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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – SECOND SESSION – 2023

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON BLUE ECONOMY, WATER AND  
IRRIGATION

REPORT ON THE 2023 UN WATER CONFERENCE HELD FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH 2023 IN NEW YORK, USA

CLERK'S CHAMBERS

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

NAIROBI

APRIL, 2023

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	
DATE: 27 APR 2023 THURSDAY	
TABLED BY:	CHAIRPERSON BLUE ECONOMY, WATER AND IRRIGATION (Hon. Bowen Zingogo)
CLERK AT THE TABLE:	Joyce Kemerele

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## Abbreviations

1. UN – United Nations
2. DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction
3. WASH - Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
4. IWMI - International Water Management Institute
5. APHRC - Africa Population and Health Research Center
6. IFC - International Finance Corporation
7. WASREB - Water and Sanitation Regulatory Board
8. ESAWAS - East and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation Regulatory Association
9. JCC - Joint Commission for Cooperation
10. IWMI - International Water Management Institute

## **CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD**

The UN 2023 Water Conference, formally known as the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028) is the second of its kind and was held in New York, co-hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of Netherlands from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

UN-Water conference deliberations ranged from the urgency of the water crisis, including its role in forced migration, climate change and conflicts to stressing its critical link to good health, poverty reduction and food security. Attention was also given to solutions, with deliberations explaining the need for better data collection, enhanced governance systems, capacity development opportunities and funding gaps in the water sector. With financing needs of between US\$182 to more than US\$600 billion annually, the importance of unlocking financing and innovative funding schemes, calling for innovations and investments at scale in the water economy was also underscored.

The Committee sincerely thanks the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the immense and timely technical and logistical support accorded to it in the execution of its mandate. I also thank all the Members of the Committee for their commitment and hard work.

The Committee is also grateful to the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation for the support and assistance accorded to the delegation. Their guidance and dedication in advancement of the Committee work has been extraordinary.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation and pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 199 (6) it is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to this House the Committee's report on participation at the 2023 Water Conference in New York, USA.

**Hon. Bowen David Kangogo, M.P.**  
**Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation**

## 1.0 PREFACE

### 1.1 Establishment of the Committee

1. The Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation is one of the twenty Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under **Standing Order 216** whose mandate pursuant to the **Standing Order 216 (5)** are as follows:
  - i. *To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;*
  - ii. *To study the programme and policy objectives of ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;*
  - iii. *On a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate;*
  - iv. *To study and review all legislation referred to it;*
  - v. *To study, assess and analyze the relative success of the ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;*
  - vi. *To investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;*
  - vii. *To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204 (Committee on Appointments);*
  - viii. *To examine treaties, agreements and conventions;*
  - ix. *To make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation;*
  - x. *To consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and*
  - xi. *To examine any questions raised by Members on a matter within its mandate.*

### 1.2 Committee Subjects

2. In accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders, the Committee is mandated to consider matters of: use and regulation of water resources, irrigation, fisheries development, including promotion of aquaculture, fish farming, marine fisheries, the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and improved livelihoods, except seaports and marine transport.
3. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following government ministries and departments and agencies (MDAs), namely:
  - i. The State Department for Water and Sanitation
  - ii. The State Department for Irrigation
  - iii. The State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries

### 1.3 Committee Membership

4. The Departmental Committee on Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation was constituted by the House on 27th October, 2022 and comprises of the following Members:

#### Chairperson

Hon. Bowen David Kangogo, MP - **Chairperson**  
Marakwet East Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

#### Vice- Chairperson

Hon. Kemero Maisori Marwa, MP - **Vice- Chairperson**  
Kuria East Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Stanley Muiruri Muthama, MP  
Lamu West Constituency  
**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Tandaza Kassim Sawa, MP  
Matuga Constituency  
**Amani National Congress**

Hon. Chepkwony Charity Kathambi, MP  
Njoro Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. William Kamket, MP  
Tiaty Constituency  
**KANU**

Hon. Buyu Rozaah Akinyi, MP  
Kisumu West Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Party**

Hon. Eng. Paul Nzengu, MP  
Mwingi North Constituency  
**Wiper Democratic Party**

Hon. Were Charles Ong'ondo, MP  
Kasipul Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Party**

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni Ikiara, MP  
Nominated  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Nebart Bernard Muriuki, MP  
Mbeere South Constituency  
**Independent Member**

Hon. Mnyazi Amina Laura, MP  
Malindi Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Movement**

Hon. Adow Mohamed Aden, MP  
Wajir South Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Party**

Hon. Eric Mwangi Kahugu, MP  
Mathira Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. George Gachagua, MP  
Ndaragwa Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

