***The Kenya 2030 Water Resource Group Partnership***

***Minutes of the Roundtable meeting at Serena Hotel on 10 March 2015***

The purpose of this Roundtable meeting was to gather a small group of lead stakeholders and those most active in the discussions to date to get an endorsement of the proposed Partnership structure. A total of 16 participants representing the public- and private sector, alongside civil society and research contributed to the discussion (as per attached Participants list).

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| **Agenda** | **Speaker/Facilitator** |
| 7.00 – 7.30 | *Registration and breakfast* |  |
| * 1. – 7.40
 | Introduction and welcome | MEWNR Host, Eng. Kimanthi Kyengo, MEWNR |
| 7.40 – 7.50  | Context and highlights from the preliminary hydro-economic analysis | Will Davies & Josephine Gustafsson, 2030 WRG  |
| 7.50 – 8.00 | The Kenya 2030 WRG Partnership: Proposed partnership structure & priority focus areas | Eng. Kimanthi Kyengo, MEWNR |
| 8.00 – 8.40 | Roundtable discussion and questions on:* Partnership structure and focus areas
* Selection of Steering Board members
* Opportunities to build on existing initiatives in Kenya (at county / catchment / national level)
 | All participants |
| 8.40 – 8.45 | Closing remarks and next steps | Eng. Kimanthi Kyengo, MEWNR |
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***Introduction & Presentations***

The Roundtable meeting was opened by Eng. Kimanthi Kyengo of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (MEWNR) who welcomed the participants and thanked all for joining this important discussion. He further stressed the government’s commitment to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to support sustainable use of water resources through the Kenya 2030 Water Resource Group (WRG) partnership. After outlining the expected outcomes of the meeting, he welcomed the participants to briefly present themselves.

Following a quick round of introductions, the 2030 WRG Secretariat made a presentation highlighting key findings of the hydro-economic analysis and provided the background to the Kenya Partnership. This was followed by a presentation by Eng. Kimanthi Kyengo outlining the proposed Partnership structure and priority focus areas, before the floor was opened for questions and discussions amongst the participants in a joint roundtable setting.

***Key issues raised in the Roundtable discussion***

The initial presentations were followed by a combined Q&A and joint discussion in the full group. Initially, a few questions on data and the stakeholder input used in the initial PWC analysis was raised and it was clarified that the hydro-economic analysis builds on recent data from the National Water Master Plan. It was further emphasized that the three identified focus areas are derived from the analysis and has been further refined through consultations with key stakeholders and that this is fully aligned with what is coming out of the PWC work.

1. **Partnership Structure and focus areas**

The main focus of the discussions evolved around the proposed Partnership structure and the focus areas identified for the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs).

* It was agreed that the WRG Secretariat is to convene the TWGs around sectoral lines in the three focus areas of i) agricultural water use; ii) industrial water management and reuse; iii) urban water management. The members of the TWGs will have the mandate to identify further concrete activities and priorities under the respective focus area.

Questions raised focused on the identified focus areas, where e.g. Non-Revenue Water (NRW) was highlighted as one of the areas where the Partnership need to be strategic in terms of ensuring that the TWGs are set-up in a way that supports coordination with the multitude of existing initiatives in this area. A similar point was raised on the scope of work given that two of the TWGs on the outset seem to be urban-oriented through their focus on industrial water use and urban water which prompted a discussion on how to capture rural WRM issues and ways of engaging for instance in the ASALs.

* There was consensus that the TWG focusing on agricultural water use will be given the mandate to identify key geographic focus areas but that the Partnership nevertheless needs to be proactive in corresponding to the needs of exploring water use efficiency issues in rural parts of Kenya. There is also a need for the TWG to engage both larger scale private actors alongside smallholders particularly looking at issues linked to irrigation.

It was further agreed that the WRG Secretariat should continue reaching out to stakeholders that may be of relevance to engage in the proposed three TWGs.

