. Call for the reform of the multilateral financial institutions, taking into consideration the urgent need for accelerated investment in the water and sanitation sector, and priority given to Africa to bridge the water investment gap.
6. Welcome the GIP Global Blended De-risking Facility as a mechanism to deploy de-risking tools where they add real value, particularly in underserved rural and peri-urban areas, fragile and conflict-affected states, and for nature-based solutions.
7. Call upon development partners to mobilise concrete commitments for the operationalisation of the GIP Global Blended De-risking Facility and its high level launch during the 2026 UN Water Conference; recognising that water investments can reduce the impacts of climate change and build resilience.
8. Call on governments and their development partners to work together to establish the conditions needed to attract and secure significant investments, including public and private finance, in increasing water security and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

9. Mobilise concessional and catalytic capital to enable investments where private capital alone cannot flow.
10. Prioritise public benefit and local ownership, particularly in areas where water services remain a critical human right and development enabler.

ROADMAP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- COMMEND the Republic of Namibia, in collaboration with the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of South Africa, for convening the inaugural Global Leaders Event on Water Investments, at UNGA, and for efforts towards strengthening multilateral cooperation and establishing Namibia as a center of excellence for water diplomacy, governance, and investments, building on the outcomes of the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit and UN Pact for the Future.
- REQUEST the co-hosts, UAE and Senegal, of the 2026 UN Water Conference to anchor this Declaration as part of the outcomes of the UN 2026 Water Conference, with the Global De-Risking Facility as a mechanism to track and report progress regularly on the mobilisation and implementation of water investments, in support of the AU Cape Town Declaration and the 2025 G20 Leaders' Declaration on Water.
- CALL on G20 leaders to support the endorsement of the AIP and the GIP De-Risking Facility on water as a core investment facilitation mechanism.
- RESOLVE to convene African Water Investment and Global Leaders Summits annually on the margins of UNGA in New York, in coordination with the African Union Commission and the United Nations.
- REQUEST other leaders outside Africa to consider establishing relevant Heads of State High-Level Panels on Water Investments across Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, and Europe, as part of global efforts towards 2030 SDG 6 on water and related targets.
- CALL upon the Co-Chairs of the water investment theme, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of France, together with the co-hosts UAE and Senegal of the 2026 UN Water Conference, to present this Declaration at the UN Water Conference for inclusion in the outcome Declaration of the UN Water Conference.
- REQUEST the Republic of Namibia, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the High-Level Panel on Water Investments and Global Champion for Water and Gender Equality, alongside the Republic of Senegal, to present this Declaration to the 40th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2027 for endorsement.

Background

In April 2016, the United Nations Secretary- General and the President of the World Bank Group convened a High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW), comprising 11 sitting Heads of State and Government, and one Special Adviser from Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Jordan, South Africa, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Tajikistan. The HLPW was established to provide the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive, and collaborative approach to the development and management of water resources, and to improve water- and sanitation-related services.

The United Nations Secretary-General launched the outcome document of the HLPW in March 2018. The document called for the establishment of an Africa Water Investment Programme to accelerate the mobilisation of water investments; ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; advance the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6; and contribute to the achievement of other SDGs that depend on the development and sustainable management of water resources, as well as the Africa Water Vision.

Delivery of water investments across Africa is below target to meet the continent's growing needs. It is estimated that at least US$30 billion in additional finance needs to be mobilised annually by 2030 to meet the SDG 6 target on water and sanitation for all. Currently, only US$10-US$19 billion is invested each year.

In 2018, AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, and the Global Water Partnership signed a joint communiqueto transform the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation, the goal of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP).

In 2019, the Governing Council of the AMCOW adopted a decision for transformation of Africa's water investment outlook through increased partnerships and implementation of the AIP.

The Ministers commended efforts of Global Water Partnership and partners, "to establish, through the AIP, a partnership to release Africa's development potential to achieve both the African Union Agenda 2063 in collaboration with AU, AMCOW, AUDA-NEPAD, African Development Bank and the African Water Facility".

The Assembly of the African Union (AU) Heads of State formally adopted the AIP, during the 34th Ordinary Session on 7th February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as part of the second phase of the Africa Union Development Agency's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa; Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP 2). PIDA-PAP 2 is a strategic portfolio of projects proposed by Regional Economic Communities and AU Member States for implementation between 2021 and 2030 that is led by AUDA-NEPAD.

PIDA-PAP 2 is comprised of 69 regional infrastructure projects, of which the AIP is one, in the sectors of energy, transport, transboundary water, and information and communication technology, with an estimated budget of US$161 billion.

