

Translating the Brazzaville Outcomes and Decisions into action: Regional Commitment, International Solidarity, Implementation and Partnerships

Provisional Programme

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water/AMCOW

22-23 November 2007
United Nations Conference Centre,
Nairobi, Kenya



Including related events preceding the AMCOW Executive Committee meeting (i.e meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of AMCOW, Nairobi 20 – 21 November 2007; Meeting on the Institutionalization of Ground Water Management in Africa Nairobi, 18 – 19 November 2007; Ministerial Roundtable on Africa and Climate Change, 16 – 17 November Jinja Uganda)

AMCOW Executive Committee Meeting

Convened by Hon. Mr. Bruno Richard Itoua, President of the African Ministers' Council on Water and Minister of Energy and Water, Republic of Congo

Hosted by Hon. John Mutua Katuku, Minister for Water and Irrigation, Kenya in close cooperation with UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNESCO

AMCOW thanks explicitly the Kenya Government for its valuable support, the AU and other pan-African institutions for providing strategic direction, the AMCOW partners for the continued close cooperation and the European Union for its assistance

Preface

- I. Hon. Mr. Bruno Richard Itoua, President of the African Ministers' Council on Water and Minister of Energy and Water, Republic of Congo
- II. Hon. John Mutua Katuku, Minister for Water and Irrigation, Kenya

I. Meeting on Groundwater Management in Africa

Sunday 18 – Monday 19 November 2007

Implementing the decision of the 6th Session of AMCOW and promoting the institutionalization of groundwater management in Africa.

10:00hrs: Arrival of Participants and Registration

Opening: Welcome remarks:

1. Hon. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, President of AMCOW, Minister of Energy and Water, Congo
2. Hon. Mr. John Mutua Katuku, Kenya Minister for Water and Irrigation
3. H.E. Mrs. Rosebud Kurwijilla, African Union Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture
4. Hon. Mrs. Odette Kayetesi, AMCOW Vice President – Eastern Africa
5. Dr. Kordje Bedoumra, Director of Water and Sanitation, AfDB
6. EU Commission
7. Mr. Reginald Tekateka, Chair, ANBO
8. Halifa Drammeh, Chair, UN-Water/Africa and Agriculture

11:30hrs: Coffee/Tea

Keynotes: Prof Kader Asmal – MP South Africa

Hon. Paul Smit – Deputy Minister for Water Resources, Namibia

12.00hrs: Press Conference

2.30pm: Roundtable discussion I: Managing Africa's ground water resources for achieving Millennium Development Goals and Targets – implementing the AMCOW decision on institutionalizing the management of groundwater

Speakers:

1. Col. Benjamin Ndala – Secretary General, CICOS
2. Hon. Mr. Mohammed Abuzeid, Minister for Water and Irrigation, Egypt
3. Mr. Reatile Mochebelele – NEPAD Water and Infrastructure

Discussant: Hon. Paul Smit – Deputy Minister for Water Resources, Namibia

Day 2: Monday 19 November 2007

Roundtable II: the case for an African Groundwater Commission – a proposal

9.30 am:

Discussion items:

- Mandate
- Criteria for selecting commissioners
- Terms of Reference
- Institutional arrangements, including secretariat (criteria)
- Financial arrangements (options)

1.00pm: Lunch

2.30pm: Roundtable III – recommendations to EXCO through TAC

Roundtable IV – the way forward – operationalizing the recommendations

4.30pm: Closing



Sunday 18 – Monday 19 November 2007

Implementing the decision of the 6th Session of AMCOW and promoting the institutionalization of groundwater management in Africa.

Issues Note

Background

1. Groundwater is critical for personal welfare and societal development in Africa. Although groundwater accounts for only 15% of the continent's renewable water resources, more than 75% of the African population uses groundwater as its main source of drinking water and for other household needs. A significant portion of agriculture in Africa also depends on the availability of groundwater. Many industries rely on groundwater extraction to meet their needs.
2. Groundwater remains the only economically viable option for improving water supply in the rural areas of many African countries, especially those which currently have to go furthest in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In rural Africa about 65% of the population still does not have access to an adequate water supply and 73% are without access to adequate sanitation.
3. Groundwater is the 'raw material' of improved rural and small town water supplies. It is vital that the resource be developed further if the population with 'minimal adequate' water-supply coverage (which still only stands at around 40%) is to be rapidly and economically expanded. Its importance cannot be overstated, since successful groundwater development for community water supply has far reaching benefits in terms of reducing health hazards and improving socioeconomic opportunity through:
 - a. Eliminating dependence on unreliable and polluted surface water sources associated with a range of waterborne diseases causing high levels of mortality and morbidity and
 - b. Reducing the long distances walked and time spent on water collection, which will enable children to attend school and women to engage in productive activities.
4. While it is recognized that groundwater resource availability (or potential) alone does not equate with improved livelihoods, Africa urgently needs investment in increasing water storage at all scales, to improve water supply security and mitigate the impacts of frequent droughts (and accelerated climate change) which have a major impact on the local economy and a knock-on effect on national GDPs. There is a potentially major role for groundwater storage in mitigating more frequent and extended drought episodes, through small-scale enhancement of aquifer recharge and storage use.

5. In certain larger towns and cities groundwater is critical for the existing water supply, playing a key strategic role during drought or other emergencies and an important supplementary role at other times. There are two supplementary concerns in some instances :
 - The special case of coastal cities whose limited groundwater resources are often susceptible to saline intrusion when developed without adequate control and
 - Waste water infiltration (by one route or another) at larger town and major urban level, causing groundwater pollution, and the need for improved effluent handling and reuse in the interests of groundwater protection.
6. Given the critical role that groundwater plays in the water supply security of many African cities, there is an urgent need for in-depth assessment of its current utilization for urban water supply provision, and the management actions needed to ensure future availability and greater integration with surface water supply.
7. There is increasing evidence of a direct correlation between drought proneness and persistent poverty in Africa – and in reality a lack of investment at all scales in drought preparedness. Groundwater sources are much less drought prone than surface water sources due to the large natural storage of aquifers. The impact of drought on groundwater levels lags considerably behind the actual failure of rains and surface water runoff (with associated reduction in groundwater recharge). Thus, as regards drought preparedness in terms of water supply, it is important to invest in advance in the appraisal of drought susceptibility of aquifers.
8. Land degradation and soil erosion are widely leading to reduced rates of infiltration, and thus the loss of environmentally and socially-critical spring flows and base flow to smaller rivers and of discharge to vegetation in topographic lows ('valley-bottom lands'). There is a need to control such processes, conserve soil cover, and find ways of enhancing groundwater recharge through small-scale engineering measures and land management
9. In some areas much uncertainty remains over the level of groundwater dependence of some key aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and their susceptibility to degradation due to groundwater resource development and water table decline. This potential impediment to the use of groundwater resources for other purposes needs to be resolved, and both the occurrence and value of groundwater-dependent ecosystems better characterized.

The Challenges

10. World-wide, there has been a growing concern in the last few years about groundwater and its sustainable utilization. At the highest level in Africa this increasing profile of groundwater has been reflected in its coverage at the recent 6th Ordinary Session of the Africa Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in May 2007.

