

Statement of the East African Ministers of Water

On

“Scaling Up of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative”

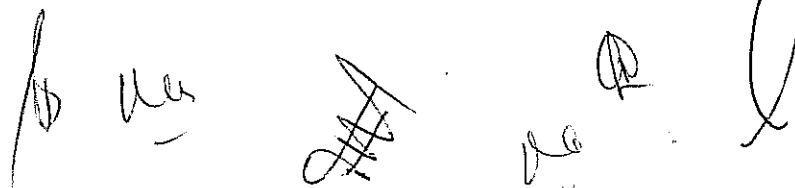
April 23rd, 2009, Entebbe, Uganda

PREAMBLE

The Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (LVWATSAN) is a regional programme whose aim is to assist in reversing the environmental deterioration of Lake Victoria and improve living conditions in the lake basin. Formulated by UN-HABITAT at the request of the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the initiative is implementing an integrated package of interventions including rehabilitation and expansion of dilapidated and inadequate water supply and sanitation infrastructure and improvements to drainage and solid waste management systems. To ensure long-term sustainability of these interventions and enhance operational efficiency within water and sanitation utilities in the towns, a comprehensive capacity building programme is being implemented simultaneously. Ultimately, the Initiative seeks to demonstrate that the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation can be achieved in the project towns within a relatively short time frame and that these gains are sustainable over the long term.

Rwanda and Burundi are a part of the upper watershed that drains into Lake Victoria through the Kagera River and between them, occupy about one fifth of the Lake catchment. Following their integration into the East African Community, action has been taken by UN-HABITAT to ensure that these two countries are included in the next phase of the programme.

With Support from the Government of the Netherlands and other UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund Development Partners, the programme has already demonstrated good results on the ground and every effort is now being made to expand activities to additional towns in the lake basin, so as to maximize its positive impact in improving living conditions and reversing the deterioration of Lake Victoria. The initial 7 towns have already been increased to 10 and UN-HABITAT and the East African Community are working in partnership with the African Development Bank to expand the programme to another 15 towns. A project formulation study for these additional 15 towns is already in progress. A further extension of the programme to medium sized and large towns in the lake basin is



currently being prepared and the primary purpose of the Entebbe meeting was to develop a concept proposal for this further scaling-up and seek Ministerial endorsement.

STATEMENT

We, the East African Ministers of Water, meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, on 23rd April 2009,

Endorse the scaling up of LVWATSAN to further address the water and sanitation problems in the over 200 urban centres in the Lake Victoria Basin.

Further endorse the development of a consolidated investment proposal, including funding modalities, which will form the basis for a detailed project formulation study to expand LVWATSAN to medium sized and large towns in the Lake Victoria Basin.

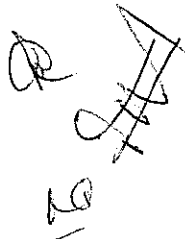
Recall the first Meeting of East African Ministers of Water and Development Partners on LVWATSAN held in Nairobi, Kenya on September 5th, 2008 which called upon the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other development partners to consider financing capital investments and capacity building activities for an expanded LVWATSAN through concessional loans and grants.

Commend the African Development Bank for providing financial support through the African Water Facility for the preparation of the second phase of the Programme which will extend activities to another 15 towns, 3 each for the East African Countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Further commend UN-HABITAT for providing overall programme coordination and for initiating consultations with the EIB in light of the mandate given to assist participating countries in securing funding for up scaling of LVWATSAN.

Welcome the EIB interest and positive response to UN-HABITAT's proposal to support our Governments in the preparation of investment plans focusing on the large towns of the five countries, namely; Kisumu in Kenya, Mwanza in Tanzania, Kampala in Uganda, Gitega and Kigali.

Reaffirm our commitment to working with UN-HABITAT, the EAC Secretariat and other development partners to ensure that the MDGs for water and sanitation are achieved in the Lake Victoria Basin.



Recognise the need for the implementation partners and UN-HABITAT to channel lessons learnt in Phase I of LVWATSAN into the expanded programme and to maintain its regional character. In addition, to further incorporate the issues of environmental sustainability, good governance and the impacts of climate change into future phases of the programme

Further recognise the need to build on the ongoing capacity building activities and prioritise gender and women's and vulnerable groups' empowerment in the expanded programme.

RESOLUTION

We, therefore, in the spirit of regional cooperation, and with a common goal,

Resolve to fully support the scaling up of LVWATSAN to secondary towns, medium size and large towns, by requesting our Governments to contribute the required counterpart support and provide loan guarantees as appropriate to support the programme.

Jointly agree to initiate consultations with the EIB and other development partners for loans and grants for the purpose of financing water and sanitation Infrastructure investments in large towns outlined in the attached framework proposal.

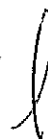
Call upon EIB and UN-HABITAT to ensure that the grant package, to be funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, is maximised, especially for the benefit of the poor residing in low-income settlements in the target towns.

Further call upon other development partners to support the scaling up of LVWATSAN Programme.

Request the EIB to immediately expedite the project formulation in collaboration with UN-HABITAT. Taking due cognisance of existing initiatives and that the appraisal process will be initiated once the project formulation process is complete.

Further request the EIB and other development partners to support UN-HABITAT through the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund to facilitate the training and capacity building component of the expanded programme. In addition, to expand the spatial monitoring concept that UN-HABITAT have been developing with Google.org.

Urge UN-HABITAT to work closely with our Governments, donors and the

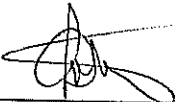


East African Community, through the Lake Victoria Basin Commission in coordinating technical aspects of programme activities.

Decide to meet within a year to assess progress made.

Thank the Government of the Republic of Uganda for hosting the second Ministerial Meeting.

Delivered on 23rd April 2009 during the Meeting of East African Ministers of Water, and Development Partners on the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative.



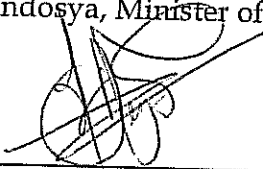
Hon. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda



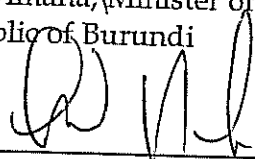
Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, Assistant Minister of Water and Irrigation, Republic of Kenya



Hon. Prof. Mark Mwandosya, Minister of Water and Irrigation, United Republic of Tanzania

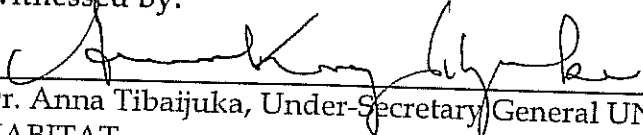


Hon. Deogratias Nduwimana, Minister of Water, Environment, Land and Urban Planning, Republic of Burundi

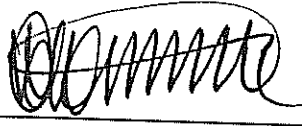


Hon. Dr. Albert Butare, Minister of State in charge of nergy and Water, , Republic of Rwanda

Witnessed by:



Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary General UN and Executive Director UN-HABITAT



Dr. Tom Okurut, Executive Secretary , Lake Victoria Basin Commission.