

Press Release on behalf of the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)

Dakar, Senegal, 31 May, 2014 – For immediate release

Civil Society Lauds African ministers over Dedicated SDG Goal for water and Sanitation

The African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) have today expressed their excitement over the declaration of the African Minister's Council on Water resulting from the 5th Africa Water Week. The Dakar Declaration of the General Assembly of the African Ministers Council on Water prioritizes Water and Sanitation in its push for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

"ANEW and other civil society partners consider that the declaration meets their expectations since it took into consideration the fact that only two countries in sub-Saharan Africa are on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal target for sanitation and hence accommodated sanitation as part of a dedicated goal under the Sustainable Development Goal era in their outcome document. For us in ANEW, it means all Stakeholders in Africa have spoken with one voice for a dedicated goal for Water and Sanitation." says Chairman of Africa Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW), Mr. Leo Atakpu,

"We are equally in agreement with AMCOW that "the Water and Sanitation goal be supported by a set of targets covering the following five themes: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Water Resources Management; Water Governance; Wastewater and Water Quality Management and Water Related Disasters.

"We hereby call on other continents of the World and the United Nations General Assembly to add their voices with that of Africa Water Ministers, Civil Society and the business community to have a global voice for a dedicated Water and Sanitation Goal for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals." Mr. Leo Atakpu emphasised.

Throughout the 5th Africa Water week, ANEW and others Civil Society consistently maintained that the post-2015 framework provides a unique opportunity to address the various challenges that have left the Millennium Development Goals for Water and Sanitation unattainable in most of our countries. Lessons learned from our experiences on the implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh, EThekwini and SWA High Level Meeting commitments by our governments and other

stakeholders demonstrate that only through a goal that is focused on both water and sanitation can we see Africa flourish during the Sustainable Development Goal era.

ANEW and other CSOs gathered at Africa Water Week believe that at the heart of the post 2015 development framework there must be specific targets and indicators which ensure that the Human Right to Water and Sanitation is reached by enabling everyone to have sustainable access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

We want to see an Africa where water, health and prosperity are afforded to everyone, not just those who can afford what so many now take for granted.

We therefore call on the global community to support:

- A dedicated water and sanitation goal within the post 2015 development framework aiming for universal access to these basic services with specific targets and indicators relating to hygiene
- A development framework that is founded on strong governance principles, with clear and transparent reporting and accountability mechanisms and includes the participation of all stakeholders
- Increased harmonisation and alignment of the various water and sanitation commitments and declarations to maximise their potential to firmly place water and sanitation at the heart of post 2015 development agenda
- The water and sanitation goal to be accompanied with adequate resources to meet the targets that will be set and ensure we move from commitments to results on the ground
- A development framework that prioritises reaching the poorest and most marginalised to significantly reduce inequalities in access and accelerate progress towards universal access to water and sanitation

Information for journalists and members of the media:

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