

**MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)**

14 August 2018, 09.00-10.30 hours (Session I) and 11.00-12.30 hours (Session II)
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Presented by the Chairman

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.

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

Members Present: (1) Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair (South Africa); (2) Engr. Amali Abraham Amali – Young Professional, Secretary (Nigeria); (3) Mr. Abdullahi Hassan Hussein – Young Professional (Somalia).

Observers: (1) Ahmed El Bouari (Morocco); (2) Mohamed Ouhssain (Morocco); (3) Ben El Mamoune Mohammed (Morocco); (4) Bartali El Houssine (Morocco); (5) Kunle Abidoye (Nigeria); (6) Abdulkareem Dahiru (Nigeria); (7) Omata Ali (Nigeria); (8) Sunmonu Kenneth (Nigeria); (9) Engr. A.A. Adenopo (Nigeria); (10) Engr. Dr. Elijah A. Aderibigbe (Nigeria); (11) Engr. David West Tonye Uirah (Nigeria); (12) Engr. Muhammad Sani Bala (Nigeria); (13) Engr. Christy Omeno Oduh (Nigeria); (14) Engr. J.C. Umechukwu (Nigeria); (15) Aidan Senzanje (South Africa).

AFRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. In absence of Chair VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair conducted the meeting as 'Acting Chair' and welcomed the members and presented the actions taken on the proposals of the working group held at its last meeting at Mexico City in October 2017.

2. The group noted that the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) was prepared and circulated to all African NCs. English and French version of TNA were prepared and uploaded on the website of AFRWG and circulated to all NCs. The final version of TNA was first circulated to all NC's and about 26 replies were received from 6 NCs (Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Somalia, Nigeria, and Ghana). An analysis for the received replies was carried out and a draft report was prepared. The TNA was once again re-circulated to all NCs and new replies were only received from ENCID. Additional analysis as received for TNA was presented by Eng. Amali at the meeting. The group noted that as per the reports of the Chair, no virtual meeting of the WG was organized since last meeting of the WG in Mexico in October 2017. But during the year, there were many activities and discussions were carried out through emails and WhatsApp. WG also commended the active participation of the new Secretary of the WG - Eng. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria) during the year and his great contribution in TNA analysis and reporting as well as preparing a proposal for Capacity Building for YPs.

AFRWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in African region

3. The group reviewed and discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2010 (refer **Annex**). With efforts from the Chair, an MOU between Morocco National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANAFIDE) and Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) is expected to be signed during the Cairo Water Week in October 2018. It was also informed that a draft MOU between Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) and each of Sudanese, Russian and Italian NCs is also under discussion. Chair encourages all African NCs to take actions towards the bilateral cooperation to exchange knowledge, experiences and information.

4. A brief on the Chair's first meeting with the Young Professional Working Group of the Egyptian National Committee (ENCID) on 14 May 2018 was also presented to the RWG. It was informed that during meeting with YPs the objectives of ICID and its activities, the role of the National Committee and the tasks of the working group were shared with YPs. Dr. Mpandeli stressed on the need to maximize the benefit from the activities for the group along with the proposals for various activities in the Youth Forum during the first Cairo Water Week to be held from 14-18 October 2018 in Egypt. The chair also made further efforts towards encouraging the establishment of YP-WG at African NC's level and the National Committee of Egypt, Morocco and Sudan had already taken action and the YP-WG established, a group on WhatsApp and at e-mail are already active and the dissemination of publication, bulletin, news update are circulating to the members of the YP-WG. Chair encouraged other NCs like South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Somalia to take the same action towards the establishment of YP-WG at their national levels.

AFRWG Minutes Item 3: Position paper on Green Revolution in Africa

5. During the meeting, WG deliberated on the preparation of the Position Paper on Green Revolution in Africa. Members were encouraged to capitalise on the planned event of Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in September 2018 to gather information and initiatives from different areas in Africa. Members noted that a table of contents was prepared and circulated to the different NCs and informed of the slow progress made so far towards the first draft of the position paper. To this, ANAFIDE raised their willingness to give support and make progress with the position paper. With their recent positions, they stated the availability of information within their reach and willingness to share such information for the benefit of the entire region. The group further stressed the need to finalise the position paper before the next meeting in Bali in 2019. It also emphasised the need to collaborate and discuss with other organisations such as the Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA). The Vice-Chair further re-emphasised the position of SADC to lease and collaborate with other organisations involved in agriculture and will work towards having a draft report before Bali in 2019 and encouraged the support of other NCs so as to produce a report reflective of the strides the continent is making towards Green Revolution.

