

MEDIA RELEASE



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MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY, MR RONNIE KASRILS

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A trilateral meeting was held today in Cape Town between the Ministers of Water Resources of Algeria, Mr Aissa Abdellaoui, Nigeria, Chief Precious Ngelale and South Africa, Mr. Ronnie Kasrils.

This meeting follows the approval by the African Union of the New African Initiative (NAI) where it was agreed that a small number of lead countries from each African sub-region would take the process forward.

A secretariat is being established in South Africa to coordinate the implementation of the NAI. It is, however, expected that each sector will establish coordination arrangements within the framework provided by the Secretariat.

As founder members of the Initiative, Algeria, Nigeria and South Africa will cooperate closely at a sectoral level to achieve this.

A first step was taken at the Abuja meeting in June where inputs were received from both Algeria and Nigeria and included in the list of NAI water projects. What is now required is an ongoing process to follow up

and to promote strategic projects in the context of the final declaration as approved by the African Union.

To this effect Algeria, Nigeria and South Africa will identify sector officials who will work together to conduct the follow up. An early task will be to extend the sector network to include leading countries from all sub-regions.

Today's meeting of Water Resource Ministers is a significant step forward in the practical implementation of the NAI.

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