



COMMUNIQUE

The Camissa Multi-Stakeholder Statement on Achieving Access to Adequate and Equitable Sanitation and Hygiene for All and Ending Open Defecation in Africa by 2030

Thursday, February 21, 19

PREAMBLE

- i. *Emerging*, from the deliberations during the Fifth Africa Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene held in Cape Town, South Africa, February 18-22, 2019, which focused on progress towards achieving the Vision and Commitments of the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene;
- ii. *Recalling*, the aspirations and commitments of the:
 - a. 2008 Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals within the context of the Africa Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want”;
 - b. 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goal 6: to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
 - c. 2015 Ngor Declaration on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa;
- iii. *Deeply concerned*, about the sanitation crisis evidenced by the fact that access to at least basic sanitation remains below 40 percent in Africa, and whilst open defecation is steadily declining in other world regions, it is rising in Africa, from 204 million people practicing it in the year 2000 to more than 250 million people today;
- iv. *Further deeply concerned*, that this sanitation crisis causes heavy economic and social losses, equivalent to at least 4.3 percent of Africa's annual Gross Domestic Product;
- v. *Further noting with concern*, that access to sanitation is even more critical in rural Africa than was previously stated, and that open defecation is predominantly a rural issue;
- vi. *Noting*, that in Africa, less than 30 percent of the population have basic handwashing facilities with soap and water;
- vii. *Mindful*, that one in three schools in Africa have no sanitation service, and two in three schools have no basic hygiene services;
- viii. *Recognizing*, the opportunity that investments in sanitation and hygiene in Africa provide an economic return of at least three times;
- ix. *Mindful*, of the disparities that exist between and within many countries in Africa, and that it is often the poorest and most vulnerable who have the least access to sanitation and hygiene, and therefore bear the greatest burden of the health and economic impact;

- x. *Keeping in mind*, that 8 out of 10 people without access to sanitation live in rural areas and that between today and 2050 the rural population is going to double, and therefore efforts to reduce sanitation inequality between urban and rural should accelerate;
- xi. *Further keeping in mind*, that the population of African cities will triple by 2050 posing unprecedented challenges to the provision of sanitation and hygiene services;
- xii. *Recognizing*, the central role that sanitation and hygiene play in achievement of other development goals including health, nutrition, education and gender equality, and that sanitation and hygiene are drivers for economic and human development;
- xiii. *Recognizing*, governments' sustained commitment to the Ngor Vision and Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa, and realizing the need for the Heads of State and Governments to champion urgent action;
- xiv. *Acknowledging*, AMCOW's mandate in implementing AU decisions on water and sanitation through the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
- xv. *Appreciating*, the roles played by non-state actors in the sanitation and hygiene space on the Africa continent in driving towards achieving the Ngor Vision and Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene;

We, the delegates attending the Fifth Africa Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, through thematic multi-stakeholder consultations and sessions, draw attention to the following key understandings of the sanitation and hygiene sector in Africa:

1. "Leaving No One Behind" underpins the Ngor Vision and Commitments and SDG targets, and yet progress towards the Ngor Commitment to eliminate inequalities in access and use remains a critical bottleneck that threatens to undermine progress in both rural and urban communities in Africa. In order to ensure universal, safely managed sanitation and hygiene and eliminate open defecation, we need to be better at identifying and targeting the most vulnerable groups with strategies and interventions, including product and service innovations.
2. National institutional reforms that clarify roles and mandates with respect to sanitation and hygiene regulation, enforcement and service provision underpin the enabling environment necessary to achieve the Ngor commitments. The strengthened enabling environment will provide the opportunity for impact-driven public private partnership engagement and investment.
3. Evidence from the progress analysis of SDG and Ngor Vision and Commitments highlight the need to accelerate and mobilize new and innovative investments in sanitation and hygiene to close the financing gap. Sanitation presents a multi-billion dollar market opportunity that can better ensure universal and equitable sanitation for all. Local, national, regional, and international partner entities demonstrated the need to engage both public and private sector actors to create and scale-up local innovative financing solutions. Stakeholders need to unite to mobilize financial resources for provision of at least basic services to ensure that no one is left behind, in line with the Ngor commitment for governments to allocate 0.5 percent of GDP to sanitation and hygiene.

