



African Ministers Council on Water



African Development Bank

African Union

# First African Water Week

March 26-28, 2008 Tunis

African Ministers' Council  
on Water (AMCOW)

## Ministerial Declaration on "Accelerating Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development"

establishing the AMCOW Trust Fund to facilitate the financing of MDG-related actions, the establishment of African Water Facility and launching of the Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Initiative;

- Strengthening collaboration with civil society by formalizing relations with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEWS);
- Strengthening collaboration with African River and Lake Basin Organizations (ANBO);
- We have also forged close collaboration with the G-8, whose summits over the last five years have adopted initiatives on water for Africa. We are co-operating with the European Union to implement the EU Water Initiative for Africa;

4. We have made some progress in moving sanitation from the margins to the centre stage of our continental development agenda through the support of a number of international partners dealing with sanitation. This has enabled us to make a comprehensive assessment of the challenges with regard to the sanitation target. We have therefore recently adopted the eThekweni (Durban) Declaration on Sanitation in February 2008. We also welcome the African EU statement on Sanitation which commits the International Community to support our effort on sanitation in Africa.

5. We instituted the African Water Week series to discuss opportunities and challenges of achieving water security for Africa's socio-economic development in furtherance of AMCOW's mission.

6. We have at the first African Water Week deliberated on the following key themes: infrastructure platform for achieving water security; meeting the water and sanitation MDGs; financing infrastructure for water security; climate change and adaptation; addressing the environmental and social challenges and institutional development and capacity building.

## PART I

### Water, a Key to Sustainable Development in Africa: Our Efforts and Achievements

1. We, the ministers responsible for water in Africa and present at the First African Water Week, are convinced that ensuring water security through the equitable and sustainable management of water is and must remain the top development challenge for the foreseeable future for our continent. For Africa, it is imperative that we achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation and the other crucial and water-dependent goals on reducing poverty, hunger, child mortality, maternal mortality, and major diseases. The African Water Vision 2025 continues to provide a basis for our actions.

2. Over the last five years, our African Heads of State and Government have demonstrated great political commitment and leadership, which have made it possible for Africa's water crisis and policy challenges to be brought from the margins to the centre-stage of the regional development agenda. We recall that the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference (Dec. 2003) was followed shortly after by the AU Heads of State and Government adopting the Sirte Declaration in January 2004, on the integration of AMCOW into the AU structures as a Specialized Technical Committee. At their summit in February 2008, the African Heads of State and Government decided that their July 2008 Summit should be devoted to Water and Sanitation.

3. At the sixth session of our Ministers Council on Water, AMCOW considered how best to accelerate action on the MDGs and targets on Water and Sanitation. We recognise that progress has been made but a lot needs to be done. We have also taken a number of enabling measures which include:

- Adopting a comprehensive work programme to support actions for meeting the MDG targets on water and sanitation, es-

## PART II

### Partnership for Regional and National Actions to Accelerate Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development

7. Our Heads of State and Government join global leaders in reaffirming international commitments to the Global Partnership for Development set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

8. We highly appreciate the international support and solidarity extended to AMCOW and Africa for addressing the water and sanitation challenges. In order to meet the special needs of Africa, we call upon our governments, national and regional organisations, the international community, and development partners, to extend concrete, substantial and tangible support to the following quick impact actions:

#### a. Infrastructure platform for achieving water security

- Give greater attention to investments in water infrastructure, in order to overcome poverty and achieve needed economic growth and social well-being;
- Facilitate trans-boundary infrastructure development;
- Develop national plans and strategies for achieving water security;
- Strengthen the information and knowledge base and monitoring capacity.

#### b. Meeting the Water and Sanitation MDGs

- Make best use of existing resources, and mobilize financial and technical resources, from the public and private sectors, and users, for water and sanitation infrastructure as well as for building institutional, technical and managerial capacity at all levels;
- Prioritize and increase water and sanitation expenditures in national budgets;
- Increase, systematically, resources allocated to local governments for the implementation of water and sanitation projects;
- Develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for water supply and sanitation at local, basin, national and regional levels;
- Present development partners with the outline of an "MDG Water and Sanitation Investment Plan for Africa" to reach the MDGs, including the identification of the financial resources to be mobilised, and gap expected, from all development partners for endorsement by the G8 and MDG Summit;

- Request the AfDB and the Water and Sanitation Programme (Africa) to continue to undertake Country Sector Reviews, within the context of the Pan African mechanism, to update AMCOW on progress and bottlenecks in achieving the MDG targets;

- Establish peer review processes for monitoring water and sanitation performance for Members who ascribe to the idea.

