Advert for the Position of Regional Coordinator

The African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) and Sanitation and Water for All (MoU) have entered an agreement to strengthen their work within the Africa Region. As a follow-up to this, AMCOW, in collaboration with SWA, is inviting suitably qualified, experienced, innovative, result oriented and self-driven individuals to apply for the position of Regional Coordinator based at AMCOW Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Position:

The Regional Coordinator will provide specialized strategic Advisory support and coordination to country governments and other constituencies in the Africa Region to maximize the impact of their water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) plans and programmes. In particular, the Regional Coordinator will deepen engagement and work with countries to ensure the active participation of other in-country SWA partners in the governments’ activities and thus enhance the governments' accountability to their population and other stakeholders.

An important focus of the Regional Coordinator’s role is to mobilize and work with partners to support countries in reaching their water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular by encouraging a focus on the most marginalized and excluded from WASH services.

The Regional Coordinator will also promote, give visibility to and represent the partnership when necessary, including in identifying potential new partners while also integrating SWA Framework within existing processes at country and regional levels. Further, the Regional Coordinator will mobilize support from SWA external support agencies (ESA), civil society organizations, research & learning, and the private sector constituencies to respond efficiently to the need of countries and work with SWA’s constituencies in the region to prepare for High-Level Meetings. The Regional Coordinator will also work to ensure synergies with the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030.

The Regional Coordinator will be hosted at AMCOW Secretariat and based in Abuja, Nigeria. The Regional Coordinator will be accountable to the SWA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for all substantive, functional and delivery of tasks. The Regional Coordinator will be under the supervision of the AMCOW Executive Secretary to ensure synergies with the AMCOW activities and for daily management as well as administrative operations. The SWA Regional Advisor will maintain independence and neutrality in his/her role towards his/her host organization and promotes the multi-stakeholder nature of the SWA partnership.

About AMCOW and SWA

The African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) was formed in 2002 in Abuja Nigeria, primarily to promote cooperation, security, social and economic development and poverty eradication among member states through the effective management of the continent’s water resources and provision of water supply services. AMCOW provides political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic
development and maintenance of African ecosystems. The organs and structures of AMCOW serve as the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the African Union’s Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

Meeting the water and sanitation SDGs remains one of the highest priorities of AMCOW, with sanitation, in particular, lagging behind and in need of particular focus. AMCOW is placing more focus on: creating enabling policy framework; supporting capacity building and training; improving water use efficiency; water and sanitation sector monitoring and reporting; raising the profile of sanitation and hygiene; and strengthening collaboration with civil society and partner institutions.

Hosted by UNICEF, Sanitation and Water for All, (SWA) is a global partnership of governments, external support agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector, united in their commitment to delivering universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Established in 2010, the SWA partnership works towards this goal by strengthening collaboration, improving performance, ensuring mutual accountability and seeking increased political support and financing for WASH. The partnership is governed by a Steering Committee, elected by its members. UNICEF is a founder member of SWA, sits on SWA’s Steering Committee, and has hosted SWA’s Secretariat since 2010.

Over the years, Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) has grown and now includes 70 member states, and a total of over 200 partners. As SWA matures it has decided to deepen its engagement and impact at country and regional levels, inter alia, through the appointment of Regional Coordinators and hosted by its partners.

**Key Expected Results:**

**Support multi-stakeholder country engagement strategies at regional and country levels**
- Develop plans for improving engagement with constituencies that are under-represented at country and regional levels;
- Develop mechanisms to ensure regular bilateral follow-up with existing and potential new partners are organized and undertaken;
- Facilitate linkages between global SWA partners at regional and country levels.
- Identify specific country needs with regional and country-level partners