#### 1.4 Committee Secretariat

5. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

Mr. Nicodemus K. Maluki  
**Clerk Assistant II/Head of Secretariat**

Ms. Ivy Kageha  
**Clerk Assistant III**

Dr. Benjamin Ngimor  
**Senior Fiscal Analyst**

Ms. Lynette A. Otieno  
**Senior Legal Counsel**

Ms. Veron D. Aluoch  
**Research Officer III**

Mr. Wilson Angatangoria  
**Sergeant At Arms**

Mr. Bernard Omondi  
**Senior Sergeant-At-Arms**

Ms. Lilian Mburugu  
**Media Relations Officer**

Mr. Cosmas Akhoye  
**Audio Officer**

## 1.0 Introduction

6. The first international meeting on ensuring adequate water supply for the future, the United Nations Water Conference was held in 1977. Its main purpose was to avoid a water crisis at the end of the century. The First Action Plan was created recognizing that “all peoples, whatever their stage of development and social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs.”
7. The UN 2023 Water Conference, formally known as the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028) is the second of its kind and was held in New York, co-hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of Netherlands from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023
8. The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation sent a delegation to the Conference led by the Cabinet Secretary, Hon Alice Wahome. The delegation comprised the following:

<b>DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON BLUE ECONOMY, WATER AND IRRIGATION</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Hon. Bowen David Kangogo, MP	Chairperson
2.	Hon. Eng. Nzengu Paul Musyimi, MP	Member
3.	Hon. Dorothy Muthoni Ikiara, MP	Member
4.	Hon. Muriuki Muthama Stanley, MP	Member
5.	Mr. Peter K. Chemweno	Director, Departmental Committees
6.	Mr. Nicodemus Maluki	Committee Clerk

<b>MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION AND IRRIGATION</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Hon. Alice Wahome	Cabinet Secretary
2.	Mr. Gitonga Mugambi	PS, State Department for Irrigation
3.	Mr. Idris Salim Dakota	PS, State Department of ASALS
4.	Mr. SAO Alima	Water Secretary
5.	Mr. Aboud Moeva	Irrigation Secretary
6.	Mr. D. T. Mogusu	Director National Water Resources
7.	Mr. Daniel Kihara	Chief Financial Officer
8.	Ms. Mary Wamaitha	Director Water Sewerage and Sanitation Development
9.	Mr. Ian Githae	Director Land Reclamation
10.	Ms. Wambui Ng'ayu	Events Coordinator
11.	Mr. Kihara Ndung'u	Logistics Coordinator
12.	Mr. Geoffrey Kipngeno Ronoh	Side Events Coordinator
13.	Mr. Chepyegon Chemeril	Engineer



14.	Mr. Crispus Alex	Communications Officer
15.	Ms. Catherine Wandia	Hydrologist
16.	Mr. Carey Owiti	Hydrologist
17.	Mr. Mitchel Oketch	Senior Water Research Officer
18.	Mr. Chiti Chombo	Engineer

<b>WATER SECTOR INSTITUTIONS</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Mohammed Shurie	CEO, Water Resources Authority
2.	Agnes Mbugua	CEO, Regional Centre
3.	Michael Thuita	CEO, AWWDA
4.	Florence Ndai	Principal Resource Mobilization Officer
5.	Vincent Kabuti	Deputy General Manager
6.	Nyambura Kibaara	Communications Officer, AWWDA

<b>PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Ngankam Jules	Group CEO, Africa Guarantee Fund
2.	George Odhiambo	MD, National Bank of Kenya
3.	Caroline Jepngetich Rutto	Director, Retail Division, National Bank of Kenya
4.	Loise Muthoni Mwangi	Head of Branches, Sidian Bank
5.	Nishdeep Kaur Tanvir	Group Director, Structured Finance, Africa Guarantee Fund
6.	Joshua Kibet Kiprop	Aqua for all
7.	Martin Njeru	AMREF

## 2.0 Conference objectives

9. The three-day Water Conference was meant to be both a wake-up call and a call to action. The gap between water supply and demand is expected to reach 40% in just eight years. It is a bottom-up approach, which means that these commitments must be bold, targeted, and measurable to make a real difference. Progress on pledges and targets will then be monitored over time, with the hope of significantly reducing the supply-demand gap by 2030.
10. Water scarcity is being driven by climate change which is causing water scarcity. Warm temperatures lead to more evaporation and less rainfall. Poor infrastructure and a lack of proper water management lead to “economic water scarcity.” Compounding both issues is the significant population growth, placing huge pressure on already strained resources.
11. The Conference format was agreed upon under Resolutions 73/226 and 75/212 which structured it to include plenary meetings (6) and interactive dialogues (5). In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/212, plenary meetings heard statements by Member States and the European Union, as well as intergovernmental organizations.
12. The Conference adopted the following five interactive dialogues;
  - i. Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation;
  - ii. Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development;
  - iii. Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR);
  - iv. Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda; and
  - v. Water Action Decade: Accelerating the Implementation of the Objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan.
13. The themes for the interactive dialogues were based on the five accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, launched by UN-Water in 2020;
  - i. Financing;
  - ii. Data and Information;
  - iii. Capacity Development;
  - iv. Innovation; and
  - v. Governance
14. The Ministry, in participating in the 2023 UN Water Conference, set for itself the following key objectives;
  - i. Represent the Country, as the line/ lead Ministry in the Conference.
  - ii. Resource mobilization