4. Progress towards the Ngor commitment to develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene human resources gap at all levels is a key challenge across many countries. Conference sessions explored the capacity development needed to expand local business, technical, management education and training and increase employment opportunities to better deliver sanitation and hygiene services for all. The entire sector must recognize the stark need for a deeper understanding of the human resources gap in Africa's sanitation and hygiene sector and know that institutions working in the sector have new opportunities to build capacity and must invest in its workforce to achieve SDG 6.2.
5. The Ngor monitoring baseline has shown progress in government-led monitoring and review systems. However, in all countries, specific country-level targets and performance indicators are missing for one or more of the Ngor commitments, most notably with regards to tracking untreated faecal waste, addressing the unserved and user satisfaction, and sector-wide budgets and expenditures. Countries must make further efforts to define and strengthen their specific and measurable targets, indicators and systems to track and measure annual performance across all of their vision, commitments and policy objectives. It is critical to ensure timely, relevant and actionable learning processes across government, private sector, civil society and research institutions to rapidly improve sanitation and hygiene results
6. Eliminating untreated waste, and encouraging its productive re-use is essential for *safely managed* sanitation targets. However, it is currently the worst performing of the Ngor commitments. As a first step African countries need to establish a national baseline, develop a tracking mechanism and set ambitious targets to address this urgent issue.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CALL TO ACTION

We, the stakeholders participating at the Fifth AfricaSan Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, remain committed to the Ngor Vision and Commitments of achieving universal access to adequate and sustainable sanitation and hygiene services and eliminate open defecation by 2030, and to the SDG targets on sanitation and hygiene, leaving no one behind.

1. We recognize the actions many countries have taken and take note of the examples of good practice shared at AfricaSan5 during the country dialogues, thematic sessions and related workshops.
2. We reaffirm the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene and further commit to redoubling our own efforts to work collaboratively in support of governments in their efforts to achieve the Ngor Vision and Commitments and SDG targets.
3. We appreciate the role AMCOW is playing in coordinating the AfricaSan Process.
4. We call on AMCOW to continue to support the Ngor Vision and Commitment monitoring process and strengthen the approach to better evaluate progress in hygiene through disaggregation of dedicated monitoring indicators, and to utilize the results to drive evidence-based decision-making at the highest levels within national governments.
5. Recognizing the sanitation crisis on the continent, we call upon the African Union to place greater emphasis on sanitation and hygiene as an important agenda of the Assembly of the

African Union Heads of State and Government. This will also serve as a review of the 2008 Sharm El Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals to ensure alignment with the aspirations of the Africa Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want”, the SDG sanitation targets, and Ngor Vision and Commitments.

6. We also call upon Heads of State of the Africa Union to declare an Africa-wide state of emergency on sanitation and hygiene and to be sanitation and hygiene champions in their respective countries.

SECTOR STAKEHOLDER STATEMENTS

As Local Administrative Authorities;

We recognize our leadership role in contributing to achieve the Ngor Vision and Commitments as well as moving our respective jurisdictions toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 6.2.

We commit to designing and implementing gender inclusive and equitable sanitation and hygiene strategies within our strategic plans. In order to build solid grounds for long-lasting cooperation between local administrative authorities, we will establish and maintain a dialogue platform between local representatives around urban and rural sanitation challenges and solutions.

Recognizing the importance of having an enabling environment at all levels of government, we commit to work on the following key action points:

1. Develop at the local level—within a multi-stakeholder platform—an overall vision aligned to the SDGs that provides the sector with a clear joint framework to operate in.
2. Promote South-South and North-South partnerships to ensure that local administrative authorities have platforms to share best practices, relevant knowledge products and tools, and thus maximize all available resources to achieve sustainable sanitation, including regional benchmarking on status of city-wide inclusive sanitation using meaningful indicators.
3. Leverage existing local authority platforms—including United Cities and Local Governments, International Association of Francophone Mayors, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives—to advocate for joint actions to boost achievements on sustainable sanitation in Africa.
4. Call upon the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Water Association, the African Development Bank and Speak Up Africa to continue supporting local administrative authorities in organizing an annual forum on water, sanitation and hygiene.
5. Work with sanitation actors to strengthen local capacity for the management of sanitation services, ensure user satisfaction of sanitation and hygiene products and services, promote demand and stimulate behavioral change across the range of stakeholders.

As Development Partners;

We discussed and shared emerging opportunities, initiatives, challenges, and best practices for improved and efficient collaboration between Development Partners, the private

sector, academia, civil society and Governments and commit to redouble our efforts to realise the Ngor Vision and Commitments within the context of the SDGs.

Development Partners also recognize the need for all stakeholders to redouble their efforts and partnerships for action and prioritize the implementation of commitments as well as policies agreed on sanitation and hygiene in Africa. There is need to prioritize and strengthen the interventions that address inequalities, as outlined in SDG 6.

