



28TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WATER RESOURCES (NCWR) HELD AT THE WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS GAUDUWA, ABUJA, FCT, ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2021.

COMMUNIQUÉ

The 28th Regular Meeting of the National Council on Water Resources (NCWR) was held on 21st December, 2021. The Meeting was declared open by the Honourable Minister of FCT and Host, **Mallam Muhammed Musa Bello** ably represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusade Adesola.

2. The meeting was attended by **20** Commissioners responsible for Water Resources in their States. **996** participants were in attendance physically, while **30** participants were online, comprising Permanent Secretaries of the Federal and State Ministries responsible for Water Resources, Directors of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Chief Executives of both Federal and State Parastatals and Agencies in the Water Sector. Also in attendance were Representatives of the Federal Ministries of Niger Delta Affairs, Science and Technology, Health, Education, Agriculture and Environment, Representatives of WHO, UNICEF, JICA, Action Against Hunger, the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists, Nigerian Institution of Water Engineers, FEMinWASH. Others include members of the Academia, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, the Press and the general Public.

3. The Honourable Minister of Water Resources, **Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu, FNSE, FAEng**, gave the keynote Address at the Council meeting on the theme: "**Emerging Financial and Management Challenges for Sustainable Water Infrastructure in Nigeria**". On behalf of the Ministry, he apologized to the Government and people of Sokoto State for the inability of the Meeting to hold in Sokoto considering the efforts and investments made towards planning to host the meeting. He stressed that the 28th Council meeting will afford us the opportunity to discuss

developments in the Water Sector, evaluate previous proposals to address identified challenges and chart a way forward towards resolving contemporary issues in the Sector. He also highlighted the achievements of the Ministry since the last Council meeting including that in Irrigation development, Erosion control, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, etc.

4. Finally, the Honourable Minister and Chairman of Council expressed optimism that this meeting would proffer practicable and enforceable policies towards improving financing for infrastructure development and ensure sustainable service delivery in the Water Sector.

5. Preceding the Council Meeting, was the meeting of the National Technical Committee on Water Resources (NTCWR) which held from 13th – 14th December, 2021 and was declared open by the Permanent Secretary, FCT and the Host, **Mr. Olusade Adesola**. The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, **Mrs. Didi Walson-Jack, mni** gave the Opening Remarks. The meeting witnessed presentation of a Paper on "**Financial Sustainability of Water Infrastructure in Nigeria**", delivered by Mr. Kevin E. Umeh, a Credit Risk/Financial Analyst.

At the Council meeting a paper on "**Sustainable Management of Water Infrastructure in Nigeria**" was presented by **Engr. Adesoji Adeyemi**, an Engineering Consultant in the Sector.

6. Goodwill messages were received from WHO, UNICEF and the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists. They all reaffirmed their continuous commitment and collaboration towards attaining the Water Sector goals.

7. During the Technical Committee Session, the Meeting appraised fifty-four (**54**) Memoranda and recommended twenty-one (**21**) Action and twenty-nine (**29**) Information Memoranda to Council for consideration and approval.

8. The Report on the Resolutions of the 27th NCWR which held in Abuja in 2020 and the level of their implementation by the Ministry, was also adopted by Council.

9. After extensive deliberations, **Council** resolved as follows:
- i. the National Water Resources Institute (NWRI) should develop and institutionalize a Capacity Action Plan (CAP) in order to prioritize the capacity building of women in the WASH Sector to mainstream their effective participation in decision making and WASH Governance;
 - ii. NIHSA to establish and develop a Framework on Partnership for River Flow Data Collection and Management Programme in Nigeria (PaRDaCM) and urged RBDAs and States to initiate process for participation in the exercise for sustainable operationalization of the partnership programme;
 - iii. the FMWR to review the National Water Resources Policy and Strategy (2016) in order to integrate the National Drought Plan (2018) and the National Climate Change Policy (2021);
 - iv. all Water Agencies designing new water resources infrastructure should collaborate with NiMET to establish weather stations towards increasing density and improving data availability for research as well as improve accuracy of forecast;
 - v. NIHSA, State and Local Government Agencies with the responsibility of flood management should adopt Integrated Flood Management Approach towards minimizing flood risks and maximizing the economic benefits arising thereof;
 - vi. the NWRI to domesticate and operationalize the NNC-UNESCO-IHP capacity building and research within the 2022-2030 biennium programme in Nigeria with the active participation of NIHSA and all Agencies in the Water Sector as well as NIHSA to key into the programme to draw financial assistance from the programme in order to develop a National Policy on matters relating to Hydrological data sharing;

