

The African Water Association (AfWA), formerly known as Union of African Water Suppliers (UAWS), is a professional association of establishments, enterprises and utilities operating in the areas of drinking water, sanitation and environment in Africa. Since its inception in 1980, its main objective is to develop professional capacity of members in order to achieve its vision of drinking water coverage across the continent. For more on AfWA, click on <http://www.afwa-hq.org/siteweb/>

UN-Water strengthens coordination and coherence among UN entities dealing with issues related to all aspects of freshwater and sanitation. This includes surface and groundwater resources, the interface between freshwater and seawater and water-related disasters. The United Nations recognizes that it needs to mobilize its resources in an efficient and integrated manner to tackle global water challenges and meet the ambitious development and environment targets set by the international community. UN-Water was established in response to this need. For more click [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org)

AMCOW has recognized River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/LBOs) as important building blocks in fostering proper management of water resources.

A coherent, coordinated approach is clearly required as these issues represent some of the most urgent development challenges of our time. We must manage freshwater sustainably so that everyone has enough water to drink and stay clean and healthy; food producers have enough water to satisfy the demands of growing populations; industries have enough water to meet their needs; and countries have opportunities to secure a reliable supply of energy. In addition, as our world changes, we need to adapt to changes in the availability of freshwater and prepare ourselves for changes in weather patterns and an increase in both the number and severity of water-related disasters. All of these issues must be addressed in ways that safeguard the health of our environment and protect ecosystems. These issues are interconnected. The United Nations recognizes that it needs to mobilize its resources in an efficient and integrated manner to tackle global water challenges and meet the ambitious development and environment targets set by the international community. UN-Water was

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