



23<sup>rd</sup> AfWASA ICE  
23<sup>ème</sup> CIE AAEA  
Yaoundé 2026



African Water and  
Sanitation Association

Association Africaine de  
l'Eau et de l'Assainissement

# 6<sup>th</sup> AfWASA PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM



## Programme Booklet

Theme :

« A Decade of Bold Leadership and Impact :  
Women at the Heart of Africa's WASH  
Sector Transformation »

10 February 2026 – Yaounde Conference Centre, Cameroon



- **Gestion des déchets industriels**
- **Lutte anti vectorielle et phyto sanitaire**
- **Assainissement**
- **Nettoyage industriel**
- **Entretien des espaces verts**



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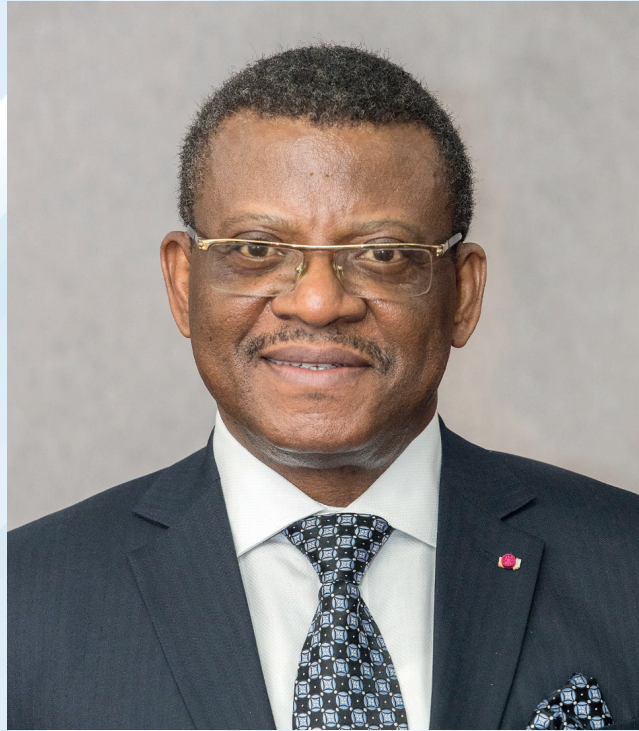


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**H.E. Paul BIYA,**  
President of the Republic of Cameroon



**Chief Dr Joseph DION NGUTE,**  
Prime Minister, Head of Government



**Gaston ELOUNDOU ESSOMBA,**  
Minister of Water Resources and Energy



**Message from Dr. Blaise MOUSSA,  
President of the African Water and Sanitation Association  
President of the Local Organizing Committee for the 23rd Congress  
and Exhibition**

Cameroon, Africa in miniature, is honoured to host the 6th AfWASA Professional Women's Forum, to take place on the sidelines of the AfWASA 23rd International Congress and Exhibition. This landmark event takes place in Yaoundé at a historic and symbolic moment: the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the AfWASA Professional Women's Network.

Rightly so, you deemed it appropriate to hold your Forum under the theme "*A Decade of Bold Leadership and Impact: Women at the Heart of Africa's WASH Sector Transformation*".

This relevant theme reflects a shared vision and a forward-looking commitment: Harnessing women's leadership in WASH to advance human dignity. It is also an invitation to objectively assess the progress achieved over the past decade, identify persistent challenges and look ahead to the next decades with renewed ambition and impact.

Available data on female participation in the water and sanitation sector highlights multiple inequalities. A survey carried out by AfWASA in 2022 across 23 water companies reveal that women represent 26% of staff, while only 24% hold managerial positions.

Furthermore, according to UN Women, in 80% of households without a reliable water supply, the responsibility for water collection continues to fall predominantly on women and girls, with far-reaching consequences for health, education and economic empowerment.

These figures are clear evidence that the commitment undertaken by AfWASA to strengthen female representation at all levels of water and sanitation companies has not yet been fully realised.

This reality calls upon our collective conscience and shared responsibility, as leaders and key stakeholders of the WASH sector, to create—without delay—an enabling environment for the emergence, recognition and consolidation of a female expertise, capable of delivering innovative, inclusive and sustainable solutions to long-standing challenges.

