

MOLE XXXII WASH CONFERENCE

**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ANNUAL MOLE XXXII WASH CONFERENCE
ORGANIZED BY THE COALITION OF NGOs IN WATER AND SANITATION (CONIWAS)
AND PARTNERS FROM 1ST TO 5TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT ANITA HOTEL, EJISU
IN THE ASHANTI REGION**

THEME

**REPOSITIONING THE WASH SECTOR FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

PREAMBLE

The annual Mole WASH Conference is a CSO-led multi-stakeholder platform aimed at reviewing sector performance, influencing policies, removing barriers, and promoting access to sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

The 4-day conference was opened by Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources with solidarity messages from the Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, Ms. Kati Csaba, the Head of Israel's Trade Mission in Ghana, Ms. Ayelet Karp, the Executive Secretary of the Environmental Service Providers Association (ESPA), Ms. Ama Ofori Antwi and the 2021/22 Child Sanitation Diplomat, Miss Naziru Mawadatu.

The opening session of the conference was chaired by Hon. Andrew Dari Chiwitey, MP for Sawla Tuna Kalba Constituency and Deputy Ranking Member for the Parliamentary Committee on Works and Housing while the theme address was delivered by the World Bank Country Director, Mr. Pierre Laporte.

The conference, which discussed four thematic areas – WASH in Emergencies, Managing Water Resources for Equitable Growth, WASH as Catalyst for Growth and ICT and WASH Delivery – was attended by two hundred and thirty-five (235) participants drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Partners, CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Academic and Research Institutions, Private Sector and the Media attended the conference.

THE CALLS

At the close of deliberations, Conference resolves as follows:

1. Conference takes note of the gaps in resilience programming, making vulnerable communities exposed to shocks in times of emergencies and disasters. MSWR should fast track the process of undertaking a WASH resilience study to inform policy, plans and strategies targeting poor communities and vulnerable population in emergencies.
2. Conference calls on NGOs/CSOs, MDAs and other stakeholders to include risk-informed programming and budgeting in their interventions to drive resilience in WASH services delivery.

3. Conference appreciates the role of ICT in WASH services delivery and, in particular, the critical role of Expanded Sanitary Inspection and Compliance Enforcement Mobile Applications (ESICApps) in filling the data gap in environmental sanitation services. Conference calls on all MMDAs, Development Partners, Private Sector and NGOs/CSOs to support the nationwide roll-out of the ESICApps.
4. The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR), Development Partners, NGOs/CSOs and other stakeholders should explore a combination of equitable and sustainable sanitation financing options, including support to the poor and vulnerable and revolving funds, among others.

Conference further calls on MSWR to expedite action towards establishing the National Sanitation Authority and the National Sanitation Fund, which should include all the relevant options.

5. Building on the lessons and success of sector initiatives such as the Ghana Water Company's Low Income Customer Support Department, Conference calls on MSWR to establish an Equity and Inclusion desk to co-ordinate the mainstreaming of gender, equity and inclusion in WASH. The review and implementation of the WASH Gender and Equity Framework should be prioritized by the desk.

Conference calls on MSWR to take immediate steps to develop a National Hygiene Strategy and finalize a national roadmap for ending open defecation in Ghana.

7. Conference commends MSWR for effective political leadership and direction resulting in the improvement in solid waste management, especially the elimination of age-old dump sites. We further call on MSWR, working in partnership with the Private Sector, to complete the ongoing solid waste management infrastructure across the Country.
8. Conference calls on the Ministry of Finance to prioritize the timely release of budgetary allocation to the Water Resources Commission and other relevant agencies for effective IWRM implementation.

Issued this Friday, 5th November, 2021 at Anita Hotel, Ashanti Region.