

Mole conference ends in Bolga

The Mole conference officially closed after three days of intense deliberations in Bolgatanga, UER – Ghana, on the theme, *Financing the WASH within the SDGs: Options and strategies for Ghana.*

Having accepted the flaws in developing and implementing the MDGs and accepting the fact that things must be done differently during the SDG era;

- Appreciating Ghana's remarkable contribution to the development of the SDGs;
- Aware of the amount of work still on-going in respect of developing indicators and baseline reports for the SDGs;
- Recognising the critical need to disseminate the SDGs and localize them in Ghana;
- Remembering that the SDGs take effect in January 2016;
- Concerned that the WASH sector still lacks sustainable financing options;
- Recognizing that the sector needs better partnership arrangements for both financing and programme development;
- Noting the current learning experiences under the MDGs and other commitments;
and
- Believing that universal access to WASH is achievable by 2030;

Do hereby agree and issue this communiqué as follows:

In order to deepen understanding of the SDGs and promote its local ownership,

1. CONIWAS will **immediately** start liaising with the National Technical Steering Committee on SDGs to make inputs into the development of indicators, national baseline report and nationwide dissemination of the SDGs.
2. Government in collaboration with CSOs should ensure the localization of the SDGs by working with the MMDAs and Communities to define their localized SDG targets such that ownership will be stronger at the local levels; this should be done in addition to intensified community engagement to participate in decision-making and demand accountability from duty bearers.

To explore more sustainable financing options for the implementation of the SDGs,

3. CONIWAS will support the Sector Directorates and agencies and collaborate with development partners to intensify strategic institutional engagements (public and private) to trigger investments in WASH.
4. CONIWAS will intensify advocacy on the establishment of WASH Fund by the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, such that its sources are diversified, equity ensured, timely launched, and effectively administered to wholly benefit the WASH sector.
5. CONIWAS will intensify performance tracking and advocacy on government commitments to WASH for.

To achieve accelerated and sustainable impacts of WASH interventions,

6. Government, DPs and CSOs should intensify activities towards changing cultural myths and practices that affect the progress of WASH development. Both WASH professionals and communities should be targeted.
7. Government, DPs and CSOs should emphasize and apply the Life Cycle Cost approach to programme design during the SDG era to ensure sustainability of WASH facilities. MDAs in WASH should keenly monitor and enforce this as a rule.

To facilitate monitoring of WASH sector financing commitments,

8. CONIWAS will develop by 31st December 2015, a monitoring framework for government and donor commitments to SDG financing. This framework will be linked to the **Finance for Development (FfD)** Framework developed by the government as a means for implementing the SDGs

To explore more and better partnership opportunities for financing the WASH sector,

9. Key sector actors should explore opportunities in partnering with other related sectors to develop common projects to advance the WASH agenda, taking advantage of the fact that ten of the SDGs are all directly linked to WASH.

In order to promote effective Knowledge Management, learning and sharing,

10. Key sector actors should support the adoption of a more structured learning framework to allow for a systematic process of building up knowledge and deploying them to ensure solutions that are informed by evidence for achieving universal and sustainable WASH services for the poor

Issued in Bolgatanga on Friday, 23rd October, 2015