The AIP's Goal: Addressing Africa's Water Investment Gap

The AIP is accelerating investment into climate-resilient regional, transboundary, and national water infrastructure – such as dams, water transfer systems, irrigation systems, water management information systems, water supply, and sanitation infrastructure – which are critically needed to meet Africa's growing socio-economic needs.

The AIP is expected to leverage and influence US$30 billion per year in climate resilience SDG 6 water investments and create at least 5 million jobs. The programme is aligned to the goals of PIDA-PAP 2 to accelerate construction activities, job creation and also boost industrialisation and trade. With US$7.5 billion investments leveraged to date, the AIP is transforming the investment outlook for climate resilient water security and sustainable sanitation in Africa

The approach taken by the AIP to transform the investment outlook for Africa is as follows:

1. Establish a High-level Panel at the Heads of State level to strengthen political commitment, addressing the inadequate high-level political leadership for water security and sanitation investments;
2. Assess the need for an International Blended Investment Mechanism to leverage public- private partnership finance and investments, addressing the slow project preparation, financing and implementation of bankable water security and sanitation projects, as well as the inadequate use of innovative financing instruments;
3. Promote gender equality, climate resilience and empowerment of women and girls in water investments, addressing the fact that planning, investment decision-making and institutional processes for water development are not gender transformative;
4. Develop and implement a water investment scorecard to enhance mutual accountability, transparency, efficiency, and track progress in mobilisation of water investments;
5. Develop capacity to formulate and implement regional, transboundary, and national water investment programmes to address the non-integrated planning, decision-making, and institutional issues;
6. Create an enabling environment for water governance and capacity to access finance, enhance efficiency and sustainability of investments in water, sanitation and environmental protection improved.

AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

His Excellency Macky Sall, then President of Senegal and Chair of the AU, formally announced the launch of the AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2022, responding to a call from African leaders for a need to elevate the continent's water agenda to the highest level.

The Panel is convened by seven agencies and development organisations who jointly adopted a resolution to convene the Panel in August 2021. They are the African Ministers Council on Water, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, UNDP, UNICEF, Global Centre on Adaptation, and Global Water Partnership. The Panel draws representatives from current and former Heads of State and other global leaders.

At its launch, the High-Level Panel was co-chaired by H.E. Macky Sall; H.E. Hage Geingob, then President of Republic of Namibia; and H.E. Mark Rutte, then Prime Minister of the Netherlands. H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, is the Panel's alternate co-chair.

The mandate of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa is to drive global political mobilisation and international engagement to meet the socio-economic needs of the continent and achieve SDG 6 and other water-related goals.

Formal inauguration during COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh

H.E. Macky Sall, then-President of the Republic of Senegal, formally inaugurated the High-Level Panel during the Heads of State High-Level Implementation Summit of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on 8 November 2022. President Macky Sall urged global leaders to unite in advocating and acting on the call for urgent investment in Africa's water and sanitation sector.

H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal (centre); H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya (centre right); Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO: AUDA-NEPAD (centre left); Achim Steiner, Administrator: UNDP (left); Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation (far left); Amb. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (right); Paloma Escudero, Director: Global Communications and Advocacy: UNICEF (far right).

"Achieving SDG 6 will contribute to the achievement of other SDGs. Good governance in water management is key to managing this highly complex policy domain. Water sector governance is vital. Given the unique positioning of the water sector, private-public partnerships are very important," said H.E. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, on the occasion of the launch of the High-Level Panel.

"The Gambia is facing considerable economic and development challenges and supports the mobilisation of finance for the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme," said H.E. Badara Joof, Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia.

International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa Leaders

Panel Leadership


H.E Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
Co-Chair
President of the Republic of Namibia


H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Faye
Co-Chair
President of the Republic of Senegal


H.E. Jakaya Kikwete
Alternate Co-Chair
Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Panel Members


H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa


H.E. Samia Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania


H.E. William Rutto
President of the Republic of Kenya


H.E. Hakainde Hichilema
President of the Republic of Zambia


H.E. Adama Barrow
President of the Republic of The Gambia


H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf
Chair: African Union Commission


Nardos Bekele-Thomas
CEO: African Union Development Agency - NEPAD


Alexander De Croo
Administrator: United Nations Development Programme


Catherine Russell
Executive Director: United Nations Childrens Fund


Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen
CEO: Global Center on Adaptation


Pablo Bereciartua
Chair: Global Water Partnership Organisation


Alex Simalabwi
CEO: Global Water Partnership Organisation

AIP Milestone Activities

1. Africa's Rising Investment Tide report, UN 2023 Water Conference

The International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa released its high-level report, Africa's Rising Investment Tide, during the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York on 22nd March 2023.