### 3.0 Key Conference Outcomes

15. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being and a declared human right. However, some 2 billion people around the world still lack access to safe drinking water, and 40% of the world's population is affected by water scarcity. Humanity's demand for water keeps growing, with pressure on fresh water projected to increase by more than 40% by 2050.
16. Responding to this, the Water Action Agenda, the key outcome of the Conference, captured over 700 commitments aimed at driving transformation from a global water crisis to a water-secure world. The agenda represents the global community's bold resolve to address the water challenges through a more coordinated and results-driven approach.
17. A number of other follow-up steps are also under consideration, including the appointment of a Special Envoy on Water. The conference outcomes will receive concrete follow-up in key upcoming Summits, including The SDG Summit during the UN General Assembly in September 2023; Summit of the Future in 2024; The World Social Summit in 2025 through the annual High-level political forum on sustainable development; the Conference of Parties; and other United Nations processes, as well as the Dushanbe Water Process.
18. UN-Water conference deliberations ranged from the urgency of the water crisis, including its role in forced migration, climate change and conflicts, to stressing its critical link to good health, poverty reduction and food security. Attention was also given to solutions, with deliberations spanning the need for better data collection, enhanced governance systems, capacity development opportunities and funding gaps in the water sector. With financing needs of between US\$182 to more than US\$600 billion annually, the importance of unlocking financing and innovative funding schemes, calling for innovations and investments at scale in the water economy was also underscored.
19. The Water Action Agenda included several game-changing actions;
  - i. Reinforcing water's place as a fundamental human right and reducing the pressures on the hydrological system;
  - ii. Developing new alternative food systems to reduce the unsustainable use of water in food production and agriculture;
  - iii. The integration of water and climate policy at national and global levels;
  - iv. The creation of a Global Water Information System;
  - v. The establishment of inclusive, comprehensive transboundary agreements;
  - vi. Advocating for integrating the approach on water, ecosystems and climate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen communities;
  - vii. Designing and implementing a new global water information system to guide plans and priorities by 2030;
  - viii. Ensuring every person in the world is protected with early warning systems against natural disasters by 2027; and
  - ix. The continued press for climate justice and global action to limit global warming to a 1.5-degree rise.

20. Summarily, we can live up to the promise of a sustainable water future, set up by the Conference, by implementing;
- i. Integrated water and climate policy at national and global levels by 2030.
  - ii. The Global Water Information System to support water, climate and land management for socioeconomic resilience, ecological sustainability and social inclusion.
  - iii. Early Warnings for All to help people safeguard their lives and property.
  - iv. Overcoming the deadly dependence on the ever-rising water consumption for providing nutrition and power.
  - v. Re-defining financial principles to make our economies water, climate, land, and ecosystem smart and people-centric. In other words, we should develop the new economics of water for a sustainable world.
  - vi. The Global Water Education Network to build the capacity of institutions and people, especially to support developing countries.
  - vii. Inclusive, comprehensive transboundary agreements based on the UNECE Water Convention to support countries of all continents.
  - viii. Institutional architecture for the support of transformation – a board of UN Agencies and member states, under the secretary General’s leadership, managed by a UN Special Envoy for water, supported by the reformed UN-Water and an independent scientific and practice panel.
  - ix. The necessity for an intergovernmental meeting in 2026 to evaluate the implementation of the above undertakings and the national and stakeholders’ commitments
  - x. Incentivizing joint action through multi-stakeholder coalitions, including local communities, indigenous people, civil society organizations, governments at the local and national levels, and international organizations.
  - xi. Convening more regular global meetings to sustain the momentum of water-related actions and ensure accountability for progress, including a third UN Water conference before 2028. To bring coherence to these various institutional initiatives and mechanisms, the conference called on the UN Secretary-General to formulate a plan of action on water and ensure the integration of water into other intergovernmental processes, particularly related to climate, biodiversity, food security, and energy. Water must retain its centrality in the outcomes of the SDG summit and help shape a new and more effective multilateralism as will be discussed at the summit of the future. The conference concluded that the water crisis is a solvable problem, and we can turn it into a global opportunity.

#### **4.0 Summary of Outcomes of Interactive Dialogues**

##### **a. Interactive Dialogue 1 on Water for Health**

21. The dialogue addressed access to water and sanitation, focusing on the Sector. Key highlights from the dialogue included;
- i. Political leadership and government systems were identified as essential for improving the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector.
  - ii. Collaboration with other sectors, particularly health and education, was emphasized to ensure that solutions safeguard the natural environment.

