



STATEMENT OF AFRICAN LEADERS FACTORY INITIATIVE (ALFI)

Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right, yet millions of people in Africa still lack access to these necessities. The lack of clean water and sanitation is a significant challenge in Africa that affects human development, health, and well-being. According to the United Nations, over 800 million people in the world lack access to safe drinking water, and nearly 2.5 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation. In Africa, the situation is even direr, with an estimated 319 million people lacking access to safe drinking water and 695 million people without basic sanitation facilities.

Achieving universal access to clean water and sanitation in Africa has numerous benefits, not only for individual well-being and health but also for economic growth and sustainable development. The lack of access to clean water and sanitation has profound impacts on public health, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where diseases related to poor sanitation and hygiene practices are major causes of morbidity and mortality.

To address this issue, a collaborative effort is needed from the United Nations, governments, civil societies, academics, and experts.

Firstly, governments in Africa need to prioritize investments in water and sanitation infrastructure. They can do this by increasing funding for water and sanitation projects, establishing effective and integrated water management systems as well as implementing policies and regulations to ensure sustainable water use.

The United Nations can also play a crucial role in addressing the issue of clean water and sanitation in Africa by providing technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support. The UN can collaborate with African governments and civil societies to develop sustainable and inclusive water and sanitation policies, programs, and projects that are tailored to local needs as priorities through the water action agenda. The last set out a series of action-oriented game-changing commitments, from making smarter food choices to re-evaluating water as a powerful economic driver, and part of the Earth's cultural heritage. The UN can also help build capacity among local communities, promote hygiene education, and provide financial support to implement sustainable water and sanitation solutions. Furthermore, the UN can provide advocacy, awareness-raising, and

knowledge-sharing to promote international cooperation and support for water and sanitation initiatives in Africa.

Civil societies can play an essential role in raising awareness and advocating for policies and investments that promote access to clean water and sanitation. Civil societies can work with communities to design and implement sustainable and cost-effective water and sanitation solutions that are accessible and affordable to all. They can also engage in public awareness campaigns to promote behavioral changes that support sustainable water and sanitation practices. Furthermore, civil societies can promote transparency and accountability in the water and sanitation sector by monitoring the implementation of policies and projects and advocating for the participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes.

Academics and experts can contribute to the efforts to address the issue of clean water and sanitation in Africa by researching best practices, innovative technologies, and effective policies. They can also provide technical assistance and capacity-building to governments, civil societies, and communities to promote sustainable and inclusive water and sanitation practices. For example, researchers can develop new technologies that reduce water wastage, improve water quality, and make water and sanitation systems more efficient and cost-effective. Furthermore, academics and experts can contribute to the development of evidence-based policies that address the root causes of the lack of access to clean water and sanitation in Africa.

In conclusion, addressing the issue of clean water and sanitation in Africa requires a collaborative effort from various stakeholders. By working together, governments, civil societies, academics, and experts can develop sustainable and inclusive solutions that promote access to clean water and sanitation, improve health outcomes, and advance economic development in Africa. The benefits of achieving water action agenda in Africa are enormous and will contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals and building a better future for all.