Who then, better than women professionals in the water and sanitation sector to give voice to the hardships experienced by their peers?

With regard to Cameroon, the national vision is clear. **His Excellency the President of the Republic, Paul Biya**, has recently reaffirmed that the current septennate, centred around **t** shall be that of youth and women—particularly those whose competence and excellence stand as drivers of national progress.

In line with this inspiring momentum, I wish to solemnly reiterate my commitment to pursue the implementation of AfWASA's programmes, including the promotion of gender equality and women's leadership in the water and sanitation sectors.

Dear participants, dare to break the glass ceiling. These sectors in Africa need your experience, your expertise and your creativity to flourish.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a truly memorable anniversary celebration.



## Message from François Olivier GOSSO, Executive Director of AfWASA

### **Dear members and partners of the African Networks of Professional Women, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with great honour and a deep sense of commitment that I address you on the occasion of the sixth edition of the Forum of Professional Women Network of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA), organised as part of the 23rd International Congress and Exhibition of our Association, scheduled from 9 to 13 February in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon. This edition is both symbolically and strategically significant, as it marks ten years of structured and forward-looking engagement by women professionals in Africa's water and sanitation sector. Besides, it is a perfect opportunity to reflect critically on a decade of advocacy.

Since its inception, the Forum has positioned itself as more than just a mere space for dialogue. It stands as a major pan-African initiative led by AfWASA, designed to provide a framework for collective reflection and coordinated action, empowering women professionals to promote the effective integration of gender considerations within public utilities, institutions and the entire water and sanitation ecosystem. It reflects a core conviction of our Association: gender equality is a strategic driver of performance, good governance and service sustainability, extending far beyond a mere normative requirement.

In line with its mission, the AfWASA is dedicated to achieving sustainable, equitable, and inclusive access to water and sanitation across the African continent. This ambition is notably reflected in its Gender Promotion Policy, which seeks to strengthen female participation at all levels of the sector—from strategic governance to operational delivery—while recognising their pivotal role in transforming institutions, practices, and management models.

Within this framework, the AfWASA Professional Women's Network has emerged as a vital pillar. For the past decade, it has provided a structured framework for promoting female initiatives, enhancing technical and managerial skills, developing strategic partnerships, and encouraging intergenerational mentoring. The past editions of the Forum have thus helped to firmly embed the gender dimension at the heart of discussions on governance and performance in Africa's water and sanitation services.

The Forum we open today fully aligns with this direction. It offers a privileged space for sharing experiences and good practices, while also enabling an assessment of achievements, the identification of persistent challenges and the formulation of concrete recommendations to further strengthen the institutionalisation of the Network at continental level. By bringing together female leaders, young professionals and institutional partners, this Forum contributes directly to operationalising the AfWASA's gender policy and driving tangible impacts.

I would like to reaffirm AfWASA's unwavering engagement to supporting this process and championing inclusive and innovative initiatives. The true challenge now lies in our collective capacity to turn the Forum's recommendations into concrete actions, lasting partnerships and measurable commitments—all in service of a more equitable, resilient, and high-performing water and sanitation sector for Africa.



**Message from Géraldine Thérèse MPOUMA LOGMO,  
President of AFPEEC, Coordinator of the AAEA Women's Network  
French-speaking section**

**The Professional Women Network in the water and sanitation sector** is firmly rooted in the global commitment to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda, which recognises gender equality and universal access to water and sanitation as key drivers of sustainable development. Although women are at the heart of water use and the daily management of hygiene, they remain significantly under-represented in technical professions and governance structures within the sector.

Officially launched in February 2016 during the Nairobi Congress, the Network was established to address this persistent imbalance. Since then, it has evolved into a strong and structured platform for advocacy, capacity building and professional networking, fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation for all.

In Cameroon, this continental momentum led to the creation of the **Association des Femmes Professionnelles de l'Eau et de l'Environnement du Cameroun (AFPEEC)**. A non-profit organisation and active member of the AfWASA Women Network, AFPEEC is dedicated to advancing women's leadership, developing technical and strategic capacities, promoting mentorship and experience-sharing, and ensuring the effective mainstreaming of gender into water, sanitation and environmental policies and programmes.