- iii. The need for increased funding, including climate finance, was highlighted, along with investment in people and institutions to develop a capable and motivated WASH sector workforce.
- iv. Data and evidence were deemed critical for good decision-making and accountability.
- v. Calls for innovation and experimentation were made, and existing initiatives such as Sanitation and Water for All's unique accountability platform and the Fairwater Footprints Initiative were recognized as successful models to build upon.
- vi. Emerging coalitions for systems strengthening and learning involving governments and development partners were also identified as key drivers of progress.
- vii. Greater accountability and ambition are necessary to deliver a step change in performance.

**b. Interactive Dialogue 2 on Water for Sustainable Development**

22. The importance of valuing water and the water-energy-food nexus for sustainable economic and urban development was highlighted. The interactive dialogue showed a sense of urgency to manage water sustainably and live in harmony with nature through a more circular, regenerative, and resource-efficient economic model. Five key objectives for governments and society to support were identified;

- i. Strengthening integrated water resources management to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.
- ii. Making resource efficiency and reuse the norm for all economic sectors, including improving agricultural water use efficiency, reducing pollution sources, and minimizing water leakage and loss in urban areas.
- iii. Ensuring all sectoral investment strategies become water-smart by mobilizing investments in water-smart technology and resilient infrastructures, backed by sustainable finance policies, taxonomies, and disclosure rules, and redirecting harmful subsidies.
- iv. Protecting and restoring the healthy life of ecosystems, including rivers, wetlands, and lakes, which are essential for health, successful mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, agriculture, safe drinking water, and reducing disaster risks.
- v. Addressing increasing water needs for sustainable urban development by implementing integrated urban and territorial planning, promoting nature-based solutions such as green-blue infrastructures, and smart city technologies.

**c. Interactive Dialogue 3 on Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR**

23. The dialogue addressed water-related climate change, challenges and various potential countermeasures. Key highlights from the dialogue included;

- i. The global water scarcity challenge has been compounded by climate change, leading to negative consequences on vital human needs and every other dimension of human development.
- ii. Building climate-resilient water management requires overcoming internal fragmentation and external isolation of current water management systems by interlinking them.
- iii. The lack of robust information is a key challenge to climate action and resilience, thus having a global Water information system is a prerequisite for climate action and disaster risk reduction.
- iv. Financing for climate-resilient water management and water-related climate action is still a major challenge.
- v. COP27 achieved a breakthrough by agreeing to provide loss and damage funding to the most vulnerable countries impacted by the effects of climate change.
- vi. Follow-up mechanisms for the actions and commitments resulting from the conference are important to achieve concrete advances in the field of water and climate.
- vii. Various commitments and recommendations were proposed, such as promoting environmental economic accounting, joining the world of drought resilience network, and creating thematic platforms like those on the source to sea and water culture.
- viii. The action work for flow consists of critical steps with risk awareness, identification, designing countermeasures, and financing, with multi-stakeholder participation and on-site implementation proposed to realize true action-oriented solutions.
- ix. Science and technology are essential for water transformation and the key to breakthrough is among other things, the open science policy facilitation between science and decision-making and end-to-end approach and water cycle integration.

#### **d. Interactive Dialogue 4 on Water for Cooperation**

24. The Key Outcomes included the following: -

- i. The need for transboundary cooperation for water and only 32 countries have operational data covering 90% or more of their transboundary catchment area.
- ii. International and transboundary water cooperation is valuable for peace, security, sustainable development, climate action, and regional integration.
- iii. The major strain on water systems is due to demographics and ecosystem degradation.
- iv. Legal and institutional measures should be established concerning shared resources to prevent conflict.
- v. Strengthening river basin, lake, and aquifer organizations is important.
- vi. Scientific cooperation should be stepped up and linkages between water and other sectors should be established based on integrated water resources management.

vii. Two commitments were announced, namely the Coalition for Cooperation for Transboundary Waters and the representation of young people in decision-making bodies by 2030.

**e. Interactive Dialogue 5 on Water Action Decade on accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade including through the UN Secretary-General's action plan**

25. The key outcomes included the following: -

- i. The first key point is that the water crisis we face is both local and global. While it manifests locally and most severely in water stress regions, it cannot be solved without addressing the problems globally. The global water cycle must be treated as a global common good that needs to be protected collectively and in the interests of all. The signs and evidence indicate that the global water cycle is out of balance for the first time in human history, and the water crisis is now interacting with the climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity in ways that exacerbate all three. Water is critical not only to achieving SDG 6 but also to achieving all SDGs, most critically food security, gender equality, ending poverty and inequality, and achieving peace within and across boundaries.
- ii. The second key conclusion was that we must value water. It is a precondition for achieving sustainable and equitable water, pricing water closer to its true value is critical. Pricing is essential not only to make radical improvements in water use efficiency but also to achieving equity because pricing, together with appropriate targeted subsidies for the poor and vulnerable communities, is necessary for equity and inclusion.
- iii. Regarding institutional processes and mechanisms, the dialogue endorsed the following recommendations for mechanisms within the UN to strengthen water governance:
  - The appointment of a UN Special Envoy for water to ensure that water remains high on the political agenda within and outside the UN;
  - The empowering of UN-Water and the strengthening of coordination within the UN system;
  - The convening of a time-bound task force of member states to work with and support the UN special envoy, and;
  - The establishment of a mechanism to collect systematic data on water in all critical dimensions to enable the monitoring and analysis of data that supports policymaking locally, nationally, and globally.
- iv. The interactive dialogue also called for the broader evolution of multilateral financial institutions, especially the World Bank and the MDBs, to mobilize capital for water action and better support member states in achieving water resilience.