Led by the AUC in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD and the Co-Chairs of the Panel; the Governments of Senegal, Netherlands, Namibia, and Global Water Partnership Africa, Africa's Rising Investment Tide outlines actionable pathways for countries to mobilise at least US$30 billion annually by 2030, for implementing the AIP and narrowing the existing water investment gap in Africa.

The three pathways are as follows:

- Pathway 1. Achieve more impactful water spending and financial leveraging
- Pathway 2. Mobilise Domestic Resources
- Pathway 3. Secure Global and Continental Investment and Finance

Notably, the report signalled an opportunity for a watershed investment partnership between African governments and institutional investors in Africa and abroad, outlining nine potential sources of finance for water and sanitation for an additional US30 billion per year.

Figure 2: AIP Governance and Coordination

Total value	US$ Billion per Year	Incremental increase allocated to water
Bilateral ODA and philanthropy for Africa US$1.5 billion in 2020 to water from OECD Common Reporting Standard US$0.5 billion from BRICS, gulf states, and philanthropy	$0.5	**Bilateral ODA and philanthropy** Increase by 25% will result in an additional US$0.5 billion/year
Multilateral and Development Financial Institutions US$20 billion water portfolio in Africa Portfolio turns over every 4 years	$1.0	**Multilateral and Development Financial Institutions** Increase by 20%, gives $8 billion until 2030 which equates to US$1 billion/year
Multilateral Climate Funds US$2.8 trillion NDCs in Africa, 24% for adaptation Projection US$100 billion a year, 30% for Africa	$3.2	**Multilateral Climate Funds** 15% Africa funds for water $ 3.2 billion / year
National Banks, MFIs, Local Governments Information known on National Banks only In 2020, US$6 billion in assets in African National Banks	Domestic resource mobilization $17.5	**National Banks, MFIs, Local Governments** 20% in water from National Banks and other MFIs US$1.5 billion/ year
African Governments budgets US$6 billion per year water expenditure infrastructure $ unknown staffing and maintenance		**African Governments budgets** 20% higher allocation to infrastructure Increase disbursements for staffing and maintenance US$ 2 billion/year
Pollution and Mineral Resources Taxes African extractive sector tax revenue approx. 2% of GDP (US$60 billion), Africa 5.5% of global output = US$406 billion		**Pollution and Mineral Resources Taxes** 1% water tax on mineral resources US$4 billion / year
Institutional Investors US$14 trillion available globally US$700 billion assets under management (AUM) in Africa		**Institutional Investors** Double AUM in Africa by 2030 10% of which for water and sanitation US$ 10 billion / year
Valuing water related risks and observing environmental standards US$61-US$67 billion potential impact of water risks reported by 99 companies in Africa	Significant savings generated by industries	**Valuing water related risks and observing environmental standards** Several billion $ water related costs averted each year from improved water stewardship
Sector governance: Efficiency Gains & Cost Savings US$100 billion efficiencies on existing assets until 2030 (operational: non-revenue, billing, adequate technologies, energy efficiency) US$50 billion new investments per year	$ 11.5	**Sector governance: Efficiency Gains & Cost Savings** Efficiency gain 10% existing assets, 20% new assets US$1.5 billion/year efficiencies existing assets US$10 billion/year efficiencies new assets

The Panel proposed a 5-point Action Plan for Heads of State and governments, business and global leaders, to support the implementation of the three actionable pathways:

1. Establish cross-sectoral political leadership at the highest level, with a commitment to substantially increase public budgets and investments for water security and sustainable sanitation.

2. Track progress and enhance mutual accountability for results in the mobilisation of water investments and in peer review mechanisms at all governance levels. Recommit to the allocation of at least 5% of national budgets for the water and sanitation sector and 0.5% of GDP per annum for sanitation and hygiene programmes.

3. Mobilise new sources of funding and innovative finance by supporting matchmaking with a special focus on climate-resilient, blended public-private finance, and gender transformative approaches.

4. Strengthen institutional regulation for water investments, create incentives and penalties for increased water efficiency across multiple industries to lead water stewardship efforts, biodiversity, and ecosystem protection.

5. Use Official Development Assistance (ODA) to de-risk water investments and leverage larger funding streams.

The AUC and the Panel called on African Heads of State and global leaders to join efforts to double current water investments and implementation national water investment programmes by 2030.