The following key actions will be taken to achieve the Ngor Vision and Commitments:

1. Provide strategic support and create greater visibility to sanitation and hygiene development plans at all levels and across other related sectors.
2. As part of resource mobilization for sanitation and hygiene sector, develop co-financing arrangements and intensify efforts to replenish sector-wide financing mechanisms, including the AMCOW initiative African Water Facility and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative.
3. Partner with governments, private sector and other stakeholders to promote and scale up innovative financing arrangements and strengthen capacity for sanitation and hygiene access for the most vulnerable groups and ensure mutual accountability.
4. Increase support to monitoring and knowledge management activities at all levels for sustainable sanitation and hygiene services, projects and programs to ensure no one is left behind.
5. Work better together by rethinking rural sanitation, recognizing that the SDG demand is both huge and urgent, that progress has been too slow, and that no agency can do the work alone.
6. Respect the diversity of Africa and apply flexible context specific approaches required to scale and address sustainability and inequalities.
7. Invest in capacity building to strengthen national and local governments and sector actors' capacity for implementation, and to capture lessons learnt towards adaptive programming and optimising resource for sustainable sanitation and hygiene especially for disadvantaged populations.
8. Provide coordinated and strategic support to country actions towards achieving the Ngor Vision and Commitments.
9. Continue to provide strategic support to AMCOW in fulfilling its mandate to provide leadership and direction within the context of the African Union vision and frameworks.

As Civil Society;

We discussed that bolder action is needed to reverse the tide of inequality in sanitation and hygiene and that concerted and coordinated efforts are required to target the most marginalized and put “for all” at the forefront of the Ngor Vision and SDG commitments. We reconfirmed our role in working with government and other stakeholders to ensure that policy and practice recommendations to address challenges in meeting the Ngor Vision and Commitments are in place.

The following key actions will be taken to achieve the Ngor Vision and Commitments:

1. Catalyse action for improved delivery of sanitation and hygiene services, monitor governments' execution of the Ngor Vision and Commitments, and empower people to demand and safeguard their right to sanitation and hygiene.
2. Foster collaboration and encourage wide and multi-input approaches through meaningful engagement in multi-stakeholder coordination platforms at all levels across sectors—mainly the public finance sector—and ensure that national and local strategies emphasize equity, inclusiveness and sustainability.
3. Collaborate more effectively nationally and regionally by increasing coordination and communication among all stakeholders to actively participate in existing platforms, and continue to engage in the AfricaSan movement and the Ngor Commitment monitoring process.
4. Play an active role in expanding social accountability approaches towards holding duty bearers accountable to Ngor Vision and Commitments.
5. Ensure that information regarding sanitation and hygiene progress is publicly shared, in order to strengthen accountability in sanitation and hygiene. Provide evidence, share innovative approaches, analysis and recommendations to policymakers, advocating for the promotion of pro-poor guidelines and policies in sanitation and hygiene
6. Strengthen their own internal and external credibility and accountability to effectively address and respond to the critical challenges that confront the WASH sector.

As the Private Sector;

We discussed opportunities to engage closely with government and other stakeholders to shape and adhere to a conducive policy and regulatory environment for developing, documenting and delivering affordable, at-scale, innovative, sanitation and hygiene products and services that are targeted to the marginalized and un-served in cities, small towns and districts.

The following key actions that focus on building the foundational structures and accountability mechanisms that support (and track) the enabling environment for the private sector will be taken to achieve the Ngor Vision and Commitments:

1. Coordinate a private sector network for non-sewered sanitation in the continent which brings together existing and new alliances to focus on developing a formal framework for coordination and structured engagement;
2. Promote non-sewered sanitation as part of a portfolio of citywide inclusive sanitation options;
3. Advocate for the development and enforcement of realistic regulatory mechanisms for container-based sanitation and faecal sludge management services in conjunction in order to: a) ensure license to operate; and, b) regulate public health and environmental aspects to meet national/local standards for discharge to a water body, disposal to a landfill, or transformation into a reuse product;
4. Structure public-private partnerships and financing mechanisms for the non-sewered sanitation supply chain. Public authorities, service providers and the Private Sector should explore ways to ensure that non-sewered sanitation services are sustainably financed and that the economic value of sanitation products is recognized;

5. Undertake operational research to understand how non-sewered sanitation services can be integrated within a broader menu of options for citywide inclusive sanitation service provision so as to facilitate service integration, promote services to the poor, and encourage cost recovery.