AFRWG Minutes Item 4: Progress on implementation of the action program for Africa - Strategy for capacity building in Africa (Training Needs Assessment Report)

6. During the meeting, the WG discussed the progress made by the TNA and encouraged other NCs to look at the TNA and make possible inputs to have a clear reflection about activities taking place within the African Region. The group also discussed the need of the TNA and the next steps to be taken after the TNA which is to seek proposals and co-operations to address the gaps that will be identified by the report to strengthen capacity within the African continent. The Vice Chair highlighted that few NCs have agreed to make inputs including SANCID for which the Chair agreed to follow up with SANCID and ensure inputs be received from NCs to finalise implementation. The group also discussed the initiative as not a once-off process but an ongoing activity of continuous monitoring and come up with a draft final report on the TNA.

7. The Secretary presented analysis and report of the TNA after the first and second submissions on TNA from the NCs. The group discussed the analysis already made on the submitted TNA and the sparse distribution of received submissions which already indicated a gap in the draft report. In consideration of the difference between the analysis of the first set of submissions and the second submissions, the group highlighted on the need to have more applicants covered within the TNA to have an analysis reflect the entire African region. Due to time consideration, the group decided to proceed with the submission and analysis received so far but proposed a deadline of 30 November 2018 which will be finalised in consultation with the Chair.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5: Exchange of information, knowledge and experience (progress in activating Young professional working group at Africa NC's)

8. During the meeting, the WG discussed on the exchange of information between African NCs and the need for NCs to share and exchange information, upload reports and scientific papers generated through different mechanisms which should be submitted to the Central Office for uploading on the website. The Vice Chair raised the socio-economic challenges the regions in Africa are facing and the role of exchanging ideas and learning lessons from different NCs and to showcase activities taking place within different NCs. The group also reflected on the need for NCs to sign MOUs within themselves and other organisations within and outside Africa so that it will help in achieving set objectives, to facilitate information exchange within the continent ranging from technical to scientific information. The group's attention was drawn to rising need for Young professionals and the need for capacity building within them. Reflecting on the formation of a Young Water Professional Forum in Egypt and Morocco, the efforts by a Young Professional in establishing the YPF by Somalia NC, the group discussed the need for other NCs to take up the initiative to activate such groups within their committees. The group also attempted to define those that fall within the Young Professional category so that NCs can return and sensitise those who fall within the group and agreed to maintain the ICID defined age limit of Young professionals of 40 Years.

9. The Vice-Chair capitalising on the discussion, highlighted on how other NCs in Africa have supported the activities of the WG and encouraged African National Committees to support Young Professionals within their countries and move them forward to participate in various events such as in the planned First African Young Water Professionals Workshop scheduled during the Cairo Water Week from 14-18 October 2018 in Cairo Egypt.

AFRWG Minutes Item 6: Updates on Regional Irrigation Associations- SARIA, NARAID, ARID-RAID by the Chair or Representative

10. The Vice Chair highlighted various activities taking place within the SARIA region such as a SARIA Workshop held in May 2018 in KwaZulu-Natal Province of South Africa on "Agribusiness and Value Chain: A Rapid Transformation of Agri-Food Systems" drawing participants from different countries within the SADC region with remarkable attendance, presentations from different institutions in collaboration with CSIRO in Australia and field

excursions to overlook agricultural water management activities taking place in different irrigation schemes. A steering committee meeting was also held where it was decided that from 2019, activities will be combined with NCs and the first initiative will be hosted by SANCID in 2019 and SARIA will provide support in accommodation and logistic with invitation to other NCs and call for submission of abstracts. NINCID reiterated their plans to have another meeting on return from the conference and to be followed by a workshop to fully reactivate NINCID and put all facilities in place and take over activities within the West African Region. The Vice Chair further encouraged NCs and regional blocks to work together and support agricultural water management in their regions.