2. Africa Water Investment Plan, COP28, Duba

On 2nd December 2023, during COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the AUC and the High-Level Panel released the Africa Water Investment Action Plan, in support of the implementation of Africa's Rising Investment Tide.

The Africa Water Investment Action Plan proposes five actions which will enable African countries to access new funding and finance from government budgets, institutional investors, banks, industry, climate funds, multilateral and development finance institutions, as well as to a lesser extent – official developmental assistance and philanthropy. The five actions are:

1. Prioritise continental and country level platforms that match funding sources to investment opportunities that are looking for finance;

2. Commit to the long-term strengthening of the enabling environment and bankability of service providers and projects;

3. Create the legal and regulatory environment that promotes water stewardship amongst commercial water users;

4. Enable African governments to access cheaper capital for water and sanitation; and

5. Strengthen data and information systems so we know if governments are making progress and where obstacles are located.

The Plan states that African governments play a pivotal leadership role in influencing the enabling environment for successful implementation of these proposed actions.

H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana (c); H.E. Josefa Sacko, African Union Commissioner for ARBE (c); Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO: AUDA-NEPAD (c-right); Hon. Hani Sewilam, AMCOW President, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt (c-left); Hon. Alioune NDOYE, Minister of the Environment, Senegal (3rd left); Saroj Kumar, Global Director, World Bank Group's Water Global Practice (2nd from right); Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Advisor, Global Center on Adaptation (right); Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Director/Executive Coordinator, UNDP (2nd left); Alex Simalabwi, Executive Director: High Level Panel Secretariat (left)

3. Mind the Gap - Invest in Water Campaign

Mind the Gap – Invest in Water, a campaign championed by the AUC and supported by the High-Level Panel, as part of the AIP, was launched on 19 September 2023 on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly and 2023 SDG Summit in New York. African leaders pledged to mobilise US$30 billion per year by 2030 to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation on the continent through institutional private-public partnerships, sector reform, and higher national budget allocations.

The goal of Mind the Gap – Invest in Water is to raise awareness, influence change, and ultimately – prompt mobilisation of investments across continental institutions and organisations. The campaign addresses systemic challenges, or gaps, that deter investors, including:

- Governance Gap: the need for robust national water policies, effective regulations, and strategies that are multi-sectoral, comprehensive, and gender transformative;
- Finance Gap: the need for credit-worthy water utilities and service providers; return on investment; risk mitigation strategies and public-private investment modalities;
- Capacity and Data Gap: the need for improved implementation capacity and quality of a portfolio of bankable projects through increased partnerships with regional and national finance institutions.

"The continent must create an enabling environment to mobilise domestic and international investments to meet the region's ambitious vision of the US$30 billion per year by 2030. This will require a combination of measures to strengthen the institutional regulation for water investments and valuing efficient water use across sectors and industries. International corporation and the engagement of the development finance institutions will also be fundamental to de-risk water investments and leverage larger funding streams," said Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, at the campaign's launch.

African leaders show the "gap" during the campaign launch in the United Nations HQ. (Centre left) H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal; (Second from left) H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; (Centre) H.E. Josefa Sacko, African Union Commissioner, ARBE; (Centre left) Harsen Nyambe, Director: Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union; (Second from left) Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD; (Right) Hon. Carl Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water, & Forestry, Namibia; (Left) Alex Simalabwi, Executive Director: High-Level Panel Secretariat

4. Contribution to the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change

African Heads of State and Government, at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, 4-6 September 2023 formally committed to support the implementation of the AIP, as part of the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change.

The commitment to the implementation of the AIP came after the African Ministers responsible for water, together with the High-Level Panel, urged African Union Member States to support AIP initiatives and to develop national water investment programmes in order to mobilise investments into climate-resilient water security and sustainable sanitation on the continent.

Ministers responsible for water in Egypt, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, as well as the United Kingdom, along with partners including AUDA-NEPAD, the AfDB, UNICEF, Green Climate Fund, and the DBSA issued a Communique calling for the urgent need to mobilise investments for water to address increasing climate change induced risks to water.

Meike van Ginneken, Water Envoy for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sherpa to High-Level Panel Co-Chair and Dutch Prime Minister H.E. Mark Rutte; Hon. Hani Sewilam, President of the African Ministers' Council on Water and Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation for the Republic of Egypt; Hon. Alice Wahone, Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation for Kenya; and Hon. Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform for the Republic of Namibia.