Against this backdrop, **the Women's Forum** stands out as a strategic space for dialogue, collaboration and networking. It offers a unique opportunity to showcase women's expertise, nurture inspiring role models and reinforce women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels of the WASH sector.

Beyond discussion, **the Women's Forum** is conceived as a powerful catalyst for influence and inspiration—attaining decision-makers and young generations alike. It seeks to spark ambition, expand equal opportunities and firmly position women as indispensable drivers of sustainable development.

Female professionals in the sector thus reaffirm their unwavering commitment to contributing actively to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to building an inclusive, resilient and sustainable WASH sector that delivers lasting benefits for communities and future generations.

By celebrating progress while addressing the challenges that remain, the Women's Forum conveys a strong and forward-looking conviction : **the future of Africa's water, sanitation and environmental sectors will be shaped by women who are fully engaged, highly skilled and truly influential.**



**Welcome message from Arlette Laure TCHAPOYA,  
President of the Local Organizing Committee for  
the 6th AfWASA Professional Women's Forum**

**Dear Delegates,  
Distinguished Guests, Partners and Colleagues,**

It is with great pride and privilege that I extend to you the warmest welcome to Yaounde for the **6th Forum of the Professional Women's Network of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA)**. Organised alongside the prestigious 23rd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition, this Forum already draws its strength and significance from your valued presence.

This gathering carries **deep symbolic and historical importance**. It commemorates an exceptional milestone—**ten years** of commitment, courage and tangible impact by the AfWASA Professional Women's Network. Over the past decade, visionary and determined women have stepped forward to organise, lead and act, contributing decisively to **the sustainable transformation of water, sanitation and environmental sector in Africa**. These ten years have been marked by sustained advocacy, unwavering solidarity, continuous capacity building and enlightened leadership, all in service of a **sector that is more inclusive, more equitable and more resilient**.

Through this Forum, we celebrate more than a journey; we affirm a shared ambition fully aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our actions are firmly anchored **in Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and Sustainable Development Goal 6 on universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation**. We reaffirm, with clarity and conviction, that the achievement of these global goals is **neither possible nor sustainable without the full, effective and meaningful participation of women at every level of decision-making and implementation**.

**This Forum is therefore conceived as a space for strategic dialogue, the exchange of solution-driven experiences and collective construction. It offers a unique opportunity to:**

- **Highlight** women-led initiatives and expertise in the WASH sector;
- **Foster** stronger collaboration among ourselves and with our partners;
- **Mobilise** lasting commitments and strategic partnerships; and
- Above all, **lay solid foundations for a new and decisive phase: the sustainable institutionalisation of the AfWASA Professional Women's Network at continental level**.

**On behalf of the Local Organising Committee**, I warmly invite you to make this Forum a moment of active listening, shared inspiration and renewed commitment. May our discussions give rise to **concrete actions, strong alliances and innovative solutions**, further amplifying the essential contribution of women to the transformation of the WASH sector in Africa.

**Once again, welcome to Cameroon—a land of hospitality, diversity and dynamism.**

I sincerely hope that our deliberations will be as enriching as they are engaging, **as productive as they are inspiring, and that they will help shape a more just, inclusive and sustainable future for all**.

**Thank you.**

### AfWASA

#### Africa's leading voice for sustainable water and sanitation

The African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA) is a leading pan-African organisation dedicated to the sustainable development of the water and sanitation sectors across Africa.

Building on several decades of continental commitment, this professional organisation continues the legacy of the former African Water Association (AfWA), established in the early 1980s in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, under Decree No. 751/MCIA/DGD/DFPP/SG. Its renewed ambition is to fully integrate sanitation and hygiene at the heart of drinking water and sanitation policies.

As a non-profit NGO, AfWASA currently unites close to 1,000 members in more than 40 countries in Africa and beyond. Its activities focus on regions with established public utilities and regulatory frameworks. Members include national and municipal water and sanitation utilities, ministries, public institutions, private enterprises, experts, and partner organisations involved in water supply, sanitation, and related environmental services.

In a world where everyone should enjoy sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, AfWASA's mission is to bring together sector professionals and contributing to the sustainable improvement of governance, performance, and resilience of water and sanitation services in Africa.