- vii. State Governments to adopt the TRIMING Project Model and support the establishment/strengthening of Water Users Associations (WUAs) in all their public irrigation schemes for sustainable irrigation management;
- viii. the FMWR to develop National Strategies to address issues on good governance, capacity building, responsive funding mechanism and improved collaboration for use of research findings and innovations to achieve sustainable management of irrigation infrastructure;
- ix. the name "*National Technical Sub-Committee on Irrigation, Drainage and Agriculture*" be reversed to the name "**National Technical Sub-Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (NTSID)**";
- x. relevant Stakeholders in the Water Sector to adopt the Revised National Water Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- xi. National Policy on Water Use Metering and Ancillary Equipment for both surface and groundwater to be developed by Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC);
- xii. the FMWR to collaborate with States and Local Governments to commence the process of acceding to the Water Convention as outlined by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);
- xiii. States and Communities to take shareholding interests in RBDAs Corporatized Assets in lieu of Compensations, Land Titles, Security Guarantees etc, to address Land Titles and related issues. In addition, State Governments to pay charges for bulk water use from RBDAs' dam reservoirs to ensure sustainable operation and maintenance of their water resources infrastructure;

- xiv. NIWRMC to develop a National Conservation Plan and Management Strategy for Wetlands;
- xv. that the FMWR upload data of their water projects in the Niger Delta Region into the Strategic Implementation Work Plan (SIWP) e-Portal of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to ensure accountability and participation in development projects in the Region;
- xvi. relevant professionals in Water Well development and State Governments to domesticate the Borehole code of practice (NCP 027:2010) as best practice in the Water Sector;
- xvii. Dam Owners (Governments, Institutions and individuals) to provide protection zones around dam reservoirs to ensure water security, maintenance as well as undertake robust public/community awareness with settlers and users of dams to safeguard the socio-economic sustainability of the reservoirs. Funds for the establishment of protection zones may be sourced from the National Ecological Fund and/or Natural Resources Development Fund plus other sources;
- xviii. RBDAs to embark on best management practices in their catchment areas so as to reduce the impact of sediments in reservoirs; while the FMWR digitalize available baseline data on all existing dams and reservoirs and archive them in acceptable format;
- xix. States and the FCT to provide specific budget lines for the Clean Nigeria Campaign and adequately fund it for effectiveness and visibility. In addition, the 16 States (Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra, Ekiti, Osun, Oyo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Kogi, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and Bauchi) yet to constitute their Steering Committee for the Campaign were urged to do so;
- xx. States and the FCT to key in, into the full implementation of the WASH Revitalization Strategy under the WASH National Action

Plan; while the following ten (**10**) States (Lagos, Kogi, Bauchi, Borno, Kano, Zamfara, Nasarawa, Abia, Anambra and Akwa Ibom) yet to sign-up to the Plan were requested to urgently do so; and

- xxi. FMWR to provide technical support to States and FCT to institutionalize the process of development and production of States' WASH Account Report to partake in the benefits accruing from this process in planning and decision making.

10. Finally, **Council** expressed its profound gratitude to the Honourable Minister of the FCT, Mallam Mohammed Musa Bello and the good people of FCT for their hospitality and successful hosting of the 28th Regular Meeting.

11. The next Regular Meeting of Council is scheduled to hold in **Sokoto, Sokoto State**.

Done this 21st Day of December, 2021 at Abuja, FCT.

We append our Signatures:

- i. Representative Commissioner - North East
- ii. Representative Commissioner - North West
- iii. Representative Commissioner - North Central
- iv. Representative Commissioner - South East
- v. Representative Commissioner - South South
- vi. Representative Commissioner - South West




Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu FNSE, FAEng,
Chairman of Council