11. Professional expertise on how to locate, evaluate, develop and manage groundwater resources appears to be decreasing in many parts of Africa (especially in government offices) due to lack of appropriate training, poor recognition of groundwater professionals, reductions in public spending, disbanding of some national offices related to groundwater, and with the AIDS epidemic continuing to take its toll among relevant professionals. Existing capacity needs to be used much more effectively and significant efforts are required to build new capacity through a combination of appropriate undergraduate and postgraduate training in Europe and other parts of the world, developing new training partnerships between northern and southern institutions as well as among southern institutions, and the provision of training at various levels within Africa itself.
12. The trans-boundary nature of major aquifer systems in Africa and the extensive environmental and societal systems that depend on them needs to be recognized. It can be foreseen that increasing water scarcity and resulting competition for scarce groundwater resources will bring increasing degradation of such water resources as well as related land resources, with the potential for conflicts - domestically and across international boundaries. Again, these problems are exacerbated through the unseen and poorly understood nature of groundwater.
13. In most of Africa, information that is vital for the efficient planning and implementation of sustainable groundwater development is not readily available or accessible in user-friendly formats.
14. There is also a general need for scaling-up good practices in community-based small-scale rural use of groundwater for drinking water provision and rural livelihoods (such that these demands are adequately protected and not burdened with restrictive legal requirements) and for the promotion of small town and village associations to promote efficient groundwater resource development, maintenance and protection.
15. As local demands on groundwater resources increase, questions of sustainability and management arise (against a background of accelerated climate change). In addition, the growing need for protection against the new pollution sources associated with urbanization and industrialization has to be confronted.
16. The sustainable development and management of groundwater has, to date, failed to feature prominently in the national and regional water agendas in Africa, except in countries that are heavily dependent on groundwater resources. The continued use of a 'private water' legal classification for groundwater is just one of the expressions of its lack of recognition. At the heart of moving forward with more sustainable development and utilization of groundwater lies the need for a much clearer understanding and articulation of its role and contribution to national and regional development objectives, in particular:
 - household and community water supply;
 - public health;

- rural development;
 - small farmer development;
 - urban development;
 - mining and industrial development; and
 - functioning of vital ecosystems.
17. Deeper understanding of these roles and relationships is bound to establish that groundwater has a major, still largely misunderstood and under-valued, role to play in the fulfillment of the Africa Water Vision of “An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment.”
18. Africa today is characterized by a lack of appropriate and systematic regional development approaches and instruments relating to groundwater:
- No appropriate planning approaches: Large surface storages are often inappropriate for a wide range of desired benefits – still the alternative solutions called for have not yet addressed groundwater in a systematic way. Planning processes and accompanying study and exploration investments, addressing groundwater systematically through all phases of planning, are not in place.
 - No appropriate financing approaches: There are obvious hurdles to be overcome in financing many small groundwater schemes with limited accountability and initial cost recovery compared to large schemes where national governments are ultimately accountable. But, solutions are being explored all over the world and in related sectors, which need to be evaluated and pilot-tested in Africa.
 - No appropriate development and sustainable utilization approaches: Lost opportunities as a result of the above shortcomings not only relate to conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources, but also for mainstreaming of drought risk management and for development planning, both requiring integrated land and water resources management approaches. This presents a particular challenge for AMCOW policy direction regarding the institutionalization of groundwater management by river and lake basin organizations.
19. The reality of wide-spread degradation of groundwater resources in Africa needs to be addressed:
20. In contrast to the critical and strategic role of groundwater outlined above, it has remained a poorly understood and managed resource. This has become a clear threat to sustainable water service delivery and meeting the Millennium Development Goals on water. Because of its unique role in the landscape and its largely unseen nature, groundwater and the aquifers that host it are particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts. Also, such impacts can stay hidden for many years and by the time they are discovered they are very difficult and costly to remedy.

21. The human issues relating to the sustainable utilization of common property resources need to be adequately addressed. The 'common property resource' issues of economic efficiency, equity, safeguarding of basic needs and avoiding harm to others are all particularly important for groundwater, because of its essential role in meeting a most basic human need. The key instruments of local control and popular participation as well as orderly conflict resolution and establishment of an enabling environment are challenges that require political will at all levels if they are to be fully addressed.
22. The different categories of trans-boundary issues relating to large regional ecosystems are all relevant for groundwater and aquifer systems, i.e.:
 - Regional/national issues relating to trans-boundary causes/sources;
 - Trans-boundary issues relating to national causes/sources;
 - National issues that are common to at least two or more countries and that require a common strategy and collective action;
 - Issues that have trans-boundary implications, e.g. free basic water or drilling subsidies; and
 - The particular issue of the general lack of understanding about the functioning of groundwater systems that could give rise to trans-boundary issues where they may not exist in reality.

Response

23. While poor and deteriorating hydrological networks and institutions were already seen as a major concern by AMCOW at its Pan-African Conference in 2003, it should be recognized that, to date, groundwater information services are the least established and in many African countries are virtually non-existent. The challenge is immense: to turn around the present ineffective and unsustainable use of groundwater throughout Africa will require national, regional and international actions on a number of fronts.
24. At the 6th Ordinary Session of AMCOW held in Brazzaville, Ministers were invited to note the follow-up actions to implement the groundwater-related recommendations of the AMCOW R/LBO Conference that took place in Kampala in October 2006. The Conference underscored the critical importance of sustainable groundwater management, particularly in arid areas, both rural and rapidly expanding urban areas in the continent.
25. The 6th Session of AMCOW decided to:
 - Promote the institutionalization of groundwater management by river basin organizations to ensure regional ownership of the initiative;
 - Create synergy with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) to ensure groundwater's inclusion in resource assessment and the sustainable management of groundwater resources;

- Become the custodian through whom the strategic initiative can be fast-tracked and a continent-wide impact can be ensured; and
 - Consider endorsing and supporting the efforts to secure core financial support from the African Water Facility that could be leveraged to raise additional resources from development cooperation partners, such as the European Union.
26. The proposal to establish an African Groundwater Commission, under the auspices of AMCOW was endorsed during the informal consultative meeting of the representatives of AMCOW EXCO held in Stockholm, Sweden in August 2007 in the margins of the World Water Week.
27. The expectation from the proposed Commission is to achieve ongoing political buy-in and support in a roll-out of the AMCOW Brazzaville decisions towards the vision of “An Africa where groundwater resources are valued and utilized sustainably by empowered stakeholders.” Expected outcomes of the activities of the Commission would be:
- Significantly increased recognition that groundwater is a critical and strategic resource for achieving Africa’s development objectives;
 - A systematic, continent-wide approach (e.g. sharing, benchmarking, leveraging, facilitating) for rapid progress towards sustainable development and utilization of precious groundwater resources;
 - New ways and sources of funding established for the assessment and development of groundwater resources;
 - Continuity in Africa on groundwater research and outreach/application institutionalized in cooperation with NEPAD; and
 - A culture of coordination and cooperation established at all levels through North-South and South-South cooperation and cooperation among international agencies in the groundwater and related fields;

Proposed Terms of Reference for the Commission

28. The Groundwater Commission will act as a sounding board for implementing decisions by AMCOW and other multi-stakeholder consultations in order to provide strategic advice on collaborative aspects on groundwater resources management in Africa. UWC, UNESCO and UNEP-DEWA shall provide the Secretariat of the Groundwater Commission. Specifically, the roles and responsibilities of the Groundwater Commission shall be as follows:
- Collect and disseminate up-to-date information on the availability and use of groundwater in Africa to all stakeholders in a user-friendly way.
 - Provide advice to AMCOW on various consultative processes on groundwater resources management in Africa, with a particular view of strengthening science-policy interactions.
 - Facilitate strategic collaboration with the African scientific community, international

organizations, private sector and civil society in the field of groundwater management and protection.

- Review and comment on project documents related to groundwater resources management and protection in Africa.
- Advise AMCOW on its participation and strategic engagement in activities related to groundwater resources management and protection in Africa, while ensuring necessary steps are undertaken to enhance public information and awareness on the importance of groundwater resources in Africa.
- Advise on the planning of a user survey to strengthen the usefulness of the GEO-4 assessment.
- Advise AMCOW on measures to strengthen groundwater resources management and protection institutions and to build capacity in areas related to groundwater resources management and protection in Africa.