## **5.0 Summary of Mission Outcome**

### **1. Representing Kenya**

26. The team was able to represent Kenya at the Conference. This was done through the Kenyan Statement that was read by the Cabinet Secretary during the Plenary and a longer version submitted.
27. Kenya's statement at the UN-Water conference highlighted progress in achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation, as well as the challenges faced in achieving SDG 6. Kenya also emphasized the importance of engaging the private sector to bridge the financing gap in achieving SDG 6.
28. In terms of progress, Kenya has developed regulations to ensure a water-smart society, developed strategies to give access to safe water to 4.5 million households in the next five years, and has achieved an impressive 70% proportion of access to water in urban areas and 32% of safely managed sanitation.
29. However, Kenya also faces several challenges in the full implementation of SDG 6, including the effects of climate change, a huge sector financing gap, low uptake of technology, diminishing water resources, and encroachment and degradation of water catchment areas.
30. To achieve SDG 6, Kenya emphasized the need for increasing annual investment to USD 1.3 billion against the current allocation of USD 600 million. Kenya also highlighted the importance of engaging the private sector through public-private partnerships and other innovative financing models to bridge the financing gap. Kenya is committed to creating an enabling environment for water sector investments and implementing policies and regulations that support private sector investment and facilitate partnerships between public and private entities to ensure effective and efficient delivery of water services, sanitation, and food security.
31. In terms of possible areas of cooperation, Kenya welcomes deeper cooperation with the United Nations, the private sector, and all other relevant stakeholders to achieve SDG 6. Kenya's emphasis on public-private partnerships and innovative financing models presents opportunities for collaboration with private sector entities. Additionally, Kenya's focus on the effects of climate change and diminishing water resources presents opportunities for collaboration with countries and organizations that have expertise in these areas.
32. This was followed by an intervention during the 5<sup>th</sup> Interactive Dialogue in which the importance of increasing financing in the sector was made. Kenya also supported the need to institutionalize Water in the UN body and the appointment of a Special Envoy to further this agenda.

### **2. Resource Mobilisation**

33. The team took the quest for mobilization of resources through;



- engagement in various bilateral talks with current and potential partners;
- through the Kenya-led Side Event, which sought to bring in private equity players to discuss the opportunities in financing in the sector.

### 3. Kenya-led Side Event

34. This event was held within the UN Conference Headquarters, at the ECOSOC Chamber on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. It brought together players from various equity funds and other agencies to see how better the sector could be funded in the Country. In her opening remarks, the Cabinet Secretary emphasized the good legislative frameworks and political goodwill present in the Country to ensure investor confidence is high.
35. The panelists, on the other hand, gave as part of their solution to funding ways of **De-Risking** such that commercial loans can be offered within the water sector at affordable rates, at a lower risk to the banks offering the loans. Water Services Providers, can, therefore, access loans to enable them to expand their supply and sanitation, thereby increasing the number of households that receive metered water. Through the African Guarantee Fund, Aqua for All has been working with the National Bank of Kenya in ensuring commercial loan facilities are affordable to WSPs through the **MajiKonnnect Loan Facility**.
36. The meeting recommended a team within the Ministry that would be its face when engaging with the Private Sector. A team that would consolidate all the investments, either directly or indirectly, done in the Water and Sanitation Sector, while acting as the entry point for investors seeking to invest.
37. Further engagements with the various investment firms represented yielded the following:
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI) gave possible areas of engagement in the development of research programmes on irrigation services including water productivity, water accounting, water resources development and early warning systems. Follow-up should be made with Dr Mark Smith, the Director General.
  - Impact Investment Firms (Oikocredit, Actium, the Clinton Foundation and the US International Development Finance Cooperation) agreed on exploring opportunities for blended financing in the water and irrigation sector, specifically for Farmer-Led Irrigation through water-related funds.

### 4. Bilateral Meetings

#### a) Japan

38. The Cabinet Secretary held bilateral talks with Ms. **Yoko Kamiwaka**, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan. During the talks, the following key issues came out:
- Continued support to Ahero Irrigation Scheme;

- Fastrack approval of submitted projects in Nanyuki, Rumuruti and Laikipia; and
  - Continued capacity building through training.
- She emphasized the need to work closely with the Japanese Ambassador in Kenya.

