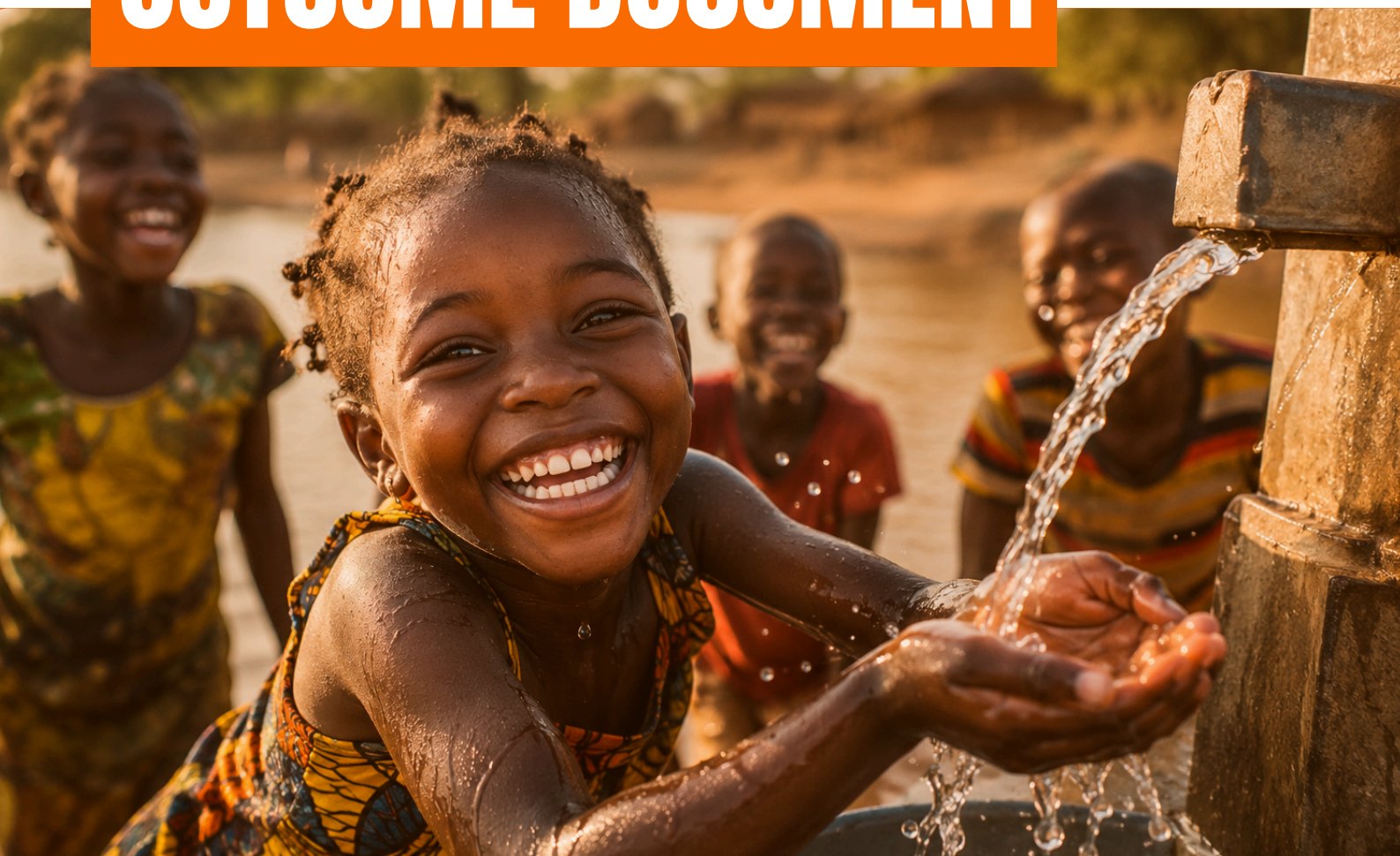


# 8<sup>th</sup> GIMAC CSO-RECs Strategic Meeting

Theme:

Advancing Gender-Transformative Water  
Governance and Reparatory Justice within the  
Africa Water Vision 2063 Framework

## OUTCOME DOCUMENT



# Preamble

We, the representatives of civil society organizations, youth networks, organizations of persons with disabilities, women entrepreneurs, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) across Africa, gathered at the 8th GIMAC Strategic Engagement in New Alamein, Egypt, from September 27th to 30th, 2026.