Possible functioning of the Commission

29. Coordination

To be aligned with regional conditions, policies, approaches and programmes, most implementation should happen at the level of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and ultimately river and lake basin organizations (R/LBOs). The work of the Commission will therefore mainly be of an ongoing awareness-raising, facilitation and strategic direction nature. Mechanisms for close coordination with the RECs and R/LBOs will, therefore, be established upfront. In all the Commission's work, groundwater should always be seen within an IWRM and national/regional development framework. This may have implications for the composition and functioning of the Commission.

30. Modalities of operation

It is expected that the Commission will operate in a variety of ways, which could include information gathering and dissemination, public consultations, the request for submissions of project proposals, the launching of background studies and the conduct of regional, sub-regional, national and local workshops to gain balanced understanding of the issues involved and the best ways to address them.

The Commission would meet formally once every year to review progress made and map out the way forward. It would also actively participate in the stakeholder contact actions. For continuity, the Commission would have to be supported by an adequately staffed professional Secretariat.

The commission would report annually to AMCOW through its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Chair of the Commission would serve as an associate member of the TAC. The AMCOW Ordinary Sessions will receive the report of the Commission and provide a formal response as appropriate.

31. **Composition**

The challenge is to get independent scientific assessment and reviews of the groundwater situation in Africa and formulate appropriate actions in a highly contentious field where there are multiple well-established stakeholders. In line with the aim of a common African development focus, the Groundwater Commission would at the least need to have official representatives of key government sectors as well as representation of the scientific community, private sector and civil society in Africa as well as representatives of chosen development cooperation partners.

The Chair of the Commission would be appointed by the President of AMCOW, and should be a widely-respected senior expert on water policy issues in Africa, with a specific experience on groundwater issues. Other members of the Commission could include:

- Two AMCOW Vice-Presidents
- One representative from each of the five TAC sub-regional committees
- Representatives of the RECs
- Chair of ANBO
- AU Commission
- NEPAD
- African Water Facility
- Chair of ANEW
- Private sector representative
- Chair of UN-Water/Africa
- Representatives of contributing development cooperation partners

32. **Early actions**

- Consultations on the composition of the Commission and its Secretariat
- Establishment of the Commission and Secretariat
- Formulation of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure
- Securing initial funding for the operation of the Commission and Secretariat
- Commissioning and dissemination of key issues/thematic papers;
- Development of a strategic framework and proposal for action in consultation with AMCOW, NEPAD, development cooperation partners and others;
- Establishment of communication and consultative fora at the sub-regional level;
- Initiation of actions towards the building of human and institutional capacity in the groundwater field, together with NEPAD and other partners;
- Securing of sustainable financing to move forward the work of the Commission; and
- Participation, with AMCOW and others, in relevant international and regional meetings and deliberations on groundwater in Africa.

II. Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

Tuesday 20 - Wednesday 21 November

Welcome:

- Eng. Mahboub Mohamed – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- H.E. Mrs. Rosebud Kurwijilla, African Union Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture

Opening Remarks:

1. Mr. Charles NGANGOUE, AMCOW TAC Chair: Overview of the Brazzaville Declaration and decisions.
2. Dr. Kordje Bedoumra – Director, Water and Sanitation, AfDB (Host of Africa Water Facility)
3. Mr. Reginald Tekateka – Chairman, African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO)
4. Prof. Edward Kairu – President of ANEW
5. Mr. Halifa Drammeh – Chairman, UN-Water Africa;
6. Representative of the European Union Commission
7. Representative of the Global Water Partnership
8. Representative of Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (WSP)
9. Mr. Henry Ntale, former TAC Chair: Reflections on the road from Entebbe (2004) to Brazzaville (2007)
10. Others

Establishment of the Bureau of the Meeting for the purposes of:

- Facilitating discussions
- Preparing the Outcomes Report

Roundtable discussion 1: Governance, Institutional and Operational Matters

1. AMCOW's relationship with the African Union
2. Strengthening Sub-regional Presence and Structures
3. AMCOW Memorandum of Understanding
4. Secretariat hosting agreement (and consideration of the report of the needs assessment of the Secretariat)
5. Support arrangements for the AMCOW Presidents' Office
6. Affiliations: River and Lake Basin Organizations and civil society organizations

7. Enhancing AMCOW's relations (youth, women, parliamentarians, media and private sector)
8. Tracking sub-regional portfolios/water initiatives.

Roundtable discussion 2: Financing Africa's water policy priorities, and means of implementation of the decisions of AMCOW

Selected AMCOW Decisions

1. Implementing AMCOW's triennial work programme – financial implications
2. Strategies for mobilizing regional and international support for the African Water Facility
3. Securing the means of implementation of AMCOW initiatives (Water for African Cities, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, African Water Development Report, African Water Information Clearing House, African Water Week/World Water Forum, Groundwater Initiative, Water and Sanitation Initiative)
4. Establishing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system
5. Addressing cross-cutting issues through Inter-ministerial cooperation

Roundtable discussion 3: Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation with Pan-African Institutions

AU Commission and Secretariat of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD, Africa's multi-lateral institutions (ADB, ECA); Regional Ministerial Bodies (Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA), African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), African Ministerial Council on Human Settlements and Urban Development (AMCHUD), African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN); Regional Economic Communities.

Roundtable discussion 4: Consolidating and expanding international partnerships

1. EU Water Initiative
2. World Bank Water and Sanitation Initiative
3. UNSGAB action plan
4. Global Water Partnership (GWP) – integrated water resources management
5. G-8 Action Plan/German Initiative
6. UN-Water/Africa

Roundtable discussion 5: Key regional and international events

1. AU Summit on Water
2. Meetings linked to the international year of sanitation
3. EU Africa Summit
4. Observance of 5th anniversary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference

II. Informal Evening Consultation of the AMCOW Vice Presidents for the respective sub-regions

Wednesday 21 November, Venue – Hotel, 17:00 hrs – 19:30 hrs

16:45 – 18:00 Dialogue with H.E. Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark

- Welcome by President of AMCOW
- Progress of cooperation on integrated water resources management
- AMCOW-Danish collaboration
- Preparations for the 2009 UNFCCC meetings

18:00 – 19:30 Consultation on the agenda items before the Executive Committee Meeting

- Discussions with the short-listed candidates for the post of Executive Secretary, AMCOW Secretariat
- Outcome of the AMCOW side-event on “Africa and Climate Change”, with special focus on water resources
- Briefing on status of preparation for the AMCOW/EXCO Meeting

Briefings on the:

- a) Outcome of groundwater meeting
 - b) Outcome of TAC meeting
 - c) Organization of work of EXCO
 - d) Breakout into sub-regional consultations
- By the AMCOW Sub-regional Vice Presidents

THE BRAZZAVILLE OUTCOMES AND DECISIONS: LOOKING AHEAD
African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 30-31 May 2007

The Brazzaville outcomes and decisions renew our collective commitment to providing leadership in addressing the water and sanitation crisis in Africa, and in consolidating our mandate. We shall endeavour to bring the water sector from the margins to the mainstream of the broader socio-economic and development aims of the African Union. With this challenge in mind, the key decisions before the 6th session of our Council relate inter alia to the following over-riding themes:

- Further engaging in the regional integration processes, especially with the AU but also with other regional and sub-regional bodies. The full engagement, involvement and contribution of all African countries will be critical;
- Strengthening the structures of governance in AMCOW, the technological and technical capacities of its organs, including the Secretariat, as well as reinforcing support arrangements for the effective implementation of our decisions and work programme;
- Consolidating and coordinating existing regional and international partnerships, as well as identifying and engaging in new partnership arrangements;
- Securing self-reliance with regard to the means of implementing our own decisions while counting on international solidarity for augmenting our own efforts and resources; and
- Promoting and monitoring actions on the MDGs related to the water and sanitation sectors in Africa, and enhancing AMCOW's capacity to catalyze the necessary measures.

