

## Metito and British International Investment launch “AWID” For Water Infrastructure Investment Opportunities in Egypt

- *Metito and British International Investment join forces to establish Africa Water Infrastructure Development (AWID) platform.*
- *The new platform aims to address water insecurity and will create a viable commercial model for investment in water infrastructure and provision in key markets in Africa.*

**Cairo - 12 March 2023: Metito Utilities Limited (MUL)**, a global investor and operator of water, wastewater, and alternative energy management solutions, and **British International Investment (BII)**, the UK’s development finance institution and impact investor, announced the launch of their new company **Africa Water Infrastructure Development “AWID”**. This is a first-of-its-kind platform to develop climate-smart water projects at scale and to increase water security across Africa.

AWID’s official launch took place at the British Embassy in Cairo, and was hosted by the British Ambassador, **Gareth Bayley**; MD, Head of Africa for BII, **Chris Chijiutomi** and Metito MD, **Rami Ghandour**. The launch was attended by key business leaders in Egypt and from across Africa as well as leading government officials.

Water insecurity is a critical development challenge in Africa.<sup>1</sup> Climate change is expected to reduce water availability and increase the extent of water scarcity, exacerbating existing water-related vulnerabilities caused by other socio-economic factors.<sup>2</sup> Water quality deterioration is also a major threat among communities throughout Africa as most wastewater generated remains untreated. The significant gap in storage, supply, and access to clean water and sanitation services urgently calls for effective and efficient water management infrastructure.

COP27, which was hosted by Egypt last year, recognised the interdependencies of the water-food-energy nexus, and the implications of climate change, calling for scaled-up investments in water solutions to mitigate, adapt, and increase resilience to the adverse effects of climate change in Africa. Climate-induced changes in the water cycle is impacting the provision of water supply to health, economies and food, and increasing inequality of water access.<sup>2</sup>

Egypt, a key market for AWID, has shown an increased drive in the past decade to revamp its water infrastructure with the water security agenda highly prioritised. The gap between the current supply and demand of water is expected to increase due to multiple factors and this is proactively being addressed through recycling and reusing agricultural drainage water and groundwater, and desalination in coastal areas. There is also an increased need to be less dependent on the Nile River and to scale up water projects that are environmentally friendly – using alternative energy and high efficiency green technologies – this presents great possibilities and multiple opportunities for well geared companies such as AWID. The government is already engaging with the private sector to develop mega water projects such as New Delta treatment plant (the world largest plant of its kind) and Al Mahsama, and this trend is expected to pick up further momentum.

AWID is an investment platform that will demonstrate a viable commercial model for water infrastructure and provision in Africa, helping to mobilise long-term investment into the sector. Its investments will integrate green technologies and alternative energy components which will help to reduce the

<sup>1</sup> UNU-INWEH (2022), [State of Water Security in Africa A Preliminary Assessment v5-Final](#)

<sup>2</sup> Trisos, C.H. et al (2022), Africa. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

environmental footprint of water infrastructure projects. AWID will finance water and wastewater management treatment plants as well as develop and construct world-class facilities that will help to increase access to sustainable, safe and reliable water with a clear focus on countries that are most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

Commenting on the new partnership, **Rami Ghandour, Managing Director of Metito** said: *“As Africa undergoes rapid urbanisation, there is a pressing demand for water infrastructure. Such projects are particularly capital intensive. An increasing funding gap requires mobilising sustainable investments into the sector. Our partnership with BII will leverage our high-value engineering and use of innovative technologies with access to unrivalled financial resources and support.”*

**British Ambassador to Egypt, Gareth Bayley**, said: *“During our COP26 Presidency, the UK focused on finding solutions to ensure countries can adapt to the worst effects of climate change, and at COP27, we continued to partner with Egypt on the call to action on adaptation. British International Investment’s partnership with Metito to launch AWID shows how we follow through on our commitments. This platform, backed by a great British financial institution such as BII, will play a key role in helping Egypt and Africa adapt to the water security challenges that the world faces as a result of the climate crisis, improving water infrastructure and increasing access to clean and reliable water for millions of people across the continent.”*

