



G20

SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

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AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

In the context of
G20 Presidency of South Africa

Cape Town International Convention Centre,
South Africa, 13 - 15 August 2025



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY





Background

The African Union–Africa Water Investment Summit 2025 will take place from 13–15 August 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa. This landmark event—convened under South Africa’s G20 Presidency—brings together African Heads of State, global investors, ministers, private sector leaders, and development institutions in a unified call to close Africa’s US\$30 billion annual water investment gap.

The Summit is jointly organised by the Republic of South Africa, the African Union in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD, AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa. Together, they are mobilising the political momentum, financial capital, and institutional partnerships needed to deliver climate-resilient water and sanitation for all.



G20 Conference 13- 15 August 2025

Cape Town
International
Convention
Centre (CTICC),
South Africa

A premier platform to translate commitments into investment



The 2025 Summit will serve as the premier platform to translate political will into investment commitments. Anchored in the G20 theme of “Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability,” the Summit seeks to demonstrate Africa’s leadership in climate and water resilience while attracting strategic capital flows from global markets.

Delegates will participate in high-level dialogues, engage in project matchmaking sessions, and contribute to a Declaration on Water Investments that will influence both continental and global development agendas—including preparations for the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Above all, this is a moment for catalytic action: a continental call to align political priorities with bold investment, create lasting partnerships, and build a prosperous, climate-secure future for Africa.

A historic moment - first G20 Summit on African soil

On 3 December 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025 would champion the theme 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability'—a vision to bring African and Global South priorities to the G20 stage. This historic moment marks the first time the G20 Summit will be held on African soil, following the African Union's admission as a G20 member.

Speaking at Davos 2025, President Ramaphosa emphasized the urgency of addressing glaring inequalities in economic capabilities, human development, and access to predictable financing. He outlined South Africa's G20 goals: scaling climate finance, ensuring debt sustainability for low-income nations, and boosting resilience to climate-induced disasters through infrastructure investment. Water and sanitation sit at the heart of

this vision. Yet Africa faces a significant financing gap: an estimated US\$30 billion annually is needed to meet growing demand. Investment in water is not just an infrastructure goal—it is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering equality, and securing a climate-resilient future.

The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), adopted by African Heads of State in 2021 as a PIDA initiative, is the AU's flagship response to transform the continent's water investment landscape. Recognised under the AU Climate Strategy (2022–2032), the AIP is unlocking ambition, reform, and financing to close Africa's water investment gap by 2030.



Global Outlook Council to drive momentum beyond the Summit

To drive political momentum beyond the Summit, the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments will be inaugurated during the Summit, a world-class high-level body composed of current and former Heads of State, global business and

philanthropic leaders, and senior public-sector figures, with a mission to champion water investments at the highest levels of global diplomacy, notably through the G20, COP, UN, and other international forums.



The Summit centers around the three pathways put forward by the AU and the High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation by 2030. The three pathways are outlined in the Panel's report – Africa's Rising Investment Tide: Investment Action Plan – as follows:



Pathway 1

Sector governance, considered the greatest contributor to closing the finance gap across all investment sources, as improving governance is vital to attracting additional finance.



Pathway 2

Domestic resource mobilisation, covering a number of major investment sources organized to work in sync.



Pathway 3

Global and continental finance, with actions in multiple channels drawing on finance from global investors and development finance institutions.

Summit Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The primary objective of the Africa Water Investment Summit 2025 is to accelerate transformative investments in Africa's water and sanitation sectors by strengthening the enabling environment, expanding access to finance, and presenting a robust pipeline of bankable projects to global investors.

Expected Outcomes

The Summit is a first step towards elevating water investments as a global priority in the context of the global climate emergency. The expected outcomes are:



Multi-billion-dollar investment pledges across the continent to project pipelines, backed by development banks, private financiers, and philanthropic partners.





A high-level Summit Declaration on Water Investments, endorsed by African leaders, outlining actionable commitments to strengthen governance, increase investment, and promote accountability.



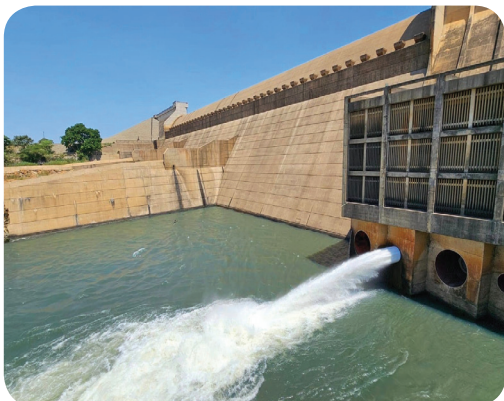
Presentation of the 2025 Water Changemaker Awards—including the Presidential Changemaker Awards—recognising impactful leadership and innovation.