To achieve this, it focuses on building institutional and technical capacities, promoting innovation, sharing best practices, and advocating regionally and internationally for inclusive public policies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 6—and the African Water Vision 2025.

Its objectives include professionalising operators, enhancing service quality, supporting sectoral reforms, and fostering sustainable partnerships among states, local authorities, private sector, civil society, and technical and financial partners.

#### Pan-African Governance

Structurally, AfWASA's hierarchical framework centres on four key governance bodies: the General Assembly, the Executive Board, the Strategic and Technological Council, and the Executive Office.

The organisation prioritises accountability and regional representation across Africa's five sub-regions: North, West, East, Central, and South. To ensure sub-regional equity, the Executive Board—the primary decision-making body—comprises up to 18 members elected for a two-year renewable term. It is responsible for electing a President, five Regional Vice-Presidents, and appointing an Executive Director.

To bring this coordinated pan-African action to life—aimed at “ensuring universal access to water and sanitation and promoting sustainable water resources management”—AfWASA's work is underpinned by key strategic pillars, including gender mainstreaming, innovation, equitable partnerships, addressing infrastructure deficits and tackling vulnerability to climate change.

AfWASA organises flagship events, notably the International Congress and Exhibition (ICE), as well as forum-exhibitions. These major gatherings provide unique opportunities to bring together thousands of decision-makers, experts and development partners to assess progress, identify innovative solutions and define priorities for action at continental level.

Against a backdrop of rapid population growth, accelerated urbanisation and the increasing impacts of climate change, AfWASA stands as an essential hub for cooperation, dialogue, and expertise-sharing among public and private stakeholders committed to positively transforming the water and sanitation sector.

The ICE, co-organised with the host country and its public water utility, has become a cornerstone of event traditions in the water and sanitation fields across Africa and globally, regularly attracting well over 2,000 delegates.



### AFPEEC

#### Advancing Women's Leadership in the WASH Sector

*Founded in Douala on 8 February 2017 following its Constitutive General Assembly, the Association des Femmes Professionnelles de l'Eau et de l'Environnement du Cameroun (AFPEEC) has, for nearly a decade, been at the forefront of efforts to advance women's leadership in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Cameroon.*

AFPEEC is the national chapter of the Professional Women Network of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA). It was established following the adoption of the Network's Declaration at the 18th Congress of the then AfWASA in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2016, which also marked the launch of the first Women's Forum.

Guided by the Network's mission to advance women's role in WASH governance and decision-making, AFPEEC translates the Network's continental vision into national action in Cameroon, with a focus on women's leadership, capacity building, and the visibility of women-led initiatives.

Originally bringing together women professionals from Camerounaise des Eaux (CDE) and Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER), AFPEEC has progressively expanded to include female leaders from diverse professional backgrounds, including engineering, management, environmental sciences, communication and research. Today, the Association counts close to one hundred members, reflecting its growing credibility and impact within the sector.

#### Communities at the Heart of Our Actions

AFPEEC's mandate extends beyond professional empowerment to include tangible community-level impact. Its interventions primarily target women, young people and children—groups disproportionately affected by inadequate access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services.

AFPEEC's field actions focus on three priority areas:

- improving equitable access to safe drinking water in urban and rural settings;
- promoting sustainable WASH behaviours at household and community levels;
- contributing to environmental protection and climate resilience.

To date, the Association has implemented over one hundred community-based initiatives, including hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns, promotion of water safety and household water treatment practices, school-based education aligned with global observance days (World Water Day, World Toilet Day, Global Handwashing Day, World Environment Day), and capacity-building activities for women and young people in rural areas.

At policy level, AFPEEC is an active participant in national and international WASH dialogue and coordination platforms. Through advocacy and partnership, the Association seeks to influence public policies and programmes, ensuring that **gender equality and women's empowerment remain central to WASH governance and service delivery frameworks.**

## • Vision

Position the women professional network as a strategic driver of inclusive, competent and influential female leadership in the water, sanitation and environmental sectors.

## • Mission

Build and strengthen female leadership within institutions, utilities and organisations operating in the water, sanitation and environmental sectors through skill development, knowledge sharing, mentorship and advocacy.

