



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Topic: Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for water and sanitation in Africa - Implications for SDG6 and SDG14.

Date and time: Thursday 17 July 2025 from 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 pm

Location: CR-C, UN HQ

Organizer: Permanent Observer Mission of Pan African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation in Africa at the United Nations

Sponsor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations.

Abstract:

The 2025 United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is centered around "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind".

With less than five years until the 2030 Development Agenda, this year's forum will conduct in-depth reviews of five specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- i. SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages
- ii. SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- iii. SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- iv. SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
- v. SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The Forum will also undertake Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) from 37 countries and will convene Expert Group Meetings to inform on thematic reviews of the SDGs under focus.

The Pan Africa's progress on these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is uneven, with significant differences among sub-regions, countries, and rural and urban areas:

- i. SDG 3: Pan Africa has made progress in reducing maternal and child mortality rates, but challenges persist in healthcare access and quality

- ii. SDG 5: Pan Africa still faces significant challenges in achieving gender equality, with many countries lagging behind in implementing policies and laws to promote women's empowerment
- iii. SDG 8: Pan Africa's economic growth has been steady, but challenges persist in creating decent jobs and promoting sustainable economic development
- iv. SDG 14: Pan Africa's progress on SDG 14 is varied, with some countries making significant strides in marine conservation and sustainable fishing practices
- v. SDG 17: Pan Africa's progress on SDG 17 is critical to achieving the SDGs, with partnerships and international cooperation playing a vital role in supporting development initiatives

According to the Sustainable Development Report 2024, some African countries, like South Africa and Senegal, have made notable progress in achieving the SDGs, with scores of 63.44 and 63.39, respectively, out of 100. However, more efforts are needed to accelerate progress and ensure that Africa achieves the global goals by the 2030 deadline. (Source 2023 Africa Sustainable Development Report www.undp.org, Sustainable Development Report 2024 - SDG Index dashboards.sdgindex.org)

The Pan African global community has made significant strides in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially by domesticating the SDGs 6, 14, 17 into its agenda and ensuring they are implemented within the challenges of water and sanitation mechanism. However, despite its progress, millions of Pan African communities lack access to clean water and sanitation, hindering health, dignity, and sustainable development including inadequate Infrastructure, rapid urbanization, financial Constraints, poor governance such as weak institutions, corruption, and lack of accountability that undermine water and sanitation projects and environmental factors such as climate change, droughts, and floods that impact water availability and quality.

The 2022 Africa Water and Sanitation Report provides a comprehensive overview of the continent's current state of water and sanitation with the aim to inspire change in the management and provision of water and sanitation services in Africa, provides valuable insights and recommendations for the future of water and sanitation on the continent and serves as a crucial resource for individuals and organizations seeking to positively impact water and sanitation in Africa.

Statistics and progress have indicated that:

- Between 2000 and 2020, 500 million people gained access to basic drinking water, but 418 million still lack basic drinking water services
- 290 million gained access to basic sanitation services
- Only 7 out of 42 countries with open defecation are on track to eliminate it by 2030
- 779 million people lack basic sanitation services, including 208 million practicing open defecation
- 839 million people lack basic hygiene services
- In urban areas 2 out of 5 people lack safely managed drinking water, 2 out of 3 lack safely managed sanitation, and half lack basic hygiene services
- In rural areas 4 out of 5 people lack safely managed drinking water, 3 out of 4 lack safely managed sanitation, and 7 out of 10 lack basic hygiene services

The Pan African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation with the mission to promote sustainable, equitable, and inclusive management of water and sanitation resources in Africa, through intergovernmental cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, to improve the lives of African people and contribute

to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through collaboration at the HLPF will promote policy coherence and coordination among African countries on water and sanitation issues. It will further share knowledge and best practices on water and sanitation management with the HLPF, to inform policy decisions and promote sustainable development in Africa.

This side event will seek to respond to the theme: “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for water and sanitation in Africa: Implication for SDG 6 and 14 with spotlight on science-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for water and sanitation in Africa with areas of focus on:

- Unlocking Africa's Potential: Sustainable Water and Sanitation for AI
- Science Based Solutions for a Pact for Sustainable Clean Water and Sanitation in Africa
- Investing in water for economic prosperity, improved public health and sanitation, and a higher quality of life for Africa
- Advancing Gender Equality

It will further make recommendations towards the 2025 HLPF on SDGs 3,5,8,14 and 17 and will draw upon evidence and experience of how Permanent Observer Mission of Pan African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation in Africa efforts can be resourceful to advance Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 14 to actualize Science Based Solutions for a Pact of Sustainable Clean Water and Sanitation in Africa.

The goal of the side event is to explore best practices for African Nations to promote clean water and sanitation.

