

## Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting (virtual)

Date: 31 October 2023

Time: 14:00pm CAT / 12:00 noon GMT

Co-convenors: SWA, UNICEF and AMCOW

Format: Virtual, open to the public, interpretation in English, French and Portuguese

### About the FMM

The [SWA 2023 Finance Ministers' Meeting \(FMM\)](#) will focus on how ministers of finance together with other government and development partners can transform access to water and sanitation in their countries. It will inform and inspire finance ministers and their sector counterparts to devise financing solutions and strategies to ensure increased access, drive investment and maximise the economic, social and development benefits. While the focus of the meeting will be ministers of finance, sector ministers and high-level representatives from other organisations are also being invited to participate. The meeting will share approaches and cases by other African countries demonstrating how investing in water and sanitation increases economic growth, investor confidence, creates jobs, decreases social (including healthcare) costs and promotes political stability,

The Meeting is situated on the continuum of recent international efforts to increase priority and financing to water and sanitation. As such, it complements the following:

- [Agenda 2063](#), [the Africa Investment Programme](#) and [SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#), the FMM fosters a strong alignment with these initiatives and will be an opportunity for reflection, taking stock of progress and developing commitments to accelerate progress. Crucially, it will integrate the work of the recently launched [Heads of State Initiatives](#), a global leadership drive for water and sanitation.
- [AfricaSan7](#), the continent-wide conference on sanitation, to take place in November 2023, which will seek to strengthen partnerships, investments and systems in favour of safely managed sanitation and hygiene, traditionally left-behind sub-sectors.
- [COP28](#), the annual conference on climate action, which will take place in November 2023, where water resources and service occupy a dominant place.
- The May 2022 [Sector Ministers' Meeting \(SMM\)](#) which brought together ministers of water, sanitation, climate and economy, to better situate water and sanitation as pillars of economic growth, social development and climate action.
- The [United Nations Water Conference in March 2023](#), a once-in-a-generation gathering to improve access to water-related services, which ended with the [Water Action Agenda](#).
- The World Bank's November 2023 meeting for Eastern and Southern African countries, specifically exploring private investments in water; as well as the OECD's series of roundtable on financing water.

Similar region-specific meetings are being planned for 2024 in Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

The intended outcomes are for finance ministers to:

- Identify, present and discuss cases and situations where investments in water and sanitation resulted in economic opportunities, social cost savings, increased returns on investment, job creation, poverty reduction and where targeted interventions are required.
- Seize opportunities to increase investments in access to water and sanitation as way to reduce social costs, increase tax revenues, and improve investor confidence.
- See water and sanitation as key development indicators to help achieve Agenda 2063; among other national development and international development goals.
- Come together and support ongoing initiatives with Heads of State or Government, relevant line ministries and other partners, such as public and regional development banks and other potential investors, on the steps they will take to use existing and future opportunities to increase investments in water, sanitation, and hygiene.

## Preparatory process

*Principles* - The FMM preparatory process is designed to be – (i) streamlined and efficient, with activities located on a clear timeline ; (ii) collaborative, giving the WASH sector actors an opportunity to closely collaborate and offer joint solutions to ministers and other finance and investment actors; (iii) beneficial and useful for the sector beyond the FMM; (iv) analytically sound, with a Country Brief that captures all the major dimensions of sector financing and articulates the transformative actions; (v) a forward-looking process, wherein specific solutions are identified which can then be explored by country stakeholders; and (vi) integrated, ensuring existing commitments on finance are reviewed, updated and new commitments where necessary are agreed to create a continuum with other important initiatives mentioned above.

*Elements* - There are three main elements in the preparatory process –

- A Country Brief
- A series of webinars
- A set of bilateral and multilateral meetings in the country

## Country Brief

The Country Brief is intended to be filled in collaboratively by WASH and finance actors in the country, in a government-led process. It includes an overview of the current state of funding that is made available to water, sanitation, and hygiene, and sets that off against the progress being made by the country on the indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

The Brief for participating ministers should foster an understanding between WASH sector stakeholders and political leaders of the link between the current state of WASH financing and the

political priority afforded to the sector. The brief is an opportunity to highlight or make new commitments related to finance including those that can be showcased at the meeting.