We, the African Ministers of Water, assembled in Brazzaville at our 6th Ordinary Session, 30-31 May, 2007, adopt the Brazzaville Declaration on the Outcomes and Decisions of our session.

1. Governance, Institutional and Operational Matters

1.1. AMCOW relationship with the African Union (AU)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To note with appreciation the progress made by the African Union Commission toward the integration of AMCOW into the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) structure of the AU, and urge the Commission and the Member States to hasten their respective consultations with the view to concluding the integration by the end of the year 2007;*
- *To further note with appreciation the AU Commission's "Guidelines for establishing a Cooperative Framework Agreement for the Integrated Management of Transboundary Basins", and urge the Commission to ensure a wide distribution of the guidelines among Member States to be used as a reference document.*

1.2. Strengthening Sub-regional Presence and Structures

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To further explore modalities of strengthening AMCOW's presence at the sub-regional level, noting that funds are now available to convene regular meetings of sub-regional organs;*
- *To explore in particular options for collaboration with the water units of the regional economic communities.*

1.3 Governance

1.3.1 AMCOW Memorandum of understanding

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That the MoU be circulated again to the rest of the member countries;*
- *That an inventory be made of the status of member country agreements/accession to the MoU;*
- *That further consultations be undertaken with the AU on the implications on AMCOW membership of the Council's integration in the AU.*

1.3.2 Rotation of the AMCOW presidency

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *the order for the revolving Presidency will be as follows: Central Africa, Southern Africa, Northern Africa, West Africa, Eastern Africa;*
- *South Africa will assume the presidency following the Republic of Congo.*

1.3.3 Secretariat Hosting Agreement

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To note with appreciation the finalization and signing of the host country agreement for the AMCOW Secretariat.*

1.4 Secretariat and its urgent needs

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That a formal request be submitted to the AU Commission to facilitate the immediate recruitment of the Executive Secretary, given that funds are currently available, and to assist with recruitment of other Secretariat staff when funds are available; and that resource mobilization activity be undertaken as soon as possible to identify funds to cover the costs of other staff of the Secretariat;*

- *That EXCO review the recommended shortlist and appoint a suitable candidate for the Executive Secretary at a meeting preferably to be held by October 2007;*
- *That UNEP be asked to undertake a needs assessment of the Secretariat to identify the measures needed to provide the technical capacity required to provide required support to AMCOW.*

1.5 Support arrangements

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That the President's Support Office should work out close working relations with the Secretariat and other support bodies.*

1.6 Progress reports by the sub-regional EXCO Chairs

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To request the sub-regional Vice-presidents to initiate consultations with the sub-regional communities with a view to reaching a formal agreement on collaboration of their respective water units with AMCOW.*

1.7 Affiliations – Civil Society, RLBOs

1.7.1 Civil Society organizations

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That the AMCOW President and the Chair of ANEW will sign the MoU.*

1.7.2 River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/LBOs)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

To endorse the recommendations of the Tekateka Commission as follows:

- *That AMCOW establishes a Water Basin Organizations Sub-Committee*
- *That the Chair of the Sub Committee is a member of the AMCOW-TAC*
- *That the Executive Committee of ANBO constitutes this subcommittee and this subcommittee must make provisions for equitable regional representation*
- *That a member of the AMCOW TAC be delegated to sit on the Executive Committee of ANBO;*
- *That AMCOW establishes a Multi-stakeholder Forum to co-ordinate inputs of key stakeholders like ANBO, ANEW, GWP.*

1.8 Enhancing AMCOW's relations (Youth, women, parliamentarians)

1.8.1 African Children's Water and Sanitation Initiative

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To call on each African Minister of Water to encourage their counterparts in the Ministries of Education on how water management and related consideration can be integrated in the school curricula particularly at the primary and secondary levels;*
- *To express appreciation to UNICEF for facilitating the first ever African Children's Assembly on water;*
- *To request UNICEF to cooperate with AMCOW, UN-Habitat and others to institutionalize an AMCOW annual/biennial children's assembly on water; Council will designate a member country to explore ways and means of operationalizing the recommended action.*

1.8.2 Media

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To welcome GWP's facilitation of the media's deepened interaction with water issues and supports the development of an action plan for media to highlight and track the achievement of the MDGs and adaptation to climate change.*

2 Financial matters and means of implementation

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To note the progress made to date in mobilizing resources for implementation of the triennial work programme;*
- *That future EXCO meetings will receive a full accounting of all funds received and utilized for the work programme, to include:*
- *AMCOW Trust Fund receipts and expenditures (including from EUWF, UNEP, member countries and other sources),*
- *Secretariat (host country and other contributions and expenditures),*
- *President's Support Office (including from GTZ, GWP and others),*
- *African Water Facility,*
- *Other partner implemented and funded initiatives within the AMCOW triennial work programme.*
- *That a sub-committee on developing a resource mobilization strategy be formed (as per Executive Committee decision of June 2005). The resource mobilization sub-committee should map out all resources coming from development co-operation partnerships. This work should be completed before the 6th Ordinary session;*
- *That the AMCOW president is to write to all member states affirming that the contributions from member states should continue to be remitted even if AMCOW is integrated as a*

Specialized Technical Committee of the AU.

- *To note with appreciation the contributions of the Governments of Nigeria and Uganda to facilitate the hosting of the Secretariat and the President's Support Office respectively.*

2.2.1 African Water Facility (AWF)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To set up a committee of 10 AMCOW TAC members to work with the African Water Facility and AfDB to review the operational programme 2005-2009 of the African Water Facility; The committee will also provide general support and advice to the AMCOW members on the Governing Council.*
- *To encourage Ministers of Water to promote the AWF to their respective Ministers of Finance and Planning, and to international partners.*

3. Initiatives

3.1 AMCOW initiatives

3.1.1 Africa Water Week

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That EXCO endorse the proposal to launch and institutionalize an annual African Water Week;*
- *That the 2007 African Water Week will be hosted by the AfDB in Tunis in 2007;*
- *That the Kenya Government be requested to host the event in 2008 with support of a consortium of agencies including UN-Habitat, UNEP and UNESCO; other development partners and institutions are encouraged*
- *That other countries are encouraged to consider offering to host the event in subsequent years.*

3.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To note that implementation of the AWF initiative on M&E is underway, including the decisions of the TUNIS meeting:*
 - i) *to undertake a comprehensive assessment of existing M&E systems at the national and sub-regional and regional level,*

- ii) *to support a programme for strengthening national M&E capacity,*
- iii) *to harmonize and coordinate M&E activities and*
- iv) *to build on existing M&E systems rather than create new ones.*

3.1.3 World Water Forum

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To create a task team to promote and follow up the implementation of the recommendations emerging from the regional document, thematic presentations and local actions;*
- *That AMCOW should take the necessary actions to prepare for the 5th World Water Forum.*
- *To express appreciation to the AfDB and the Committee of Ministers for the successful coordination of Africa's participation in the 4th World Water Forum.*

