

Session Title:

RF8_Catalyzing Inclusive Change: Collaborative Strategies to Bridge Gender Gaps, Empower Youth, and Promote Resilience in the Water and Sanitation Sector

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024,
Time: 16:40 to 18:10
Venue: Kintamani 1 Theatre

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

(1) Session Coordinator (s):

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(2) Co-coordinator: South Africa

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

Addressing the unique challenges women, youth, and marginalized communities face in water and sanitation is a pragmatic necessity. Africa's demographic landscape underscores this urgency, given that a substantial 70% of its population falls below 30 years of age and women constitute more than half of the total population. Moreover, according to the AMCOW 2022 Africa water and sanitation report, over 400 million people do not have access to potable water, while an estimated 800 million do not have access to safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene services, implying the majority are from these demographic groups. The 2022 report further reveals that, in the pursuit of integrating gender considerations into policy, law, and plans across all water and sanitation sectors, only a few Member States have made progress, albeit to varying extents. This implies that gender-related practices in WASH are fragmented, as they are not reinforced and supported by corresponding policy provisions.

Underpinned by the commitment to leave no one behind; this session will facilitate discourse on the central role of gender and social inclusion in fostering equitable and inclusive access to water and sanitation. The session is intended to inspire policy reflections, systemic/structural adjustments, innovations, and transformative approaches that can close inequality gaps, challenge norms, and propel progress toward more equitable and inclusive access to water. It will discuss the transformative approaches and pathways to catalyse meaningful change, and ensure interventions are responsive to the population's diverse needs.

The expected outcomes of the session are;

- (i) Foster collaborative dialogue and discuss innovative solutions that can drive meaningful policy change towards a more equitable and inclusive approaches to water and sanitation sector.
- (ii) Underscore the need to develop effective strategies for advancing gender equality, engaging youth, and fostering social inclusion in the water and sanitation sector.

This is a 90-minute session that shall have case study presentations from member states, panel discussions and video screening on women voices in water.

Detailed Regional Session Plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS
2 Minutes	Introduction - Why gender, youth, and social inclusion in Water (Key messages for discussion), the objective and session outline	Ms. Sareen Malik Executive Secretary ANEW Vice-Chair of the SWA Steering Committee
5 Minutes	Opening Address - Status of Youth and Gender inclusion in Water and Sanitation sector in Africa	Mr Assane Gaye Director for Water - Mauritania and AMCOW Vice TAC Chair for North Africa Region
7 minutes	Presentation -The pathway towards Youth and Gender inclusion (YoGI) strategy in Water and Sanitation sector in Africa	Mr. Emmanuel Eguru M&E Support and Youth Focal Point African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
7 minutes	Presentation - Case study on Youth, Gender and Social Inclusion engagement in water and sanitation sector in South Africa	Ms Nozipho Makhoba Assistant Director, Youth Development, Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa
7 minutes	Presentation - YoGI Mainstreaming Toolkit - Pathway to operationalization of the YoGI strategy in Water and Sanitation Policy and Practice	Dr. Purity Njagi Policy and Evidence Lead African Renaissance
7 Minutes	Presentation - Progress towards agenda 20230: Global Multisectoral coalition in support for for action in accelerating gender equality in water domain	Dr Laura Imburgia Senior Water and Gender Program Specialist UNESCO World Water Assessment Program (WWAP)
5 Minutes	Q&A	
35 minutes	Panel discussion The panel will consist of key institutions that are championing gender, Youth and social inclusion, Member states and policy makers. The topics for discussions shall include. 1. Significance of gender and youth in the water sector (roles of women and youth as catalysts for change). 2. Engagement and empowerment of policy makers and parliamentarians to champion gender and youth issues, ensuring their voices are heard in policy formulation. 3. Catalyzing Gender and Youth-inclusive policies (Mainstreaming within the policy cycle) 4. How can we draw insights from successful case studies and best practices to inspire innovative approaches on gender and youth mainstreaming. 5. Fostering greater engagement of women leaders/professionals in the water sector and collaborative strategies. 6. The nexus of Gender, Water and Climate Adaptation	Hon. Deputy Demba KEITA of Senegal Former Member of the National Assembly Coordinator of the Partnership Committee with the Executive Secretariat of the 9th Dakar WWF Ms Petunia Ramunenyiwa Chief Director, IGR Sector Transformation and Provincial Coordination South Africa Dr. Leticia Ackun Gender Specialist African Water and Sanitation Association (AFWASA) Sandra van Soelen Project Lead WASH, Learn & Share, SIMAVI Dr. Purity Njagi Policy and Evidence Lead African Renaissance
10 Minutes	Q&A	
3 Minutes	Launch of the AMCOW Youth and Gender Inclusion (YoGI) Strategy with the YoGI Toolkit	AMCOW
2 Minutes	Closing session - Summary of Key Messages	Ms. Sareen Malik