**Kenya 2030 Water Resources Group**

**High Level Roundtable and Inaugural Governing Board Meeting**

**12 October 2015, 7.30 – 9.30am**

**Kempinski Hotel, Nairobi**

*The meeting was preceded with a video message from Cabinet Secretary Wamalwa who was absent due to an urgent overseas trip. He expressed his strong support for the Kenya 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) and his commitment to personally take on the co-chairmanship of the partnership on behalf of the public sector.*

**Introductions and Context**

The meeting was opened with introductions and welcome from the chair Mr. Vimal Shah. The chair stressed the critical importance of water for all stakeholders – industry, agriculture, government, civil society – and the need for collaboration to find solutions to Kenya’s water challenges.

The background and context for the Kenya 2030 WRG partnership was then provided by Mr. Anders Berntell, who also summarized recent analysis highlighting the urgency of the water challenge in Kenya and the risk of a 30% gap between water supply and demand by 2030.

**Partnership Priorities**

This was followed by a presentation and discussion of the four proposed priorities for the partnership, which had resulted from consultations with over 40 organizations:

***Agricultural water management***

1. Collective action to manage water risks in critical agricultural catchments
2. Partnerships to support sustainable expansion of water-efficient irrigation

***Industrial water management***

1. Corporate partnerships to increase water use-efficiency, enhance waste-water treatment and supply treated water to other users

***Urban water management***

1. Technical interventions to reduce urban water losses & support expanded water access & treatment

These partnership priorities were widely supported and endorsed by participants, with the following specific recommendations:

* The various critical issues around water governance – including the need for clarity on devolution and institutional responsibilities, and the need for stronger enforcement of existing regulations – warrant further prioritization, potentially as a separate thematic area
* Increase emphasis on the importance of solutions related to water storage and rainwater harvesting, in particular for agricultural water use
* Add research and development as an additional cross-cutting theme
* Further highlight the importance of regulatory incentives for reuse under the industrial water reuse topic

**Partnership Structure**

The meeting continued with a review and endorsement of the proposed partnership structure, governing board membership, and the proposal to form technical working groups based on the thematic priorities above. For the Governing Board, it was recommendation to consider adding the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Water and a representative from the financial services industry (e.g. Head of the Kenya Bankers Association). The structure and proposed working groups were fully endorsed, with the potential for an additional governance group as per discussion above.

This was followed by a request from the chair for participants to fill out a “Partners Commitment” page provided. This would confirm each member’s commitment to join as a Governing Board member, and provide contact details for relevant staff to drive forward the work within the technical working groups. The form also provided an opportunity for self-nominations for the roles of (co)chairs of the various working groups.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

The meeting concluded with a summary of key next steps:

* Formation of first technical working groups and appointment of working group (co)chairs in the coming 1-2 months
* Reconvene the Governing Board on a six monthly basis, with interim updates and decisions to be made electronically (and establishment of a mailing list for this purpose)
* Report back to the Cabinet Secretary on the outcomes of the meeting, and extend communication with other government ministries as a means to promote stronger cross-sector collaboration via the partnership

The chair closed the meeting with a clear call to action, stressing the importance of working together, through this partnership, to generate practical solutions that will ensure water does not become a barrier to both growth Kenya’s economic growth and its social and environmental stability.

**Annex 1: Participant List**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title / Organization** | **Position** |
| Mr. Vimal Shah | CEO, Bidco | Chair (Private Sector) |
| Ms. Annabell Waititu | Chair, Kenya Water and Sanitation CSOs Network (KEWASNET) | Board Member |
| Ms. Phyllis Wakiaga | CEO, Kenya Association of Manufacturers | Board Member |
| Eng. Joseph Ngondi | Chairman, Kenya Water Partnership | Board Member |
| Mr. Richard Fox | Sustainability Director, Finlays | Board Member |
| Ms. Munira Bashir | Director, The Nature Conservancy | Board Member |
| Mr. Suresh Patel | Chair of Water and Environment Committee, KEPSA | Board Member (Proxy) |
| Eng. Kinyua | Water Resources Management Authority | Board Member (Proxy) |
| Mr. Kimanthi Kyengo | Deputy Director, Ministry of Water and Irrigation | Secretary |
| Ms. Sareen Malik | KEWASNET | ? |
| Mr. Samson | KEWASNET | ? |
| Ms. Aida Kimemia | Manager, IFC | Observer |
| Mr. Chris Heymaans | Chair, Water Sector Technical Group | Observer |
| Mr. Anders Berntell | Director, 2030 Water Resources Group | Facilitator |
| Mr. Simon Bell | Senior Consultant, 2030 WRG | Facilitator |
| Mr. Will Davies | Africa Head, 2030 WRG | Secretariat |
| Ms. Josephine Gustafsson | Regional Coordination, 2030 WRG | Secretariat |
|  |  |  |
| **Absent with apologies:** |  |  |
| Hon. Eugene Wamalwa | Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation | Chair (Public Sector) |
| Mr. Cornel Krummenacher | CEO, Nestle – Equatorial Africa | Board Member |