



**GLOBAL ALLIANCES FOR WATER AND CLIMATE (GAFWAC)
DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE GAFWAC INCUBATION PLATFORM:
100 Water and Climate Projects for Africa**

Actions need to be scaled up

Climate change impacts the water cycle, rendering unpredictable changes in rainfall patterns, more frequent and intense floods and droughts, reduction of snow cover and melting of glaciers, aquatic ecosystems degradation, sea level rise and its impacts that include salt water intrusion of coastal aquifers.

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change and its impacts, which pose a serious threat to its water security. The resulting water crisis manifests in current and future social, economic, environmental and migration crises, affecting health, food and energy security as well as impacting negatively economic growth; all essential components to the sustainable development of Africa.

Aware of the urgency of the situation, donors are mobilized on this issue but drawing attention to the difficulty they are facing in finding sound projects to finance; at the same time, projects' holders highlight their lack of capacities to initiate a cycle of project preparation and to access preparation facilities and leverage financing tools at the expected scale.

Within the framework of the Global Alliance for Water and Climate and the Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, launched at COP21 and bringing together a community of 360 signatories from 94 countries, GAFWAC Incubation Platform was created during COP22 in order to bridge this critical gap.

The objective was to experiment, with a pilot phase, a collaborative and operational response to this challenge, which can become the catalyst for a dynamic change in Africa.

This initiative was consistent with the Rabat Call for Action "Water for Africa" made by African ministers in July 2016. Half of the six projects supported in 2017 were Africa-based in 2017. Funding the implementation of these six incubated projects could benefit 33 million people.

In its Declaration, the Rome International Summit on Water and Climate on 23-25 October 2017 recommended that "Funding should support not only infrastructure projects, but also serve to improve knowledge of resources and climate change impacts, capacity building, governance, water culture, the monitoring and evaluation of policies".

To put this recommendation into effect, the Italian Government announced a financial commitment of 5 million euros to support the implementation of three incubated projects and the pursuit of incubator itself. This commitment opens a second phase of the GAFWAC Incubation Platform.

GAFWAC Incubation Platform: 100 projects for water and climate change in Africa

The objectives are the followings:

1. Scaling up and speeding up incubation with the aim of fostering 100 projects over the next four years, with grants worth a total of 20 million euros over the period to support the incubator and project preparation.

2. Mobilizing and innovating with 400+ partners engaged in four Alliances representing basin organizations, megacities, businesses and clean desalination solution. It will also mobilize decentralized cooperation and seek innovative schemes to leverage the commitments taken by members of the Alliance to produce or invest differently.

3. Capitalizing on progress and going further: GAFWAC Incubation Platform will continue to focus on the priorities of the Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, with a strong push to:

- Strengthen water governance and cooperation at local, national and transboundary level (on the basis of international law, including the UNECE Water Convention 1992 and the New York Convention 1997),
- Produce and implement climate change adaptation strategies in line with NDCs,
- Carry out strategic investment programs,
- Oversee integrated planning of water resource uses, infrastructure and large-scale hydraulic engineering projects,
- Build knowledge, especially through hydro-meteorological and environmental monitoring networks, Water Information Systems (WIS), hydro climatic modeling tools, Early Warning Systems,
- Design and roll out sustainable financing mechanisms at all levels.

It will also broaden the scope by integrating the priorities shared with the other alliances that are members of GAFWAC, such as the protection of water resources, nature-based solutions, the development of clean and sustainable desalination solutions and the circular economy.

DECLARATION

Considering that water is one of the first victims of climate change;

Taking into account:

- the urgent need to step up the pace of transformation and enhance the number of valid projects relating to water and climate adaptation in Africa;
- the difficulty for project-holders to mobilize support in the early stages of project preparation, which hinders their capacity to access project preparation facilities as well as public and private financial instruments to support their investments;

We hereby declare that:

- We support the launch of the GAFWAC Incubation Platform's initiative "100 projects for water and climate change in Africa";
- We will help to catalyze the emergence of new projects in Africa;
- We will support the incubation process by providing human and/or financial resources;
- We are also willing to contribute by investing and producing differently, in order to anticipate or alleviate the impacts of climate change in Africa.

Project incubation is a missing link in project development. We believe this very first step is critical in order to support and accelerate wider mobilization for water and climate in all parts of Africa. We therefore call upon all donors and partners to join us in this enterprise, to help achieve large-scale transformation.

This declaration is signed by:

France, Italy, Chad, Burkina Faso, UNESCO, UNECE, the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency and the Global Alliances for Water and Climate and its 4 partners (International Network of Basin Organizations, Business Alliance for Water and Climate, Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate, Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance).