

# 1<sup>st</sup> Digital Congress of the African Water Association

**JULY 22 - 29, 2022**

**Theme :“Rising up from the global COVID 19 pandemic and accelerating universal access to water and sanitation services in Africa by 2030”**

# CALL FOR PAPERS



# Presentation of the Congress

Since 2020 the disease of Covid-19 initially appeared in China at the end of 2019 has gone from an epidemic to a pandemic. This has created an unprecedented health situation, but also a very largely disrupted environment, due of course to the number of cases and very large-scale of infection which forced governments to take crisis management measures that affect significant parts of the world's population. The water and sanitation sector has particularly been affected by direct and indirect impacts from this situation, especially with the lock down measures.

Frequent hand washing with soap and water is, according to the WHO, the ultimate barrier to slowing the progress of the pandemic. But when we know that according to the organization's statistics 3 billion people (40% of the world's population) and 72% of the population of the least developed countries (LDCs) do not have access to handwashing devices with soap at home. This situation normally leads to the deaths of 800,000 people a year and 1,000 children under five years of age per day due to diseases related to dirty water and lack of hygiene. In the context of the current health crisis, the lack of water and sanitation is clearly a factor in exacerbating the contagion.

Recognizing that Water professionals are essential for public health, how the Water and sanitation services in Africa rising up from the global Covid-19 pandemic, especially when people had been either partial or total contained home, and keep on track to achieve water and sanitation for all as the ultimate target set for SDG 6?

Indeed, there is a strong need of accelerating processes in WASH and, as the sole pan African

water and sanitation professional organization in the continent, the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWA) feel itself the need of leading the shift process.

While AfWA was organizing a congress every two years since its creation in 1980 in order to allow water professionals exchanging on the sectoral challenges and share best practices, it has become necessary to review the path and take advantage of the innovative communication and e-meeting tools which and been developed these past years. As a consequence of these, AfWA is planning its first digital congress on the theme: "rising up from the global covid 19 pandemic and accelerating universal access to water and sanitation services in Africa by 2030". The congress is scheduled from 2022 to 29 July, 2022.

Delegates will be able to participate online in the congress activities, thanks to the remote communication tools that will be deployed by the organizers. To benefit from the limitation of travel and relatively low registration fees, it is expected nearly 1000 participants in this innovative event which takes place in a context of mobilization of the actors of the sector around the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. While just closing the World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal which lasted in March 2022 with very strong recommendations, delegates will be able to leverage from these Dakar resolutions, to produce strong communication papers and discussion themes in panel group and finally come to great commitment to ensuring that the challenges on the universal water and sanitation coverage in Africa are addressed, in line with the guidelines from the international community, despite common and recurrent health barriers.



# Message from the Chairperson of AfWA

**Dr. Eng. Silver MUGISHA**  
**Managing Director of National Water and Sewerage Cooperation, Uganda**

**T**he African Water Association (AfWA), created in 1980, is a professional organization of institutions, companies and operators operating in the water, sanitation and environment sector in Africa.

Today, our network includes more than 110 active member companies from 45 African countries, more than 75 affiliate members composed of individuals or groups of individuals from all continents, practicing in industry, technology and consulting in the water, sanitation and living environment sector, which allow our organization to position itself as a key platform for the water and sanitation sector on the continent.

The theme of the PPA Digital Congress to be held online from 22 to 29 July 2022 is: **“rising up from the global covid 19 pandemic and accelerating universal access to water and sanitation services in Africa by 2030”**. A topical theme that reflects our organization’s desire to support the international community in its fight to maintain and strengthen human development and

respect the right of all to quality public utilities. This cannot be done without universal access to water and sanitation services in a world in the midst of a health crisis.

The Congress of the African Water Association, over the years, acquires a dimension that goes beyond the sole framework of our continent and presents itself as an essential event that attracts an increasing number of professionals. Better yet, in this digital format, it is a unique opportunity to connect /connect remotely via interactive tools, all the actors of the sector, to question the major challenges facing our continent, in order to be able to provide solutions.

I invite all professionals, development partners, policy makers, and all those who have a direct or indirect interest in the issue of water and sanitation in Africa, to join this important pan-African forum so that together, we join forces to advance the issue of providing people with safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in Africa.



