

Minutes of the Twentieth Meeting of the
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)
 6 December 2009: 14.15-18.00 hours
 New Delhi, India

Year of Establishment: 1994

Mandate: To promote links and networking among the African countries as well as regional and international institutions for enhancing cooperation and coordination, and to support integrated river basin development, training and research issues and information system for African needs.

Members present: (1) Dr. Adama Sangare, Acting Chairman (Mali, 2008); (2) Secretary General, ICID represented by Dr. S.A. Kulkarni, Executive Secretary, ICID.

Permanent Observer: Mr. Andrew Sanewe, SARIA representative (South Africa).

Members Honoraire present: (i) VPH Henri Tardieu (France) and (ii) VPH Felix Reinders (South Africa).

Observers: (i) Mr. Jabbar Aziz Beigi (Iran); (ii) Ms. Mohadiaa (Egypt); (iii) Mr. Andre Roux (South Africa); (iv) Mr. Abdoulaye Dembele (Mali); and (iv) Mr. Azim Ashyeri (Iran).

Note: Dr. Sizwe Mkhize, Chairman, AFRWG vide his e-mail of 14 September 2009 informed the Central Office that he may be relieved from the Chairmanship, owing to his intense engagement in the new job. In absence of the Chairman, Dr. Adama Sangare, Vice Chairman agreed to Chair and conducts the proceedings of the meeting. Subsequently, the Group will elect/ nominate a new Chairman during the meeting.

Website: <http://www.afrwg.icidonline.org>

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 19th meeting held at Lahore

The minutes of the 19th meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore in October 2008 were confirmed

Item 2 : Review of membership of the group, permanent observers, and countries

2.1 Membership of the Group

No new nominations were received for the membership of the WG.

As Dr. Sizwe Mkhize (South Africa) has stepped down from the Chairmanship of the WG, Group nominated Dr. Adama Sangare (Mali) as new Chairman. The Group also nominated Dr. Andrew Sanewe (South Africa) and SARIA representative as new Vice Chairman.

2.2 Membership of African countries

At present, from Africa Region ICID has 8 active member countries, 15 deemed to be inactive countries, and 4 countries were admitted but not paid their subscription.

At the Lahore meeting, it was observed that countries with established forums (i.e. ARID and SARIA, IPIA) should use the AFRWG platform to enhance their activeness and ICID membership. It was noted that the Central Office had corresponded with the National Committees of Algeria (CNAID), Angola (ANGCID), Ghana (GHANCID), Kenya (KENCID), Libya (LICID), Madagascar (MADCID), Malawi (MILCID), Mozambique (MOCID), Senegal (SENCID), Sudan (SUCID), Tanzania (TANCID), Uganda (UGCID) and Zimbabwe (ZICID) for their reactivation, but there was no response from any country.

The Central Office had also written to Botswana, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo, Namibia and Swaziland for new membership. Countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritius, and São Tomé and Príncipe whose membership application had been accepted by IECs at previous meetings, to pay their membership subscription to formally effect their membership. The Central Office had appraised the VPs in charge of the region of these efforts so as to facilitate 'follow-up' action from their side. Central Office had written to Cameroon. In response, Cameroon had sent its application for the membership in July 2009. (*The Cameroon's application was put up at the 60th IEC meeting held at New Delhi on 10 December and since been accepted and approved for the ICID membership*).

Dr. S. A. Kulkarni, Central Office, ICID explained the procedure for a country to join ICID and also the methodology to workout annual membership subscription. He said that a detailed information on "How to apply for Membership"; "On-line Computation of Annual Subscription"; and "Application Form" is available on ICID website http://www.icid.org/index_e.html.

The Group suggested to reconsider the membership fees to encourage the African countries to join ICID and also that the Central Office to extend communication to the non-member countries to keep them abreast of ICID activities.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Progress on the implementation of the Action Program for Africa

3.1 Report of the Southern African Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) Workshop, February 2009

The Group took note of the annual workshop of the Southern African Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) held in February 2009 at Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The SARIA representative Mr. Andrew Senewe mentioned that the workshop is held yearly and a symposium will be held in February 2010. He expressed concern about paucity of fund for hosting such events.

3.2 60th IEC and 3rd African Regional Conference, October 2009, Abuja (since cancelled)

The conference was cancelled by the Nigerian National Committee (NINCID) due to certain exigencies

3.3 4th African Regional Conference, Mali, 2011

As the 3rd African Regional Conference that was to be held in Nigeria in 2009 has been cancelled, it will now be held in Mali. Dr. Sangare told that the Mali National Committee (AMID) was already preparing for the organization of the Regional Conference.

The Central Office, ICID had written to the Minister of Agriculture, Mali to provide details on the theme, topics, and subtopic, venue and date towards hosting of the Regional Conference. Subsequently, on 1 December 2009 a meeting was held between the President of Mali National Committee (AMID) and the Minister of Agriculture. As a result of the meeting, the Minister has approved the organization of the Conference. In view of the other major ICID events to be held in 2011, Dr. Sangare said that the Conference will be held in the month of September 2011.

Mr. Dembele, President of the Mali National Committee (AMID) made a presentation on the land and water resources and the potential of Mali. A video on the success of the Office Du Niger (*Large scale irrigation system covering more than 100,000 ha*) was also shown.

Item 4 : Three-year work plan of the Group

Due to scarce attendance of members at the meeting, the three-year work plan of the WG could not be discussed. The new Chairman and Vice Chairman therefore proposed to postpone the discussion to the next meeting to be held in Indonesia in October 2010. Chairman requested all members, ARID, SARIA, IMAWESA and representatives of other African Organizations to provide their ideas/ activities to him well in advance of the next meeting to formulate a framework of activities within the mandate of the WG.

Central Office was requested to circulate the draft work plan, once ready to all members and observers.

Item 5 : Cooperation with other Working Groups and International Organizations

5.1 ICID Working Groups

The decision about members to serve as liaison persons on related ICID workbodies for effective exchange of information and collaboration was discussed during the New Delhi meeting.

It was also proposed that Dr. Sanewe, Chairman, SARIA will act as a liaison person to Special Work Team on Lake Chad Basin (ST-LCB); while Chairman Dr. Sangare, who is also the President of ARID will liaise with Working Group on the Role of Irrigation in Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood (WG-POVERTY). Chairman will also nominate a member to liaise with Asian Regional Working Group (ASWRG).

5.2 Focus on Africa

At Sacramento in 2007, the Internal Review Special Committee of PCSPOA had recommended that under the “preference for Africa” there could be two Vice Presidents in charge of Africa, instead of one, in particular to link with regional initiatives and associations (Lake Chad, ARID, SARIA, NEPAD, etc.). WG appreciated the recommendation but expected more action on ground.

It was reiterated that more African National Committees need to become active by contributing to WG activities. Central Office of ICID was requested to facilitate contact between Nationals Committees and donors for supporting their activities.

5.3 High Level Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of Climate Change, Libya

The Group took note of the Sirte event held in December 2008 in Libya and about Secretary General, ICID’s participation in the Conference.

It was brought to the attention of the group that Consultants are deployed to develop documents for AgWA. The Group proposed that SARIA and ARID may liaise with AgWA to offer their support and willingness to collaborate by way of providing technical input and hosting/ organizing workshops.

5.4 Collaboration with the ‘Improved Management of Agriculture Water in Eastern and Southern Africa (IMAWESA)’

There was no representative of IMAWESA to provide a report.

It was informed that the IMAWESA would be launching its Phase II in April 2010 (IMAWESA 2) and will be linked to AGWA as a regional (Eastern and Southern) association.

5.5 AquaCrop Workshop, Burkina Faso

The Central Office had circulated among all member countries of Africa an announcement, as received from FAO, about an AquaCrop Workshop on “Capacity Development for Farm Management Strategies to Improve Crop-Water Productivity using AquaCrop”. The training workshop was organized for western Africa from 27-31 July 2009 at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Many delegates from West Africa Countries participated in this training workshop.

The next AquaCrop workshop will be held in South Africa in March 2010. This workshop will be focused on countries in Southern Africa and Cameroon.

5.6 African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), Nairobi, Kenya

No feedback of the Conference was available.

Item 6 : Publicizing Working Group's activities through a Newsletter and other international publications

Chairman urged all members to contribute information/ article so as to bring out "AFRWG Newsletter". The Newsletter can include information about AgWA, SARIA, ARID and National Committees in Africa etc. The Chairman nominated the Chairmen of ARID and SARIA to compile/ edit and prepare the WG Newsletter on regular basis. The Central Office will offer its full assistance in bringing out the Newsletter.

Item 7 : Webpage of the AFRWG

The Group's webpage <http://www.afrwg.icidonline.org/> is active and has a lot of information for members to make good use. Central Office had added some more information/ links of interest to WG activities to the webpage.

Members were encouraged to visit the links/ documents and also provide related documents to the Central Office for posting on the webpage.

Item 8 : Report of the Task Force for Identifying Priority Issues for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa

Few copies of the draft final report of the Task Force were available for perusal at the meeting. The report will be discussed on Monday, 7 December during the TF-LDCs-AF meeting. Members were encouraged to submit their ideas, comments and suggestions to Engr. I.K. Musa, Chairman, TF-LDCs-AF at majidadimusa@yahoo.com for consideration.

Item 9 : Any other business

All those present were informed about the following:

- AgWA meeting and 2nd African Water Week took place in Johannesburg in November 2009
 - The 8th World General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) will be held 20-23 January 2010 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting is open to all INBO member organizations and permanent observers and also to all the water administrations and organizations worldwide, interested in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins and in adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
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