**Chris Chijutomi, MD, Head of Africa at BII** said: *“Our partnership with Metito is part of BII’s strategy to improve development outcomes by investing in water, sanitation and hygiene. AWID will demonstrate to other investors, governments and operators that private investment can deliver operationally efficient and high-impact water infrastructure projects at scale, that have the potential to drive transformative and sustainable impact in Africa.”*

**Commenting on the launch, Morgan Landy, Global Director for Infrastructure at the International Finance Corporation (IFC)** said: *“Investing in water infrastructure is a strategic priority for IFC in Africa and we are working with the private sector to close the funding gap in this critical sector. As a long-standing Metito shareholder, IFC is proud to witness the launch of this new Africa-focused platform that will invest in climate-smart water projects, further promoting economic growth and building a more water-secure Africa.”*

AWID will help to contribute to the UN's Sustainable Goals (SDG 3) on Good Health and Well-being, (SDG5) on Gender Equality, (SDG 6) on Clean Water and Sanitation and (SG13) on Climate Action.



- Ends -

#### **Note to Editors**

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#### **About British International Investment**

- British International Investment is the UK’s development finance institution and impact investor.
- British International Investment is a trusted investment partner to businesses in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

- It invests to support the UK Government's Clean Green Initiative and to create productive, sustainable, and inclusive economies in our markets.
- Over the next five years at least 30 percent of BII's total new commitments by value will be in climate finance.
- BII intends to help mobilise more capital towards climate-resilient water systems. To this end, it has been developing the CARE (Climate Adaptation and Renewable Energy) blueprint which lays out a stepwise approach to mobilise private finance for climate-resilient and low-carbon water infrastructure. The CARE blueprint is attuned for African markets and will be published in May 2023.
- BII is also a founding member of the [2X Challenge](#) which has raised over \$10 billion to empower women's economic development.
- The company has investments in over 1,300 businesses in emerging economies and total assets of £7.7 billion.
- For more information, visit: [www.bii.co.uk](http://www.bii.co.uk) | [watch here](#).

### **About Metito**

- Metito has been an active player in Africa for over three decades, investing in and developing sustainable water projects across 25 key markets, treating millions of cubic meters of water per day, and pioneering the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in both Rwanda and Egypt.
- With impact, sustainability, and innovation being our founding principles, Metito is a pan-emerging market leader operating across the entire water treatment value chain specializing in desalination, wastewater treatment, water recycling and reuse, and industrial solutions.
- Backed by 65 years of history, 4500 plus employees, experience in 50 countries, and over 25 offices globally, Metito is at the forefront of the water and wastewater industry with an impressive project portfolio of over 5,000 projects to date.
- Metito is a key enabler of the circular economy with a strong commitment to working with governments, industries, and communities to secure and manage their water needs.
- Metito is a privately held company with key shareholders that include Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group.
- Metito is the leading supplier for desalination plants developed in 2021-22 as per the latest Global Water Intelligence report.
- Metito is currently developing New Delta Agriculture Drainage Water Treatment Plant in Egypt, with a capacity of 7.5 million m<sup>3</sup>/day, making it the largest of its kind in the world.
- For more information visit [www.metito.com](http://www.metito.com)

### **About Africa Water Infrastructure Development (AWID)**

- Africa Water Infrastructure Development is a new joint venture co-established by Metito Utilities Limited (MUL) and British International Investment (BII).
- AWID will promote private investment in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sectors in Africa and to improve the availability, reliability, and quality of water for end consumers and businesses and thereby strengthen African countries' resilience to climate change.
- Through AWID, the partners intend to support a developmental strategy that would eventually mobilise long-term commercial investment into the water and wastewater sector, which has historically suffered from a lack of investment and operational inefficiencies.
- AWID will aim at reducing the environmental footprint of and climate-related risks to water infrastructure projects by integrating green technologies and alternative energy components, and climate-resilience measures in the design, construction and operation of water infrastructures.
- AWID will focus on developing, investing, and operating greenfield water and sanitation projects as well as seek out potential concessions and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), with significant operational improvement across Africa.