#### c. Financing Infrastructure for Water Security Objectives

- Place the development benefits of water use and sanitation infrastructure at the core of our finance strategies;
- Strengthen the case for water use and sanitation infrastructure in National Development Plans and Public Expenditure, and direct an increasing proportion of multilateral finance into infrastructure;
- Direct more financial resources to local governments for water-use infrastructure delivery;
- Ensure the necessary African ownership, public control and legal frameworks to protect the public interests, particularly those of the poor and the vulnerable;
- Deepen our regional partnerships over water use infrastructure, co-operating over shared water resources, and looking for opportunities to invest in infrastructure of regional importance;
- Match our reporting on finance with the economic and social impacts that have been delivered.

#### d. Climate change and adaptation

- Put in place adaptation measures to ensure sustainable water security for the social, economic and environmental needs;
- Promote co-operation in the development of effective early warning systems for water-related disaster prevention and mitigation to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on economic development, food security and poverty eradication efforts;
- Encourage water use efficiency through appropriate measures such as demand management, reuse and other technological options to optimize on limited water availability.

#### e. Agricultural Water Use

- Re-engage in agricultural water in Africa, including irrigation, drainage and rainwater harvesting;
- Support NEPAD in the implementation of a new Initiative for Agricultural Water in Africa (AgWA) that responds to Pillar I of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP);

- Scale up investments to ensure a more reliable, broad-based and sustained flow of funds, as well as supporting sectoral strategies and policies in the field of agricultural water.

#### **f. Groundwater use**

- Harness local groundwater resources to improve livelihoods and manage risks associated with climate change;
- Institutionalise dialogue on groundwater management in Africa and implement the Roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission.

#### **g. Rainwater harvesting and Reuse**

- Support the water harvesting strategies to complement implementation of the water-related MDGs and for climate change adaptation in Africa;
- Support development and implementation of water reuse as part of water conservation strategy.

#### **h. Addressing the Environmental and Social Challenges**

Balance social, environmental and economic components of water infrastructure development;

- Operationalize IWRM principles of optimizing water resources development for economic, social and environmental needs;

#### **i. Capacity building and institutional development**

- Build institutional and human resources capacity at all levels for all actors in the water and sanitation sector;
- Support the empowerment of local government and build their capacity to implement decentralised programme implementation and management.

9. We appeal to the international community to meet their commitments to increase investment for water resources development.

### **PART III**

#### **Key Messages and Suggested Decisions to the African Union Summit**

10. We humbly request the AU Heads of State and Government to:

- Finalise the status of AMCOW as a Specialised Technical Committee of the Union;

b. Make the African Water Facility and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative constant agenda items in their deliberations and dialogue with international partners;

c. Encourage member countries to urgently develop climate change adaptation strategies and mainstream this in their water resources development;

d. Endorse the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions;

e. Provide political support for the continued implementation of the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water;

f. Prioritize and increase the allocation of resources, through national plans, to water and sanitation in national budgets;

g. Strengthen co-operation among riparian states for the mutual benefit of the parties.

### **PART IV**

#### **Key Messages to the G8 Summit 2008 in Japan**

11. We recall that at its recent Summits, the G8 had adopted a number of initiatives on Africa's water situation and invite the G8 2008 Summit in Japan to:

a) Implement the respective G8 initiatives on water for Africa, notably the Evian Plan on Water (2003), the G8-UK Initiative on Water (2006), the German G8 Initiative on Trans-boundary Waters (2007), the Kananaskis Action Plan;

b) Support the implementation of the Durban Declaration on Sanitation as well as the key outcomes of the First African Water Week in pursuit of the MDGs and socio-economic development of Africa;

c) Implement measures for addressing the special needs of Africa on adaptation to climate change in view of the threats to Africa's water security;

d) Honour their commitments and assist in mobilising substantial resources for the African Water Facility.

