Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation
The Voice for WASH

MOLE XXXVI WASH CONFERENCE

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ANNUAL MOLE XXXVI WASH CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE COALITION OF NGOS IN WATER AND SANITATION (CONIWAS) AND PARTNERS FROM 2ND TO 7TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT MARLIN BEACH RESORT HOTEL, GOMOA FETTEH, CENTRAL REGION.

THEME:

"Advancing innovation, Partnership, and Evidence for a harmonized and regulated WASH Services Delivery".

PREAMBLE

The Annual Mole WASH Conference is a CSO-led multi-stakeholder platform aimed at reviewing sector performance, influencing policies, removing barriers, and promoting access to sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

The 5-day conference was opened by Hon. Kenneth Gilbert Adjei, Minister for Works, Housing and Water Resources (MWHWR). A keynote address was delivered by Hon. Ahmed Ibrahim, Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MLGCRA), with solidarity messages from the Development Partners, Executive Secretary of the Environmental Service Providers Association (ESPA), and the 2025/26 Child Sanitation Diplomat, Artaldus Sung Kuutanaa. The District Chief Executive for Gomoa East District was also present at the opening, and there was representation for the Central Regional Minister.

The opening session of the conference was chaired by Nana Abor Atta II, Omanhene of Gomoa Fetteh. The theme address was delivered by Ing. Ato Brown, Retired Country Manager of the World Bank Group and founder/CEO of Albert's Haven.

The conference, which discussed four sub-themes – Evidence for Harmonized Regulation for WASH Service Delivery; Innovative Financing for WASH Services Delivery; Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Level Partnerships for WASH Sector Transformation; and Innovations in approaches for WASH Service Delivery.

The MOLE XXXVI Conference was attended by one hundred and eighty-one (181) participants drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Partners, CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Academic and Research Institutions, Private Sector, Traditional Authority, Schoolchildren, and the Media.

KEY COMMITMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

At the close of deliberations, Conference resolves as follows:

Call 1: Innovative Financing for WASH Services Delivery

1. Conference commends the President of the Republic of Ghana and the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the 20% allocation of DACF for WASH at the MMDA levels, and commitment of US$1.7 billion per annum in the Ghana WASH Sector Development Programme (GWASHSDP), which is also captured in the Ghana WASH Compact of 2024. Conference calls on the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs to facilitate timely disbursement and adhere to and fully utilize the 20% DACF allocation for WASH services. MMDAs should also allocate at least 5% of their Internally Generated Funds (IGF) to WASH. Development Partners (DPs) are urged to increase their contributions to 30% from current levels, while the Private Sector, CSOs and NGOs should increase their financing by 100%.

   CONIWAS will provide support for policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation at all levels between November 2025 and October 2026.

Call 2: Sector Regulation

2. Conference recognizes the urgent need to strengthen the regulatory environment for WASH service delivery at all levels, particularly in the rural water and sanitation sub-sectors. The MLGCRA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources, should work closely with relevant MDAs, to review, develop, and implement coordinated enforcement mechanisms for WASH services along the value chain. This is to kick-start a process of developing an effective regulation for the sector, through the enactment of an Environmental Sanitation Bill, that will also lead to the establishment of a regulatory entity that will oversee the activities of the different players in the sector. Sector regulation should be data-driven, evidence-based, and supported by academic and research institutions. This should be done by November 2026.

   CONIWAS will support this process with policy briefs and contribute towards the review processes and the development of the needed regulation framework for the sector.

Call 3: Water Pollution Crisis

3. Conference calls for urgent national action to address water pollution, emphasizing illegal mining (galamsey) as a major cause. Conference recognizes the existential threat posed by the illegal mining (galamsey) canker that has engulfed the entire country, causing pollution of our water sources, crippling the operations of water treatment plants, and leading to acute water crisis in multiple parts of the country. Conference calls on the President of Ghana to immediately halt all illegal mining

(Galamsey) activities, affecting water bodies and forest reserves and including districts where these problems have heightened, affecting water service delivery. A unified action plan should be initiated involving all relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources, the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, and all other allied ministries, to restore and protect these critical ecosystems. An all-hands-on-deck approach should be taken to deal with this emergency. This should be done by June 2026.

CONIWAS will continue to support these efforts by coordinating advocacy and community engagement initiatives between now and November 2026.

