



## REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

### 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

#### **Regional Session Code and Title:**

**RF 1 “Innovative financing and resource mobilisation for climate resilient water and sanitation investments”**

**Wednesday 22 May 2024 / 10h20-11h50 (90 minutes – 1 ½ hours)**

#### **Regional Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):**

##### **Session coordinator**

Samuel BLAZYK  
African Development Bank  
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Session co-coordinator: Republic of Namibia

#### **Regional Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):**

Africa faces a substantial infrastructure gap of US\$108 billion per year across sectors, including water, where limited access undermines economic and social development. Bridging this gap is crucial for sustainable development and improving lives across Africa. While financing exists, bankable projects are lacking. Effective project preparation is therefore critical to mobilize resources, unlock sector financing, and implement urgently needed water infrastructure.

During the UN 2023 Water Conference, the African Union and International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa released a landmark report, Africa’s Rising Investment Tide, which outlines three pathways and nine sources of finance to secure an additional US\$30 billion to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation in Africa by 2030. Achieving the 2030 SDG water and sanitation targets will require a huge investment. Currently, it is estimated that at least US\$66 billion is needed annually to address infrastructure backlogs for universal access to water and sanitation. This is five times the current annual allocation of \$13 billion per year.

Furthermore, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa estimates that an annual investment gap is between \$43-56 billion. Further, an additional \$9–\$14 billion per year is needed to achieve secure water resources in Africa.

To address these gaps, OECD estimates that a 12-fold increase in current rates of progress on safely managed drinking water is needed.

In addition, a 20 times increase is required for safely managed sanitation and even a 42 times increase for basic hygiene services.

Consequently, this session aims to galvanize actors to action to address these challenges through a constructive discussion with key proponents on how to close the Financing Gap, including via the use of innovative finance on downstream financing.

**OBJECTIVE: The session will discuss the following:**

- Explore strengthened approaches to African WASH project preparation, coordination, and capacity development, including enhancing tools and knowledge platforms for bankable projects leading to sound downstream investments, including via the use of innovative finance.
- Address the role and challenges of regional and international institutions in providing technical and financial support to expand project preparation capacities toward realizing bankable water sector projects and highlight the critical added value roles AfDB/AWF and AMCOW have to play.
- Comment on the findings of the High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa
- Discuss and propose an actionable framework that will facilitate the creation of a conducive environment for upscaling investment risk coverage for the water and sanitation projects in Africa.
- Showcase examples from Member States, towards closing the water and sanitation sector financing gap.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

- Accelerating access to climate resilient water investments and innovative finance
- Build momentum towards closing the water investments gap by mobilizing at least an additional US\$30 billion and creating five million jobs towards the African Water Vision 2025 and SDG water related targets in 2030.
- Raise awareness on the importance of WASH project preparation given the ever-increasing demand for climate resilient solutions in Africa, notably in urban areas experience highly severe population growth, especially via younger population groups.

**FORMAT:** Setting the Scene -Keynote, Panel discussion, followed by discussion and closing and way forward



### Detailed Regional Session Plan:

**Wednesday 22 May 2024**

**10h20-11h50 (90 minutes – 1 ½ hours) – Moderator: Samuel BLAZYK, African Water Facility (AfDB)**

<b>ESTIMATED TIMING</b>	<b>ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE</b>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>	<b>SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)</b>
5 Min	Welcome and Introduction to the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction by Mtchera CHIRWA, AWF Coordinator AfDB/AWF</li> <li>Opening remarks by HE Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform of Namibia and AWF Governing Council Chair.</li> </ul>	OK
15Min	Setting the scene – Case study and experience from Tunisia.	HE Abdelmomen Belati, Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Maritime Fisheries, Tunisia	OK
10 Min	Setting the Scene on emerging issues for the Sector and Financing challenges and opportunities	Mtchera CHIRWA, AWF Coordinator, AfDB/AWF	OK
40 Min	Panel discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HE Schlettwein (Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform of Namibia)</li> <li>Hon. Lydia Seyram Alhassan, Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana</li> <li>Nancy Eslick, Global Water Coordinator, USAID</li> <li>Fred Van Heems, President, AquaFed</li> <li>Alex Similabwi, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa</li> </ul>	OK OK TBC OK OK
15 Min	Discussion	All participants	
5 Min	Closing and highlighting main outcomes and way forward	HE Schlettwein and Mtchera Chirwa	OK