

**OPENING REMARKS BY HONORABLE PROF. MAKAME
MBARAWA (MP), MINISTER OF WATER,
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF AWF
GOVERNING COUNCIL,
SERENA HOTEL DAR ES SALAAM, 25TH – 26TH NOVEMBER 2019**

- **Hon Ministers,**
- **The Executive Secretary of the African Ministers’ Council on Water,**
- **Director of the Water and Sanitation Department and the African Water Facility,**
- **Country Manager of the African Development Bank, Tanzania**
- **Distinguished Representatives of the AMCOW-Technical Advisory Committee,**
- **Representative of the Development Partners from Austria (Austria Development Agency (ADA) and Ministry of Finance) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the 19th Session of the Governing Council of the African Water Facility. On behalf of the Government of Tanzania, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the distinguished members of the Governing Council and to Observers to have accepted our invitation to participate in this important meeting. I wish to welcome all of you to Tanzania, in particular Dar es Salaam City and encourage you to find time during your stay to visit different places of this City known historically as “**Port of Peace**”

On behalf of the Governing Council, I would like to thank the African Development Bank Management and the African Water Facility staff for all their efforts in the preparation of this meeting.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative of the Ministers responsible for Water in the Continent and its roles and mandates in supporting the development of the water and sanitation sector and other cross cutting issues such as Climate Change, Gender cannot be over-emphasized.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its operationalization in 2006 to date, the AWF has already financed preparation of 119 projects in all Regional Member Countries as well as Transboundary basins in Africa for a total amount of more than **Euro156 million**. The prepared projects has attracted over **Euro 1.5 Billion** in downstream investment from various Multilateral Institutions such as African Development Bank which has been the major uptake of the projects prepared by the Facility, World Bank, French Development Agency (AFD), KfW, Private Sector and other Partners. The downstream investment is a key milestone for the Facility as in every **Euro1** invested have raised **Euro 32** at the end of 2018. This ratio confirm the role played by the Facility as the only African own project preparation facility.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, to guide its operations, the AWF has developed a long-term Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2025 with ambitious targets. We have now reached the third year of its operation and I believe it is the right time to take the stock of its

implementation and review its targets taking into account new developments and priorities across the Continent and Globally.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Water Facility could not have achieved the results summary described today without the multiform support of its Development Partners. In fact, since its operationalization in 2006, the Facility's partners and donors continue to provide substantial support to the Facility through technical assistance, administrative expenses, operational assistance and direct financial contributions, that have allowed the Facility to become the main Project Preparation Fund for the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

I would like to thank the various donors for their support, which is a key sign of confidence in the mandate of the AWF. We are hoping that this support will continue for many more years as the Fund continues to grow and evolve. In addition, I have been informed that currently there few Regional Member Countries that contributes to the Facility. I urge all the Countries to set aside budget and contribute to the Facility in an Annual basis.

I am also informed on the planned Replenishment Conference next year in November 2020. I urge Regional Member Countries to participate in fully and request our Development Partners to support this initiative. I also take this opportunity to ask the AWF team to start preparation early enough to make the conference a success.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The implementation of the long-term strategy 2017-2025 is a challenge for the Facility. Indeed, the important role devoted to the private sector, the necessity to develop and promote innovative models for water and sanitation services management and for financing water and sanitation infrastructure requires the involvement of various skills that cannot be provided by the AWF Permanent Staff. I would therefore like to invite AWF's technical partners to explore the possibilities to strengthen the technical capacity of the AWF by providing more Technical Assistance in the areas I have just mentioned.

Hon Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been informed that there is ongoing Independent Evaluation of the AWF's Effectiveness since its Inception up to 2018 and the Integration of the Bank's Multi-donors Water Partnership Programme into the Facility as well the on-going establishment of the "**African Urban sanitation Investment Fund**" (AUSIF). The progress and the report will be presented by the Independent Evaluation Team and the AWF during this meeting. The Governing Council is in full support of the on-going merging of the three Funds, as this will ensure improved efficiency in order to reduce cost. The Independent evaluation will provide strategic guidance to the facility and provide an opportunity for improving its operations and future operations as we look into reviewing the AWF Strategic Plan 2017 – 2025.

The AUSIF will bring a new dimension and thinking on Sanitation and the Regional member Countries and the Governing Council members are in full support of this Fund. The Fund establishment, will help Countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa towards achieving SDG 6.2 in Sanitation of which most of them lag behind.

Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude my remarks by inviting all Governing Council members to review the key documents before us. These include the AWF progress report covering the period, January to September 2019, resource mobilization activities and the Work plan and budget for 2020 for approval.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Oversight Committee of the Bank for reviewing the documents and support their recommendations on the need to appoint a President who will be a Champion for the AWF and also request one of our Development Partner to support the AWF and the Governing Council on resource mobilization for the Africa Water Facility.

Dear Governing Council Members, with these few remarks, it is my honor and privilege to declare this 19th meeting of the Governing Board of the African Water Facility officially open.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION