

**Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)**
11 October 2017, 09.00-10.30 hours (Session I)
11 October 2017, 11.00-12.30 hours (Session II)
Mexico City, Mexico

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.

Members Present: (1) VP Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair (Egypt); (2) Prof. Dr Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair (South Africa); (3) VPH Adama Sangare – representative from AMID (Mali); (4) Eng. M.S. Bala (Nigeria) represented Engr. Joe Kwanashie; and (5) Er. Harish Varma represented Secretary General Avinash Tyagi.

Permanent Observers: VPH Dr. Gerhard Backeberg – representative from SARIA (South Africa)

Observers: (i) Ashraf El-Sayed (Egypt); (ii) Dr. Bartali Elhoussine (Morocco); (iii) VPH Engr. I.K. Musa (Nigeria); (iv) Dr. A.K. Abdullah (Nigeria); (v) Engr. (Mrs.) Oluniyi Ester Oyeronke (Nigeria); (vi) Sirika Ahmad (Nigeria); (vii) Dr. Elijah A. Aderibigbe (Nigeria); (viii) Engr. Adeyinka A. Adenopo (Nigeria); (ix) Miuael I. Nwabufu (Nigeria); (x) Dr. Phokle Maponga (South Africa); (xi) Dr. Aidan Senzanje (South Africa); (xii) Mr. Ernest Malatsi (South Africa); (xiii) Simoniso Mkhali (South Africa).

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

AFRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. Chair welcomed the members and presented a report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group held at its last meeting at Chiang Mai in November 2016.

2. The WG reviewed the membership of the group which includes eight new nominations and accepted their membership to the AFRWG. However, the new nominees were not present in the meeting. Since there is already a member from Egypt, so the group recommended to consider VPH Dr. (Mrs.) Samia El-Guindy (Egypt) as an 'Observer'. Membership status is given in **Annex 7 (page 55)**. AFRWG after discussion selected Eng. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria) to act as the Secretary of the WG, subject to receiving nomination from Nigerian NC (NINCID).

AFRWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Activities in African region

3. The group reviewed and discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030. After deliberations on the action plan of the WG based on ICID Roadmap to Vision 2030 and considering the need to contribute to the ICID Vision 2030 in view of the group's mandate, the group identified the following activities for further action:

- (i) Keeping in view the importance of exchange of knowledge, experiences, technologies and information among NCs, African National Committees are encouraged to have bilateral cooperation (MoU) with other NCs.
- (ii) In order to develop capacity of professionals especially young professionals (YPs) from African region, ICID President and ICID Central Office are requested to give a priority for the capacity development programme of Young Professional from the region. Members also suggested to approach International funding organization for support for capacity development programme in the region.
- (iii) Members requested ICID to organize capacity development programme/training workshop for YPs from African region in conjunction with all future ICID events in Africa in addition to training workshop for YP being organized with ICID annual events.

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

4. The group discussed the preparation of position paper on "Green Revolution in Africa" and suggested to organize discussion among members to finalize the draft strategy on supporting development of appropriate policies.

After deliberation, it was agreed that Vice Chair Prof. Sylvester Mpandeli and Chair Dr. Wahba will coordinate this process. It was further agreed that Prof. Sylvester Mpandeli and Dr. Wahba would come up with a draft table of contents of the position paper on Green Revolution in Africa which would then be circulated to all National Committees in the region for their comments and providing material/information for preparation of position paper. The final draft paper for Green Revolution in Africa will be presented during the next meeting of the group in Canada in 2018.

AFRWG Minutes Item 4: Progress on implementation of the action program for Africa - Strategy for capacity building in Africa

5. WG Chair provided status on implementation of action program and Strategy for Capacity Building in Africa and presented a draft questionnaire for training needs assessment (TNA) in Africa. After discussion, it was agreed that members will provide their feedback in two days before it is circulated to all members of the AFRWG. The group proposed that the draft of this TNA questionnaire be translated in 4 languages viz. English, French, Portales and Arabic, which are the main languages in the African continent with the support of ICID Central Office and NCs in the region and then uploaded on the website of AFRWG-ICID for access by all African countries. It was suggested to use a tool like Monkey to analyze the results. The group also agreed to update Strategy for Capacity Development every three years based on input from the members.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5: Exchange of information, knowledge and experience

AFRWG Minutes Item 5.1: Dissemination of Working Group's activities

6. The group noted that the website of the working group <http://afrwg.icidonline.org/> was updated with new membership list, agenda, minutes etc. The WG Chair requested all members to share information, knowledge & experience and provide papers, presentations, articles, reports etc. related to scope of the WG to ICID Central Office for uploading on the WG website for wider dissemination. The Chair requested the African National Committees to update the e-mail, mobiles and any other contacts details of the member of AFRWG and the staff of the NCs so as to activate the communication among the group.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5.2: Webinar/ web based seminar

7. WG Chair informed the members about the organization of the webinars by ICID Central Office during last one year and requested all members to actively participate in the webinar and also suggest a few topics based on the mandate of the WG on which webinar can be considered. Keeping in view the importance of webinar as a very good platform of knowledge exchange, the group agreed to have webinars with focus on African region.

AFRWG Minutes Item 6: Updates on Regional Irrigation Associations

8. WG Chair, Dr Backeberg and Prof. Dr Mpandeli provided updates on the activities of the regional irrigation associations. During discussion, it was emphasized that all regional blocks such as Southern Africa Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) and North African Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage (NARAID), which is under establishment, be requested to encourage their members to become member of ICID and thus join the AFRWG. WG Chair VP Wahba requested SARIA representative to provide all the available materials related to the establishment of SARIA so that he can initiate actions on the establishment of NARAID. In this regard, the Chair stressed the importance of looking for a source of funding to take actions on this important issue.

AFRWG Minutes Item 7: Updates on activities of member countries

9. Chair and other members present provided brief updates on activities undertaken in their countries. After discussion, members agreed to have virtual meetings through web-ex platform for regular exchange of information among members where presentations can also be made by the members from different regions of the continent especially on the status of irrigation development. It was agreed to organize at least four such presentations during virtual meetings, atleast two virtual meetings are proposed to be organized during the intervening period. The group also decided to develop a training needs assessment document.

10. The group noted about the establishment of the "African Young Professional Forum (AYPF)" within the African continent. Chair Dr. Wahba informed the members that it is proposed to host the first forum meeting of AYPF in Egypt in 2018 which was agreed and supported by all members. The Chair informed that he will discuss the next steps for organizing this important event of AFRWG with the ICID Central Office and provide further updates to the AFRWG members. Chair encouraged all African NCs to establish YPF at local level in their countries and requested them to encourage YPs to join this local YPF as well as to participate in the e-discussion and webinars. Chair also requested members to nominate YPs in different work bodies of the ICID which would be a good start to disseminate

the experience and information to the new generation and to build their capacities for facing the challenges being faced by the African region. It was also agreed that all NCs must support and nominate Young Professional so that they can attend ICID events. WG discussed and suggested that all training initiatives provided by AFRWG in future should be accredited/ certified since this will attract many international experts from across the continent.

AFRWG Minutes Item 8: 5th African Regional Conference

11. The Chair provided efforts made by him on the proposed 5th African Regional Conference. During the meeting, Dr. Bartali Elhoussine (Morocco), Vice President of the Morocco National Committee (ANAFIDE) informed that the Morocco National Committee would like to host the 5th African Regional Conference during 2019. Members appreciated Morocco for hosting 5th African Regional Conference. It was agreed that the Morocco National Committee will submit formal application (FORM A) to ICID Central Office within a month.

AFRWG Minutes Item 9: Any other business

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.