## • Strategic Objectives

- Promote gender equality and women's access to strategic decision-making positions;
- Strengthen the technical, managerial and leadership skills of female professionals;
- Foster structured intergenerational exchange between female leaders and young professionals;
- Encourage girls and young women to pursue scientific and technical careers, particularly in WASH-related fields;
- Raise community awareness on water resource protection, hygiene, sanitation and environmental sustainability;
- Supporting and implementing community-based initiatives that contribute to the sustainable improvement of living conditions.

- **President** : Mrs Géraldine MPOUMA LOGMO
- **Vice-President** : Mrs Arlette TCHAPOYA
- **Secretary General** : Mrs Christiane ELA BENGONO
- **Deputy Secretary General** : Mrs BALLA EDZOA née Edwige AKPE TSANGA
- **Treasurer** : Mrs BAHANAG née Romaine YETNA HIABI
- **Auditor** : Mrs BAWIN née Clémentine Nikaise MBOCK
- **Communication and Public Relations Head** : Mrs Grace Patience EKAMBY NDEDI
- **Head of Programmes** : Dr NKEN LIKENG née Michèle OKALA
- **Head of Membership Mobilisation** : Mrs NJIKI née Nathalie MANA



### The Network of Professional Women in Water and Sanitation Sectors A Platform Dedicated to promoting Female Leadership

*Launched in February 2016 during the 18th Congress of the African Water Association (AfWA) in Nairobi, Kenya, this network was established in response to gender inequality and the under-representation of women in decision-making bodies, technical roles, and influential spheres within the WASH and environmental sectors.*

This pan-African network brings together more than 2,000 members across 18 African countries, where national networks operate within associative frameworks led by women working in the water, sanitation and environmental sectors.

The establishment of the Network arose from a clear need: to make the WASH and environmental sectors more inclusive and sustainable, in line with the commitments set out under Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and

Indeed, a 2019 World Bank study covering 64 water and sanitation utilities in 28 countries worldwide revealed that women accounted for only 18% of the workforce, 23% of engineers and senior managers, while 32% of utilities had no female engineers and 12% had no female in management positions.

A similar study conducted by AfWASA in 2022 across 23 African water utilities showed that women represent 26% of the workforce, 17% of board members and 24% of senior management. Women account for 22% of engineers and 14% of technicians.

This disparity has prompted professional women to organise themselves into a powerful force advocating for enhanced roles and participation within the decision-making bodies of water and sanitation companies, as reflected in the network's vision.

The primary goal of this collaborative framework is to promote female leadership. The network is open to women working in the water, sanitation, and environmental sectors, as well as those in regulatory bodies, local authorities, academic institutions, female entre-

This organised platform encompasses a range of activities, including dialogue, mentoring, experience-sharing, and the recognition of women's expertise.

Through advocacy for gender mainstreaming in sector policies, support for women's career development, the promotion of best practices, and contributions to technical and strategic discussions, the active participation of professional women in WASH and environmental sectors in major events—such as the Women's Forum and the AfWASA Congress—enhances their visibility while strengthening their technical and managerial capacities.

By supporting the establishment of this Network, AfWASA has clearly demonstrated its commitment to positioning this pan-African platform as a key instrument for advancing gender equality within water and sanitation utilities.



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### Why a Women's Forum?

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The AfWASA Women's Forum is a pan-African meeting organized on the sidelines of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA) Congresses. It provides a strategic space for reflection, dialogue, and advocacy to strengthen gender mainstreaming within water distribution companies, public institutions, and organizations in the African WASH sector.

Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in decision-making and strategic positions and face persistent obstacles: access to financing, visibility of initiatives, and sustainable support for career paths.

Meeting at each AfWASA Congress, the Forum promotes women's initiatives, encourages the sharing of experiences, mobilizes partnerships, and contributes to more inclusive and effective governance of the sector. This sixth edition coincides with the tenth anniversary of the AfWASA Women Professionals Network and celebrates the progress made in women's leadership.

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### Challenges and Rationale

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This edition celebrates a decade of commitment and achievements in promoting women's leadership in the African WASH sector. It addresses persistent challenges: low representation of women in strategic bodies, limited access to funding, and reduced visibility of initiatives, particularly for young professionals.

