

WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION AND WATERNET AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2021

Workshop: Securing water and energy for food security: in support of Aspiration 1 of the African Union's Agenda 2063

Date: 27 May 2021

Time: 11:00 to 12:55 (CAT)

Webinar Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aHHS2pRmRJKM90MdFr_M_g

On the 25th of May, Africa commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity, now transformed into the African Union (AU), founded in 1963. The day is known as Africa Day and provides an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge African solidarity, unity in diversity, creativity, challenges, and successes. It also celebrates the cultural and economic potential of our continent. The day gives Africans a chance to reflect on Africa's history and progress while also coming together to find solutions to the challenges that face the continent.

Agenda 2063, the continent's blueprint, and master plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future, also addresses issues related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a pathway towards sustainable development. Agenda 2063 stresses that nine out of ten persons will have access to safe drinking water and sanitation; electricity supply and internet connectivity will be up by 50%, and cities will be recycling at least 50% of the waste they generate. This transformational change is achievable through circular and integrated approaches that guide policy and support decision-making to formulate coherent strategies towards a sustainable Africa. On this background, the Water Research Commission (WRC) and WaterNet are hosting a webinar during the Africa Day celebrations to reflect on the progress made to ensure the security of water, energy, and food, and in driving the continent's aspirations. The webinar will provide an opportunity to identify pathways to enhance the security of water, energy, and food resources.

Agenda 2063 encapsulates not only Africa's Aspirations for the future but also identifies key Flagship Programmes which can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent. The webinar will thus, reflect on African research, development, and innovation activities to improve access to clean water and sanitation, zero hunger and access to affordable and clean energy. The three goals address Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063, "Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development", and the Sustainable Development Goals 2, 6 and 7. The three form the water-energy-food WEF) nexus.

The session will reflect on how the WEF nexus can play a key role in informing decision-making and implementation aimed at achieving Agenda 2063. The webinar comprises multidisciplinary speakers from different organisations that represent players within Africa's water, agriculture, and energy sectors.

Target: Academia, Business, Policy Makers, Civil society, Researchers, and Innovators

Facilitator: Dr Krasposy Kujinga

11:00-11:05	Welcome	Prof Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema Executive Director, WaterNet Secretariat
11:05-11:10	Opening address	Dr Mandla Msibi Group Executive (Impact and Innovation), Water Research Commission
11:10-11:30	Keynote address: Securing water and energy for food security: in support of Aspiration 1 of the AU's Agenda 2063	Prof Albert Modi Deputy Vice-Chancellor, College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal
11:30:12:30	Panel discussion: Shaping a pan-African research, development, innovation, and policy agenda in support of the Agenda 2063.	Chair: Prof Sylvester Mpandeli Panellists: Prof Hodson Makurira (WaterNet Board of Trustees Chair) Dr Steven Mathetha (Senior Researcher, Eskom) Dr Shamie Zingore (Director – APNI) Dr Tshilidzi Madzivhandila (Director – FARNPAN)
12:30:12:50	Discussion	ALL Prof Sylvester Mpandeli Research Manager: Water Use in Agriculture
12:50-12:55	Closure/way-forward	Dr Luxon Nhamo Research Manager: Water Use in Agriculture