Call 4: Climate Change and WASH

4. Conference recognizes the growing threat of climate change to water resources, sanitation infrastructure, and the health of vulnerable populations, and reaffirms the urgent need to mainstream climate resilience into all aspects of WASH planning, financing, and service delivery. Conference also acknowledges the emerging funding potential and financing tools associated with climate change. CONIWAS will advocate for climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and collaborate with MWRWH and MLGCRA to ensure WASH issues are well integrated in the National Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on climate change are implemented. CONIWAS will also partner with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Office of the Head of Local Government Service (OHLGS) to strengthen the capacity of MMDAs on Climate Resilience WASH (CRW) and support them to integrate CRW into MTDPs and Annual Action plans from November 2025 to October 2026.

STRATEGIC SECTOR PRIORITIES/ RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations emerged during Conference deliberations as critical areas requiring coordinated attention to accelerate progress in the WASH sector:

a. Innovative Approaches for Scale Up

In light of the numerous pilot projects and context-specific solutions implemented across Ghana's WASH sector, the conference underscored the need to move beyond experimentation toward intentional scale-up of proven innovations. Conference deliberations emphasized that innovations must not remain fragmented or donor-dependent but be institutionalized, financed, and aligned with national and local systems to achieve sustainable impact at scale. Conference urges the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources to work with Development Partners, NGOs and CSOs to implement scalable innovations from pilot initiatives and research outputs capable of increasing WASH access and transforming lives. CONIWAS will continue to work with the Sector Ministries and DPs towards the establishment of a single repository for registering and showcasing all innovations in the sector.

b. Institutional Alignment:

Conference recognizes the critical role of Environmental Health and Sanitation in safeguarding public health, ensuring environmental sustainability, and achieving national development goals. The Government of Ghana, through the MLGCRA, must work with the Office of the Head of Local Government Service (OHLGS)/ Local Government Service (LGS) to initiate institutional realignment to upgrade all Environmental Health and Sanitation Units into the Environmental Health and Sanitation Department across MMDAs to strengthen oversight, accountability, enhance capacity, and technical leadership. CONIWAS and its partners will support the transition process through capacity development, resource allocation, and policy harmonization to operationalize the EHSDs.

c. Professionalizing Rural Water Services Delivery

Conference acknowledges the persistent challenges in the sustainability, accountability, and equity of rural water supply systems and highlights the urgent need to professionalize rural water service delivery. Conference deliberations emphasized that transitioning from community-managed models to professional, performance-driven service frameworks is critical to ensuring sustainable, safe, and affordable water access for rural and peri-urban populations. This will not happen without effective dialogues and engagements with relevant stakeholders, particularly the communities. Conference urges the CWSA to be more open and invested in these critical stakeholder engagements. Conference urges the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources (MWH&WR) to strengthen service delivery structures, develop guidelines for private sector participation, and support CWSA transition into a public utility for managing small town piped systems to sustain rural water services delivery.

d. Multi-sectoral Leadership

Conference recognizes that achieving universal access to sanitation and hygiene transcends the mandate of any single ministry and reaffirms the necessity of strong multi-sectoral leadership. Conference deliberations emphasized that sustained progress requires coordinated action across key sectors, including Finance, Health, Education, Environment, and Local Government etc. The Government of Ghana is urged to demonstrate strong inter-ministerial leadership across all it MDAs, particularly the ministries of Finance, Works and Housing, Health, Education, Environment, Trade and Industry, and Local Government, backed by adequate and predictable sector financing, sustained reforms, and coordinated implementation, to accelerate the final push toward universal sanitation and hygiene by 2030, using the Ngor Commitments Monitoring Framework as the central systems-strengthening and accountability tool.

MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY & FOLLOW-UP

CONIWAS, in collaboration with key stakeholders, shall develop a framework to monitor progress on the implementation of this Communiqué.

- A 6-month progress brief will be published ahead of MOLE XXXVII by the CONIWAS Secretariat in collaboration with the Technical Committee.
- Sector actors are urged to align their annual institutional work plans with the outcomes of this communiqué.
- A joint stakeholder dialogue will be convened before MOLE XXXVII to assess implementation progress, showcase innovations, and update priorities.

Issued this Thursday, 6th November 2025, at Marlin Beach Resort Hotel, Gomoa Fetteh, Central Region.

Signed by:
Dr. Beata Awinpoka Akanyani
Chairperson, CONIWAS.