From the Chair’s Desk

Greetings from all of us in the Executive Committee (ExCo)! I hope that this communication finds you well despite the Covid-19 crisis.

Besides the obvious health implications associated with Covid-19 outbreak, current efforts by the Government to flatten the curve has affected many aspects of our lives. We are now getting used to a new normal with virtual meetings, working from home, homeschooling and other aspects brought about by the crisis. Aside from being a global challenge, this crisis is a test to the human spirit. Women and children are once more at the center of the crisis as a disadvantaged group. The UN Policy Brief on the impact of Covid-19 on Women, stated that it is crucial that all national responses place women and girls - their inclusion, representation, rights, social and economic outcomes, equality and protection - at their centre if they are to have the necessary impacts. WIWAS is pleased to have in its membership Water Service Providers (WSP) who are at the front line to provide water to the vulnerable in the informal settlements at no cost. WIWAS is in full support of keeping WSP workers going and keeping utilities running by urging the public to pay their utility bills.

It is my pleasure to bring to your attention recent developments in the Association.

Resource Mobilization & Partnerships

Financial sustainability for the Association is of great concern; fees from members is unable to sustain WIWAS planned activities. In this regard the Association endeavours to vigorously raise funds from donors through grant writing and engagement with partners.

Recently, WIWAS submitted an application for a grant from the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), who announced funding for Women Led organizations for the year 2020 – 2022. We wait to get feedback from CREA. The ExCO envisions that if the funding is granted, it shall aide in the finalization of the Strategic Plan as well as institutional strengthening of WIWAS.

In a bid to strengthen relationships between WIWAS and its partners, WIWAS has joined the Kenya Water Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET) as a member. KEWASNET is a strong national network of water civil society organizations. KEWASNET provides a linkage between Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Water Resources Management (WRM) utilities and users by facilitating partnerships between policymakers and stakeholders, and encouraging equitable participation by all parties in governance and decision making mechanisms. In the past, WIWAS has not only received financing from KEWASNET; but also support in championing for the needs/rights of women and girls. ExCo foresees mutual benefits accruing from this membership.

WIWAS Constitution

The draft constitution has been circulated on the WhatsApp group and on select emails for comments; the deadline is 27th April, 2020. We look forward to engaging with members and adoption of the same in order to be able to comply with the regulations set out in the Law. Feel free to write to us with your comments through info@wiwas.org and wiwaskenya@gmail.com. In coming weeks, members will be called upon to volunteer to serve in various sub-committees.
**WIWAS Strategic Plan**

The first draft of WIWAS Strategic plan 2020 – 2025 will be ready by the end of April. A draft shall be circulated for comments in May and a consultative forum shall follow once WIWAS secures funding for it. The Strategic Plan shall have a lifespan of five years that is 2020 – 2025 with a mid-term review after two and a half years. It is our hope that you will submit comments and turn up for the consultative forum.

**New Appointments**

To enable smooth running of the Association, the ExCo has made the following appointments subject to ratification in the Annual General Meeting:

1. **Volunteer Secretariat**: Maureen Karugu (NCWSC) and Beatrice Lang’at (KEWI). This will be until the Association has the capacity to fill the vacancies competitively. The two have been volunteering as the Secretariat and have been instrumental in drafting the Strategic plan and Constitution in the past few months.

2. **Ag. Assistant Treasurer**: Ms. Beatrice Koskey, who held the position in the previous ExCo.

3. **Ag. Secretary General**: Eddah Gichohi (WASPA). This resolution was arrived at after deliberation of a request from the Substantive Secretary General to be relieved temporarily on personal grounds.

**2020 Membership renewal**

As we aim to grow WIWAS, we ask you to be our ambassadors out there by ensuring that a friend or two join the Association.

WIWAS membership renewal is per calendar year, we therefore urge you to renew your annual subscription.

Leunita Sumba, PhD
Chairperson

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Call for membership renewal**

Women in Water & Sanitation Association is a member-based organization.

Members are reminded to renew membership by paying their annual subscription of Kes. 3,000 for individuals, Kes. 20, 000 for corporates.

3. **Payment Details**:

   - A/c Name: Women in Water and Sanitation Association (WIWAS)
   - A/c Number: 1197735925
   - Kenya Commercial Bank
   - Branch: NHIF
   - Bank Mpesa Pay bill No: 522522