3.1.4 AMCOW Leadership Scheme

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To establish an AMCOW Leadership Scheme to recognise contributions made by individuals, institutions, and organisations:*
- *Request TAC to develop criteria for selection of award recipients*
- *Express gratitude and appreciation to those listed below (at the time Ministers responsible for Water in their respective countries) who through their vision, self-less leadership, commitment and determination catalysed the founding of AMCOW and nurtured it through its teething phase to maturity. The support they extended during the early years of AMCOW was also crucial: The inaugural AMCOW Leadership Awards are dedicated to them for their contributions. These pioneers are:*
- *H. E. Alhaji Mukhtari S. SHAGARI, (First President of AMCOW, currently Deputy Governor of Sokoto State, Nigeria); H. E. Maria MUTAGAMBA, (Second President of AMCOW, currently Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Uganda); S. E. Macky SALL, (currently President of the National Assembly, Senegal); H. E. Edward LOWASA, (currently Prime Minister, Tanzania); H. E. Joyce MUJURU, (currently Vice President, Zimbabwe); H. E., Ronnie KASTRILS (currently Minister for Intelligence, South Africa); H. E. Martha KARUA (currently Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Kenya) and H. E. Monyane MOLELEKI, (Minister for Natural Resources, Lesotho).*

3.2 Partner Initiatives

3.2.1 African Development Bank initiatives

3.2.1.1 Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That consideration be given to the proposal to jointly host a water infrastructure financing meeting in 2008, possibly in conjunction with the Africa Water Summit;*
- *To take note of the issue and engage with ICA with a view to raising the profile of water within ICA and to this effect initiate a dialogue with ICA..*

3.2.1.2 Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To commend AfDB and invite the preparation of a report on the situation assessment and achievements of Phase I;*
- *To call on governments and donors to provide the full commitments envisioned under the programme;*
- *To support and endorse the proposed 2nd donor conference on the implementation of Phase II.*

3.2.1.3 NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility

3.2.1.3 Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF) Study

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *Under the leadership of AMCOW the water sector should gear itself to participate actively in the development of MLTSF, where issues should be articulated;*
- *To create close collaboration between the sector, through relevant organs of AMCOW, RECs and R/LBOs.*

3.2.2 World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To pursue entering into a MoU between World Bank/WSP and AMCOW spelling out the areas of co-operation;*
- *To express appreciation for the WSP and partners support for the Country Status Overview reports, and to direct TAC to work with the WSP to extend the study to other African countries;*

- *To request WSP to contribute to the Strategy Unit and see how they can enhance knowledge on issues relating to water and sanitation on the continent;*
- *To officially launch the Country Status Overview report during the 6th Ordinary Session of AMCOW.*

3.2.3 G8 Action Plan/German Initiative

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That Ministers appreciate the contribution made by the German Government through GTZ and to endorse the two new pillars proposed for the initiative, i.e. strengthening AMCOW Sub-regional structures and Creation of an AMCOW Strategy Unit.*

3.2.4 United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board (UNSGAB) Africa Dialogue

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *AMCOW should take the necessary steps to operationalize the implementation of the Joint Action Plan agreed upon during the Tunis dialogue.*
- *AMCOW should take note of the initiative of UNSGAB to propose a water summit in 2008 and begin the necessary preparations to lead to the process.*
- *UNSGAB and AMCOW should engage in formal collaboration arrangements.*

3.2.5 Global Water Partnership (GWP)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To enter into a MoU between Global Water Partnership (GWP) and AMCOW spelling out the areas of co-operation.*

3.2.6 Groundwater Initiative

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides to request TAC to:

- *Promote the institutionalisation of groundwater management by river basin organisations to ensure regional ownership of the initiative;*
- *Create synergy with the RWSSI to ensure groundwater's inclusion in resource assessment and the sustainable management of groundwater resources;*
- *Become the custodian through whom the strategic initiative can be fast-tracked and a continent-wide impact can be ensured; and*
- *Consider endorsing and supporting the efforts to secure core financial support from the African Water Facility that could be leveraged to raise additional resources from development cooperation partners, such as the European Union.*

3.2.7 Rainwater Harvesting

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides to request TAC to:

- *Initiate a rainwater harvesting programme within AMCOW, which will promote best practices;*
- *To call on all member countries to adopt rainwater harvesting strategies for their water policy strategies; and address the need to reach out to the private sector to support rain water harvesting.*

3.2.8 UN-Water/Africa Support to AMCOW

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That UN-water/Africa renews its commitment to producing the Africa Water Development Report – AMCOW to be involved in the peer review process taking cognisance of local monitoring systems to ensure that the information is validated;*
- *that from the preliminary consultations there is need to approach inter-basin water transfers cautiously; efforts are needed to build Africa's knowledge base on the issue, starting with a compendium of case studies; and to work with partners including ANBO, UNEP and the AU; and that a sub-committee be established to explore the issue further, to consist of AMCOW, ANBO, AU, ANEW, and UN-water/Africa.*

3.2.9 Water and Sanitation for African Cities

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To take note of the good progress made by UN-HABITAT in furthering the water agenda.*

3.2.10 Tiger Initiative

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To note the satisfactory progress made by the Tiger initiative and request TAC to ensure that the best possible advantage is made of the initiative.*

3.2.11 Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa (FEMA)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To establish formal avenues of collaboration with FEMA and to tap synergies of the two institutions.*

3.2.12 EU Water Initiative

3.2.12.1 Promoting Water and Sanitation related issues within the African – EU Infrastructure Partnership (IP)

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To endorse this idea and instruct the AMCOW President to invite African Ministers of Finance and Development planning to attend the African Water Week with the objective of exchanging views on this issue.*

3.2.12.2 Establishment of a water policy dialogue forum

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *Establishment of a Water Policy Dialogue Forum with EU should be adopted*
- *High level dialogue (Ministerial) meetings should be held every two years and that such meetings should be well prepared for by both AMCOW-TAC and their EU counterparts ensuring that EU representation is also at Ministerial level.*
- *Such a Forum will be co-chaired by AMCOW Chairperson and EU member States Chair of the Troika (AMCOW may be represented by EXCO).*

3.2.12.3 EU Water Facility

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *EU Water Facility should be continued.*
- *AMCOW should express its views to the European Commission and ACP Secretariat as soon as possible on this subject, e.g. the need for flexibility of the Facility, the lengthy and demanding application and the funding level of the facility etc. These views should be expressed through appropriate channels, i.e. African Ministers of Finance and Development who are the negotiators of 10th EDF.*

Meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCO) of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

Nairobi, 22-23 November 2007

An Orientation, Issue and Information Note of the President of AMCOW

This note provides an overview of key policy issues before our meeting and of relevance to the outcomes of the 6th session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, May 2007. The purpose of the meeting in Nairobi is to consider the implications and to agree on strategies for dealing with them. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of AMCOW will submit to the Executive Committee (EXCO) recommendations on the key points and issues in the Brazzaville Declaration, Outcomes and Decisions.

Excellencies, Members of the Executive Committee, Representative of the African Union, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me begin by renewing my gratitude and appreciation to you all for having graciously elected the Republic of Congo to the post of AMCOW Presidency at our 6th session which my government had the honour of hosting in May 2007.

Addressing the Challenges

You will recall that the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) was formed in April 2002 to primarily promote cooperation, security, social and economic development and poverty eradication of member states through the management of water resources and provision of water supply services. It was inspired by African Union's economic goals and political integration aimed at providing strategic oversight of the management of water on the continent. The Mission of AMCOW is to provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems within an equitable regional representation on all its bodies.

The main challenges for the water sector in Africa are four-fold: meeting the basic needs in terms of domestic water supply and sanitation; supporting secure food supply, protecting ecosystems and managing risks; promoting water governance through sharing water resources; ensuring knowledge base and valuing and allocating water.