**b) Cuba**

39. The Cabinet Secretary held bilateral talks with **H.E. Mr. Antonio Rodriguez**, President of the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources of Cuba. During the talks, her delegation found out that out of 242 dams in Cuba, only 13 were built during the revolution. These dams were able to transfer water from the East of the Country to the West (Inter-Basin Transfer). The Country also has advanced hydrological plans that ensure these dams harvest and store water to ensure optimal supply. They are highly specialized in Waste Management. It was also noted that Cuba has already entered into agreements with Angola, Algeria and South Africa in the area of water.
40. Cuba is willing to enter into a Memorandum of Collaboration which could see cooperation with Kenya in:
  - Capacity building and research
  - Hydrological planning
  - Economic Strategies in the water sector
41. Cuba showed a willingness to enter into Agency Agreements with Government Agencies charged with:
  - Water and Sanitation in the fields of decentralized sanitation facilities, adoption of new technologies in water treatment, smaller sanitation interventions and the use of small plants to treat wastewater.
  - Groundwater Management
42. The Cabinet Secretary was invited to the Cuban Water Conference, awaiting an official invite. The next steps included setting up a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ines Maria to firm up further discussions.

**c) Poland**

43. The Cabinet Secretary held bilateral talks with **Mr. Marek Grobarczyk**, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Infrastructure in the Republic of Poland. Poland was seeking collaboration and partnership in the areas of Water Resources Management and Maritime Education.
44. Poland is characterized by low water resources with the outflow from rivers being among the lowest in Europe. It is due to this scarcity that 70% of their drinking water is abstracted from groundwater resources. Poland has put in place measures aimed at water retention in the catchment through water circulation, construction of retention reservoirs and application of suitable agro-technical measures that ensure water quality is maintained at high standards.

45. Poland is specialized in Maritime Education offered in institutions that are located mainly in coastal cities – Szczecin, Gdansk and Gdynia. Studies at Maritime Universities in Poland are divided into bachelor's and master's degrees.
46. The following key issues came out of the talks:
- Poland is ready to partner with Kenya in Progressing Water Resources Management and Capacity Building.
  - Maritime Education: Offering scholarships at Degrees and Masters Level
  - A follow-up should be done to initiate the Partnership through MoU.

**d) World Bank**

47. The following were the key outcomes from the bilateral talks with World Bank Directors:
- Performance for irrigation schemes
  - Farmer-Led Irrigation Framework
  - Inclusion in the regional program for Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa
  - Lower Nzoia Phase I – Lot 2
  - Support the development of the National Irrigation Investment Plan
  - Support the development of the National Water Resources Investment Plan
- Follow-up meetings should be made with the World Bank team in Nairobi.

**e) International Finance Corporation (IFC)**

48. The Principal Secretary, State Department for Irrigation had a pull-aside with representatives from the IFC and Eng Michael Thuita, CEO of AWWDA. IFC indicated their willingness to work in the rehabilitation of treatment works and in new and extension of existing pipelines.

**f) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

49. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation does a lot of work in the WASH sector. Particularly in Kenya, they are involved in projects through other agencies including:
- Africa Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)
    - They are supporting the Ministry in developing National Sanitation Management Policy.
    - A possible area of support is in the operationalization of the Inter-governmental Coordination Framework for Sanitation.
  - Africa Renaissance (AR)
    - AR is supporting the creation of tools for gender mainstreaming in sanitation policy. Their work which is helping to operationalize the Africa Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW's) gender strategy, is being socialized for use at the continental level to provide value add for national policies – creating more inclusive sanitation policies

- **UN-HABITAT**
  - This is part of a wider global grant to strengthen local data systems for decision-making at the sub-national level. Currently, the project is being rolled out for utilities in Nakuru and Malindi.
- **Water and Sanitation Regulatory Board (WASREB):** WASREB works with the East and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation Regulatory Association (ESAWAS) to **strengthen monitoring systems for sanitation service delivery in Kenya**
- **UNICEF**
  - We just signed a new grant with UNICEF to support the operationalization of UNICEF's sanitation Gameplan 2.0 – which is focused on Urban sanitation. UNICEF will work in 5 African countries (including Kenya). They will work alongside other foundation partners to support sanitation governance, sanitation data systems strengthening, and policy support. UNICEF is currently making a work plan on what package to offer to each country based on need and complementarity to other partners in these countries. This is a new global grant for UNICEF that includes Kenya.

**g) Saudi Arabia**

50. The Cabinet Secretary, for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation held bilateral talks with **H.E. Dr Abdulaziz AlShibani**, Deputy Minister for Water of Saudi Arabia. During the talks, it was noted that the existing Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) Framework is active and a delegation of government officers visited Kenya to explore areas of partnerships in which the State Department for Irrigation participated. A follow-up should be made with The National Treasury on projects to be considered by Saudi Arabia.