5: Inaugural AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit 2025

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H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa

The goals of the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit 2025 were to:

- Facilitate increased access to climate finance for water security and resilience
- Showcase bankable water and sanitation projects to potential funders and investors.
- Promote policy and regulatory reforms for an enabling investment environment.
- Strengthen partnerships between governments, private sector, and development partners.

The Summit carried weight at the highest political levels. In attendance or represented were heads of state and leaders including King Mswati III of Eswatini, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, and President Duma Boko of Botswana. Close to 40 African water ministers attended, as well as delegations from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Barbados, the Netherlands, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Water ministers were joined by financiers, civil society, academics, and diplomats, all united by a single goal: to close Africa's vast water investment gap.

Hon. Pemmy Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation for South Africa, host minister of the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit

Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investments in the Context of the G20

The Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investments in the context of G20, adopted at the Summit, reaffirms Africa's urgent need for investment, noting a US$30 billion annual financing gap. Delegates welcomed preliminary investment pipelines valued at US$10-12 billion per year, presented by development banks, investors, bilateral partners, and governments. Importantly, this figure excludes further pledges expected to be consolidated through the online portal established during the Summit – a clear signal that Africa's financing momentum is building.

"This summit, convened under South Africa's historic G20 Presidency, has been more than a gathering, it has been a call to action, a platform for transformation, and a proof to Africa's leadership in climate-resilient water security and safe sanitation. The Summit Declaration commits us to scaling up investments, improving governance, and increasing accountability in the water sector," said H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission.

H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission

Global Water Investment Platform and the Global Outlook Council

H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, launched the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) in his capacity as 2025 G20 President, as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative of South Africa.

“The Global Outlook Council and the Global Water Investment Platform will serve as the world’s premier high-level political and investment platform on water. It will track progress, unlock finance, report annually and align efforts across the G20, UN, multilateral development banks, and the private sector,” said H.E. Ramaphosa.

The GIP will strengthens countries ‘abilities to prepare, package, and finance water infrastructure and systems using a structured model backed by G20 political leadership, development banks, and the private sector. The GIP responds to a clear global need: fragmented financing, inadequate pipelines, and high transaction risks have slowed global progress on SDG 6, climate resilience, and inclusive development.

The GIP will contribute to unified global efforts to close the USD 140 billion annual water investment gap by 2030, building on the AIP.

Recipients of the Presidential Water Changemakers Awards

The Water Changemaker Awards is a global initiative that aims to recognise high-level commitment and leadership for climate resilient water investments. The Water Changemaker Awards include the Presidential Water Changemaker Award for demonstrated leadership and commitment.

Presidential Water Changemaker Awards 2025

The AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit honoured global leaders for demonstrating high level political commitment and leadership for climate resilient water security. H.E. Adv. Duma Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana and H.M. Mswati III, King of Eswatini, in their capacity as Chair and Invited Patron of the Global Water Changemakers Awards, respectively, presented the Presidential Awards during the Summit.

H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, G20 Chair, was recognised for launching the G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative – Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and hosting the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit.

H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Alshaibani, Deputy Minister for Water for Saudi Arabia, receiving on behalf of H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, who was recognised for initiating the first-ever G20 Water Dialogues in 2020.

H.E. Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan Minister of State for the United Arab Emirates receiving the award on behalf of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. The UAE was recognized for co-hosting the 2026 UN Water Conference.

H.E. Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Dièye Minister Water and Sanitation, Senegal, receiving the award on behalf of HE. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal. Senegal was acknowledged for its leadership in launching the Africa Water Investment Panel in 2022, co-hosting the upcoming UN 2026 Water Conference with the UAE, and sustaining high-level global water diplomacy that prioritizes investment and solidarity.

Hon. Mohlomi Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Lesotho, receiving the award on behalf of H.M. King Letsie III, King of the Kingdom of Lesotho. Lesotho was acknowledged for its advocacy in regional cooperation, championing the Lesotho Highlands Water Project as a model of transboundary cooperation for peace, resilience, and sustainable development.

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania, formally received the Presidential Global Water Changemakers Award 2025 on 26 October. Tanzania was recognized for pledging US$6 billion in domestic water investments by 2030 through the Tanzania Water Investment Programme, advancing national and continental leadership in the water and climate space through strategic reforms, financing partnerships, and inclusive governance.

Presidential Water Changemaker Awards 2023

The four co-chairs of the High-Level Panel each received the Presidential Global Changemakers Award on 22 March 2023 during the UN 2023 Water Conference, for demonstrating high-level political commitment and leadership for climate-resilient water security in Africa.