Targets for meeting the basic needs include: tripling access to water and quadrupling improved sanitation; closing the sanitation gap of the urban poor; reducing high water-related diseases and deaths; preventing water pollution in cities; doubling hydropower generation and services. Targets on food and ecosystems incorporate: raising food security; expanding irrigation for agriculture; reducing costs of water-related disasters. Targets on governance include sharing water among sectors and countries.

Achieving the goals of the African Union

AMCOW's Abuja Declaration of 2002 and the African Union's 2005 Sirte Declaration are powerful reminders of the depth of concern over and commitment to Africa. This solidarity with Africa is a continuing source of strength which needs to be channelled into further positive action.

This meeting of our Council comes at a highly significant juncture in the path our Governments are pursuing in their endeavour to forge a cohesive and collaborative continent-wide approach to addressing Africa's challenges to development. Since the coming into being of the African Union in 2003 we have been witnessing – and participating in – a paradigm shift in the way we work together. I believe that AMCOW is at the forefront of this effort, and the decisions we will be called on to make at this meeting can be a defining moment in charting our way into a new phase where we consolidate our leadership role and set Africa resolutely on the path to cementing one of the key foundation stones of development – the water and sanitation sector.

Adoption of the Sirte Declaration on Water and Agriculture, 2004, by the AU, signified the recognition by our leaders of AMCOW's clear leadership responsibility in addressing the water and sanitation crisis on our continent, and of their commitment to ensuring that our Council had the mandate for coordinating and implementing development in this sector, within the broader development aims of the African Union. This was the first step towards including AMCOW within the ongoing Regional Integration Processes which are at the heart of the paradigm shift. The current process to establish AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee of the AU, is the next step in this effort. The African Union, at its session in July 2008, is expected to take a decision which could transform AMCOW as a Specialised Technical Committee of the Union.

A key strategy in our engagement in the Regional Integration Process is to consolidate and strengthen our relations with parallel and subsidiary bodies that are also responsible for development actions in general, and water and sanitation issues in particular. Central in this regard is our need to strengthen relations with NEPAD, as well as with the regional economic communities, parallel ministerial bodies (for Environment, Energy, Science and Technology, Human Settlements and Urbanization), river and lake basin organizations, civil society organizations, and other partners. This is because our coordinating mandate within the AU can only be fulfilled through concerted partnerships with the many actors whose work has a bearing on whether or not we are able to address Africa's water policy challenges.

Since the establishment of AMCOW, many governments in our region and beyond have come to recognize the pressing and urgent need to address the Water Policy challenges. At the same time, the water agenda is now increasingly seen as an essential ingredient to sustainable development.

Implementing the decisions of the 6th Session of AMCOW

As we prepare for the follow-up to the outcomes of the sixth session of our Council, we must be aware that despite the widespread concern expressed by the international community about Africa's water situation and the lack of water for the poorest as well as the commitment of African governments

to tackle Africa's water policy challenges, the prospects for better access are still not in sight for the poorest in Africa especially women. This crisis can only be tackled if governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and development cooperation partners forge strong partnerships to redress the situation.

A wide spread commitment is needed to halt and reverse the water crisis in our region. It is true that in the last three years, African Ministers of Water have together managed to mainstream water in the policy-making processes in our respective countries. It is also an encouraging development that the agreements reached at numerous international gatherings, such as the 12th and 13th sessions of the CSD, World Water Forum Series, and WSSD, routinely single out Africa's water policy challenges for special attention. The AMCOW/Abuja Declaration of 2002 and the 2005 Sirte Declaration are a powerful reminder of the depth of concern over and commitment to Africa. This solidarity with Africa is a continuing source of strength which needs to be channelled into further positive action. There are important regional and international efforts attempting to address the special needs of Africa in the area of water.

It is therefore necessary for AMCOW, as a continent-wide ministerial body on water, to establish strong linkages with these initiatives, including:

- AU Commission and Secretariat of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD,
- Africa's multi-lateral institutions (ADB, ECA);
- Regional Ministerial Bodies (Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA), African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), African Ministerial Council on Human Settlements and Urban Development (AMCHUD), African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);
- Regional Economic Communities;
- River and lake basin organizations;
- Civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians.

Such efforts would render AMCOW more effective in its outreach to other partners in Africa, enable more systematic and in-depth discussions with our heads of state, engage with donor partners to build a common approach and strategy. Key partners at country level include the bilateral donors and governments that also participate in regional initiatives such as the Water Utility Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa. All these initiatives can be used in supporting dialogue on policy and institutional reform, stakeholders, disseminating information, and building a network to support participating countries.

The regional and international context has been significantly altered in recent years. The Challenges are also becoming significantly more daunting. The highlights of achievements of the various organs of our Council, in many respects, are impressive. We have succeeded in:

- Bringing into operation the various organs of our Council including the Executive Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee and sub-regional Ministerial committees and structures;
- Adopting, at our fifth session, a triennial work programme containing specific priorities for action;
- Leveraging Euro 2.6 million from the European Union, Algeria \$100,000, Libya \$15,000 and US\$100,000 from UNEP for our Trust Fund, thus enabling our Council to finance its main meetings and activities. These resources also will enable us to hire an Executive Secretary for our Secretariat.

Our Executive Committee, at its forthcoming meeting, will agree on strategies for implementing the key components in the Brazzaville Declaration Outcomes and Decisions (adopted at AMCOW's 6th session, May 2007). We have as a Council, so far succeeded in building a platform for defining Africa's water agenda and priorities - defining our water policy challenges, developing common perspectives and decisions, and presenting a single voice in interacting with the international community. Specific indicators of our progress in this regard include the following:

- Brokering partnerships – e.g. with the EU, AfDB, UN Water, GTZ, etc.
- Facilitating inter-ministerial dialogue (e.g. on hydropower, water sciences and technology, etc.)
- Mobilising dialogue with regional organisations' such as river and lake basin organizations and Civil Society Groups
- Focussing on implementation through partnerships such as with Water for African Cities, 11th Lake Basins Conference, African Water Facility, EU Water Initiative for Africa, GWP, Federal German Government, and UN-Water/Africa
- Mobilising financial support to meet Africa's water challenges, especially through the African Water Facility, the ACP-EU Water Facility, and the AMCOW Trust Fund
- Operationalising the AMCOW institutional machinery
- Developing an inventory of water initiatives at the level of each of the sub-regions.

Our achievements of the recent period include the following:

- AMCOW initiated several partnership programmes to support the water development challenges. These include the establishment of the African Water Facility (AWF) based at the AfDB. Others include the AfDB's Rural Water and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) and EU's Africa Water and Sanitation Initiative. AMCOW has also forged partnerships with African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO), Inter-Agency Group on Water in Africa (UN-Water/Africa), African Network of Civil Society on Water (ANEW) and the African Journalist' Network.
- Integrated Water Resources Management is central to the broader objectives of AMCOW, especially in the context of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of 2002. AMCOW

has committed to prepare IWRM and Water Use Efficiency Plans by 2005 (now revised to 2008) in response to the targets set during the WSSD. On institutional capacity building, AMCOW has, in collaboration with others, established Water Utility Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa (WUP), Union of African Water Suppliers (UAWS), Water for African Cities Programme, African Water Association (AfWA) and Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS) and entered into IWRM partnerships with GWP and the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and the Environment.(UCC).

