

The Ethiopian Water and Energy Week (EWEW)

Transformation of Water and Energy Sectors for Ethiopia's New Horizon of Hope

17 – 20 June 2019

Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa

Call for action

The first Ethiopian Water and Energy Week (EWEW) has brought together policy makers, water professionals, researchers, civil society, Development Partners, the Private Sector in science-policy-practice dialogue forum focusing on WASH, Irrigation, Energy and Basin Development. The forum, consisting of plenary and parallel sessions, exhibitions, showcases and networking opportunities, provided up-to-date information, undertaking comparative analyses and discussing success stories and lessons learned. Participants deliberated in parallel and plenary sessions on critical issues that impinge on the management and development of Ethiopia's water resources to avail the requisite energy, food and water supply and sanitation needed by our growing cities and population.

Benefiting from the intensive dialogue and deliberations during the Week:

Realizing the crucial role of water and energy for Ethiopia's economic development and growth,

Reaffirming Ethiopia's commitments towards the SDGs,

We, the participants of the first Ethiopian Water and Energy Week, call for the following priority actions:

Overall:

- 1) Put in place a nexus-based strategy that best harnesses the synergy among water – food – energy systems;
- 2) Improve cross-sectoral coordination among relevant government agencies, ministries (e.g. MoWIE, MoA, MoH), development partners, the private sector and NGOs;
- 3) Diversify and increase financing sources for the WASH, energy, irrigation and basin development, including leveraging global climate finances.
- 4) Rehabilitate Ethiopia's degraded watersheds through sustainable greening campaigns, e.g. the 4 Billion Trees program;
- 5) Enhance operation and maintenance to ensure sustainability and reliability of services from WASH, energy and irrigation systems;

- 6) Enhance governance and accountability in all aspects of planning, development and management;
- 7) Ensure participation of relevant stakeholders including women and the youth
- 8) Create enabling environment for the participation of the private sector through appropriate legislations, regulations and policies;
- 9) Establish and maintain information systems adopting modern data and information acquisition systems to support knowledge based management.
- 10) Encourage and support the establishment of Ethiopian water resources professional association
- 11) Improve knowledge and decision support capabilities for better water resources development planning and management;
- 12) Mainstream social and environmental considerations in the planning, design, and implementation of all water and energy related projects;
- 13) Mainstream climate change adaptation in the planning, design, implementation and management of water – food – energy systems, including resilience to extreme events.

With respect to WASH

- 1) Provide leadership at highest level to realize ODF 2024 thru instituting behavioral change, on the part of the public, and cross sectoral coordination and integration among the relevant ministries.
- 2) To meet SDG target of providing safe water supply at premise should lead all our development plans (GTP3 and 4) with increased financing
- 3) Diversify and increase financing to meet SDG 6.1 targets, including IPPs and PPPs in the WASH sector.
- 4) Establish and strengthen applied research centers linking them with universities and technology institutes.
- 5) Create enabling environment to enhance innovation and private sector involvement in the wash sector

With respect to Energy:

- 1) Implement off-grid and on-grid electrification systems in order to achieve equitable and universal electrification by 2025, including rural communities.
- 2) Reduce over reliance on hydropower and diversify sources of energy in order to cope with impacts of climate change better.
- 3) Pursue aggressively the development of renewable energy resources (wind, solar, geothermal) to achieve optimal energy mix.
- 4) Pursue the on-going renewable IPP (solar and wind) project development .

With respect to Irrigation

- 1) Promote integrated watershed management involving relevant stakeholders;
- 2) Create the necessary supporting mechanisms to encourage participation of the youth in the irrigation sectors, such the Educated Youth Irrigation Program (EYIP);
- 3) Develop and sustain the requisite capacity for sustainable irrigation development, including operation and maintenance;
- 4) Empower women to participate in and benefit from irrigation development
- 5) Develop standards and guidelines to improve performances of irrigation sector
- 6) Support the establishment and strengthening of Water User Associations (WUA) through enabling institutional setups.
- 7) Establish appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and improving irrigation performance;

With respect to Basin Development

- 1) Strengthen integrated river basin development approach that enables improved coordination across administrative regions within one basin and across river basins;
- 2) Strengthen basin development authorities institutionally, technically and resource-wise
- 3) Invest in surface water storage structures to complement with groundwater resources for increased resilience of water supply systems to impacts of climate change;
- 4) Strengthen cooperation with riparian countries on transboundary rivers ensuring Ethiopia's rights to equitable and reasonable utilization;