The four co-chairs were H.E Macky Sall, then President of the Republic of Senegal and Chair of the African Union, H.E Hage Geingob, then President of Namibia, H.E Mark Rutte, then Prime Minister of the Netherlands and H.E Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the Republic of Tanzania.

HE Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana and HE Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania and GWPSA-Africa Chair

H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council received the award for local country leadership following the launch of the Zambia Water Investment Programme and the Zanzibar Water Investment Programme respectively.

The awards were presented to the six leaders by H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, then President of Botswana and Chair of the Presidential Global Changemakers Award.

“I would like to encourage fellow Heads of State to prioritise investment in water and sanitation services, which will assist us in meeting the SDG 6 targets on water and sanitation by 2030. As we gather here today to celebrate the path set by the AIP, through the able and visionary leadership of the High-level Panel, we must also learn from those who took the first steps to prove that the target set by AIP is indeed achievable,” said H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi.

AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard

Background

The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was adopted by AUDA-NEPAD as part of PIDA in February 2022. The Scorecard is aligned to the Pan-African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System (WASSMO), which was developed by African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). The objectives of the Scorecard are to:

1. Enhance accountability for results in mobilisation of water investments, mobilise political, and leadership commitment;
2. Support countries to track progress, identify bottlenecks, and take action to meet the investment needs for achievement of SDG 6 on water and sanitation;
3. Set benchmarks to track country progress and offer a cross-country learning on water investment climate readiness;
4. Serve as a tool to engage with public and private investors on financing water infrastructure that will contribute to development; and
5. Guide governments to identify the changes required to increase water investment and identify opportunities from cross-country learning.

The development of the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard kicked-off in April 2021, at an event hosted by H.E. Dr. Jakaya Kikwete, Board Chair, GWPSA-Africa and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, former Prime Minister of Niger and then CEO of AUDA-NEPAD. The event included leaders from AMCOW, the World Bank, AfDB, DBSA, and the Global Centre on Adaptation.

Scorecard Framework

In February 2022, the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU approved the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard Framework. The Scorecard will accompany the implementation of PIDA-PAP 2 water projects being implemented during 2021-2030 and become part of the modus operandi of the AUDA-NEPAD delivery model.

AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard side event alongside the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU

The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard Framework outlines the key issues to consider when tracking water investments. The three key pillars were identified as being critical for accelerating water investments. Under each pillar are key result areas that will serve in monitoring and tracking investment gaps. The three pillars are as follows:

1. **Enabling Environment for Water Investments:** An enabling environment with strong, forward-looking, and inclusive governance systems is an essential driving force for investment in the water and sanitation sectors. In addition, a conducive investment climate is critical for long-term investments in the sectors. For long-term social and environmental sustainability, processes should be inclusive, transparent, and incorporate gender, environmental, and climate change considerations.

2. **Mobilising Water Investments and Financing:** Existing national, private, and donor (ODA) investments in key sectors – particularly WASH, energy, and agriculture – are essential for crowding in further long-term investment in the sector. This pillar will capture existing efforts to mobilise investment to ensure the viability of investments in the sector.

3. **Enhancing Investment Performance and Sustainability:** This pillar brings together key domains impacting water investment sustainability, performance, and efficiency.

10 country pilot (2022)

The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was piloted in 10 countries during 2022: Benin,Central African Republic, Cameroon, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

The results of the pilots are summerised below by pillar.

Pillar 1: Enabling Environment for Water Investments Summary

Countries were found to be prioritising water-sector priorities at a policy level, by incorporating them into key development and climate plans. Examples of this were evident in Benin, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi and Kenya. But not enough was found to be done to focus on water investments in particular, and efforts to mobilise investments into the water sector were not as widespread nor institutionalised.

Across the board, countries were found to be able to benefit from dedicated water investment plans that clearly outline national plans to direct financing to the sector from different sources.

The results found a lot of room for improvement when it comes to gender mainstreaming, especially with regard to the inclusion of women in decision-making structures within the water sector. In some countries, however, women remain insufficiently accounted for in policy priorities.

Additionally, the investment climate remained moderate across countries in the pilot study, and just three countries – Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya – had a combination of a relatively strong financial sector and relatively good quality governance.

Across countries, data gaps were a key challenge for assessing the full degree of community inclusion.

Pillar 2: Mobilising Water Investments and Financing Summary

Overall performance on water investment and financing was less promising than the enabling environment for water investments, suggesting that more can be done to ensure policy priorities translate into tangible outcomes.

