

Africa 21, Dakar, Saturday 13 August 2022.

The Think Tank Africa 21, in partnership with The Water Diplomat, invites the African media to take up the issue of water as the effects of climate change become more ever more urgent and have impacts across the African continent.

A workshop bringing together international experts as well as Senegalese and other West African journalists will be held in Dakar from the 15th to the 19th August 2022 in order to address the challenges of water in the 21st century on the African continent.

Whether it be through unprecedented floods or repeated droughts, many African countries have been faced with consequences such as the need to declare a state emergency in respect of natural disasters, which represents powerlessness in the face of dramatic human consequences.

As a sign of the urgency of the times, and while the 9th World Water Forum took place from 21 to 26 March 2022 in Dakar, the COP 27, considered as "the COP of Africa" will be held this year in Sharm El Sheikh (6th to 18th November 2022).

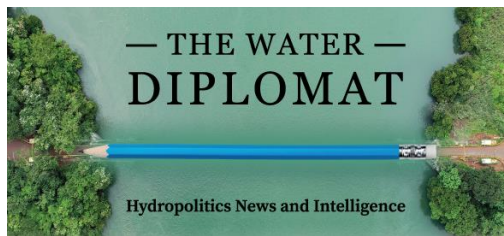
As the demand for freshwater grows and the pressure on the resource increases, it will have to be managed in a more appropriate way in the coming years if major disasters are to be avoided. In 2021 UN Water's review of progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6 stated that the 2030 goals on water and sanitation could not be achieved in Africa without improved governance and a major effort in financing. This joint UN mechanism on water estimates that investments in infrastructure should be multiplied by 4 in order to allow achievement of universal access to safely managed water and sanitation across the continent.

The Think Tank Africa 21, in partnership with The Water Diplomat, is inviting 50 journalists from West and Central Africa, from 15 to 19 August 2022, on site in Dakar but also online, to follow a series of sessions on the different dimensions of water management in the context of the effects of climate change, rapid urbanisation on the continent and the development of new modes of consumption of this precious resource.

In 2019, Africa 21, with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, launched a network of African journalists specialised in sustainable development and climate change (nearly 600 journalists from areas including written press, radio and TV, in 40 African countries). The Dakar workshop is part of the activities of the Association, which this year has chosen water issues in Africa as its central theme.

Many international organisations (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, IPCC, GEO, UNCTAD, IOM, UNDRR, ILO, UNDP, ITC, UN-Habitat, etc.), think tanks (FES Media Africa, Geneva Water Hub) and African structures (GWP, Pôle Eau de Dakar, etc.) have responded to the call to





come and share their expertise and exchange with the journalists. This workshop was made possible thanks to the support of the Canton of Geneva and the Dutch Embassy in Senegal, amongst others.

Amongst the elements discussed will be the extension of the Helsinki (UNECE) Convention to African countries, an essential instrument for transboundary cooperation between states on such a crucial subject, in an international context where the issue of water has never been so much at the forefront of public attention.

A journalistic competition will be organised in parallel to the workshop to encourage the African media to talk about the water issue and the announcements made regarding the follow-up to this process.

Convinced that water is at the heart of the balance of all our ecosystems and societies, Africa 21 is delighted to work with African journalists, sentinels called to remind us that water is an essential resource for food security, biodiversity, health and even peace.

You will find the programme of our workshop by following the link below:

<https://www.africa21.org/projet/atelier-pour-journalistes-dakar-2022-sur-les-enjeux-de-leau-dakar-du-15-au-19-aout-2022/>

Would you like to know more? Do not hesitate to contact us by email: info@africa21.org

— THE WATER —
DIPLOMAT



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