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 AM-COW 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, AM-COW 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, establishing the AM-COW 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 (ANEW);
- 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 eThekwini (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 AM-COW’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 II

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:

a. 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 eThekwini 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 28th 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. ABDELMALEK SELDALL</td>
<td>Ministère d’Etat, de l’Agriculture, de l’Hydraulique</td>
<td>Ministre des Ressources en Eau</td>
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<td>2. JOSE MARIA DE VASCONCELOS</td>
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<td>3. ANTOLE KANYENKIKO</td>
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<td>5. BRUNO JEAN RICHARD ITOUA</td>
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<td>7. DINGAMO ATO ASFAW</td>
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<td>9. YANKUBA TOURAY</td>
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<td>10. CECILIA ABENA DAPAAH</td>
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<td>11. KOMATA GOUMOU NIAGA</td>
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<td>12. JOHN MUNYES KIYONG’A</td>
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<td>13. MONYANE MOLELEKI</td>
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<td>15. OUMAR OULD YALI</td>
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<td>16. ZACARIAS FELICIO PEDRO</td>
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<td>18. ADEMOLA SERIKI RASAQ</td>
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<td>20. OUMAR SARR</td>
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<td>21. ALI MOHAMMED KAMAL</td>
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<td>22. CHRISTOPHER K CHIZA</td>
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<td>23. MOHAMED HABIB HADDAD</td>
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<td>24. MARIA MUTAGAMBA</td>
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Tunis, 28th March 2008.