* More specifically, actors representing sugar, tea, coffee and horticulture were highlighted as key for the agri-focused TWG, whilst brewers, oil & gas industry alongside the hospitality sector were suggested for membership in the TWG focusing on industrial water management. Accordingly, it was agreed that the WRG Secretariat should prioritize engaging in dialogue with actors such as the EABL given their engagement also within the Nairobi Water Roundtable.

The role of research was further acknowledged as crucial for all TWGs and is thus to be seen as a cross-cutting priority where linkages with academic research will be further explored for instance with JKUAT.

1. **Selection of Steering Board members**

As for the proposed Steering Board, the following was agreed;

* The number of members will be limited to a maximum of 12.
* The Government is responsible for ensuring appropriate high-level representation from their side and it would be suitable to invite a representative from the Council of Governors to ensure better coordination between national and county-led initiatives.
* Separate meetings with the private sector and civil society will be convened to allow them to nominate appropriate chairs for the TWGs (who subsequently will be represented at the Steering Board).
* Development Partners should be invited to nominate a representative (through the WSTG).

The importance of ensuring that other sectors (beyond the water sector) are present at the Steering Board level was stressed. Herein, the TWG focused on agricultural water use will hopefully play an important role in enabling engagement of agri-actors through the TWG Chair representative. Another reflection was that the representatives at Steering Board level are to use their convening power e.g. where KEPSA can gather private sector actors through their membership base and voice their interests at the Steering Board whilst individual members can still engage directly through the TWGs.

1. **Opportunities to build on existing initiatives in Kenya**

There was consensus that the TWGs will be fundamental in enabling synergies with existing initiatives at local and catchment level e.g. Imarisha Naivasha whereas the Partnership could offer a national platform for sharing of information and best practices. Given the limited time for discussing more in-depth issues of how to enable these linkages in practice, it was agreed that this would be part of the agenda of the first TWG meetings. The issue of how to define the scope of the Partnership and ways of linking it to other existing initiatives also within areas of service provision, WASH etc. was discussed enthusiastically. It was agreed that the Partnership’s core mandate lie with addressing Water Resource Management and that there is no clear added value of engaging heavily in say WASH at this point in time given that there is a multitude of other better placed initiatives in this space. However, mutual information-sharing through its’ membership is welcomed and in a forward-looking perspective there is no formal objection to formulating specific sub-working groups on issues such as WASH should there be a clear interest from the TWG members (as per the South Africa example). Still, there was agreement that there’s ample opportunity to strengthen the link between water resource management and water services given that WSTF provides a financial vehicle addressing both dimensions. Herein, it was agreed that WSTF as part of the government commitment to the Partnership will be a key bridge to financing which allows more joint efforts and synergies with programs and potential initiatives stemming from the future work of the TWGs.

***Conclusion & Next steps***

Overall, the discussions held at the Roundtable meeting were positive and valuable input was provided by the participants which will guide further development of the Partnership. It was agreed that the key expected outcomes for the meeting was fulfilled. All participants were updated on progress made and the proposed partnership structure was endorsed following an engaging discussion on the structure of the Thematic Working Groups, nomination of steering board members and ways to strengthen linkages with ongoing water resource initiatives. Following the discussions, the following next steps were agreed:

* Notes from the discussions will be circulated among the participants alongside the presentations within the coming week;
* The 2030 WRG Secretariat will proceed by identifying key membership and clarifying the scope for TWGs to then subsequently convene an initial round of meetings within said TWGs within 3 months’ time;
* Following the initial round of TWG meetings and nomination of a co-chair representing the private sector, a first Steering Board meeting will be held by mid-2015;
* The preliminary hydro-economic analysis will be finalized and circulated to a wider audience in connection with a planned larger outreach event (TBC).

After thanking all participants for valuable guidance on how to best move forward with the Partnership, the Roundtable meeting was closed following final remarks from Eng. Kimanthi Kyengo of MEWNR.