

Water Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan

November 29, 2022

In news– World leaders at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change launched a water adaptation and resilience action plan.

Key highlights of the plan-

- The initiative will have **an Africa-first focus**, giving hope to drought-ravaged populations, **especially in the Horn of Africa.**
- The action plan, **Action on Water Adaptation or Resilience (AWARe)**, aims to foster political efforts in **establishing pan-African water hubs.**
- AWARe will **address water security as part of climate change adaptation and will focus on three priorities:**
- Decrease water losses worldwide and improve water supply.
- Propose and support implementing policies for cooperative water-related adaptation action and cooperation and
- Interlinkages between water and climate action.
- The multisectoral initiative was a result of **collaboration between** various stakeholders, including the **African Union (AU), Water and Climate Coalition Leaders, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), among others.**
- One of the **critical goals of the initiative is to ensure there is 50 per cent less damage from floods and droughts by 2030**, even as reality paints a grim picture of the current situation.
- Early warning systems do not cover a third of the world's population, doubling the risk of the number of

individuals exposed to floods and droughts due to climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

- **The action plan has six comprehensive data-driven solutions it recommends regional blocks or heads of governments to put in place to enable a quick transition from awareness to action.**
- **The solutions described include a** set of global water information services like accurate hydrological data to help understand the scarcity and availability of water per region.
- It also has a **water and climate stock** take that integrates water and climate-related databases to inform decision-making.
- A cryosphere information mechanism that details data on frozen water parts of the earth, like waters that surround Antarctica and the Arctic and a new financing rationale focusing on areas of priority is also a part of it
- The plan calls for concerted efforts to stop pollution, manage wastewater and restore or preserve water towers and catchment areas, including glaciers and snow that are melting away, impacting sources of streams and rivers.

Note:

- According to a World Bank report of 2021, over the past 20 years, water-related hazards have consistently increased in frequency and intensity, with at least 1.6 billion people affected by floods and 1.4 billion by droughts.
- As per a study carried out by WMO in 2021, weather, climate or water-related disaster has occurred on average every single day within the past 50 years (1970-2019), taking the lives of 115 people daily and causing US\$ 202 million in daily losses.