AFRWG Minutes Item 7: Updates on activities of member countries - First African Young Water Professional's Forum (Af-YWPF) in October 2018 in Cairo, Egypt and Establishment of AF-IYPEF

11. The Vice Chair highlighting the support of SANCID towards sponsoring one YP to attend the training workshop to be held during the Cairo Water Week encouraged other NCs to support this forum and take advantage of the opportunity it provides. The WG activities within the last year was heavily focused in this area and the secretary presented a report on preparations so far highlighting areas where support was received in financial and human resources towards the success of the workshop. In addition, the training topics were selected before the TNA analysis to enable proposal preparation and contacting prospective trainers, but for the First African Young Professionals Workshop in Rabat Morocco, the training topics will be selected in consideration with the report of the TNA analysis. Reflecting on areas of support, the group also discussed the need for NCs to sponsor Young Professional delegates to attend the workshop rather than leave the task to other NCs and organisations. The Vice Chair further encouraged NCs to send and sponsor delegates to attend the workshops.

AFRWG Minutes Item 8: 5th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage, 16-18 March 2020, Rabat, Morocco (presentation by Dr. El-Hussein Bartali, Vice president of ANAFIDE)

12. The Vice Chair reiterated the commitment of the WG towards supporting ANAFIDE to successfully host the 5th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage. ANAFIDE re-ensured their commitment towards hosting of the 5th African Regional Conference and informed that they have fulfilled all the requirements given by the ICID Central Office and set date for Conference with copies of the First Announcement distributed to the WG. ANAFIDE reinstated their commitment to support other NCs towards attending the Conference and called on support from other NCs towards a successful event. NINCID sought confirmation on the frequency of the Regional Conference to enable her plan towards hosting in coming years. The group discussed on an interval of 2–3 years and reinstated the Central Office's commitment towards supporting initiatives by the Regional Working groups. The group also discussed challenges within the WG which include the readiness and preparedness of the different NCs to take up the responsibility of hosting the regional conference. The Vice Chair further stressed the need to go beyond verbal commitment by NCs to legal commitment with government support towards such event to avoid last minute preparation. With this, the Vice Chair commended ANAFIDE for formalising all necessary arrangement far ahead of the regional conference. The group also discussed the need to create more avenues for meetings to discuss issues that concerns the WG and the continent at large but even if financial constraints limit frequency of meeting, it is possible to take advantage of virtual platforms for meetings.

AFRWG Minutes Item 9: Progress for the proposed third node for IRPID for African region

13. With regards to the third node of for IRPID, the group discussed the need to work jointly to maximise limited resources and find common grounds with which they can relate. Joint programs were discussed within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Commission and link with capabilities of organisations such as IFAD and FAO and link the third node with European Countries. Vice Chair stressed need to take advantage of the new opportunity of the equipment in the Irrigation and Drainage Centre, proposal for new efficient drip irrigation materials to be subsidised for farmers. Discussions are open for best feasible formation and offered to host events leading to research programs that will cover the needs of Italy, Sudan, Egypt, and Morocco.

AFRWG Minutes Item 10: Any other business

14. The Vice Chair stressed on the need of information sharing on current trends and research across different African NCs and ensure information is circulated and the activities of the AFRWG is well profiled. The future plans of the Young Professionals Forum were presented to the group including declaration of establishment of the forum, election of coordinators, discussions through virtual platforms, training and capacity building as well as the plan to organise the First International Young Professionals Workshop during the 5th African Regional Conference in Cairo, Egypt. The group encourages NCs to establish Young Professional Groups and to participate in Webinars and web-based seminars.

15. SANCID briefed the group of ongoing plans to establish a group of YPs at National and state level and conduct technical studies to learn from irrigation activities within the African Region and requested support from other NCs. It was highlighted that the National Irrigation Policy, National Policy Law 2019, 3-4 technical studies in African Countries and requests the support of NCs when the need arises and in line with the ICID Vision in general.



ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORK BODIES

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021
Goal B: Be a Catalyst for Change in Policies and Practices							
B1. Strategy: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies	1.15 Position Paper on Green Revolution in Africa	Position paper	Prepare the draft paper	Finalise the paper			
GOAL C: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology							
C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.4 Activate or Establish Regional/sub-regional WGs	Regional WGs	Collaboration with AfYWP-Forum				
Goal F: Facilitate capacity development							
F2. Strategy: Support Capacity Development Activities of Member Countries	2.4 Strategy for capacity building in Africa	Strategy/ Policy	Identify new themes and revise the strategy	Update the strategy			

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)



