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**MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE
ICID AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ICID AFRWG)**

11 September 2025, 09:00-10:45 hours

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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 systems for African needs.

Members present: (1) VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair (Egypt); (2) VP Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair (South Africa); (3) Prof. El-Houssine Bartali (Morocco) represented by Eng. Abdel Hamid Charef.

New nominees: (i) Eng. Thubelihle A. Thebe (Zimbabwe); (ii) Dr. Bezzel Chitsungo (Zimbabwe)

Observer: (1) Mr. Taku Mori (Japan); (2) Dr. Khumbulani Dhavu (South Africa); (3) Dr. Michael van der Laan (South Africa); (4) Dr. Nwabisa Masekwana (South Africa); (5) Dr. Calvin Sambo (South Africa); (6) Dr. Stanley Liphadzi (South Africa); (7) Dr. Luxon Nhamo (South Africa).

Website: <https://icid-ciid.org/wbody/AFRWG>

Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair after the Sydney event

1. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mohamed Wahba. The group noted that the Secretary Eng. Ismael Elhassanoui was not present at the meeting, and he also did not attend the last working group meeting in Sydney. The meeting thanked Dr. Ismael Elhassanoui for his great efforts and contributions to the working group. A representative from the Zimbabwe Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ZWCID) proposed Eng. Thubelihle A. Thebe, as Secretary. The Vice Chair VP Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, proposed that the provisional appointment of the Working Group Secretary be confirmed during the IEC meeting on 13 September 2025.

2. The Chair, Dr. Wahba, presented a report on the action taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group at its last meeting in Sydney, 2024. This included the First Virtual Meeting of AFRWG held on 19 February 2025. The Chair referred to his cooperation with Yangzhou University of China, and 28 scholarships had been initiated and publicized for Young Professionals in Africa.

3. The Vice Chair VP Prof. Dr. Mpandeli, highlighted the initiatives taken by the South Africa National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) to promote the objectives of the Working group in South Africa. He stated that they were working with various groups in South Africa, and the recently won WatSave Award from South Africa was among the research activities funded by one of the groups. He highlighted that private sector sponsorship was critical to support National Committee activities and research programmes, giving an example of the approximately US\$2.9 million that they received from a South African beer brewing company through the Water Research Commission, which is the Secretariat of SANCID. He also stated that they were undertaking various African Capacity Development Initiatives through the African Union Commission. Further, he mentioned that there was a Presidential PhD Research Programme in the South, of which he led the thematic area on the Water-Food-Health Sustainability Nexus. Finally, he intimated that they had successfully hosted both the Online WEF Nexus Masterclass with over 250 participants as well as the physical WEF Nexus Winter School with over 50 participants in 2025. This activity has been successfully organized for the past 6 years.

Minutes Item 2: Activation of African countries and nomination of new WG members

4. The Chair reaffirmed the gratitude towards the Working Group to the Moroccan National Committee (ANAFIDE) for its great support in activating the membership of Niger in the AFRWG. However, more effort was encouraged from member countries to support the broadening of ICID membership in Africa. Limited funding was hampering the physical exposure of young professionals to ICID activities that had previously been used as a strategy to encourage the broadening of ICID membership. Online training activities had also not gained momentum. Private sector involvement was being encouraged through the engagement of companies in water management, irrigation, and agriculture to sponsor National Committees that would, in turn, lead to greater ICID country memberships.

5. The Chair noted the presence of the JICA representative, Taku Mori, as an observer in the meeting and further encouraged International Partnerships: Collaboration of ICID with donor organizations such as JICA and projects that operate in Africa to provide financial support.

6. The Chair informed the group members that ICID Central Office had sent invitation letters for joining the membership of ICID to Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

Minutes Item 3: Membership of the working group

7. The Chair reaffirmed that it was decided in the meeting held in February 2025 that all African NC Members shall nominate two members and two YPs for membership in the group. Such communication had been conveyed to national Committees, but only a few nominations were received, so far.

8. In July 2025, the South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) nominated Ms. PJ Kgasago for membership of the working group. Since she could not attend the meeting, she was accepted as a 'Provisional Member' until the next meeting.

9. The Vice Chair VP Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, informed the ICID Central Office that he is planning to step down from the position of Vice Chair of the WG during the Malaysia meeting in September 2025. However, the meeting resolved that he stay on until the next meeting in Marseille in 2026, allowing for the due processes to nominate a suitable replacement.

10. In March 2025, the Comité National des Irrigations et du Drainage du Burkina Faso (CNID-B) nominated Ing. (Ms.) Nadine Yaolire and Dr. Farid Traore from Burkina Faso for the membership of the working group. However, the nominees were not present during the meeting, and they were accepted as 'Provisional Members' for one year until the next meeting in 2026. The new nominees would be expected to contribute to the activities of the working group by actively participating in the WG meetings, by email or video-conferencing during the year, for regularizing the membership of the WG thereafter at the next meeting in Marseille 2026.

11. The representative from the Zimbabwe Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ZwCID), Eng. Thubelihle A. Thebe informed that their National Committee had finalized nominations for the Working Group - Chairman, Dr. Eng. Bezzel Chitsungo, and its Secretary, Thubelihle A. Thebe. Both had attended the Malaysia meeting and have been confirmed as members. The group proposed that the Chairman of ZwCID submit the official nomination for the regularization of their membership to the ICID Central Office. Membership status is given in **Annex 3, page 21**.