Launch of new partnerships and financing mechanisms that strengthen long-term investment sustainability and resilience., with a continental roadmap to guide implementation of commitments and scale up water financing to 2030.



Inauguration of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, a world-class high-level body composed of current and former Heads of State to drive water investments beyond the summit across G20, COP 30, UN 2026 Water Conference and others.





Summit Format

The Summit will span three days—13 to 15 August 2025—at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa. Organised by the Republic of South Africa, the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the AIP, and the AU-AIP High-Level Panel, the Summit aligns with the strategic priorities of South Africa's G20 Presidency.

Each day of the Summit will combine high-level plenary discussions with breakout matchmaking rooms organized around the three pathways:

Day 1

**Ministerial
Opening &
investment
matchmaking
- Pathway 1**

High-level political leaders will launch the Summit, followed by boardroom-style sessions where project owners present investment-ready initiatives to potential funders and financiers focusing on sector governance.

Day 2

**Domestic
resource
mobilisation
& investment
matchmaking
- Pathways 2
and 3**

A full day of curated interactions between investors, donors, and governments. Inspiring plenary sessions will explore enabling policies, financial innovations, regulatory frameworks and data for decision making.

Day 3

**Presidential
Commitment &
Changemaker
Awards**

Heads of State and key financiers will announce commitments and sign the Summit Declaration. The event culminates with the 2025 Presidential Water Changemaker Awards, celebrating leadership, vision, and transformative action; and inauguration of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, a world-class high-level body composed of current and former Heads of States.





Summit Leadership and Governance Structure

The Africa Water Investment Summit 2025 is underpinned by a strong leadership and governance framework to ensure political coherence, operational efficiency, and accountability.

Project Pipeline

The African Union's AIP Secretariat has curated a pipeline of 53 projects across 19 countries, with a combined value of over US\$27 billion. These investment opportunities span water infrastructure, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, and institutional capacity.

The Summit will prioritise showcasing climate-resilient, socially inclusive, and financially viable projects. In collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, the AIP Secretariat is also supporting 15 countries in developing national water investment programmes through the AU-AIP Multi-Country Readiness Project.

Other institutions and organisations have been preparing their own project pipelines, have developed their own programmes and are welcomed to showcase their finance related initiatives. Technical support will be provided to project sponsors to ensure alignment with investor expectations and AU-AIP guidelines. The focus will extend beyond traditional infrastructure, encouraging investment in governance reforms, data systems, efficiency gains, cross-border collaboration, and regulatory strengthening.

1

Convening Leaders:

The Summit is spearheaded by South Africa in collaboration with the African Union and the High-Level Panel Co-Chairs, Senegal, and Namibia; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. Their leadership affirms the continental mandate and elevates the Summit's political gravitas.

2

Steering Group:

Co-Chaired by the African Union Commission, Republic of South Africa and AIP High Level Panel, the Steering Group will play a critical role in guiding the Summit's strategic direction and ensuring coherence with continental and global processes.

3

Working Group:

The Working Group provides operational support to the AU Commission and South Africa, including representatives from sector ministries, GWP, the Water



Research Commission, and international water leaders. It oversees technical, financial, and logistical coordination.

4

Summit AU-AIP Secretariat:

Hosted by African Union's AIP Secretariat at Global Water Partnership Southern Africa, the Secretariat coordinates daily

planning, stakeholder engagement, logistics, and reporting. Six workstreams cover Political Coordination, Budgeting, Communications, Logistics, Content Development, and Partnerships. The Water Research Commission leads the national coordination across South Africa.

Summit Declaration and Water Changemaker Awards

Summit Declaration:

An outcome Declaration—signed by Heads of State and Ministers—will affirm political and financial commitments to close Africa's water investment gap. It will be submitted to the G20 Presidency process and serve as a foundation for global water cooperation in 2026 and beyond.



Summit Funding

The Summit is funded by voluntary contributions from development partners. To ensure transparency and accountability, the Summit will implement robust financial governance mechanisms. Funds will be managed through an independent bank account overseen by the Summit Secretariat, with an external audit conducted post-Summit. A reputable audit firm will be engaged to ensure all partner contributions are managed with integrity.

A partnership framework is in place to mobilise resources from governments, development partners, DFIs, and philanthropies. All financial support will align with the Summit's principles of equity, impact, and sustainability.