### **PART V**

#### **Other Matters**

##### **Second African Water Week 2009/2010**

12. We kindly request the Government of Kenya in close co-operation with the UNEP, UN-HABITAT and UNESCO to initiate the necessary processes for hosting the second African Water Week in 2009/2010, in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Endorsement of Tunis Outcomes

13. We endorse the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Tunis outcomes, conclusions and recommendations.

### Appreciation

a. We extend our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the First African Water Week;

b. We extend our profound appreciation to the President and Management of the African Development Bank for the firm commitment towards addressing Africa's critical water challenges and for its continuous and substantial support to AM-

COW. We highly appreciate the Bank's achievement in hosting and organising successfully the First Africa Water Week;

c. We highly appreciate the solid support being given to AM-COW by the UN entities, particularly the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and its Chair, H.R.H Prince Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange;

d. We applaud the support and contribution of our Development Co-operation Partners;

e. We have benefited greatly from the continued co-operation with civil society groups and various international and regional water partnerships.

### Honourable Ministers attending the First African Water Week

	Name	Organization	Function	Country
1.	ABDELMALEK SELLAL	Ministère d'Etat, de l'Agriculture, de l'Hydraulique	Ministre des Ressources en Eau	Algeria
2.	JOSE MARIA DE VASCONCELOS	Ministry of Energy and Water Affairs	Minister	Angola
3.	ANATOLE KANYENKIKO	Ministère de l'Environnement	Ministre et membre, AMCOW EXCO	Burundi
4.	FRITZGERALD NAZAKO	Ministre de l'Energie et de l'Eau	Vice Ministre et membre, AMCOW EXCO	Cameroon
5.	BRUNO JEAN RICHARD ITOUA	Ministère de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique	Ministre et Président de l' AMCOW	Congo Brazzaville
6.	ABDOULKADER KAMIL	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Mer	Ministre	Djibouti
7.	DINGAMO ATO ASFAW	Ministry of Water Resources	Minister and Member, AMCOW EXCO	Ethiopia
8.	SYLVAIN MOMOAJAMBO	Ministère des Mines, de l'Energie, du Pétrole et des Ressources Hydrauliques	Ministre Délégué	Gabon
9.	YANKUBA TOURAY	Department of State for Fisheries and Water	Secretary of State	Gambia
10.	CECILIA ABENA DAPAAH	Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing	Minister of State and Member, AMCOW EXCO	Ghana
11.	KOMATA GOUMOU NIAGA	Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Energie	Ministre	Djibouti
12.	JOHN MUNYES KIYONG'A	Ministry of Water and irrigation	Minister	Kenya
13.	MONYANE MOLELEKI	Ministry of Water Resources	Minister and Member, AMCOW EXCO	Lesotho
14.	AHMED SOW	Ministère des Mines de l'Energie et de l'Eau	Ministre	Mali
15.	OUMAR OULD YALI	Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Energie	Ministre et Vice Président de l' AMCOW	Mauritania
16.	ZACARIAS FELICIO PEDRO	Ministry of Public Works and Housing	Minister	Mozambique
17.	PAUL ALBERTUS SMIT	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development	Deputy Minister	Namibia
18.	ADEMOLA SERIKI RASAQ	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources	Minister	Nigeria
19.	BIKORO MUNYANGANIZI	Ministry of Land, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines	Minister	Rwanda
20.	OUMAR SARR	Ministère de l'Hydraulique et du Réseau Hydrographique National	Ministre et Vice Président de l' AMCOW	Senegal
21.	ALI MOHAMMED KAMAL	Ministry of Irrigation & Water Resources	Minister	Sudan
22.	CHRISTOPHER K CHIZA	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Deputy Minister	Tanzania
23.	MOHAMED HABIB HADDAD	Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydriques	Ministre et membre, AMCOW EXCO	Tunisia
24.	MARIA MUTAGAMBA	Ministry of Water and Environment	Minister	Uganda
25.	GLADYS LUNDWE	Ministry of Energy and Water Development	Deputy Minister	Zambia

Tunis, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.