**h) BADEA**

51. The Principal Secretary, State Departments for Irrigation and ASALS held Bilateral Talks with **Mr Diab Karrar**, Director of the Public Sector Operations Department, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), based in Khartoum.
52. During the talks, BADEA showed a willingness to consider supporting the development of the following projects:
- Hola Phase II,
  - Kavunyalalo,
  - Lumi,
  - Bura Expansion,
  - Water Harvesting in the ASAL areas, and
  - Kiriani, Kandara and Maragwa Sewerage Projects.
53. Additionally, they showed willingness in providing grants for Water Resource Mapping and capacity building on irrigation governance as well as grants to carry out studies in the sector. The next steps included sharing the minutes of discussion and submission of concept notes for listed projects

**i) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

54. The Cabinet Secretary held bilateral talks with **Dr Qu Dongyu**, Director General, of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The key outcomes during this bilateral included:
- Support the development of policies on land and water management.
  - Formulation of National Water roadmaps with emphasis on irrigation
  - Upscaling opportunities in the use of remote sensing for water and irrigation management
55. Follow-up on the first two items is to be done through FAO Kenya and the last through Dr Paolo Paron (FAO Somalia).

## 6.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

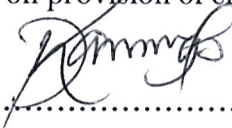
The Committee made the following observations:-

- i. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being and a declared human right. However, some 2 billion people around the world still lack access to safe drinking water, and 40% of the world's population is affected by water scarcity. Humanity's demand for water keeps growing, with pressure on freshwater projected to increase by more than 40% by 2050.
- ii. The UN 2023 Water Conference, formally known as the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028) is the second of its kind and was held in New York, co-hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of Netherlands from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- iii. Kenya's statement at the UN-Water conference highlighted progress in achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation, as well as the challenges faced in achieving SDG 6. Kenya also emphasized the importance of engaging the private sector to bridge the financing gap in achieving SDG 6.
- iv. Kenya also faces several challenges in the full implementation of SDG 6, including the effects of climate change, a huge sector financing gap, low uptake of technology, diminishing water resources, and encroachment and degradation of water catchment areas.
- v. The UN-Water conference deliberations ranged from the urgency of the water crisis, including its role in forced migration, climate change and conflicts to stressing its critical link to good health, poverty reduction and food security. Attention was also given to solutions, with deliberations spanning the need for better data collection, enhanced governance systems, capacity development opportunities and funding gaps in the water sector. With financing needs of between US\$182 to more than US\$600 billion annually, the importance of unlocking financing and innovative funding schemes, calling for innovations and investments at scale in the water economy was also underscored.
- vi. There is willing from the development partners to support development of water projects in Kenya through sound enactment of policies on land and water management with respect to formulation of National Water roadmaps with emphasis on irrigation as well as upscaling of opportunities in the use of remote sensing for water and irrigation management.

**7.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee recommends as follows-

- i. The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation should follow up and engage development partners and private sector on the promotion of safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. This will promote investment on adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities and encourage hygiene.
- ii. The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation should make improved governance of water supplies to ensure that everyone has access to water to drink and wash.
- iii. The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation should coordinate development partners and private sector in matters provision of clean water in the country in order to improve on provision of clean water in the country.

Signed .....  .....

**Hon. Bowen David Kangogo, MP**

**CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON BLUE ECONOMY, WATER  
AND IRRIGATION**

DATE .....  .....



*National Assembly Delegation with the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation at the UN headquarters New York;*



**Committee Members following deliberations at the UN headquarters New York, During the 2023 Water conference**





*Water CS Hon. Alice Wahome takes part at the ongoing United Nations Water Conference that started on March 22-24<sup>th</sup> in New York*





REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT - FIRST SESSION - 2022

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON BLUE ECONOMY AND IRRIGATION

MEMBERS ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE

DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> APR 2023 START: 10:00 am END: 11:00 Am

VENUE: MEMBERS LOUNGE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

AGENDA: CONSIDERATION & ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 AND THE REPORT ON THE 2023 WATER CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, USA.

NO.	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Bowen David Kangogo, MP – Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Kemero Maisori Marwa Kitayama, MP – Vice- Chairperson	
3.	Hon. Chepkwony Charity Kathambi, MP	
4.	Hon. William Kamket, MP	
5.	Hon. Buyu Rozaah Akinyi, MP	
6.	Hon. Eng. Nzengu Paul Musyimi, MP	
7.	Hon. Tandaza Kassim Sawa, MP	
8.	Hon. Were Charles Ong'ondo, MP	
9.	Hon. Gachagua George, MP	
10.	Hon. Eric Mwangi Kahugu, MP	
11.	Hon. Dorothy Muthoni Ikiara, MP	
12.	Hon. Nebart Bernard Muriuki, MP	
13.	Hon. Muiruri Muthama Stanley, MP	
14.	Hon. Mnyazi Amina Laura, MP	
15.	Hon. Adow Mohamed Aden, MP	