Africa Water Investment Summit 2025

Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

13-15 August 2025



Draft Programme

Tuesday, 12 August 2025

17:00 – 18:30	Arrival of invited guests and registration
18:30 – 20:00	Invitation-only networking event Welcoming networking event by the host country, Republic of South Africa, and the African Union Commission

Wednesday, 13 August – Day 1:

Ministerial Opening and investment matchmaking Pathway 1

08:00 – 09:30	REGISTRATION
09:30 – 11:00	<p>OPENING PLENARY in high level style talk show panel</p> <p>Introductory/Welcome remarks – Discussion/plenary host (needs to be a media person, introduces all the plenaries and does the facilitation through the 3 days)</p> <p>AU-AIP Opening Video</p> <p>Ministers/Heads of State discuss finance and water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Co-Chair, AU-AIP High-Level Panel, former President of Tanzania - Hon. Pemmy Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa - Hon. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, Ministre de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement, Senegal; and President, African Ministers' Council on Water - Tbc – Zambia President? - Tbc – female rep <p>Discussion points examples:</p> <p>What have been your challenges in mobilising additional funds and finance for the water sector?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How have you “de-risked” the sector and made investors more confident? (Senegal) - How have you balanced the finance needs of areas which are ‘not bankable’ with those that can provide returns on investments? (Tanzania) - We are moving from climate risks to climate certainties, how does that impact your investment pipeline? (SA) - Water finance impacts several sectors however, finance plans tend to be fragmented, how have you overcome this? (Zambia) <p>Rapporteur: Shamiso Kumbirai, AIP Investments Specialist</p>



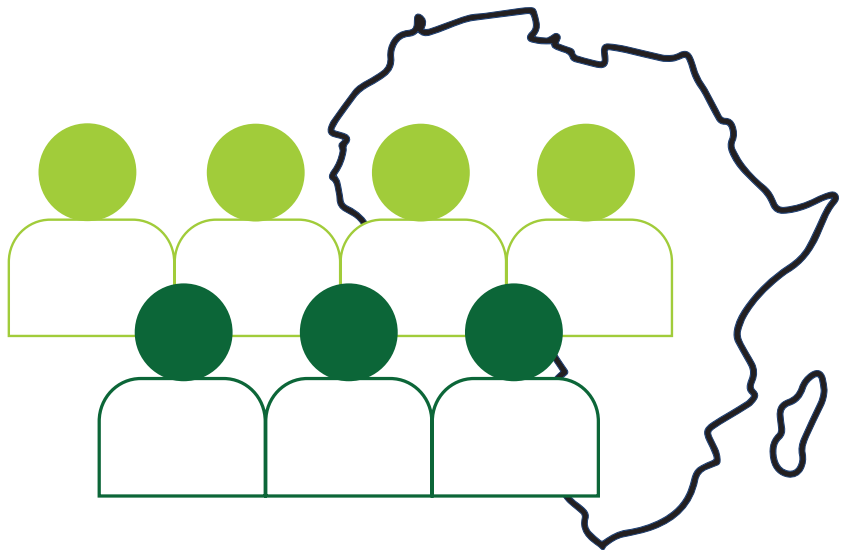
Wednesday, 13 August – Day 1: Ministerial Opening and investment matchmaking Pathway 1

11:00 – 13:30	<p>Setting the scene: AIP presentation in plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short presentation (20 min) on: <p>The objectives and expected outcomes of the Summit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The three pathways + pyramid 2) Explain how the programme and the showcase rooms are organized. <p>Proposals for 5 show case rooms during days 1 and 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southern Africa - Eastern Africa - Western Africa - Northern Africa - Central Africa <p>(This also means there is organisation per language and allows for transboundary projects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal: one facilitator per room for day 1 and 2 – requested to pitch his/her room in 5 min. Total 25 min. - 45 minutes left for expectations and Q&A from the audience. - Facilitator request to first talk with neighbor then in plenary
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break and Showcase rooms opening
14:30 – 15:00	<p>Round 1 MATCHMAKING SESSION for pathway 1 projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 parallel rooms and probably 3 or 4 projects per room per round divided per tables - Pitch for 5 min and remaining tables discussion - One rapporteur per table ensuring language and gender coverage
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Round 2 MATCHMAKING SESSION for pathway 1 projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 parallel rooms and probably 3 or 4 projects per room per round divided per tables - Pitch for 5 min and remaining tables discussion - One rapporteur per table ensuring language and gender coverage



Wednesday, 13 August – Day 1: Ministerial Opening and investment matchmaking Pathway 1

16:30 – 17:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Ministerial Roundtable on Investment Opportunities and Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Continental High Level Ministerial Panel featuring African Ministers (Water, Environment, Finance, etc), AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, DFI, and Global Development Partners” - Note: “Open to all African Ministers and continental stakeholders” <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, President, African Ministers’ Council on Water <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tbd
17:30 – 18:30	<p>PLENARY WRAP-UP: Focus on Draft Summit Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of key outcomes and messages for Day 1 <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD <p>with all Rapporteurs from Day 1 bringing one key message each, plus contributions from the audience</p>




