**Theme: Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services in Africa**

1. **Background**

The G8 members and many African governments have recently agreed to rededicate their efforts to lifting the continent from poverty. In addition, the Heads of States and Government, at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2005, reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the MDGs. In this regard, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is providing leadership through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI). The World Bank (WB) is also playing a significant role in the global effort to support Africa and the WB / AfDB collaboration could yield significant contributions to the water supply and sanitation sector. The 2000 Memorandum of Understanding outlining an AfDB /WB Strategic Partnership identified water as one of three key areas for collaboration between the two institutions. Since then, Cooperation has steadily increased through such areas as jointly supporting AMCOW-NEPAD; regional river basins; and Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) MDG country assessments. A November 2003 mission to the AfDB by the WB Group resulted in increased water sector country level collaboration, especially in selected countries. During the Paris meeting on AfDB’s RWSSI in April, 2005, the WB and AfDB pledged to continue their co-operation and focus specifically on scaling up sustainable RWSS services at the country level. In this regard, both institutions agreed to hold a joint staff retreat in October 2005 to deepen this collaboration. A July 2005 World Bank Group mission to AfDB held further discussions about the design and agenda of the joint staff retreat.

2. **Objectives**

The main objectives of the AfDB-WB WSS staff retreat are:

1) Strengthen the working relationship/esprit de corps between WSS teams in the two institutions, and update each other on progress in sector initiatives adopted by each institution;

2) Reach agreement on key strategies to sector development including: RWS programmatic approach/budget support, promoting hygiene and sanitation, capacity building and sector monitoring.

3) Assess country situations and agree on WSS MDG action plans.

3. **Outputs**

The retreat will result in a concrete WB-AfDB work program with the following three specific outputs:

1) List of countries with defined joint investment programs,

2) List of countries with joint mission/cross support teams,

3) Matrix of indicators to monitor joint work program (items 1 and 2)

4. **Participants**

The meeting anticipates strong participation by each institution’s sector staff and the meeting plan has been developed anticipating 50 participants. An AfDB VP and Jamal Saghir, Director EWD will jointly chair the meeting. AfDB participants, led by Directors Gilbert Mbeshrubusa, Kordje Bedoumra and A. R. Rakotobe, would include a total of approximately 20-30 staff from its North, East, Southern, Western and Central Africa operations complexes as well as the Policy Planning and Research Research complex. The World Bank Group delegation will consist of around 25 staff from African technical units and WSP, including Sector Managers Eustache Ouayoro and, Jaime Biderman, and WSP Manager Ede Iijasz. A senior representative from the European
Union, the other major multilateral institution investing in Africa, will be invited to observe in order to strengthen linkages on WSS MDG action plans. In addition, a representative each from the European Investment Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, two of the largest multinational financial institutions operating in the region, are proposed to be invited as observers.

5. Dates and Venue

The meeting will be held on October 3-4, 2005 at the Hotel Residence in Gammath near Tunis.

6. Language

The meeting languages will be English and French. Simultaneous English-French interpretation will be provided by AfDB at plenary sessions.

7. Documentation and World Bank / AfDB responsibilities

- Status Report of WSS MDG Country Roadmaps – WB (Robert Roche) and WSP (Piers Cross)
- Status Report on RWSSI and AWF (AfDB)
- List of WSS investments: planned and under implementation – WB (Robert Roche), AfDB
- Frameworks for country plans for joint investment and joint mission programs – WB (Robert Roche), AfDB
- All Presentations (Param Iyer, AfDB)

8. Retreat Management and Costs

Each staff member will cover the costs of their own participation (including travel, accommodation and subsistence). AfDB will support the meeting room and interpretation costs.

---

**Agenda**

**Sunday, October 2**

Participants Arrive in Tunis

19.00 Open

*Informal meetings between AfDB and WB staff for TTLs to get to know each other*

**Monday, October 3**

9:00 – 12:15 Introductory and Thematic Sessions

*Chairs: Jamal Saghir, Director, Energy and Water Department, The WB and AfDB VP*

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Purpose

*Keynote introductory addresses by Gilbert Mbesherubusa, Director, West and Central Region, AfDB, Michel Wormser, Director, Finance, Private Sector and Infrastructure, Africa Region, Jamal Saghir, Director, Energy and Water Department, World Bank.*
9:30 – 10:00 **Session 1: Overview and Update**
1) AfDB: AWF and RWSSI
2) WB: Africa WSS Portfolio
3) WSP: WSS MDG Support Program
Brief, big picture update on ongoing initiatives to give overview and essential background (10 mins per presentation)
**Presenters:** Kordje Bedoumra Director, African Water Facility, AfDB, Eustache Ouayoro, Sector Manager, Water and Urban, Africa Region, WB, Piers Cross, Principal Regional Team Leader, WSP

10:00 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 11:15 **Session 2: From Project to Programmatic Approaches In RWSS Development**
Presentations and discussion on programmatic approaches, capacity building, RWSS PRSC toolkit and case-studies and discussion to build consensus on common approaches (10 min presentations and 50 min discussion)
**Presenters:** Christophe Prevost, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, Africa Region, The World Bank, Ato Brown, Senior Sanitary Engineer, Africa Region, The World Bank
**Discussants:** Param Iyer, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, Energy and Water Department, The World Bank and Gilbert Galibaka, Country EconomistWest Region, AfDB

11:15 -12:15 **Session 3: Supporting Monitoring of WSS Service Development**
Review of initiatives to support country and regional WSS monitoring. One 10 minute presentation followed by discussion to reach agreement on a sequenced action to support this neglected sector activity.
**Presenter:** Peter Akari, Chief Water Policy Officer, AWF, AfDB
**Discussants:** Meera Mehta, Senior Financial Specialist, WSP and Sering Jallow, Principal Sanitary Engineer, North Region, AfDB

12:15 -13: 45 Lunch (following lunch the retreat breaks up into two parallel tracks: Jamal Saghir and Michel Wormser hold parallel discussions with AfDB VPs and Sector Directors).

13:45 – 14:30 **Session 4: Supporting WSS MDG Action Plans**
Presentation and agreement on framework for country discussions
**Presenters:** Robert Roche, Lead Water and Sanitation Specialist, Africa region, The World Bank and Habte-Selaisse Woldetensay, Chief Sanitary Engineer, West and Central Region, AfDB.

14:30 – 15:30 **Session 5: Group Session on Building Common Country Support Frameworks**
Participants break into country groups (list of focus countries given at Annex 1. Each group first discusses priority countries (where new investments are being planned) in detail. Country documentation to be prepared in advance and discussions to incl. sector status, support strategies, including PRSP, CSP, CAS, MDG action plans, investment planning and country-specific assessments. Discussion to conclude with joint investment programs and joint mission/cross support plans with specific operations supporting missions outlined.

15:30 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 17:15 **Session 5 Continues**

19:00 onwards **Refreshments and Dinner**
**Speech by AfDB VP**

---

**Tuesday, October 4**
9:00 – 10:45  Session 5 Continues
10: 45 – 11:00  Break
11:00 – 12:30  Session 5 Continues
12:30 – 14:30  Lunch

14:30 onwards  Wrap up Sessions
   Chairs: Jamal Saghir and Kordje Bedoumra

14:30 - 15:30  Session 5 Group Reports
   Groups report to WB and AfDB senior management and other participants (5 min report
   and 5-10 min discussion per report)

15:30 onwards  Outcomes of Thematic and Country Discussions, Agreement on
   Next Steps
   Wrap up business session on meeting achievements and agreed actions
   Closing remarks by Michel Wormser and Mr. Rakotobe, Director North
   Region, AfDB.