

DECLARATION BY THE MAYORS AFTER THE FIRST AFRICAN MAYORS' FORUM FOR WATER AND SANITATION ORGANISED BY AFRICAN WATER ASSOCIATION IN BAMAKO, MALI ON 11 FEB 2018

We, Mayors of Africa, Meeting in Bamako, Mali, this 11th day of February 2018, on the occasion of the 1st Forum of Mayors of Africa on Water and Sanitation, Organized in the margins of the 19th Congress and International Exhibition of the African Water Association.

Declare the following;

Considering that water is life and sanitation is dignity and health,

Considering that access to water and sanitation is a human right recognized in the universal charter of human rights to which most of our African countries have subscribed,

Considering that sustainable access for all to water and sanitation services by 2030 is one of the key objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which our African countries are committed,

Considering that one of the strategic tools that most of our countries deploy to ensure the achievement of its objectives at the local level is the policy of decentralization of basic services including water and sanitation,

Realizing that sanitation and water security is a key factor in Africa's socio-political and economic development,

Convinced that without material, financial and human resources in sufficient quantity and quality for the implementation of our development policies; Edified that the development of North-South and South-South partnerships across different networking channels is one of the important levers for building the capacity of local actors through benchmarking and peer partnerships, we make the following Bamako **Declarations:**

1. Create the African Network of Mayors for Water and Sanitation
2. Institute the annual organization of the Forum of Mayors of Africa on Water and Sanitation
3. Promote membership of the African Water Association to the municipalities of African countries whose legislation gives municipalities water and sanitation mandate.
4. Engage stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector in Africa, including the African Council of Ministers Responsible for Water (AMCOW) and International Technical and Financial Partners for advocacy, technical support and financial support to municipalities in their desire to be key players in achieving the SDGs on water and sanitation
5. Call on African Governments to accelerate the implementation of decentralization policies for basic services, including water and sanitation, and to accompany them with significant transfers of human, material and financial resources.

We commit the following peers: The Mayors of; Bamako District (Mali), the Government Delegate to the Yaoundé Urban Community (Cameroon), the Mayor of Kampala(Uganda),the,the Mayor of Lusaka City Council (Zambia) andthe Mayor of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality (South Africa) to follow up the implementation of these **declarations**.

Let's urge the African Water Association to support us in the implementation of this network until our it becomes self-resilient.