Thursday, 14 August 2025 – Day 2:
Domestic resource mobilization and investment matchmaking Pathways 2 and 3

09:00 – 10:30	<p>Facilitator welcomes participants for day 2, mentions some key outcomes from previous day and describes the day organisation</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION: Closing the Investment Gap (5-6 panelists on key topics ensuring language and gender coverage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name: Generating project pipeline for investor groups - Name: Long-term strengthening of the enabling environment - Name: Facilitating stewardship amongst commercial and other users - Name: Accessing favourable terms and conditions for loans - Name: Reinforcing data and info systems for effective decision-making <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, AU Commission - Rapporteur: - Dr. Mohamed Diatta, Sherpa to the President of Senegal
10:30 – 12:00	<p>Round 3 MATCHMAKING SESSION for pathway 2 projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 parallel rooms and probably 3 or 4 projects per room per round divided per tables - Pitch for 5 min and remaining tables discussion - One rapporteur per table ensuring language and gender coverage
12:00 - 13:30	<p>Round 4 MATCHMAKING SESSION for pathway 2 projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 parallel rooms and probably 3 or 4 projects per room per round divided per tables - Pitch for 5 min and remaining tables discussion - One rapporteur per table ensuring language and gender coverage
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Artificial intelligence, data and financial information for decision-making and tracking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name: AI to increase finance in the water sector (examples) - Name: Score card to support decision making and tracking - Name: Beyond NASA: groundwater data for efficient investments - Name: WIPS and water sector finance strategies for increasing investments <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Hon. Col. Maurice Ntossui Allogo, Minister of Water and Forests, Gabon</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>Dr. Mamohloding Tlhagale, Head of Business Development and Partnership, Water Research Commission, South Africa</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Networking Break



Thursday, 14 August 2025 – Day 2:**Domestic resource mobilization and investment matchmaking Pathways 2 and 3**

16:00 – 17:30

Round 5 MATCHMAKING SESSION for pathway 3 – global and continental finance

Slightly different organization for development partners or initiatives (tbd depending on demand):

- 1) IFIs (multilateral and bilateral)
- 2) Public development banks
- 3) Private companies
- 4) Institutional investors
- 5) Climate funds

Pitch for 5 min and remaining tables discussion

One rapporteur per table ensuring language and gender coverage

17:30 – 18:30

PLENARY WRAP-UP: Focus on Draft Summit Declaration

- Summary of key outcomes and messages for Day 2

Moderator:

- Hon. Pemmy Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa with all Rapporteurs from Day 1 bringing one key message each, plus contributions from the audience





Friday, 15 August 2025 – Day 3: Presidential Commitment & Changemaker Awards

09:30 – 11:00	<p>Facilitator welcomes participants for day 3, mentions some key outcomes from previous day and describes the day organisation</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION: Looking ahead - Partner commitment to scaling-up investments in the sector (speakers & number to be confirmed by convening parties, in time allocated)</p> <p>Final reflection on aspects discussed in the Summit with investors – and commitments if any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President, World Bank (or representative) - President, African Development Bank (or representative) - Ms. Boitumelo Mosako, CEO, Development Bank of Southern Africa - Mr. Sim Tshabalala, Chief Executive, Standard Bank Group - Name: investor - Name: mining industry <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tbd - Q&A with the audience
11:00 – 12:00	<p>HEADS OF STATE ROUNDTABLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsement of Summit Declaration - Announcement of major commitments and pledges, as well as reforms - Mainstreaming of Summit Declaration into SA G20 Presidency process <p>Co-Chairpersons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa - H.E. Mahmoud Youssouf, Chairperson, AU Commission
12:00 – 13:30	<p>Recognizing commitment and potential: Convenors of Changemaker Awards</p> <p>Video: Water Changemaker Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2025 Water Changemaker Awards, culminating in - The Presidential Changemaker Awards
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 15:00	Group Photo



Friday, 15 August 2025 – Day 3: Presidential Commitment & Changemaker Awards

15:00 – 16:00	SIGNING OF THE SUMMIT DECLARATION – Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signing by Heads of State, or as delegated to ministers. - Summit Declaration to include an Actionable Roadmap for implementation, to be tracked by the AIP Secretariat, in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD
16:00 – 16:30	CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Pemmy Majodina, Minister of Water and Sanitation, South Africa - H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, AU Commission
16:30 – 18:30	NETWORKING FUNCTION





Contacts & additional information

For more information

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AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

Unlocking Capital for Africa's
Water Security and Economic Growth



G20 SOUTH
AFRICA
2025



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

South Africa's G20 Presidency, 1 December 2024 - 30 November 2025



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