Since the establishment of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in 2002, it has served primarily as the platform for convening Water and Sanitation sector stakeholders across the continent.

AMCOW provides policy direction and leads the political advocacy for sector growth and improvement for sustainable management of the continent’s water resources and sanitation. The 2008 Sharm El Sheikh Heads' of State Declaration among other things, mandates AMCOW to support Member States to develop plans, policies and strategies to accelerate the achievement of Water and Sanitation for all in Africa (Assembly/AU/Dec. (XI)).

The Ngor Ministerial Declaration of 2015 at AfricaSan4 also calls on member states to develop strategies to achieve universal access to adequate and sustainable sanitation and hygiene services and eliminate open defecation by 2030. In line with this mandate, and in order to support Member States to accelerate progress towards achieving especially SDG 6.2 and its targets, AMCOW undertook the development of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG). Having completed the development of the ASPG, it is set to be launched on 10th June 2021.

Key facts about Sanitation

Over 200 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to a toilet. Over 80% of human excreta is dumped untreated into the environment. Over 500 million people use unhygienic toilets.

Business as usual’ is not delivering safe sanitation. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, more than half the population uses unhygienic toilets. Sanitation services are not keeping up with population growth, in fact, the number of people using inadequate sanitation services is increasing. Between 2000 to 2017, those without toilets or who use unhygienic sanitation facilities have increased by 125 million, and the number of people without safe excreta management has risen by 285 million.
This, called for the development of standard guidelines to support policy review and revision to respond to the continental and global goals for sanitation in order to accelerate universal access to safely managed sanitation and eradication of open defecation.

It is against this background, that the ASPG was developed. The overarching goal of the ASPG is to help improve the sanitation landscape and enabling environment of the African continent and individual Member States, in order to better guide the accelerated implementation of their plans towards achieving the 2015 Ngor Ministerial Commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 6.2 by 2030.

The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG)

The ASPG is a set of guidelines developed by AMCOW working with Member States and other water and sanitation sector partners across Africa.

The guidelines are a set of step-wise processes towards developing a new policy or updating a sanitation policy.

They have the minimum standard for developing a sanitation policy towards achieving access to sustainable sanitation and hygiene.

The development process involved a rigorous consultation with member states, sanitation policy makers and diverse stakeholders across the African continent. The need for the ASPG was conceptualized in 2017 after an initial support for the development of sanitation policy in four countries revealed that huge efforts were needed for such individual country support. This initial effort made AMCOW to further conduct deeper analysis of national sanitation policies and strategies across 26 countries in 2019.

The results of this assessment indicated that none of the 26 countries had sanitation policies that adequately addressed the fundamental elements of the sanitation enabling environment needed to accelerate improvement.

Notably, the assessment revealed that five years into the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), close to 61% of the policies were still focused on the Millennium Development Goals.
The launch of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines

The African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) will be launching the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG) on 10th June 2021 from 3pm to 5pm Lagos time. The launch will be an opportunity for awareness creation among stakeholders across the member states and beyond as well as generate the necessary momentum required for adoption of the ASPG.

The ASPG will be launched by H.E the President of the Republic of Namibia. Other high-level participants including heads of states, governments officials, ministers, donors, the media, civil society organizations, are expected to be part of the launch.

The Launch will feature a Press Conference which will commence 20 minutes after the main event from 5:20pm to 6pm Lagos.

About the press conference

The press conference is to ensure that the media is aware of the importance of ASPG, the progress made and plans for the official launch, roll out and to get the media support to create awareness and advocacy for high-level endorsement and implementation of the ASPG to improve the sanitation and hygiene enabling environment of the African continent.

Meeting format

The press conference will be convened virtually. It will be interactive to ensure a better understanding of the ASPG. Journalists will have an opportunity to ask questions to a selective panel.

Date and time

The press conference will be held on 10th June 2021 It will be from 5:20pm to 6:00pm Lagos time.

Register for the ASPG launch and the press conference Click here

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Hashtags
#AfricanSanitationPolicyGuidelines
#ASPG

The African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) is an intergovernmental, Pan-African, non-budgetary institution working under the Specialized Technical Subcommittee of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) of the African Union. AMCOW provides political leadership, policy direction and advocacy on water management and provision of sanitation services. As part of our mandate, we have the responsibility to effectively and efficiently coordinate actions of key water and sanitation players, facilitate the strengthening of regional cooperation and transboundary water resources management and development as well as build the capacity of relevant institutions and agencies. AMCOW is mandated to provide political leadership in the implementation of the African Water Vision 2025 and water components of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

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