- Having agreed to explore new financing mechanisms, AMCOW established the African Water Facility (AWF) within the African Development Bank. Decentralization of water and sanitation services have been the major planks in tackling the water development challenges. AMCOW has also continued to commit to prioritize and reflect water issues in national development plans and strategies.
- Having committed to give prominence to sanitation with sufficient health and hygiene education at the community level, AMCOW in collaboration with the AfDB, agreed to establish the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI). To augment these, the Water and Sanitation Programme for Africa Region (WSP-AF) and the establishment of the UN-HABITAT's Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF) are instructive. Other initiatives include the European Union Water and Sanitation Initiative.

All of these indicators of progress confirm that AMCOW is rapidly coming of age and taking its place in the institutional governance architecture of sustainable development in Africa. At the same time, significant challenges remain to be addressed, particularly within our own institutional governance mechanisms. A key task in the near future, of course, will be adopting AMCOW's role to the requirements of the AU. In addition to this is a clear need to strengthen and enlarge AMCOW's support base, especially the operations of the AMCOW Council, Executive Committee, TAC, Sub-regional arrangements, and coordinating and cooperative arrangements. Other institutional arrangements still to be enhanced include the Secretariat Arrangements and AMCOW Support Structure, mobilising the Regional Economic Communities and RLBOs, more effectively engaging with Civil Society, and the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water.

Just as important as strengthening our institutional arrangements will be to re-think our ways of working, in order to not only be more effective in moving towards achievement of the MDGs on water and sanitation, but also to firmly establish AMCOW as a model of collaborative leadership both in Africa and globally. In this regard the areas that I feel we need to address include the following:

- Strengthening Inter-ministerial Dialogue
- Implementing the Work Programme and partnerships
- Responding to emerging policy challenges
- Tracking commitments (finalising monitoring and valuation mechanisms, fulfilment of commitments/initiatives and assessment of results achieved)

- Focussing on strategic partnerships, such as the EU-Africa Working Group, CIP, Africa Water Facility, etc.
- Engaging the private sector, Parliamentarians and the media
- Monitoring and evaluating AMCOW's contributions to the achievement of MDGs in the region
- Reporting on Africa's Water Situation (Africa Water Development Report, Groundwater Report, Atlas of Africa's Lakes and Rivers, etc)
- Financing
 - (i) AfDB/African Water Facility,
 - (ii) Contribution of Member States,
 - (iii) AMCOW Trust Fund,
 - (iv) EU Water Initiative, EU-ACP
 - (v) Exploring New Sources of Financing

Our Executive Committee Meeting, as you will note from the Provisional Programme, will consider:

1. Recommendations of the AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee
 - Governance, institutional and Operational Matters
 - Financing Africa's water policy priorities, and means of implementation of the decisions of AMCOW;
 - Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation with Pan-African institutions;
 - Consolidating and expanding international partnerships;
 - Key regional and international events.

2. Overview of key issues in the Brazzaville Declaration, Outcomes and Decisions, requiring regional and international cooperation.

3. PanAfCon Initiatives
 - African Water Facility
 - Water for African Cities
 - Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
 - African Water Development Report
 - African Water Information Clearing House
 - EU Water Initiative
 - World Bank Water and Sanitation Initiative
 - United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water (UNSGAB)
 - Global Water Partnership (GWP)
 - G-8 Action Plan/German Initiative
 - UN-Water/Africa

4. Recent Initiatives

- Africa Water Week/World Water Forum
- AMCOW Leadership Scheme
- Groundwater Initiative

5. Partnerships

- Strengthening collaboration with development Co-operation Partners
- Partner Initiatives
- African Development Bank.



V. Meeting of the Executive Committee of AMCOW

Thursday 22 – Friday 23 November 2007

9:30hrs 1. Registration

10:00hrs 2. Opening session

3. Welcome:
- (i) Hon. John Mutua Katuku
Minister of Water and Irrigation, Kenya
 - (ii) Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, UN Under-Secretary General and Director
UNON (Executive Director UN-Habitat)
- General
- Key Notes
- (i) Hon. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua,
President of AMCOW, Minister of Energy and
Water, Congo
 - (ii) AMCOW Vice Presidents
 - Eastern Africa
 - Western Africa
 - Southern Africa
 - Central Africa
 - Northern Africa
 - (iii) H.E. Mrs. Rosebud Kurwijilla
African Union Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture
 - (iv) Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director
of UNEP
 - (v) Mr. Donald Kaberuka President, African Development Bank
 - (vi) Chair of African Diplomatic Corps, Kenya
 - (vii) Special Guests
 - Ms Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic
Cooperation & Development
 - Ulla Tørnæs
Minister for Development Cooperation

- Jean-Marie Bockel, Secrétaire d'Etat chargé de la Coopération et de la Francophonie
- Luís Filipe Marques Amado
Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Douglas Alexander
Secretary of State for International Development,
- Bev Oda Minister for International Cooperation;
- Tony Blair, former Prime Minister UK and Chair, Commission for Africa – the Commission accorded special attention to the role of AMCOW in addressing Africa's water policy challenges

4. 13:00 hrs Lunch Break

5. 14:30 hrs. Consideration of the recommendations of the AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee

- Governance, Institutional and Operational Matters
- Financing Africa's water policy priorities, and means of implementation of the decisions of AMCOW
- Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation with Pan-African Institutions
- Consolidating and expanding international partnerships
- Key regional and international events

Note: The President's Issues Paper will provide an overview of the key points in each of the above listed issues, so as to provide general orientation. In addition, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting (20-21 November) will formulate specific recommendations on each of the issues for the consideration of the Executive Committee. The report of the TAC on these issues will also be submitted to the informal consultations of the AMCOW Vice-Presidents of the five sub-regions.

6. Roundtable discussions - Partnership segment

A: Overview of key issues in the Brazzaville Declaration, Outcomes and Decisions, requiring regional and international cooperation

B: PanAfCon Initiatives

- African Water Facility
- Water for African Cities
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

- African Water Development Report
- African Water Information Clearing House

C: Recent Initiatives

- African Water Week/World Water Forum
- AMCOW Leadership Scheme
- Groundwater Initiative

D: Partnerships

- Strengthening collaboration with development Co-operation Partners:
- Partner Initiatives
- African Development Bank
- EU Water Initiative
- World Bank Water and Sanitation Initiative
- United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water (UNSGAB)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- G-8 Action Plan/German Initiative
- UN-Water/Africa

7. Adoption of the Nairobi Outcomes and Decisions

Related events preceding the AMCOW Executive Committee meeting

- Ministerial Roundtable dialogue on "Africa and Climate Change", with special focus on water resources (Jinja, Uganda, 16-17 November 2007)
- Meeting on Groundwater Management in Africa (Nairobi, 18 – 19 November 2007)
- Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water (20 - 21 November 2007)

Informal Consultation of the AMCOW Vice Presidents for the respective sub-regions on the Agenda items before the Executive Committee (21 November 2007)

BRAZZAVILLE DECLARATION
AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)
BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO,
31 MAY 2007

We, the African Ministers of Water, assembled in Brazzaville at our 6th Ordinary Session, 30-31 May, 2007, together with representatives of the international community, civil society, women and youth of our region, express our profound gratitude to the President H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, the people, the government and leadership of the Republic of Congo, for the excellent arrangements and the conducive environment which facilitated our deliberations. We were honoured by the presence of His Excellency, Mr. Isidore Mvoubi, Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Congo, and his opening statement. We are deeply thankful to H.E. Minister Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, for the very warm welcome and hospitality.

We pay tribute to H.E. Mrs. Maria Mutagamba, outgoing President of AMCOW, for the commendable leadership demonstrated during her tenure. We highly appreciate the many tangible achievements of AMCOW during her stewardship. She hands over the Presidency at a greater height in the growth of our Council. AMCOW has come a long way during her tenure and there is now a firm basis for enhanced progress in the future. Our appreciation also goes to the outgoing members of the AMCOW Executive Committee and Technical Advisory Committee. Their selfless efforts and contributions are highly valued. We welcome the new members of these two committees.

