

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL 31ST MEETING OF THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)**

14 October 2020, 15:30 hours (IST)

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1994

Mandate: To promote links and networking among the African countries as well as regional and international institutions for enhancing cooperation and coordination, and to support integrated river basin development, training and research issues and information system for African needs.

Members Present: (1) VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, 2016 (Egypt); (2) Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair, 2016 (South Africa); (3) Engr. Amali Abraham Amali – Young Professional, Secretary, 2017 (Nigeria); (4) Engr. Salamata KARAMBIRI MIWENDE (Burkina Faso); (5) Eng. Ismail Elhassnaoui (Morocco); (6) Dr. Bartali El Houssine (Morocco); (7) Engr. M.S. Bala (Nigeria); (8) Engr. Inimfon Archibong (Nigeria); (9) Engr. Sikrika Ahmad (Nigeria); (10) Engr. A. A. Adenopo (Nigeria); (11) Engr. Abdallah Abdulrahman (Nigeria); (12) Eng. Marwa Faisal Salman Mohamed – YP (Sudan); (13) Eng. Hind Massoud (Sudan); (14) Secretary General, ICID represented by Er. Harish Kumar Varma, Executive Director, ICID (India).

Observers: (1) Ms. Akita Atsuko (Japan); (2) Mr. Joseph Kimani Wandue (Kenya); (3) Eng. Elizabeth Mwendwa (Kenya); (4) Eng. Thubelihle A. Thebe (Zimbabwe)

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AFRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. The Chair started the meeting by thanking the members and observers in the 31st AFRWG meeting and briefed on the actions taken after the 30th meeting held in Bali in 2019, which are as follows:

- (i) Organization of 2nd African Young Water Professional Forum (AFYWP) in October 2019 under the platform of Cairo Water Week 2019 (CWW2019) and the Forum brought together 37 African future water leaders from 14 African countries including Egypt, Ethiopia, Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zambia. After 2nd AFYWP Forum, the total number of members reached to 750.
- (ii) All the arrangement and coordination works were aligned with the 5th African Regional Conference which was supposed to be held in March 2020, including the 5 days training program for the African YP's back-to-back to the conference and First International African Young Workshop during the conference however, COVID-19 disrupted all the plans and the conference was postponed to December 2020 and now further postponed to September 2021.
- (iii) The Chair of the WG and ICID Central Office encouraged all African NC's to take actions towards the bilateral cooperation to exchange knowledge, experiences and information and also to nominate new members in the group. Accordingly, YP's group from 37 African countries were established on WhatsApp platform for exchanging experiences and information between YP's at national levels. So far, about 2850 members from all over Africa joined the AFYWP Forum as strong platform for exchanging experiences and information among YP's.

2. The following nominations received from the National Committees for the membership were accepted/provisionally admitted:

Sl. No.	Name	Country	Attended/ Represented	Accepted/ Provisionally admitted
1	Dr. Elijah Adepoju Aderibigbe	Nigeria	Not attended	Accepted as Observer
2	Engr (Mrs) Esther Oyeronke Oluniyi	Nigeria	Represented	Accepted

Sl. No.	Name	Country	Attended/ Represented	Accepted/ Provisionally admitted
3	Engr. A. A. Adenopo	Nigeria	Yes	Accepted as Observer
4	Engr M. S. Bala	Nigeria	Yes	Accepted
5	Engr. Abdullahi Abdulrahman	Nigeria	Yes	Accepted as Observer
6	Engr Inimfon Archibong (YP)	Nigeria	Yes	Accepted
7	Eng. Elizabeth Mwendwa	Kenya	Yes	Accepted as Observer till the re-activation of the Kenyan NC
8	Mr. Joseph Kimani Wandue	Kenya	Not attended	Accepted as Observer till the re-activation of the Kenyan NC
9	Prof. El- Houssine Bartali	Morocco	Yes	Accepted
10	Eng. Ismail Elhassnaoui	Morocco	Yes	Accepted

3. The Chair in consultation with the ICID Central Office reviewed the current memberships and noted that some members did not attend the AFRWG meeting during last two years, so it was recommended to move them as observers. Further, RWG agreed that for African NC's who have either no member or only one member may be requested to nominate new/additional members. Membership status is given in **Annex 3 (page 43)**.

AFRWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in the African region

4. During virtual meeting, the group reviewed and discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (refer **Annex**). The Chair explained the situation of the work plan of the group according to the Road Map and there is a delay in the position paper on Green revolution in Africa. Further, the Chair explained that for the other two strategy the AFRWG have many achievements in capacity building (CB) development.

AFRWG Minutes Item 3: Progress on Position paper on Green Revolution in Africa

5. The group discussed on the preparation of the Position Paper on Green Revolution in Africa and noted the slow progress made so far towards the first draft of the position paper. Due to COVID-19 situation, the Chair requested the team to finish the paper at the earliest and the group agreed to extend the deadline till the 5th African Conference to finish the paper.

