Call for Submissions:
*Initiatives for Regulatory Impact*

2 – 6 October 2023 | Kampala, Uganda
About ESAWAS

The Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation (ESAWAS) Regulators Association is a regional network of water supply and sanitation (WSS) regulators that seeks to enhance the regulatory capacity of members to deliver quality and effective regulation to achieve public policy objectives through cooperation and mutual assistance.

The Host

The Water Utility Regulation Department (WURD) under the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda was established in 2009 and is mandated to regulate water authorities managing piped water systems by contract, as enshrined in Cap 152 of the Water Act.

The ESAWAS Annual General Conference

The ESAWAS members have been sharing knowledge and experience among themselves through annual conferences for more than ten years. The meeting is primarily centred on water supply and sanitation regulators but also includes Utilities, cooperating partners and other key sector actors as may be invited to attend. The three-day conference consists of deliberations around a specific theme and held in plenary, with key actions drawn up for execution.

The 2023 2nd Africa WSS Regulators Meeting

In pursuit of Strategic Objectives, particularly to 'Strengthen and expand the Africa continental reach of ESAWAS', in 2022 the Association held a monumental first-ever gathering of all the institutions with primary WSS regulatory responsibilities from across Africa. About 150 persons comprising 44 countries and 8 cooperating partners attended the conference.

A blend of presentations and panel discussions was used to dig deep into what is required to strengthen water supply and sanitation sector accountability. Secretariat selected presenters and panelists from different countries and regions based on the findings of the Africa WSS Regulatory landscape study, and in such a way as to maximize information sharing on good practices but also challenges in WSS regulation.

The 1st Africa WSS Regulators meeting highlighted a number of areas of mutual interest and challenges among the different regulatory institutions that could be tackled at a continental level and provided the motivation for a second Africa WSS regulators conference.
The practice of WSS regulation is gaining ground in Africa. From several continental and global efforts, there is strong advocacy for implementing WSS regulation within countries for both rural and urban areas. Out of 54 African countries, the predominant regulatory models applied are Regulation by Agency (20), Regulation by Contract (15), Ministerial Regulation (18) and Self-Regulation (1).

ESAWAS takes cognizance of the fact that while implementation of regulation should be aligned to country context, the principles of regulation are the same. This allows knowledge and experiences in regulatory governance and substance to be shared across several institutions for adoption or adaptation of what works. Developing effective regulation also recognizes that the enabling environment needs to be sound, service providers facilitated to perform and sector actors strategically engaged.

ESAWAS also recognises that there is no academic training/qualification for regulation. Instead, the skills to regulate must be gained through practice. A number of regulatory institutions have been operating for more than ten years and a few for over 20 years. This is significant time to garner experience and realise certain gains/impacts from implementing regulation.

Regulatory initiatives include practices, tools and instruments (mechanisms) that have been instituted at policy, regulatory and service provision levels with notable impacts on the performance of the sector. This could be changes to policy, sector legislation, development of regulations, rules, guidelines etc, development of ICT tools, institutional changes and so forth.

The theme for the 2023 conference will therefore aim to highlight initiatives developed or adopted by institutions with regulatory mandate, to drive sector improvements at policy, regulatory and service provision levels. This will be evidence-gathering towards the beneficial role of regulation by demonstrating its impact on the sector.

Call for Submissions

ESAWAS now invites submissions for presentations that demonstrate and showcase initiatives towards effective regulation of water supply and sanitation services. The submission should be a one-page A4 Word document in English in Arial font 10 indicating the following:

- Name of Presenter
- Institution
- Title of Presentation
- Sub-Theme
- Brief description of initiative
- What is changing/changed in the sector as a result

The submission deadline is 28th July 2023 on conference@esawas.org. Presenters will be confirmed by 25th August 2023 by a panel of reviewers.
The conference will be held over three days (3-5 October) and the programme will aim to encompass the following sub-themes with sample aspects for guidance:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Theme</th>
<th>Description (not exhaustive)</th>
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| Policy & Legislation    | • Adequacy and effectiveness of enabling policy and legal provisions for regulation  
                          | • Policy and legislation assessment tools  
                          | • Policy and legislation revision  
                          | • Institutional arrangements  
                          | • Appellate process |
| Regulatory              | • Internal institutional setup  
                          | • Licensing  
                          | • Inspections  
                          | • Compliance enforcement process and procedures  
                          | • Incentives and Sanctions  
                          | • Benchmarking  
                          | • Sector Performance Monitoring  
                          | • Strategic Plan  
                          | • Motivating Staff Performance |
| Service Provision       | • Water Supply  
                          | • Sanitation  
                          | • Safety planning  
                          | • Tariff Setting  
                          | • Investment and finance  
                          | • Data collection and analysis  
                          | • Complaints handling  
                          | • Pro-poor and Integrity  
                          | • Other Regulatory tools and instruments |

**Important Dates**

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<tr>
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<td>28th July</td>
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<td>Confirmation of presenters and programme</td>
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Further details about the conference can be found at [https://www.esawas.org/index.php/2023-annual-conference](https://www.esawas.org/index.php/2023-annual-conference)