Data suggested that countries with a strong policy focus on water – at the sector level, development level and climate commitment level – did better in securing government financing and ODA for the water sector. Examples included Uganda, Tanzania, Tunisia, Benin and Kenya. Data gaps, however, meant that the Scorecard could not obtain a comprehensive sense of the degree of private sector and philanthropic financing and, to a lesser extent, public budgets for the water sector.

Pillar 3: Enhancing Investment Performance and Sustainability Summary

At the policy level, countries in the study generally had tariff mechanisms for the water sector that covered the majority of the population and were set in a transparent way. Some – specifically, Tunisia, Tanzania and Kenya – even exhibited best practices when it comes to the explicit inclusion of vulnerable communities as well as efforts to ring fence revenues for water investments.

There were key areas for improvement, however, when it came to national capacities to evaluate investments against key economic, social and gender-specific criteria, which is key to systematically measure and keep track of the relative successes of investment decisions.

30 Country Baseline (2025)

In 2025, the Scorecard released the Africa Water Investment Programme Index (AIPI), a composite assessing countries' readiness to plan, finance, execute, and sustain water investments across four equally weighted pillars. For this first continental baseline, 30 AU Member States submitted data through a coordinated campaign led by AUDA-NEPAD, the AUC, and the AIP Secretariat.

The inaugural continental AIPI assessment, released in January 2026, placed the average water investment readiness score at around 38–40 points out of 100, across the 30 states, signalling that important institutional foundations are in place but that change in investment and delivery is still required to meet 2030 targets. Two countries fell in the "strong progress" band above 60 points, while the majority cluster between 30 and 50 points, reflecting moderate progress and significant scope for acceleration.

Planning and governance emerged as Africa's strongest area, with a mean pillar score close to 60 and more than 60 percent of reporting countries having comprehensive or costed national water investment plans aligned with national development and climate frameworks. At the same time, only a small number of countries reached the identified governance "tipping point" score of 7.0, associated with higher investment readiness, underscoring the value of continued support to institutional strengthening.

Investment mobilisation remained the most constrained part of the chain, with an average pillar score in the low 20s and a continental median of approximately US$44 per capita in annual water sector funding, ranging from about US$1 in some contexts to nearly US$600 in others.

Enhancing Member States' Capacity on Water Investment Tracking and Reporting

In May 2025, AUDA Nepad and AUC with support from the AIP Secretariat trained over 80 participants representing AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in tracking and reporting water investments using the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard.

Appendix

THE CAPE TOWN DECLARATION ON AFRICA WATER INVESTMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF G20

PREAMBLE

We, the African Heads of State and Government, in the presence of other Global Leaders, gathered in Cape Town from 13 to 15 August, 2025 for the inaugural Africa Water Investment Summit, convened under the auspices of the African Union, the HighLevel Panel on Water Investment for Africa and the Republic of South Africa's G20 Presidency.

Also in attendance were the Ministers and Deputy Ministers, financial institutions, investors, development partners, civil society, technical experts, philanthropic institutions Intergovernmental Organizations, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations Agencies, Private Sector, Youth, Women and Academia.

RECALLING the commitment of the African Union Heads of State and Government in July 2008, in terms of the Sharm El Sheik Declaration on Water and Sanitation (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(xii), which seeks to accelerate the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa.

ALSO RECALLING the Africa Water Vision 2025, which envisions "An Africa where there is equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation and the environment".

ACKNOWLEDGING that inadequate investments in water have affected the gains made across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the critical role that water plays in climate change adaptation and mitigation and the goals of Agenda 2063.

RECOGNISING that the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) is the brainchild of the United NationsWorld Bank High Level Panel on Water (HLPW). The HLPW was established by United Nations General Secretary Ban KiMoon and President of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim, comprised of eleven sitting Presidents and Prime Ministers.

RECOGNISING the need to build climate resilience through water investments in Africa in response to the projected severe and more frequent impacts of climate change as expounded in the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (20222032).

RECALLING the approval of the Continental Africa Water Investment Program (AIP) as part of the Program for Infrastructure Development in AfricaPriority Action Plan 2 (PIDA-PAP 2) by the African Heads of State and Government during the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly which took place in February 2021 (EX.CL/1108(XXXVIII)).

RECALLING the launch of the HighLevel Panel on Water Investment for Africa at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar on 25th March 2022 comprising of the founding cochairs; the Republic of Senegal, Republic of Namibia; Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the fourth President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

NOTING that during the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, the African Union and International HighLevel Panel released the HighLevel Panel Report, with pathways for countries to mobilise at least US$30 billion annually by 2030 to close the water investment gap in Africa, as part of the UN Water Action Agenda.

