

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Media Advisory

Venue: Lusaka, Zambia

Date: 25 May 2025

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

Third African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON3)



What: The African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) jointly convene the 3rd African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON3). Hosted by the Republic of Zambia, PANAFCON-3 will be held under the theme “*Assuring Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sanitation for the Africa We Want*”.

When: 27–29 May 2025

Where: Lusaka, Republic of Zambia (Mulungushi International Conference Center)
The high-level segment will also be livestreamed for virtual attendees (the link will be shared once available).

Media opportunities:

- A high-level statement by African Heads of State and Governments, statements by: the African Union Commission, AfDB, UNECA, SADC, and other key stakeholders.
- Coverage of the various side events and exhibition
- High level group photo
- Media engagement

Objectives

The conference will pave way for Member States and partners to review the initial draft of the post-2025 vision and policy framework for assuring water security and sanitation for peace and development in Africa. Thus, PANAFCON-3 will allow for broad consultations to review the initial draft of the post 2025 Africa Water Vision and Policy that allows the African political leadership to consider and guide on the technical outcomes of the conference.

Expected outcomes

- High-level ministerial pronouncement to guide on the conference's technical outcomes towards finalisation of the post-2025 AWW and policy.
- Commitment towards a roadmap to ensure the consideration/tabling/approval of the post-2025 AWW and policy at the AU Assembly of 2026 (including champion??)
- Plan of action to commemorate AU theme of 2026
- Conference report containing outcomes of PANAFCON-

Background:

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Secretariat of AMCOW (AMCOW-Sec) are mandated to implement policy initiatives to actualise both the African Union Vision of: “*an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena*”; and, the Africa Water Vision 2025 of: “*an Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and the environment*”.

The 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU Assembly), in July 2008, culminated in the seminal Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration [Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)] on water. The Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU HoSG) undertook the *Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa*. The backdrop to the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments is provided by the targets of the Africa Water Vision 2025 (AWV 2025).

Thus, in 2000, the continent envisioned an Africa where there is equitable and sustainable utilisation of our water resources for socio-economic development, poverty alleviation, regional cooperation and the environment by 2025. A key lesson from efforts to actualise this Vision is the urgent need to inject new approaches into strategies to attract commensurate financial resources to the sector.

Participants:

PANAFCON-3 will be attended by African Heads of State and Governments, relevant ministers from AU Member States, RECs, representatives of development partners and international organisations, various stakeholders, civil society organizations, youth, and farmer organisation representatives.

For further information, please contact:

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