**Coordinate and support activities to strengthen country engagement to achieve universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene**
- Lead in the development and implementation of country and regional engagement with country level partners;
- Advise and guide countries in planning and implementing strategies to address the WASH-related targets of the SDGs;
- Advise countries in addressing financing shortfalls in the sector, including by 1) supporting the development, agreement and consistent following of sector financing plans, with financial expenditure reports easily accessible to the public, 2) making the case for increasing government budget allocations to WASH, 3) making the case for better alignment of External Support Agencies, Research and Learning, CSOs, and Private Sector to national WASH plans;
- Support and encourage the organization of annual WASH Joint Sector Reviews in the different SWA partner countries in collaboration with all constancies, resulting in an agreed set of priority actions, as well as of other formal mechanisms that facilitate inter-sectoral coordination for WASH;
- Advise countries to address inequalities in access to WASH, including by 1) mapping of extent and nature of inequalities, 2) developing strategies to specifically address them and 3) regularly report on progress;
• Support countries in encouraging an alignment between the plans/activities of development partners as well as regional commitments with those of the government, as well as partners’ participation in government-led coordination mechanisms;

• Advise countries in the development and management of national WASH monitoring frameworks, with indicators aligned with those defined by the SDGs, as well as encourage ways in which that data can inform governments’ strategic decisions.

Support in country partners in the preparations for Regional and Global meetings aimed at aligning efforts towards the achievement of the water, sanitation and hygiene related targets of the SDGs

• Ensure partners in the region are well informed about objectives, timing and logistics of High-level Meetings;
• Guide and ensure partners participate and contribute to preparatory process, including by identifying relevant regional case-studies to be shared;
• Ensure that background briefing materials are provided to participants, including templates for country and constituency presentations;
• Webinars, phone calls and other means of communication are used to provide information and gather information from participants about their expectations of the meeting;
• Facilitate and promote in-country, multi-stakeholder dialogues to prepare participants to fully benefit from the meetings;
• Support documentation of the preparatory processes and capture key lessons learned for the future.

Strategic Planning and Management
• Lead and manage the development and implementation of a regional SWA strategy aligned with SWA’s overall Strategy 2015-2020 and ensure synergies on relevant actions with the AMCW Strategy 2018-2030. The Strategy should include the adoption and implementation by partners in the Region of SWA’s Collaborative Behaviours; Building Blocks and Guiding Principles.
• Critically analyse outcomes and impact of SWA’s work in the region in order to document and share key learning and good practice;
• Maximise SWA’s impact by using all appropriate opportunities to advocate and promote water, sanitation and hygiene externally across the WASH sector and beyond it;
• Support to review progress and delivery of plans as envisaged in engagement strategies.

Increase visibility and presence of SWA in the region
• Assess and identify strategic opportunities in the region, including regional meetings and high-level political processes, and support SWA leadership to strengthen relationships with governments, potential partners, donors and other key stakeholders.
• Mobilize SWA Constituencies including External Support Agencies, Research and Learning, CSOs, and Private Sector, towards raising the profile of WASH and achievement of WASH-related SDGs targets at country level
• Represent SWA in regional inter-governmental and other platforms when needed

Support to the roll-out of the SWA Accountability Mechanism at country and regional levels:
• Lead in the dissemination of communication materials on the accountability mechanism
• Support country partners in their plans to roll-out the accountability mechanism
• Support and follow up in the documentation of commitments developed through the mechanism and ensure that they are collated and inputted in the global database
Qualifications of the Successful Candidate:

Education
- Advanced university degree in water and sanitation-related field, in development studies, public policy/administration or in a relevant area.
- An understanding of technical, social and institutional issues relating to water, sanitation and hygiene in Low and Middle Income countries, both in rural, peri-urban and urban areas;
- A successful track record of influencing key-decision makers including governments;
- Knowledge of how regional agencies and key stakeholders operate in the Region;
- A good knowledge of the social, political, policy and institutional environments of countries and the region.

Skills
- A highly desirable skill is the ability to speak or write fluently in at least two major regional languages i.e. English, French, Portuguese and Spanish;
- A team player, self-starter, able to work in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-country team
- Ability to communicate clearly and persuasively to high level target audiences - both professional/specialist and lay audiences;
- Experience in establishing contacts at the political level in the region.
- Experience in convening and organising multi-stakeholder meetings and consultations.

Work Experience
- A minimum of seven years of progressively responsible experience in the region in the area of sustainable development in general and, preferably, also in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene.

Submission of Applications

AMCOW and SWA are committed to diversity and inclusion and encourage all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply.

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit applications together with Curriculum Vitae, on or before Friday, 28th September 2018.
Please arrange to mark “Application for Regional Coordinator” in the subject line and send your applications to the email address below:

info@amcow-online.org

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.