NOTING that in December 2023 during COP 28 in Dubai, UAE, the African Union Commission and AIP International HighLevel Panel launched the Africa Water Investment Action Plan, outlining how countries can mobilise the additional US$30 billion per year required to ensure water security and sustainable sanitation on the continent.

APPRECIATING the AU Resolution EX.CL/Dec.2(XLIV)Rev.1/42: APPROVES the proposal to adopt "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063" as the African Union Theme of the year 2026.

RECOGNISING the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for initiating the first G20 Water Dialogues under the KSA G20 Presidency in 2020 that considered water as key for socioeconomic development, supported by G20 member States.

RECOGNISING that the Summit is taking place at a historic time, marking the firstever G20 Presidency hosted on the African soil and the progressive admission of the African Union into the G20 membership.

REAFFIRMING that water and sanitation are not only foundational to peace, economic growth and development, human dignity and public health but are also essential to climate resilience, food security, economic transformation, and achievement of progress in implementing the SDGs.

APPRECIATING the opportunity presented through the G20 Presidency of South Africa to elevate Africa's water investments, minding the gap in water investments and leveraging on the African Union's membership to the G20 and the opportunity to highlight the outcomes of the Summit as address in the declaration.

WELCOME the preliminary potential financial outcomes identified in the pipelines present at the Summit, estimated conservatively at 10 to 12 billion dollars per year worth of investments from some Development Banks, Investors, bilateral and governments, across the Continent.

NOTE that the above excludes anticipated pledges and investments that will be consolidated. Further Investors in the matchmaking sessions committed to submit their initial pledges to the online portal, which will increase the total committed investments, secured by this Summit.

HEREBY COMMIT TO:

1. Create an enabling environment for enhancing investment for water and sanitation, aligned with national development plans, SDG 6, and climate resilience priorities.
2. Scale up domestic public and private finance for water investments, including through national budgets, and innovative financing mechanisms.

3. Request the African Union Commission to continue providing leadership in the implementation of the Africa Water Investment Program (AIP), track progress using the AIP Water Investment Scorecard, and supporting Member States and Regional Economic Communities to develop national and regional climate resilient water investment programs.
4. Further request African Union Commission to support Member States and Regional Economic Communities in developing project pipelines to mobilise resources, including climate finance.
5. Call for the reform of the multilateral financial institutions, taking into consideration the urgent need for accelerated investment in the water and sanitation sector, priority given to Africa to bridge the water investment gap.
6. Deploy derisking tools where they add real value—particularly in underserved rural and periurban areas, fragile and conflictaffected states, and for naturebased solutions.
7. Raise the profile of water to drive sustainable economic growth and improve people's health, nutrition and prosperity across the continent; recognising that water investments can reduce the impacts of climate change and build resilience.
8. Call on governments and their development partners to work together to establish the conditions needed to attract and secure significant investments, including public and private finance, in increasing water security and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.
9. Mobilise concessional and catalytic capital to enable investments where private capital alone cannot flow.
10. Prioritise public benefit and local ownership, particularly in areas where water services remain a critical human right and development enabler.
11. Call upon the (inter)national and regional financial institutions in Africa to prioritise

Roadmap and accountability

12. Commend South Africa G20 Presidency for the inauguration of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and its Global Water Investment Platform as a Legacy Initiative advocating for water investments at the highest levels of global diplomacy.
13. Request the inclusion of this Declaration as part of the outcomes of South Africa's G20 Presidency, track and report progress regularly in implementation of Legacy Initiative.
14. Call on G20 leaders to support the endorsement of water as a core investment priority in the reimagining of multilateral finance.
15. Call upon the cohosts UAE and Senegal of the 2026 UN Water Conference, to anchor the Declaration into the preparatory process.
16. Resolve to convene African Water Investment Summits every 4 years on a regional rotational basis, under the coordination role of the African Union Commission.
17. Request the Republic of South Africa, in their capacity as the G20 Presidency, to present this Declaration to the 39th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2026 for endorsement.

Acknowledgment of Convenors and Partners

We commend the leadership of the African Union Commission and the Government of the Republic of South Africa as Convenors of the Summit, acknowledge the contribution of AUDA-NEPAD, the AIP High Level Panel, and the Global Water Partnership as host of the AUAIP Summit Secretariat, and appreciate the support of our partners.

Adopted this 15th day of August 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa.

AIP CONTINENTAL AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

For more information about the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) please visit https://aipwater.org/

GIP GLOBAL WATER INVESTMENT PLATFORM

For more information about the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) please visit https://gipwater.org/

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