

The Nairobi Declaration

From brave words to concrete action

1. We, the participants of the **Eastern Africa Conference on Sanitation**, from 7 countries¹ and representing government, including AMCOW TAC², national and international civil society, development partners and the media, met in Nairobi, on November 5-6, 2008, to review progress on implementing the commitments made under the eThekweni Declaration signed by African ministers in Durban, South Africa, on February 20th 2008.

1.1 We recognise that approximately 200 million people³ in the Eastern Africa region do not have access to adequate sanitation which is more than 70% of the population;

1.2 We are concerned that poor sanitation is undermining all development efforts in Eastern Africa and constraining progress against the health, education, gender and poverty Millennium Development Goals⁴;

1.3 We are mindful that over 200,000 children are dying each year in Eastern Africa from diarrhoea;

2. We welcome the commitments made by Eastern African governments through the AfricaSan+5 eThekweni Declaration and Sharm El-Sheikh Declarations⁵.

3. We now call for the urgent implementation of these commitments with particular attention to:

- 3.1 Submit to AMCOW⁶ country specific action plans⁷
- 3.2 Establishing sanitation policy and strategies
- 3.3 Strengthening institutional arrangements
- 3.4 Adopting effective and sustainable approaches focusing
- 3.4 Increasing financial investments for sanitation and hygiene

4. We, the participants of the Eastern Africa Conference on Sanitation, recognising the important role of all actors in addressing this crisis, commit ourselves to:

¹ Representatives from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

² African Ministers Council on Water Technical Advisory Committee

³ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (2008)

⁴ Millennium Development Goals 1,2,3 & 4 respectively

⁵ Commitments made at the AU Summit 2008 held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

⁶ African Ministers Council on Water

⁷ It was recommended under the AfricaSan Action Plan that all countries should submit these plans to AMCOW by June 2008

- 4.1 Actively publicise with the media the eThekwini commitments made by governments
- 4.2 Produce annual progress reports on the implementation of the eThekwini commitments, starting in November 2008
- 4.3 Present progress reports on the implementation of eThekwini commitments at AMCOW meetings, beginning with the meeting in Nairobi on November 24th
- 4.4 Call upon all sector actors to support the efforts of Eastern African governments in implementing the eThekwini commitments
- 4.5 To work with the governments of Eastern Africa to convene an eThekwini Review Conference in 2009 to review progress and prepare for the AfricaSan meeting in 2010

5. Further, and in the spirit of partnership, we call on all actors across the region, from civil society, development partners, the media and the private sector, to support national government efforts to implement the eThekwini commitments and to address the sanitation crisis in Eastern Africa.

ANEW

AMCOW_TAC

GWA

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