

**ORGANISATION POUR LA MISE EN VALEUR DU FLEUVE SENEGAL
(OMVS) – NEDERLANDS WATER PARTNERSHIP (NWP)**

LETTER OF INTENT

for collaboration in water sector challenges and opportunities

This letter sets out the intent of both the Senegal River Basin Development Authority (OMVS) and Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) to start a partnership that strengthens the development of an international network around river basin management, strengthens the added value of the Dutch water sector in the Senegal river region and facilitates input of valuable content and dialogue during international events.

This letter of intent is signed recognising that the water sectors in both countries want to manage water resources and water service delivery in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and excellence in their respective water sectors.

Introduction OMVS

Created on March 11, 1972, the Senegal River Basin Organization is shared by Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, Guinea joined on 17 March 2006.

The main objective is to have an integrated cooperation body between member States to coordinate the integrated development of the Senegal River basin "on behalf of everyone and for the benefit of all".

Specific goals are to:

- Improve food security for basin populations;
- Reduce OMVS member states economic vulnerability against Climate Changes;
- Scale up economic development within the Member-states;
- Preserve the balance of ecosystems within the Basin and in the sub-region;
- Secure and improve the Basin Populations incomes.

OMVS is a successful example of water cooperation based on solidarity and consensus with joint management/investments, consensus-based decisions and common policies on energy and water.

OMVS is an active member of the International Network of African Basin Organisations (INBO) and the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO) since its creation on July 2002. ANBO's objective is to strengthen regional cooperation at political, economic and stakeholder levels for sustainable management of transboundary water resources in Africa contributing to peace and security, stability and poverty alleviation, relying on African knowledge.

Introduction NWP

The history of the Netherlands is inextricably linked with water. It reclaimed land from the sea and about half of the country would be flooded if it was not for the dikes and surge dams. The Dutch also excel at water technology, governance, distribution, wastewater treatment and sanitation. They supply, collect, clean and re-use water with high levels of quality and service from an integrated perspective on sustainable economic development.

NWP is a comprehensive network that unites Dutch water expertise. The partnership consists of members from private companies, drinking water utilities, water boards, national and local

government, knowledge institutes and NGOs. The organisation acts as a centre of information on water expertise, policy developments and market opportunities. NWP is more than an information source; it initiates, coordinates and executes projects for its members, such as trade missions, exhibitions and conferences.

Areas of cooperation

By means of the Letter of Intent, OMVS and NWP want to express their intention for cooperation. To this effect, the Partnership objectives will focus on two priority areas of cooperation, as follows:

1: Network

- Exploring and facilitating the establishment of partnerships and cooperations between the Dutch water sector and parties or projects falling under the area of the OMVS for example on the following topics:
 - Integrated Water Resources Management;
 - Water&Crisis;
 - Water&Food, mainly related to agriculture irrigation;
 - Port development and water ways;
 - Water governance and stakeholders management;
 - Finance for Water;
- Organising events like business matchmaking or sector meetings that facilitate the establishment of partnerships between stakeholders from the different networks during events where both parties are present;
- Whenever possible, introducing Dutch water expertise in activities of the OMVS during seminars and workshops and communicate activities of the OMVS with sector parties in the Netherlands;
- Utilising available networking and communication channels to strengthen and enhance the exchange of knowledge. This will help to disseminate the experiences gained and promote further cooperation;
- Facilitating cooperation between ANBO and NWP.

2: International events

- Exploring the best approach to benefit important water conferences and events for the objectives of the partnership.
- Exploring the possible approaches to encourage Dutch participation at the World Water Forum in Dakar in 2021 especially regarding the component “Cooperation and Partnerships”. The purpose is a collaboration towards a WWF with an interesting program, sufficient participation from The Netherlands and a larger focus on the private sector.

- Working towards the World Water Forum in 2021, promoting the networks in events such as the Amsterdam International Water Week, GCA Climate Adaptation Summit, Stockholm Water Week and others.

This Letter of Intent aims at contributing to enhancing the general mission of both parties. There is no related budget or specific coordination committee. The collaboration is in addition to the already ongoing partnerships between the OMVS and Dutch parties. NWP will specifically look at involving its network in the collaboration and will act in close collaboration with the Waterschap Rivierenland who has a long term cooperation with the OMVS. The OMVS will also involve its own network, among others out of the different African river basin organisms through the African Network of Basin Organisms (RAOB) which OMVS executes as permanent technical secretariat.

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