The Forum provides a platform for showcasing achievements, sharing experiences, mobilizing partnerships, and strengthening mentoring and sponsorship mechanisms, with an impact across the continent.

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### Objectives

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- Commemorate ten years of the AfWASA Women Professionals Network;
- Highlight flagship projects led by women;
- Identify concrete strategies for mobilizing resources and partnerships;
- Strengthen the capacities of young women, particularly in communication and project promotion;
- Launch the mentoring and sponsorship program;
- Formulate recommendations and a roadmap for the institutionalization of the Network.

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### Target audience

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- Women members of the Network;
- Young women in training or working in the WASH sector;
- Institutional leaders, public decision-makers, and representatives of regional and international organizations;
- Technical and financial partners;
- Civil society organizations and stakeholders in the WASH sector.

## ○ Programme ○

The Forum will take place over a full day and will combine :

- High-level institutional sessions;
- An inaugural conference;
- Participatory workshops in the form of a World Café on strategic themes;
- A feedback and strategic debriefing session;
- A symbolic mentoring ceremony.

The work will enable the formulation of operational and institutional recommendations and the definition of a roadmap for strengthening and institutionalizing the AfWASA Women Professionals Network.





### **Professor Marie-Thérèse ABENA ONDOA**

*Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family*

**Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Abena Ondoa** is a Cameroonian paediatrician, university professor and senior political figure. A renowned academic, she has served as a professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Yaounde I, Vice-Dean responsible for research and cooperation, and head of the paediatrics department at the Yaounde University Teaching Hospital (CHU). In March 2009, she was appointed director of Yaounde Central Hospital, becoming the first woman to hold this position.

She joined the Government in the same year as Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family and was reappointed in 2015. In this capacity, she has led major policies aimed at empowering women and protecting children's rights, including efforts to combat early marriage, the establishment of vocational training centres for young girls, and the promotion of gender equality.



### **Dr Blaise MOUSSA**

*AfWASA President, General Manager of CAMWATER*

A senior civil servant and Cameroonian political figure, Dr Blaise Moussa is a Tax Inspector, trained at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM). He holds several postgraduate degrees in finance and tax administration, including a PhD in Tax Law obtained in 2023 at the University of Douala.

He has built a distinguished career within public administration and strategic institutions, notably at the Directorate General of Taxation, the Standards and Quality Agency, and the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform, where he served as Director of General Affairs.

In October 2022, he was appointed Managing Director of the Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER). In February 2025, he was elected President of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA).



### **Mr François Olivier GOSSO**

*Executive Director of AfWASA*

An electromechanical engineer with over 25 years of professional experience, notably within the Ivorian Water Distribution Company (SODECI) and as President of the AfWASA Strategic and Technological Council, **François Olivier Gosso** has served as Executive Director of AfWASA since 1 January 2024.

A recognised expert for his commitment and strategic vision in Africa's water sector, he brings in-depth knowledge of both operational and strategic challenges. His career, marked by technical and leadership roles, positions him as a key player in addressing the growing challenges of access to clean water and sanitation on the continent.



## **Mrs. Géraldine MPOUMA LOGMO**

*President of the Association of Professional Women in Water and Environment in Cameroon (AFPEEC)*

**Géraldine Thérèse Mpouma Logmo** is a seasoned communications professional with over 25 years of experience in journalism, institutional communications and public relations. Holding a journalism degree from the École Supérieure de Journalisme de Lille, she has built a high-level career serving major national and international institutions in the public and development sectors, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Camerounaise des Eaux (CDE) and the Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER), where she held strategic directorial roles in communications.

**Géraldine Mpouma Logmo** is renowned for her expertise in communications strategy, advocacy, knowledge management and governance. A committed figure in the WASH sector, she serves as Vice-President of the Strategic and Technological Committee of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA) and as President of the Association of Women Professionals in Water and the Environment of Cameroon (AFPEEC), where she actively promotes female leadership and the integration of gender considerations into sectoral policies.