Therefore, the Brief will allow for actors in both WASH and in public finance, to understand better the needs and challenges in WASH financing, while identifying specific solutions that might work in the country to meet these needs. These solutions can be shared by country stakeholders with their minister as key contributions for the meeting and subsequent sector actions.

The Brief can be part of the package of materials for ministers to help prepare their participation and interventions. A template for the country brief is attached in the Appendix.

### Webinars

Two webinars are planned in the run-up to the FMM, both at 12:00 GMT, as follows:

- **26 September 2023.** This webinar will present the FMM's overall concept, its situation in the continuum of WASH finance – related initiatives, a description of the suggested preparatory process. The draft agenda will also be discussed. Examples of the type of case studies the ministers will discuss at the meeting will also be highlighted.
- **18 October 2023.** This webinar will present the latest information about the Meeting (agenda, confirmed participants, logistics arrangements), while also presenting examples on how countries are preparing their participation.

### Multi-stakeholder meetings

There are five suggested types of multistakeholder meetings:

- *Water and sanitation – finance meetings:* Sector stakeholders, under the leadership of the government authorities, convene with the main decision-makers in finance, to further elucidate the successes and challenges in financing water and sanitation. Where relevant, meetings can also be undertaken with development partners and the private sector.
- *Country level water and sanitation sector meetings:* Stakeholders in the sector can meet to collect and analyse the material relative to the state of the *water and sanitation* and its financing. They can also review existing finance-related commitments tabled under the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#) or table new ones. These meetings can be done via the “SWA committees” which many countries have instituted; or via other existing multistakeholder groups like the “consultation frameworks” or “sector technical groups”.
- *Country partners – SWA Secretariat meetings:* Bilateral meetings with the SWA Secretariat, to present the state of the preparations, answer questions related to the FMM, seek illustrations about other countries' preparations, present specific roadblocks in the preparatory process, and identify Secretariat support.
- *Constituency-specific meetings:* Meetings planned by the SWA Secretariat for non-government constituencies – civil society, private sector, utilities and regulators, research and learning, and development partners. They provide a forum for articulating their contributions to the sector financing, as well as strengthen their roles in sector investment processes.



- *Meetings with ministers:* Organised with the sector ministers to brief them about the FMM, elicit their participation, and prepare their interventions. Similarly, meetings can be organised with finance ministers, with a select set of sector and finance stakeholders. Ideally, there would also be a joint meeting between the finance and sector ministers, some days before the FMM. All these meetings should include briefing packages including the invitation letters, Country Brief when it is ready and other resources (see below). The SWA Secretariat can also arrange for calls between the ministers and SWA's Chief Executive Office, Catarina de Albuquerque.

## Resources

- The 2020 SWA Finance Ministers' [Handbook](#), a collection of successful examples on how to make investments in water and sanitation, and how to make these investments work.
- The March 2023 [report](#) of the International High Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, on "how investment partnerships will mobilize USD\$30 billion/year to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation in Africa"

## Communications

- **The Economist** is the 2023 FMM's media partner. They will support the promotion of the FMM and encourage the wider public to join. They will also host the recording of the FMM after the event.
- The Secretariat also developed the following tools and platforms to bring visibility to the meeting and partners' activities, all available of the [FMM website](#):
- Partner Space, for partners to publish FMM-related content, which will be promoted each post via SWA's social media channels (250k+ followers) and newsletter (6k+ subscribers). For more information contact the communications focal point (see below).
- [Live blog](#). The 2023 Live Blog will provide daily coverage of how partners are preparing for the FMM. Please send the Secretariat photos of your meetings and activities.
- Communications toolkit. A package of materials for partners to use to promote the FMM, including social media cards, banners, logos, etc.

### Secretariat contacts

- Anglophone African countries: Kevin [Rousset](#) and Oluyemisi [Akpa](#)
- Francophone African countries: Balwant [Godara](#)
- Lusophone African countries: Larissa [Arashiro](#)
- Civil Society Organizations: Anjani [Kapoor](#)
- External Support Agencies, Private Sector, Research, Utilities: Emily [Deschaine](#) & Vanessa [Gandarillas-Rodriguez](#)
- Communications: Alexandra [Reis](#)

## Appendix

Template for Country Brief.