AFRWG Minutes Item 4: Progress on implementation of the action program for Africa - Strategy for capacity building in Africa (Training Needs Assessment Report)

6. Due to the quick development of AfYWP-Forum membership, which has now reached 2829 members, the Chair expressed a need for reviewing the Training Need Assessment (TNA) report and accordingly RWG decided to recirculate the report to all the members of the WG (including YPs from more than 37 African Countries) to reflect the actual training needs for all African region. Based on the results of the review, a long term capacity building program could be planned. The output of the new TNA will help for planning capacity building activities after 2022.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5: 5th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage, December 2020, Marrakesh, Morocco

7. Prof. Bartali explained the situation in respect of 5th African Regional Conference (5AfRC) as all the arrangements were ready to organize the conference in March 2020, but due to the situation of COVID-19, the conference was postponed to December 2020 and after consultation of ANAFIDE with ICID Central Office, the situation was reviewed again and the 5AfRC was again postponed to be held in September 2021. The situation will be evaluated again according to the global situation of COVID-19.

AFRWG Minutes Item 6: Progress for the proposed third node for IRPID for African region

8. Due to the COVID-19 situation still no actions have been taken and the group agreed to arrange a zoom meeting with all related NC's by end of 2020 to discuss the situation and required actions.

AFRWG Minutes Item 7: Af-YWPeF - Program and future activities

9. The chair explained that a zoom meeting in July 2020 was held with ICID President; Secretary General, ICID; and VP Dr. Marco Arcieri to discuss the future activities of webinar for the African YP's and the important topics to be covered. After deliberation it was agreed that the future webinar may be organized on the following main topics:

- (i) Modern Irrigation systems, planning and design
- (ii) Climate Change Adaptation for Water, Food, and Environmental Security
- (iii) Climate Change Adaptation for African Agriculture Systems and mitigating the Impacts on Water requirements
- (iv) Water Crisis Management (Flood and drought management)
- (v) Rivers Protection and restoration
- (vi) Surveying and hydro graphing using GPS, remote sensing systems
- (vii) Water, energy, food nexus

10. RWG reviewed the activities and agreed on the following future activities for AfYWPeF:

- (i) Participating in 5th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage, Marrakesh, Morocco (September 2021)
- (ii) Webinar lectures
- (iii) Discussions on WhatsApp group and LinkedIn
- (iv) Tailor made training courses, up on request from our partners and African NC's

11. WG Chair VPH Dr Wahba informed about the very good support being received from various international partners and organizations for activities of AfYWPeF, which include the following:

- (i) International Commission on Irrigation (ICID),
- (ii) Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt,
- (iii) Organizing Committee of CWW,
- (iv) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- (v) Islamic Development Bank (IsDB),
- (vi) Korea Rural Community (KRC)
- (vii) International Water Management Institute (IWMI),
- (viii) Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-MED),
- (ix) Nile Basin Capacity Building Networks (NBCBN)
- (x) Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR)-Chinese Academy of Science,
- (xi) Ningbo Yao Feng (Chinese company),
- (xii) Zhong Guanshun (Chinese company)
- (xiii) Chinese, Moroccan, Egyptian Italian, South African NCs on Irrigation and Drainage

AFRWG Minutes Item 8: 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in 2021, Morocco activities

12. Prof. Bartali explained the situation regarding 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference (10IMIC) which was proposed to be organized at Agadir, Morocco in 2021. Prof. Dr. Bartali mentioned that due to COVID-19 pandemic different ICID events are being rescheduled which is also affecting organization of 10IMIC and he mentioned that final decision about the date of the conference will be taken in consultation with ICID CO.

AFRWG Minutes Item 9: Any other business- Election of New Secretary of the AFRWG

13. The chair thanked Eng. Amali Abraham Amali for his valuable efforts and contributions during the last 3 years (2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2019/2020) as a Secretary of the WG.

14. The WG approved and agreed the nomination of Eng. Ismael Elhassanoui (Morocco) as a new Secretary for the AFRWG for 3 years.

15. General recommendation

- (i) The chair encourages all African NC's members to participate in the Webinar/ Web-based seminars
- (ii) Chair encouraged all African NC's to give full support to YP working group at their national level.
- (iii) The chair encourages all YP's to provide the AFRWG with the topics needed to be covered by the Experts and also to be covered in the e-discussion.



Annex [Appendix IV, Item 2]

ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORK BODIES

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021	Milestone for Year 2022
Goal B: Be a Catalyst for Change in Policies and Practices								
B1. Strategy: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies	1.15 Position Paper on Green Revolution in Africa	Position paper	Prepare the draft paper	Finalise the paper				
GOAL C: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology								
C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.4 Activate or Establish Regional/sub- regional WGs	Regional WGs	Collaboration with AfYWP- Forum					
Goal F: Facilitate capacity development								
F2. Strategy: Support Capacity Development Activities of Member Countries	2.4 Strategy for capacity building in Africa	Strategy/ Policy	Identify new themes and revise the strategy	Update the strategy				

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)