## **Dr Florence TOBO LOBÉ**

*Keynote Speaker*

**Dr Florence Tobo Lobé** is a distinguished chemist, entrepreneur and leading advocate for girls' education in Africa. Winner of the Ahmadou Ahidjo Prize, she pursued an elite education in the United States at Wellesley College on an ASPAU scholarship, followed by studies in France at the University of Paris-Sud (Orsay), where she earned a PhD in Organic Chemistry after conducting research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

Upon returning to Cameroon, she developed a multifaceted career merging university teaching, industrial expertise, public service, and international consulting. As the founder of ECCA, she collaborates with leading institutions such as the African Union and the United Nations, and also serves as a judicial expert.

In 1999, she established the **Rubisadt Foundation**, dedicated to the holistic and scientific education of young girls, driven by the conviction that girls' education is a central lever for Africa's development.

As a woman of science, values, and mentorship, embodies an inspiring model of intellectual and human leadership in the service of excellence and Africa's future.



## **Mrs. Arlette TCHAPOYA**

*President of the Local Organizing Committee for the 6th AfWASA Professional Women's Forum*

Holding an MBA and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and Urban Planning obtained in 1997 from the National Advanced School of Engineering of Yaoundé, Mrs Arlette Tchapoaya is a trained engineer with 28 years of proven experience in waste management and sanitation in Cameroon.

Between 1997 and 2015, she experienced a remarkable career progression within the HYSACAM Group, advancing from General Operations Controller overseeing urban cleanliness and treatment facilities to Director of Production Operations, a role she held from 2007 to 2015.

In 2016, she was appointed Director of SERVICES CAMEROUNAIS D'ASSAINISSEMENT (SECA), a subsidiary of the HYSACAM group, before becoming Deputy Managing Director. Since 2023, she has applied her expertise as Director General of SECA.

Deeply engaged in promoting circular economy issues in Africa and Cameroon, she has also served as the General Manager of Africa Waste Energy (AWE) since 2014. She possesses a keen vision for the entire sanitation value chain and is continuously reinforcing her role as a major player in promoting waste as a resource with profitable potential.



## **Mr Léonel Romaric TSOFOGNI FOFE**

*President of the Association of Young Water and Sanitation Professionals of Cameroon (AJPEAC)*

Léonel Romaric Tsofogni Fofe is a mechanical design engineer, a graduate of the National Advanced School of Engineering (ENS Polytechnique) of Yaoundé, specialising in drinking water infrastructure and industrial maintenance. With solid experience at the Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation (CAMWATER), he has successively held the positions of maintenance technical officer, head of maintenance service for the West region, before being appointed Technical Sub-Director in October 2023.

Expert in water production, pumping and distribution systems, he has contributed to the development and implementation of major nationally significant projects, including the SEWASH Project, the reconfiguration of Yaoundé's water supply system, and the PUMIP, with the support of international partners.

Bilingual, committed, and results-oriented, he is also the President of the Association des Jeunes Professionnels de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement du Cameroun (AJPEAC), working to strengthen the skills and leadership of young people in the water and sanitation sector.

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### Dr Michele Désirée Nken Likeng, née Okala Abega

*General moderator of the proceedings*

**Dr Michèle Désirée Nken Likeng**, née Okala Abega, holds a PhD in International Relations and serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Yaoundé II. Her expertise lies in international political economy and the strategic management of transnational projects, with a strong focus on natural resource governance—water, climate, energy, oil and gas—and regional cooperation in Central Africa.

She serves as AFPEEC's Programme Manager, and will act as the moderator for the Women's Forum

## THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE 6th AfWASA PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

- **President** : Mrs TCHAPOYA Arlette Laure
- **Vice-president** : Mrs AKPE TSANGA Edwige, épouse BALLA EDZOA
- **Technical Secretariat – President**: Mrs NTEPPE MARIE CLAIRE
- **Scientific Committee – President** : Mrs NKEN LIKENG Michèle, née OKALA ABEGA
- **Reception, Protocol, Health and Safety Committee – President** : Mrs TALLA Christine Flore, née DJUIKOUO
- **Communication Committee – President** : Mrs NOUSSI Jacinte Eugénie
- **Logistics and Transport Committee – President**: Mrs EKAMBY Grâce
- **Sponsorship and Finance Committee – President**: Mrs ELA BENGONO Christiane Valérie
- **Catering Committee – President**: Mrs ONGBOLALEBA, épouse NIDA Mireille

