



**Africa Sanitation Conference –Afrisan+5
Durban, February 18th-20th, 2008
A Summary report of ANEW activities**

1.0 Introduction:

AfricaSan +5 which took place in Durban, South Africa from February 18th-20th, 2008, brought together governments, private sector, NGOs and development partners involved in the water and sanitation sector in Africa. The overall objective of AfricaSan +5 was to promote sanitation and hygiene improvement programmes in Africa and to assist key African stakeholders in identifying actions to accelerate achievement of national and the MDG targets for sanitation.

About 400 delegates took part in the conference including some 35 ministers responsible for health, sanitation, finance, decentralization, environment, and planning from Africa. There were several ministerial round tables, technical sessions; technical group discussions; that led to a ministerial declaration and an action plan to promote sanitation and hygiene in Africa.

In addition to the main conference, ANEW managed to organized side meetings with the AfDB and AMCOW as well as have hold daily consultative meetings which enable CSO participants to bring forward important messages from civil society. The conference also provided an excellent opportunity for ANEW and its members to establish be recognize as well as lobby for inclusion of CSO in decision making processes. These and other efforts resulted into ANEW be given an opportunity to present a CSO statement at the closing ceremony.

2. 0 Regional participants

About 15 members of ANEW (including 6 from South Africa) attended the Africasan+5 conference and participated actively in the daily consultations and side meetings. In addition WaterAid's Regional policy team members from Uganda, Malawi, Ghana and Mozambique participated in the CSO meetings and played a very active role in supporting ANEW.

3. 0 Side meetings:

1. The South Africa water Caucus organized a three day CSO preparatory meeting with the aim of discussing key messages and CSO inputs to the main conference. The meeting attracted some 25 participants from different parts of South Africa. On the third day, ANEW members from the rest of Africa joined the SA water Caucus members to

agree on key messages and strategize on how the few members present will maximize their participation and will similar message in the main conference. The meeting agreed on four key messages:

1. Sanitation in a Human right issue that should be given its due priority
2. The need of involving communities in designing and implementation of sanitation technologies suitable for each community.
3. The importance of hygiene promotion in communities and schools to go hand in hand with sanitation infrastructure.
4. Equal efforts should be put into monitoring and evaluation of sanitation projects in Africa for sustainability. Sustainability in this case should be defined in its broader term which includes hardware (infrastructure) and soft ware (education and raising awareness. *(For more information, please contact Bryan Ashe of SA water caucus.)*)

2. Meeting with AMCOW:

About 12 members of ANEW met with the President of AMCOW, Minister Bruno Itoua, Minister of energy and Hydraulics from the Republic of Congo. This meeting was organized by ANEW as a follow up to the recently signed MOU between ANEW and AMCOW. The main objective was to discuss ways of putting into practice some of the issues highlighted in the MOU seek ways of strengthening ANEW-AMCOW relationships at National and Sub regional level. The president of AMCOW reaffirmed to us that AMCOW is very committed to work with CSO and the MOU was not just a political statement but rather a firm commitment. He said it is important for ANEW to dialogue with AMCOW TAC and establish a program of work that will meet the objectives of the MOU. He said ANEW secretariat should work with Mr. Charles Ngangoué, Chair of AMCOW TAC to prepare this program of work and he is willing to approve/rectify on behalf of AMCOW.

On the issue of strengthening our relationship at the sub regional level, Minister Itoua said recently AMCOW has also agreed to decentralize its activities and put more efforts strengthening the sub regions. He said in order to strengthen AMCOW-ANEW relationship at the sub regional level, it is important to understand active CSOs in each sub region so that they are able to link with AMCOW TAC members. It was agreed that ANEW will provide a list of its members for each sub region and provide a link or contact person who will be linking with AMCOW at the sub regional level. Minister Itoua also agreed to send an official letter to AMCOW TAC (and other Institutions) to ensure that CSOs are given a priority to engage at all levels.

2. Meeting with African Development Bank

A small group of five people from ANEW met with Kordje Bedoumra, Director of Africa Water Facility and Arthur Swatson, Principal water and Sanitation Engineer of the AfDB. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of some of the recommendations from the AfDB primer and the WaterAid/FAN-ANEW evaluation study on selected bank supported projects.

On the lack of Information about Bank operations Mr. Bedourmra said the Bank operates an open policy where most of the information is available to the public. He said most of the Project Appraisal and Project Evaluation Reports are readily available in the internet and can be made available on request. He however acknowledged that the Bank webpage on water is poor and sometimes it is difficult to access information.. He also suggested having more regular meetings and plan for at least one meeting a year between the bank staff and CSOs. This suggestion was highly welcomed by ANEW representatives who saw this as an opportunity to share some concerns about the bank policies and practices. ANEW agreed to follow up this issue after the AWW.

With regards to the Study Mr. Bedoumra indicated that the Bank is interested as they are currently doing assessment of their projects. What ANEW is doing will be a lesson for them to use in their future projects. He invited ANEW to send to them the terms of reference as well as a formal request to access Bank documents, participation of Country Resident Staff etc. He indicated that at the moment there are no rural WATSAN projects in Cameroon and in Burundi. In Cameroon there is a sanitation project in the capital city, Yaoundé which may be used as one of the benchmarks. There are rural water supply and sanitation projects in Malawi, Ghana and Uganda.

3. Meeting with Conference Director

ANEW members also organized a meeting with Piers Cross, of WSP and one Conference Directors. The members expressed their disappointment with the organizers for not including CSOs in the planning process of the conference and also for limiting the number of CSOs attending the conference. The members said none of the case studies from ANEW were accepted and the members were not informed until a few days before the conference. In addition the reason why the case studies were rejected (not technical enough) was unacceptable because Sanitation and Hygiene is not only a technical issue. In addition, ANEW had also requested for a slot to present a CSO statement during the opening ceremony but the request was denied.

On the issue of CSO participation, Mr. Cross said there were a number of CSO present and some of them will be presenting their case studies during the second day of the conference and each round table discussion had an opportunity for CSO to make inputs. On the CSO statement, Mr. Cross said the International steering committee is considering having a CSO statement at the closing ceremony however they would like to see the statement before hand to avoid any misunderstandings. Although the members were not too happy on the vetting process, it was agreed that ANEW will form a committee to prepare a draft statement and present it to the steering committee. In the end, ANEW was given 10 minutes to present the CSO statement during the closing ceremony.

4.0. Publicity and Advocacy

AfricaSan Conference also provided a good opportunity for ANEW and its members to publicize their activities. About 50 copies of the AfDB primer were distributed together with ANEW leaflets. In addition Jamillah participated in one hour panel discussion aired

by SABC 3 (Aired more than 15 countries in Africa) on the question is sanitation a human right issue? Prof. Edward Kairu also took place in a closing press conference where our CSO statement was one of the main issues.

5:0 Conclusions:

In general, Africasan was a great platform for ANEW and the issues they represent to be recognized. It was also an opportunity to organize side meetings with people who are not normally easily accessible outside the conferences. In addition, members had also an opportunity to network and share information. However it was a pity that some of the ANEW members present at the conference and other CSO partners such as the Gender and water Alliance were unable to attend the daily consultations and side meetings due to communication breakdown. It is important for us to ensure that information about side events is communicated to all members and announced at the meeting.

We are very thankful to SA water Caucus for starting up the discussion on sanitation and for organizing a venue and logistics for our daily consultations. We are also very thankful to WaterAid staff (policy advisors) who supported our members with ideas and shared their advocacy skills.

Jamillah Mwanjisi

ANEW Regional Coordinator

Email: Jamillah@majinaufanisi.org