**We build** directly upon the outcomes of the 42nd GIMAC CSO Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting held in Addis Ababa in February 2026 under the theme "*Advancing Gender-Responsive Water and Sanitation Policies for Sustainable Development in Africa*". We recall our joint mandate to align gender justice with the African Union Theme of the Year 2026: "*Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063*".

**We recognize** that sustainable access to safe water and sanitation is not merely a technical objective. It is a fundamental human right, a cornerstone of bodily autonomy, and a prerequisite for economic freedom. Water insecurity, systemic violence, and poverty fall disproportionately on women, adolescent girls, and marginalized communities across our continent.

**We reaffirm** that structural change requires shifting power, resources, and legal authority directly to communities, grounding our work on issues related to the Africa Water Vision 2063, the Maputo Protocol, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), and the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG).

**We commend** the African Union Commission, the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD), the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, and allied continental partners for their sustained leadership in embedding gender equality into continental governance.

**We acknowledge** the efforts of Member States that have taken concrete steps toward signing and ratifying the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG).

**We call** directly upon the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to integrate and leverage their regulatory mandates to oblige Member States to fully domesticate and implement GIMAC Network's recommendations in this outcome document.

**We urge** the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to adopt the following recommendations:

# Recommendations 1–3

## **1. Codify WASH Access as a Human Right, Mandate Leadership Quotas, and Accelerate Regional Treaties**

RECs must classify the neglect of clean water, safe sanitation, and dignified menstrual hygiene as a severe human rights violation, empowering National Human Rights Commissions to penalize non-compliant entities and granting local communities' legal authority to protect their water bodies. RECs should mandate statutory governance quotas for women, youth, and persons with disabilities while mobilizing inter-ministerial task forces to accelerate the ratification and domestication of key continental instruments, including the Maputo Protocol, the African Disability Rights Protocol, and the AU-CEVAWG.

## **2. Harmonize Model Laws, School Infrastructure, and Inclusive Health Governance**

RECs should develop and harmonize regional model legislation, setting enforceable minimum standards for accessible, climate-resilient school WASH facilities, tax removal on menstrual hygiene products, and inclusive adolescent sexual and reproductive health services. Mandate formal cross-ministerial coordination among Health, Education, Environment, and Finance ministries to deliver girl-centered, climate-resilient school WASH facilities equipped with functional water supply, private disposal units, and dignified hygiene support.

## **3. Strengthen Data Systems, Women-Led Enterprise and Gender Accountability**

Member States should strengthen routine collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, and disability to track WASH access, gender targets and budget execution through REC scorecards and AU monitoring systems. The AU, RECs and Member States should also support women- and youth-led enterprises in water-related value chains and circular bio-economy innovations and promote gender equity certification tools modeled on the Egyptian Gender Equity Seal across water institutions and private sector partners to advance equal pay, women's leadership and harassment-free workplaces.

# Recommendations 4–5

## **4. Promote Care-Responsive WASH Planning, Investment and Budgeting Across Member States**

Member States should integrate gender and care analysis into WASH planning, investment and budgeting, and prioritize resources that reduce unpaid care, time, health and safety burdens, particularly for women and girls. Accountability should include budget and expenditure tracking, measurable care-related indicators, public reporting and community participation. The AU and RECs should embed care-responsive WASH financing within existing continental and regional frameworks, monitor implementation and financing, and periodically review Member States progress.

## **5. Advance Peace, Water Justice and Protection of WASH Services in Conflict-Affected Countries**

The AU should recognise peace, security and water justice as essential conditions for achieving universal and sustainable WASH access and strengthen coordination between its peace and security, humanitarian and water agendas. In countries affected by protracted conflict, such as Sudan, Ethiopia and other conflict-affected contexts, the AU should intensify preventive diplomacy, mediation and peacebuilding and advocate for the protection and restoration of WASH infrastructure and humanitarian access. Peace building and post-conflict recovery should also address historical inequalities in access to water, environmental degradation and the disproportionate impacts of conflict on marginalised communities.

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## Conclusion

Water justice is gender justice. Shifting from consultative promises to legal power, dedicated funding, and enforceable human rights will ensure that African women and youth lead the protection and governance of our shared water resources. We call on the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, and Member States to integrate these recommendations into national legislation and policy frameworks without delay.

*September 30th, 2026. Alamein, Egypt*

“ Water security is not only an environmental issue, it is a matter of gender justice, peace, human dignity, and sustainable development ”



## PARTNERS



## ORGANISERS