## PROGRAMME

### 09:00 – 11:10 Opening Ceremony

- National Anthem
- Speech by the President of AJPEAC
- Speech by the President of AFPEEC
- Speech by the AfWASA President
- Keynote address
- Opening Speech by the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family

### 11:10 – 11:30 Group Photo, Coffee Break/Interviews

### 11:30 – 11:40 Presentation of the Agenda and Forum Objectives (10 minutes)

- Overview of objectives and structure of the day
- Interlude: video showcasing women network activities

### 12:00 – 12:20 Scene-Setting Session

- Introduction to the World Café methodology and discussion guidance for operational and institutional recommendations

### 12:20 – 13:40 World Café – Interactive Thematic Tables

Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes, 5 tables, rotations every 20 minutes:

- Table 1: Financing and partnerships – strategies to support projects
- Table 2: Communication and Visibility – Enhancing dissemination and impact
- Table 3: Capacity Building – Sustainable support mechanisms
- Table 4: Network Structuring – Future continental governance
- Table 5: Sector Challenges for Women (Water-Climate Change-Environment Nexus)

### 13:40 – 14:10 Strategic Debriefing

- *Synthesis of World Café recommendations*
- *Presentation of operational directions to strengthen Network coordination and monitoring*

### 14:10 – 15:50 Lunch Break / Networking and Symbolic Mentorship Ceremony

- Lunch break and Networking

## AFRILAND FIRST BANK

Created in Switzerland on 19 March 2008, Afriland First Group pools the investments of a group of Africans in Afriland First Bank units across the world since 1987, when the first unit opened. Since then, other acquisitions have been achieved in Liberia, Zambia, Guinea, South Sudan and Cote d'Ivoire. This drive is sustained by a team of Africans, motivated by the quest for outstanding economic results that are consistent with our corporate social and environmental responsibilities. We equally rely on the support of our development partners in the implementation of our expansion strategy.

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### • PROPRETÉ URBAINE

- Collecte et Transport des Ordures Ménagères et Assimilées
- Mise à disposition de poubelles domestiques
- Nettoyement des Rues et Places Publiques
- Criblage des plages
- Propreté Intégrale ( décapage, curage, etc.)

### • TRAITEMENT DES DÉCHETS

- Réseaux de captage du biogaz et du lixiviat
- Enfouissement technique
- Installation des torchères

### • RECYCLAGE ET VALORISATION

- Unités de tri et de conditionnement des déchets
- Unités de compostage
- Activités de négoce (vente des déchets récupérés)
- Production de pavés en plastique recyclé
- Production de charbon écologique

### • CONSTRUCTION ET EXPLOITATION D'INFRASTRUCTURES DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS

- Centres de Traitement des Déchets
- Centres de Transfert
- Centres de regroupement
- Abris pour poubelles
- Stations de traitement des boues de vidange.

### • INGÉNIERIE URBAINE

- Accompagnement des villes dans la structuration du service de gestion des déchets.



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## NOS GRANDS CHANTIERS

1- **Projet d'alimentation en eau potable 09 villes phase 2 (Maroua, Garoua, Garoua-Boula : Dschang et Yabassi) ;**

2- **Projet de rhabilitation et d'extension de la station de production d'eau potable de Japoma-Douala;**

3- **Le projet présidentiel d'un million de branchements sur 5 ans dont la première phase annuelle est de 200 000 branchements neufs;**

4- **Le projet d'urgence pour une meilleure intégration du volume d'eau supplémentaire du PAEPYS.**



## Nos perspectives

1- **le Projet de sécurité de l'eau au Cameroun (SEWASH);**

2- **Le projet de reconfiguration des systèmes d'alimentation en eau potable de la ville de Yaoundé ;**

3- **Le projet de reconfiguration des systèmes d'alimentation en eau potable de la ville de Douala;**

4- **Le projet d'approvisionnement en eau potable dans 20 villes secondaires du Cameroun ;**

5- **Le projet PforR (Program for Results), soutenu par la Banque mondiale, qui introduit une approche innovante fondée sur les résultats, la performance et la bonne gouvernance.**



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