Forwarded by:

Signed: Date: 25/04/2023

Mr. Nicodemus K. Maluki  
Second Clerk Assistant – Committee Clerk

Approved by:

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Mr. Peter K. Chemweno,  
Director  
Directorate of Departmental Committee



REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT - SECOND SESSION - 2022

**MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON  
BLUE ECONOMY, WATER AND IRRIGATION HELD ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL,  
2023 AT THE MEMBERS LOUNGE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, AT 10.30 AM**

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**PRESENT**

- |   |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 1. Hon. Bowen David Kangogo, MP           | - | Chairperson       |
| 2. Hon. Kemero Maisori Marwa Kitayama, MP | - | Vice- Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Tandaza Kassim Sawa, MP           |   |                   |
| 4. Hon. William Kamket, MP                |   |                   |
| 5. Hon. Buyu Rozaah Akinyi, MP            |   |                   |
| 6. Hon. Eng. Nzengu Paul Musyimi, MP      |   |                   |
| 7. Hon. Dorothy Muthoni Ikiara, MP        |   |                   |
| 8. Hon. Mnyazi Amina Laura, MP            |   |                   |

**APOLOGIES**

1. Hon. Chepkwony Charity Kathambi, MP
2. Hon. Were Charles Ong'ondo, MP
3. Hon. Gachagua George, MP
4. Hon. Eric Mwangi Kahugu, MP
5. Hon. Nebart Bernard Muriuki, MP
6. Hon. Muiruri Muthama Stanley, MP
7. Hon. Adow Mohamed Aden, MP

**IN- ATTENDANCE – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT**

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Nicodemus K. Maluki | Second Clerk Assistant  |
| 2. Ms. Ivy Kageha          | Third Clerk Assistant   |
| 3. Ms. Lynette Otieno      | Senior Legal Counsel    |
| 4. Dr. Benjamin Ngimor     | Senior Fiscal Analyst   |
| 5. Mr. Eugene Apaa         | Research Officer II     |
| 6. Ms. Lilian Mburugu      | Media Relations Officer |
| 7. Ms. Joyce Wachera       | Hansard Officer         |
| 8. Ms. Lillian Alunga      | Protocol Officer        |

**MIN.NO.DC/BEW&I/043/2023: PRELIMINARIES**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at thirty minutes past ten o'clock and prayed. He thereafter welcomed Members and the secretariat into the meeting and briefed the Committee on the Agenda of the meeting.

**AGENDA:**

The agenda of the meeting was presented as follows:

1. Prayers
2. Preliminaries/ Introductions
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Communication from the Chair

5. **Consideration and Adoption of the Committee Report of the Water (Amendment) Bill, 2022 By Hon. Geoffrey Ruku, MP**
6. **Consideration and Adoption of the Committee Report of the Second Edition of the South West Indian Ocean Ministerial Summit in Seychelles**
7. **Consideration and Adoption of the Committee Report of the 2023 Water Conference in New York, USA**
8. Any other Business
9. Adjournment

**MIN.NO.DC/ BE&I/044/2023: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting

**MIN.NO.DC/ BE&I/045/2023: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. REPORT ON THE WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 BY HON. GEOFFREY RUKU, MP**

The Bill proposes amendments to **Section 77(5)** of the Water Act, 2016 as set out below- The Water Act, 2016 is amended in section 77(5) by inserting the following new words "including supply of treated and untreated water for different domestic use" immediately after the word "supplied". The purpose of the amendment is to enable the Board make regulations to enable the supply of untreated water for different domestic use.

Having considered the legislative proposal, the Committee unanimously adopted the report with the recommendation that **the legislative proposal should not be published**. The report was proposed by Hon. William Kamket, MP and seconded by Hon. Amina Mnyazi, MP

**2. REPORT OF THE 2023 WATER CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, USA**

The Report was unanimously adopted by the Committee for tabling in the House having being proposed by Hon. Eng. Nzengu Paul, MP and seconded by Hon. Muthoni Ikiara, MP.

**3. REPORT ON THE SECOND EDITION OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN MINISTERIAL SUMMIT IN SEYCHELLES**

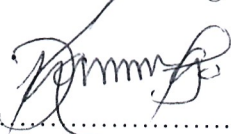
This report was deferred to the next meeting.

**MIN.NO.DC/ BE&I/046/2023: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

With regards to conducting inspection visits on projects being handled by the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Chairperson informed the Committee that there were upcoming inspection visits and Members would need to divide themselves into two sub-Committees. The dates would be communicated at a later date.

**MIN.NO.DC/ BE&I/047/2023: ADJOURNEMENT**

There being no other business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at five minutes past eleven o'clock. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

Signed..........

**HON. BOWEN DAVID KANGOGO, MP  
(CHAIRPERSON)**

Date..........