

SCIENCE SUMMIT
“**WATER DAY**” AT
THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



water & sanitation
Department
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WATER
RESEARCH
COMMISSION



AIP

CONTINENTAL AFRICA WATER
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

ISC
Intelligence in Science



SCIENCE SUMMIT “WATER DAY” AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Lead Convenor: Water Research Commission (WRC), Department of Water and Sanitation
Co-Convenor: African Union, AIP High Level Panel on Water investments for Africa, and ISC Intelligence

*Water Research and Innovation as an enabler towards universal access to clean drinking water and dignified sanitation for all.
Mobilising Commitments for Implementing the African Union High-Level Panel Investment Action Plan towards the AU Africa Water Investment Summit and UN 2026 Water Conference in the context of G20 Presidency of Republic of South Africa.*

Date: 23 September 2024 | Time: 9:00-13:00

Venue: Science Room, 2nd floor, CURE at 345, Park Avenue, New York

Introduction

Development Agendas are designed to drive a sustainable future addressing key systematic barriers to sustainable development, such as inequality, lack of access to basic human rights, unsustainable consumption patterns, weak institutional capacity, and environmental degradation. On 8 November 2022, the African Union formally inaugurated the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, at COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. Comprising Heads of States and global leaders, the objective of the Panel is to mobilise high-level commitment and resources for the [Continental Africa Water Investment Programme \(AIP\)](#) that was adopted by the AU Heads of States and Governments in February 2022. In September 2023, AU Heads of States committed to accurate implement to of the AIP as part of the [African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change](#).

During the UN 2023 Water Conference, the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the International High-Level Panel launched a report that outlines how to mobilise an additional US\$30 billion per year by 2030 towards all water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The High-Level Panel, the AUC launched the Africa Water Investment Action Plan on 2 December 2023 during COP28 Dubai, outlining 5 priority actions for countries and their partners to mobilize the additional US\$30 billion/year needed to close Africa's water investment gap.

Convened by the Government of South Africa's Water Research Commission (WRC) under the Department of Water and Sanitation in collaboration with the African Union and AIP High-Level Panel, the session will review the progress in mobilising invests for the AU High Level Panel Investment Action Plan, outline a road map towards the AU Africa Water Investment Summit and UN 2026 Water Conference in the context of the upcoming G20 Presidency of Republic of South Africa. This will include establishment of a working group to support implementation of the roadmap.

The Session will also review previous United Nations recommendations on how to accelerate progress to achieve access and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as well as achievement of multiple other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). High-level recommendations by the HLPW included, among others: understanding, valuing, and managing water to provide a foundation for broader integrated water management; an integrated approach at local, country, and regional levels, including building partnerships and international collaboration at the global level. Five accelerators were identified namely, Governance, Financing, Data and information, Capacity development and innovation.

According to UN World Water Development Report 2024, None of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) six targets appear to be on track, and so is the continental and regional development agendas and commitments. As of 2022, 2.2 billion people were without access to safely managed drinking water while the situation with respect to safely managed sanitation remains dire, with 3.5 billion people lacking access to such services. Cities and municipalities have been unable to keep up with the accelerating growth of their urban populations. Regions and countries can achieve development agendas through improved policies, inclusiveness, action oriented and strategic partnerships.

This water day session is therefore organised to:

- To facilitate joint learning from global experiences and good practices with regards to the implementation of development agendas.
- Outline a road map towards the AU Africa Water Investment Summit and UN 2026 Water Conference in the context of the upcoming G20 Presidency of Republic of South Africa.
- Share experiences of how transformative Water RDI programmes are designed, resourced, and implemented to support the transition to a sustainable future.
- Explore how to effectively resource and finance the African and global water system of innovation.
- Highlight successful cases studies on how water research and innovation has contributed to strengthening service delivery related to basic human rights.
- Engage African leaders on their role and contribution in setting, resourcing, and implementing future development agendas.

Target audience: policy makers, water research and infrastructure funders and investors, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, implementation partners, and institutions implementing research and capacity building programmes.

Draft Programme “Water Day at the Science Summit”

Towards the AU Africa Water Investment Summit and UN 2026 Water Conference in the context of G20 Presidency of Republic of South Africa

Programme Director: Dr Mamohlodig Tlhagale, Head of Partnerships and Business Development, Water Research Commission, South Africa

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
08:30-09:00	Arrival and tea	
09:00-09:30	Opening and Welcome Remarks	Dr Mamohlodig Tlhagale, WRC Mr Declan Kirrane, ISC Intelligence
09:30-09:40	Opening Address	Minister or DG Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), South Africa
09:40-10:00	<p>Opening Plenary: Setting the scene and taking stock of lessons learned in mobilisation of water investments, the implementation of global development agendas, and the levers for change into the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote 1: Driving a more rapid developmental transition in Africa: What have we learned about the levers for change? • Keynote 2: A global water RDI Agenda for the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Thomas Kariuki, CEO Science for Africa Foundation • Dr Jennifer Molwantwa, CEO, Water Research Commission

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
10:00-10:40	<p>Facilitated Panel: Mobilising Commitments towards the AU Africa Water Investment Summit and UN 2026 Water Conference in the context of G20 Presidency of Republic of South Africa.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mr Harsen Nyambe, Director of Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union.</i></p> <p><i>Co-Facilitator: Mr Alex Simalabwi, CEO of the AIP High Level Panel Secretariat and Executive Secretary, GWPSA-Africa</i></p>	<p>Towards the AU Africa Water Investment Summit and UN 2026 Water Conference in the context of G20 Presidency of Republic of South Africa</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Alternate Co-Chair, AU–AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa, Board Chair-GWPSA-Africa H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture African Union Commission. Hon. Penny Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Republic of South Africa Ms. Shaima Gargash, Special Climate Envoy, Director of Energy & Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Dr. Mohamed Diatta, Sherpa to the President of Senegal on High Level Panel, Co-Host of the UN 2026 Water Conference Henk Ovink, Executive Director, Global Commission on Economic of Water
10:40 -11:00	Q&A and input from participants and Summary by AUC Harsen Nyambe, AUC.	
11:00 -11:40	<p>Transformative programming for water and sanitation service delivery</p> <p>Facilitated Panel Conversation: Transformative RDI programming for enhanced impact in the water sector – building a capable WASH sector workforce</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Dr Rethabile Melamu, WRC Board Chairperson</i></p>	<p>Case study presentations (7 min each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Virginia Molose - Acting Head of Stakeholder Engagement. South African Case studies (MUS, SASTEP and NFEPA) <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema, WaterNet Executive Director Prof Pascaline Dupas, Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University and Co-Scientific Director of J-PAL Africa Ms Virginia Molose, WRC, Acting Head of Stakeholder Engagement Ms Leanne Burney, Programme Officer at UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit
11:40-11:50	Q&A and engagement with participants	
11:50-12:30	<p>Future sustainable and demand driven water sector funding and financing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Dominic O'Neill, Executive Director of the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund Mr Michael John Webster, Program Manager of the 2030 Water Resources Group, World Bank's Global Water Practice
12:30-12:40	Q&A and engagement with participants	
12:40-12:45	Call for partnership and African leadership and closing remarks	WRC CEO, SA
12:45-12:55	Signing of a new partnership MoU (WRC and SHF) TBC	WRC CEO and SHF Executive Director
12:55-13:00	Closing remarks	Dr Rethabile Melamu, WRC Board Chairperson
13:00	Lunch and networking	