Discussions questions:

A. Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

1. How can Africa ensure universal access to safely managed drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services?
2. What innovative technologies and solutions can improve water and sanitation infrastructure in Africa?
3. How can we address the challenges of water scarcity, pollution, and climate change in African water and sanitation systems?
4. What role can community engagement and participation play in ensuring sustainable water and sanitation services?
5. How can we strengthen institutional capacity and governance for water and sanitation in Africa?

B. Ocean and Marine Conservation (SDG 14)

1. How can Africa balance economic development with marine conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources?
2. What strategies can be employed to reduce marine pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction in African coastal ecosystems?
3. How can we promote sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices in Africa?
4. What role can science, technology, and innovation play in supporting marine conservation and sustainable development in Africa?

5. How can we strengthen international cooperation and regional frameworks for marine conservation and sustainable development in Africa?

The questions will enable the best practices needed from the side event to

1. Implementation of sustainable water resources management practices (water harvesting, storage and conservation)
2. Sanitation and Hygiene to promote improved sanitation and hygiene practices
3. Access to safe toilets and handwashing facilities

Expected Outcome:

The side event will also present initiatives that are aimed at addressing water quality and water pollution issues from impacts of climate change⁴, industrialization and agricultural activities with the goal of building climate resilience and adaptation in the water and sanitation sector.

Science-based decision making in the water and sanitation sector will be promoted to build capacity institutions, public and private practices and individuals to manage water and sanitation resources sustainably and inclusively.

Agenda:

1. **Introductions and Welcome:** Moderator (Permanent Mission of Malawi to the UN)
(5 minutes)
2. **Opening Remarks:** His Excellency Oumarou Ganou,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations *(5 minutes)*
3. **Keynote Address:** His Excellency Diamane Diome, Ambassador and Deputy
Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations – *(5 minutes)*
4. **Voluntary Review on Water and Sanitation with respect to Water Resources Management in Africa. *(10 minutes)***

SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 14, SDG 17	Implementing sustainable water resources management practices, including water harvesting, storage, and conservation, Sanitation and hygiene to promote improved sanitation and hygiene practices, access to safe toilets, and hand-washing facilities.	Ms. Anikó Raisz Minister of State for the Environment and Circular Economy, Hungary (5 minutes) H.H. Dr. Prince Mario-Max Schaumburg-Lippe, Hollywood Actor/Philanthropist. (5 minutes)
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5. Panel Contribution: Building the capacity of institutions, public and private practices, and individuals to manage water and sanitation resources sustainably and inclusively (10 minutes)

SDGs, Science Based Solutions for Water and Sanitation in Africa	Advancing sustainability, inclusive, science-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for water and sanitation in Africa: Implication for SDG 6 and SDG14	Mr. Patrick Zimpita, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Malawi (5 minutes) Dr. Jay Patel, Entrepreneur, Hospitality Developer, Board of Governors BOG's Representative, Institute of Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC), State of Florida (5 minutes)
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6. Call to Action: In furthering the theme of the 2025 HLPF to achieve the overall objective to ensure universal access to safe, affordable, and sustainable water and sanitation services in Africa, while promoting economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability in Africa. Science-based decision making in the water and sanitation sector will be promoted to build capacity institutions, public and private practices and individuals to manage water and sanitation resources sustainably and inclusively (15 minutes)

SDGs, Science Based Solutions for Water and Sanitation in Africa	Unlocking Africa's Potential: Sustainable Water and Sanitation for AI, Science Based Solutions for a Pact for Sustainable Clean Water and Sanitation in Africa, investing in water for economic prosperity, improved public health and sanitation, and a higher quality of life for Africa and Advancing Gender Equality	Gregory Walker, CEO/Founder Khepera Decentralized Bio-Regenerative Farming Cooperative, Chicago (5 minutes) Dr Devon Bannister, Pro-Chancellor, CICA International University/ Chair, Gender Priority Strategy Global Network (5 minutes) H.E Dr Nabhit Kapur, Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of Pan African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation in Africa to the United Nations (5 minutes)
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7. Questions/ Answers, Conversations, Open Contribution (20 minutes)

8. **Tenets** to 2025 High level Political Forum and closing remarks

His Excellency Oumarou Ganou, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations (**3 minutes**)

9. **Appreciation Remarks/Closing: Moderator** (**2 minutes**)

**Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations
with Permanent Observer Mission of Pan African
Intergovernmental Agency for
Water and Sanitation in Africa to the United Nations**

S I D E E V E N T

T H E M E

**Unlocking Africa's Potential: Sustainable
Water and Sanitation for All**

**Thursday 17 July 2025 | 1:00PM EST
Conference Room C,
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

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