



# **Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa**

---

## **The Challenges of Climate Change**

### **MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY IN AFRICA: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
15-17 December 2008

### **PRESENTATION NOTE**

#### **THE CONTEXT**

Following discussions held on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference held in Addis Ababa from 27 January to 2 February 2008, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as the chair of the United Nations inter-agency mechanism "UN-Water", and in close collaboration with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the African Union, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Development Bank, and the Economic Commission for Africa is organizing a Ministerial Conference on "Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of Climate Change" to be held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 15 to 17 December 2008.

The principal aim of the Conference will be to examine the issue of water resources in Africa in the context of higher demand from the agriculture and energy sectors and climate change. The increase in energy costs provides further justification for the development of alternative sources of energy, in particular hydropower. The development of African agriculture, which is essentially rainfed, will depend on expanding and improving irrigation in the face of a growing population.

The Conference will be an opportunity to discuss water control projects within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Conference will examine investment needs and management problems for harnessing of water and irrigation at village level, for the rehabilitation of large-scale hydro-agricultural works and for the development of major river basins. The focus will be on concrete programmes and the assessment of their financing costs, both in terms of feasibility studies and implementation of works.

The Conference will adopt a dynamic visionary framework that will primarily consider the actions/outputs stated in the declaration of the Sirte 2004 Conference as its entry point. Since new pressing challenges have emerged, and need to be robustly tackled, a renewed strength should be added to the commitments agreed upon in 2004, not yet fully translated into concrete action. In particular, there is a need to address the linkages between water and

energy at an accelerated pace focusing on the impacts of climate change on the use of these resources. The Conference will also be a follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on “World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy” (FAO, Rome, June 2008).

### **OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE**

- A stocktaking of the major issues regarding water for agriculture and energy and the impacts of climate change
- National Investment Briefs (NIBs) for all African countries with estimated investment needs in water for agriculture and energy based on a review and updating of NEPAD-CAADP and other investment Projections at both country and river basin levels
- A declaration by Governments of Africa and development partners to put together an Action Plan and engage into investment programmes for water development in support of agriculture and energy at short, medium and long term
- A follow up mechanism to monitor and evaluate the agreed Action Plan and to promote more investment programmes on water for agriculture and energy in Africa

### **CONFERENCE PREPARATION**

Taking into account the new challenges faced by the African Continent and in line with the Sirte Declaration (2004) on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water in Africa, support will be given to the African countries by FAO and the African Union on policy consultation and actions to boost sustainable use of water resources for agricultural production and livelihood improvement. The Conference preparation will focus on the production of National Investment Briefs for all the African Countries, in which estimated investment needs for agriculture and energy will be presented based on NEPAD-CAADP and other investment projections - including NEPAD National Medium Term Investment Programmes (NMTIP) and National Programmes for Food Security. On-going, pipeline and Bankable Investment Project Profiles (BIPPs) will be presented.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE**

- An inaugural Session with speeches/addresses delivered by the Host Country, the Director-General of FAO, the President of the African Union, the Chairman of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), the President of the African Development Bank, The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the European Commissioner, Heads of UN agencies, the Representative of Farmers’ Organizations, and statements by Heads of Delegations.
- Three Working Sessions with government representatives and other partners, based on thematic and geographic priorities
- Two roundtable discussions on:
  - Saving Lake Chad and Inter- and Intra-Basin Water Transfers, and
  - Partnership for financing water for agriculture and energy in Africa

- A High-Level African Union meeting on “High Food Prices: Maintaining the Momentum”
- A Drafting Committee representing national governments to finalize the Conference Declaration and Action Plan
- A Water Technology Fair and other Parallel Events