Minutes Item 4: Brief of the virtual meeting organized after the Sydney event

12. The Chair informed the group that the first virtual meeting of AFRWG was organized on 19 February 2025, wherein twelve members participated in the meeting. During the virtual meeting, the WG discussed various activities being undertaken for the activation of African country membership, future activities of Af-YWPeF, webinars, the proposal for the 7th African Regional Conference, etc. Minutes of the virtual meetings of all work bodies have been uploaded on a dedicated webpage - https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/152

Minutes Item 5: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in the African region

13. During the meeting, the working group members did not review and update the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (refer to **Annex 1**). Vice Chair VP Prof. Sylvester Mpandeli reaffirmed that AFRWG participants continue to monitor their activities to ensure the achievement of the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030.

Minutes Item 6: AFRWG - Webinars in 2025

14. The Chair informed the group that none of the webinars that were proposed and listed in the meeting agenda had taken place in the first eight months of the year. He hoped that some would run before the year ended. The challenges resulting in the non-commencement of the webinars were not identified. ICID YPs are open to propose exciting webinars or to host webinars showcasing the Master's and PhD research.

Minutes Item 7: Updates on Regional Irrigation Associations- SARIA, ARID-RAID

15. The Vice Chair VP Prof Dr. Mpandeli, said there were plans to organize a regional workshop. However, there was a challenge to motivate members to actively participate in regional initiatives. The Southern Africa node of the IRPID was up and running. The flagship WEF Nexus masterclass and Winter School activities were flagship events within SARIA. There was also collaboration with the African Union Commission on Policy Analysis and Development.

Minutes Item 8: Progress for the proposed third node for IRPID for the African region

16. The Vice Chair VP Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, stated that the third node for IRPID was full-fledged with a 10-year strategic plan that is available for information purposes.

Minutes Item 9: Af-YWPeF - Program and future activities

17. The Chair, Dr. Wahba, proposed that YPs should take the lead and propose suitable activities for themselves, including the sharing of research outputs and activities.

Minutes Item 10: A brief report on the 6th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage, 14-18 April 2025, Nigeria

18. There was no representative from the Nigerian National Committee (NINCID) to provide a formal report on the 6th Africa Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage held from 14-18 April 2025. The Chair, Dr. Eng. Wahba, stated that the Conference was a highly successful event and was attended by ICID President Dr. Marco Arcieri and ICID Secretary General Dr. R.K. Gupta, and several international delegates. He wished that the next event would occur on time and be equally successful.

Minutes Item 11: 7th Conference of the Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering, October 2025, Morocco

19. Eng. Charef Abdelhamid (Morocco) gave a presentation on the forthcoming 7th Conference of the Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering, scheduled to be held from 22-24 October 2025 in Morocco. He highlighted that the event had several international initiatives and organizations as partners. He mentioned that abstract submissions were closing on 20 September 2025.

Minutes Item 12: Proposal for hosting the 7th African Regional Conference

20. The Chair stated that discussions were ongoing with several countries, including South Africa, for hosting the 7th African Regional Conference. The Vice Chair speaking on behalf of SANCID stated that they are yet to follow due process as SANCID to consider hosting the event. He hinted that, if they get approval, they would propose to host the event in 2028 at the earliest. Also, the chair invited other interested African National Committee members to apply to host this important event.

Minutes Item 13: Any other business (with permission of Chair)

21. The Chair, Dr. Wahba, requested ICID Central Office to notify all member countries of the need to send nominees for the WG. He thanked the JICA representative from Japan, Mr. Taku Mori, and encouraged further collaboration between the AFRWG and the ASRWG. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.



Annex 1 [Item 4]

ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF ICID AFRWG

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for 2020	Milestone for 2021	Milestone for 2022	Milestone for 2023	Milestone for 2024	Milestone for 2025	Milestone for 2026	Milestone for 2027
Goal B: Be a Catalyst for Change in Policies and Practices										
B1. Strategy: Supporting the Development of Appropriate Policies	1.15 Position Paper on Green Revolution in Africa	Position paper	Data collection	Data analysis Draft paper	Final paper publishing process	Dissemination of the paper				
GOAL C: Facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, and technology										
C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.4 Activate or Establish Regional/sub-regional WGs	Regional WGs	Establishment of more WG-YP's WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges Encouraging cooperation with partners	Establishment of more WG-YP's WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges Encouraging cooperation with partners	Establishment of more WG-YP's WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges Encouraging cooperation with partners	Selections of NC's YP's coordinators Organizing NC'S YP's group meeting and starting their activities Contributing to AfYP Forum activities Webinar Workshop Discussions Exchanging experiences. Technologies and information Activating their Country membership in ICID- (non-member)	Organizing NC'S YP's group meeting and starting their activities Contributing to AfYP Forum activities Webinar Workshop Discussions Exchanging experiences. Technologies and information Activating their Country membership in ICID (non-member)	Organizing NC'S YP's group meeting and starting their activities Contributing to AfYP Forum activities Webinar Workshop Discussions Exchanging experiences. Technologies and information Activating their Country membership in ICID (non-member)		
Goal F: Facilitate capacity development										
F2. Strategy: Support Capacity Development Activities of Member Countries	2.4 Strategy for capacity building in Africa	Strategy/ Policy	2 nd Af-YWP-Forum (CWW2019-YP training program before 5 th AfRC on I&D 16-23 November 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco	3 rd Af-YWP-Forum (CWW2020 virtually	4 th Af-YWP-Forum (CWW2021-virtually YP Preparing questioner for TNA Circulation of TNA Data analysis	Organizing webinars/Discussions Organizing yearly African Young Professional forum Upon request from NCs to organize tailor-made training and study tours	Organizing webinars/ Discussions Organizing yearly African Young Professional forum Upon request from NCs to organize tailor-made training and study tours	Organizing webinars/Discussions Organizing yearly African Young Professional forum Upon request from NCs to organize tailor-made training and study tours		

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