I. Preamble

- 1 We, the African Ministers of Water attending the 6th Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water met in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 30 – 31 May 2007. Our session was preceded by a number of segments, notably the Executive Committee Meeting, Sub-regional consultations, African Water Facility Consultations, Civil Society, Media and Youth Forums and a Children's Assembly on Water. The 6th session was attended by African Ministers of Water representing the five sub-regions. A large number of representatives respectively of the AU, EU, G8, UN, bilateral cooperation partners, civil society groups, private sector and others participated in the meeting.
- 2 The 6th Ordinary session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) took place at a defining moment for our countries and region. We, the Ministers responsible for water in Africa, are convinced that the equitable and sustainable management of water is and must remain the top development challenge for the foreseeable future for our continent. We remain convinced that for Africa, it is imperative that we achieve, by 2015-2025, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water and sanitation.

- 3 We noted with satisfaction that in the five year history of our Council, we have together accelerated the mainstreaming of water in the policy-making processes in our respective countries. However, we are fully aware that despite the widespread concern expressed about Africa's water situation, the prospects for better access to safe water and sanitation are still not in sight for the poorest in Africa, especially women and children. This crisis can only be tackled if governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and development cooperation partners continue to forge strong partnerships to redress the situation.
- 4 We are encouraged that's AMCOW's leadership responsibility in addressing the water and sanitation crisis in Africa, and its mandate for coordinating and demonstrating leadership in the sector, within the broader socio economic development aims of the African Union, is now fully established.
- 5 The challenge before the 6th session was to agree on strategies for fulfilling this mandate through: (i) enhancing the leadership role of AMCOW in the water and sanitation sector in Africa – this will require ensuring that our respective countries put in place the necessary framework for mainstreaming water resources in national decision-making; (ii) strengthening governance, institutional and operational arrangements for the Council and its constituent components; (iii) deciding modalities for collaborative arrangements with the water units of the Regional Economic Communities and African River and Lake Basin Organizations; (iv) bringing into full operation the AMCOW Secretariat and equipping it with the necessary facilities and technical capacity; (v) enlarging its financial base through contributions to the AMCOW Trust Fund as well as other resource mobilization efforts; (vi) ensuring practical and flexible but coherent support arrangements for the functioning of the various organs of AMCOW – we would therefore welcome any appropriate support and cooperation offered during this session and any further support; and (vii) forging strategic partnerships in furtherance of the implementation of our decisions.
- 6 With this challenge in mind, we have taken a number of critical decisions here in Brazzaville, which we hereby present to the African Union and its relevant constituent parts, African countries and their governments, and our peoples and institutions. Whilst continuing to rely on our resources and strategies we shall continue counting on international solidarity and partnerships to address the implementation challenges confronting us in our pursuit of the achievement of the water and sanitation targets in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Millennium Declaration.
- 7 The sixth session of AMCOW, in Brazzaville, provided an opportunity to reflect on how we can make it happen through joining hands in tackling Africa's water policy challenges.

II. Our Unique Strategic Approaches

- 8 Inspired by the African Union's goals of economic and political integration, we have continued strengthening institutional frameworks and intergovernmental dialogue for the overall

management of water resources in Africa. We are also strengthening inter-ministerial dialogue with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), Forum for African Ministers of Energy (FEMA) and the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST). We shall also explore opportunities for collaboration with the African Ministers' Council on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) (notably water and sanitation in human settlement).

- 9 We are fully aware of the recent scientific evidence about the threat of global climate change to Africa, and particularly to its water resources. At our fifth session in Entebbe, Uganda, particular attention was accorded to water infrastructure, which was the subject of a keynote statement. The proposed UN Secretary General's High Level event on climate change (UNGA, September 2007), the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Kampala, November 2007) underline the growing international concern about climate change.
- 10 The joint AMCOW-FEMA conference on hydropower (Johannesburg, March 2006) focused the need for close cooperation between Africa's water and energy Ministers. The declaration of 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation underscores the growing global concern about the need for action to close the sanitation gap if the target set in the MDGs is to be achieved. We recognize the need for AMCOW to initiate dialogue with relevant African institutions, particularly the African Ministers Council on Housing and Urban Development. The quest, by AMCOW, for the achievement of the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals is a collaborative effort.
- 11 We welcome the on-going discussion between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board (UNSGAB) on the prospects of convening an African Union Summit on Water as a major milestone, and to take to greater political heights the commitment of our continent's leadership to achieving the water related targets of the Millennium Summit (New York 2000), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002) and the World Summit (New York 2005).
- 12 We applaud the establishment of water units by our sub-regional Economic Communities (RECs), which affords an opportunity for strengthening AMCOW's sub-regional presence. RECs can play an increasingly important role in coordinating water governance and cooperation issues at the sub-regional level. Progress achieved to date, though uneven, has demonstrated that cooperation around shared waters can promote regional integration. AMCOW is strengthening its ties with River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/LBOs) to enhance cooperation in the management of shared waters.
- 13 At the national level, we recognize that the overall responsibility for the governance and equitable distribution of water resources, including assurance of access for the poor, hence water policy, lies with national governments, which remain important vehicles for implementing intra-African commitments including AMCOW's commitments. We are persuaded also of the need to include all stakeholders, especially women, youth and parliamentarians, in decision-

making at the local level in carrying forward AMCOW's actions. To this end, the capacity of local government structures should be enhanced to secure the efficient management and delivery of water and sanitation services at the local level.

- 14 African countries are committed to mobilising support to facilitate the preparation and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans. We need to do more in groundwater management, water augmentation technologies, including rainwater harvesting. The general roadmap recently rolled out at the Copenhagen Conference hosted by the Danish Government and UN-Water, and supported by UNEP, GWP and UNSGAB, will help consolidate and inspire AMCOW's IWRM related efforts.
- 15 We are taking forward our commitment to the implementation of the outcomes of our 2003 Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia December 2003), which confirmed the following major policy challenges: (i) tripling access to water and quadrupling improved sanitation; (ii) closing the sanitation gap of the urban poor; (iii) reducing high water-related diseases and deaths; (iv) preventing water pollution in cities; (v) ensuring food security through expanding irrigation for agriculture; (vi) doubling hydropower generation and services; (vii) reducing costs of water-related disasters; and (viii) sharing water among sectors and countries.
- 16 We applaud the emerging regional and international strategic partnerships with AMCOW aimed at accelerating progress in our efforts to tackle Africa's water policy challenges. A variety of countries, international organizations and donors have taken important steps to help accelerate action on the decisions taken by AMCOW since its inception in 2002. We applaud and commend the EU, Group of Eight industrialized countries, the United Nations (notably UN-Water/Africa), African Development Bank, German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP/World Bank), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) Global Water Partnership, French Agency for Development (AFD) and others for the constant solidarity with and support to AMCOW.
- 17 We shall devote greater attention to the issue of financing action for water and sanitation. The sub-regional consultations (Eastern, Southern and Western Africa) on financing action on water and sanitation, which were preparatory to our 6th Session, provide a foundation for developing AMCOW's strategic approaches in this area. In pursuit of this goal the engagement of Ministers of Finance will become a core strategy. We encourage a partners meeting to enhance resource mobilization for the African Water Facility, as well as the implementation of the AfDB's initiative on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.
- 18 Recognition of our many initiatives and achievements is cause for sharing through a region-wide celebration. Therefore, we are committed to making the upcoming Africa Water Week events, including those of 2007 in Tunis and 2008 in Nairobi, a success.