# Invitation from the President of the Scientific and Technical Council



**Dr. MBA. Eng. Papa Samba DIOP**  
**President of the Scientific and Technical Council of AfWA**

**A**frica is the continent with one of the highest rates of population growth, with a doubling of the urban population and urbanized areas every 10 to 15 years, significantly increasing water stress in these expanding areas. And yet, there is no shortage of water on this continent where reserves are estimated at more than 660,000 cubic kilometers. Paradoxically, Africa remains the continent where a third of the population, or 330 million people, does not have access to drinking water and where health problems due to the lack of drinking water are persistent.

These situations require water companies to be even more efficient, and the entire water/sanitation community to mobilize so that our content is at the rendezvous of the Sustainable Development Goals that «guarantee access to water and sanitation for all by 2030».

The current approach, therefore, would be to find and implement actions that could accelerate access to water and basic sanitation services on the continent. To do this, it is necessary to innovate and, above all, to seek and move towards sustainable solutions, while taking into account the current context strongly marked by the phenomenon of climate change, which spares no continent. This is why our congress revolves around the theme: **“rising up from the global covid 19 pandemic and accelerating**

**universal access to water and sanitation services in Africa by 2030”**. The Scientific and Technical Council, the linchpin of our organization, brings together all the executives, directors, engineers and technicians of water companies, who meet regularly to identify the problems of the water sector in Africa with a view to proposing solutions. For almost two years, the various commissions that compose it have been working to identify all the contours of the different themes that will bring us together from 22 to 29 July online, and to ensure that all the conditions are met to advance the debate on the issues that concern the water and sanitation sector on the continent.

The 1st AfWA Digital Congress will be an opportunity to connect/connect the entire water and sanitation community in Africa and around the world, with researchers, academics, water company leaders, policy makers, young professionals in the water sector, and donors. All these actors and partners in the sector take part in the reflection by offering papers or presentations, by organizing parallel sessions or by participating in the virtual exhibition that expects a little more than 1000 visitors by videoconference.

We invite you all to make your proposals for papers, in accordance with our theme and the different sub-themes, as defined below.





# Invitation to submit a paper

**W**e invite the entire scientific community, professionals in the water and sanitation sector and all actors engaged in the fight for access to water and sanitation for all to propose a paper to be presented at the Digital Congress of the African Water Association (AfWA).

The papers should, by their relevance and interest, address issues related to the general theme, the 03 tracks and the following sub-themes of the congress:

- ◆ **Track 1:** Access to water
- ◆ **Track 2:** access to sanitation services
- ◆ **Track 3:** Climate change and environment

A selection committee will review the papers received on the basis of a reading grid determining the clarity, relevance and originality of the proposed approaches.

Interested persons will have to send a summary of about 1000 words of their communication including their first and last names, their professional situation, their address and the title of their communication.



# Themes and Sub-themes

## 1. Governance systems and regulations

- a. Decentralization policy
- b. Sector organization, coordination and reporting
- c. Advocacy and partnerships
- d. Benchmarking and capacity building
- e. Management systems
- f. Regional, national and local regulations

## 2. Technical and approaches

- a. Non-revenue Water
- b. Peer-to-peer learning
- c. Community of Practices
- d. Water quality
- e. Citywide Inclusive sanitation
- f. Resilience to droughts, floods and rain fall regime variation
- g. Fecal sludge management
- h. Adapted toilets
- i. Leak detection
- j. Smart metering and remote-control systems

## 3. Financing

- a. Innovative financing systems
- b. Budgeting and cost recovery
- c. Sustainable financing mechanism

## Deadline for submission of abstracts

Abstracts should be sent by June 20, 2022 to the following email address:

[callforpaper2022@afwa-hq.org](mailto:callforpaper2022@afwa-hq.org)

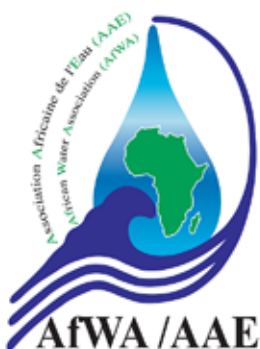
## Deadline for submission of full communications

Authors whose abstracts have been selected will receive a notification to submit a more complete paper by June 24, 2022 at the latest. They should submit by June 30 in a format to be provided to them: their full paper and Powerpoint presentation.

## How to submit

Please complete the attached template





## African Water Association (AfWA)

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