

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**Eleventh Ordinary Session**

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**Sharm EL-Sheikh, EGYPT**

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**KEY ISSUES FOR THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT  
ON WATER AND SANITATION**

## KEY ISSUES FOR THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT ON WATER AND SANITATION

### I. GENERAL CONTEXT

1. The African Water Vision for 2025 was adopted by African Stakeholders at the World Water Forum in 2000, endorsed by the Pan African Conference on Water and Sanitation and presented to the 2004 extraordinary summit of African Heads of states on Agriculture and water. It provides *“a 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”*. A Framework for Action (FFA) to achieve the Vision goals has been developed with a major undertaking to meeting urgent water needs and strengthening the investment base for the desired water future. The Vision indicates the need for a minimum investment of USD 20 billion per annum to meet the basic needs in water supply, sanitation, food, energy and other economic, social and environmental uses (75% and 70% access to improved water supply and sanitation respectively by 2015, and 95% for both access to improved water supply and sanitation by 2025; 100% increase in irrigated area by 2025; 25% of hydro power potential developed by 2025).

2. Africa's share of global freshwater resources is about nine percent (9%) or 3 930 km<sup>3</sup>/year. Currently only 5.5 percent of water resources on the continent is developed for water supply, industry, irrigation and hydropower (FAO AQUASTAT Survey 2005). Agricultural production and generation of energy has not kept pace with population growth in the Region: only about 6% of the cultivated area is irrigated (see Annex I) while only about 3% of the hydro potential is developed.

3. Over 60 transboundary river basins (Annex II) dominate the African landscape, but weak regional cooperation has limited the benefits to the continent and reduced the effectiveness of water governance necessary for development. Ensuring water security will be the greatest challenge over coming decades in view of impending water *stress and scarcity situation compounded by hydro meteorological variation and impact of climate change. in Africa about 1.2 billion people in 28 countries* will face water stress i.e availability annual resources below 1700 m<sup>3</sup> per person (540 million people in 13 countries) or water scarcity i.e availability of annual resources below 1000 m<sup>3</sup> per person (580 million people in 15 counties) conditions by 2025 (see Annex III).

4. An historic and high-level political commitment to action on crucial development targets was made by 189 heads of state at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000. At the Summit they adopted the new Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2025 on eight priority issues including poverty, hunger, universal primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal mortality, major diseases, environmental sustainability (including water and sanitation). The international community committed itself "to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water" and to reach the rest by 2025. Two years later at the World Summit on Sustainable Development they additionally committed to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.

5. The recent Global Monitoring Report<sup>1</sup> by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded that in the nearly eight years since the 2000 Millennium Summit, the world has not made the necessary progress to achieve key MDG targets by 2015 and based on current trends Africa could miss all the MDG targets.

6. The latest report of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme concludes that in 9 out of 53 African countries less than 50% of the population use unimproved sanitation facilities, while only 26 countries are on track to meet the drinking water target and 341 million people rely on unimproved drinking water sources (see Annex IV). It is imperative therefore that Africa and its development partners live up to their commitments if the MDG on Water Supply and Sanitation targets are to be met.

7. Of special concern is the growing gap between service delivery rates and the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation in cities which will soon house the majority of the African population. The eThikweni declaration adopted at the AfricaSan conference on sanitation and hygiene held in South Africa in February 2008 as part of African observance of the International year of sanitation provides a sobering assessment of the sanitation situation in Africa:

- a) 589 million people, more than 60% of Africa's population currently do not have access to safe sanitation;
- b) An estimated 1 million Africans die every year from sanitation, hygiene and drinking water related diseases;
- c) The associated human, social, health, environmental and infrastructural costs of inadequate sanitation are a major burden on Africa's economy and that investment in sanitation positively impacts related development targets.

8. The lack of clean water and basic sanitation for so many already poor people has significant adverse effects on economic growth and development, including the loss of time needed to collect water and the loss of productivity and lives plus rising health costs due to water related diseases and illness. But the time, energy and health costs saved by improved water and sanitation can instead be invested in productive economic activities for accelerating local to national development.

9. At the AU Summit held in January 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Heads of State and Government adopted "Water and Sanitation" as the theme of their July 2008 Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Although the primary focus of the Summit is the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa, it also provides an important opportunity for the African Heads of State to reflect on other crucial related water management and security challenges.

10. 2008 has been declared the "Year of Action on the MDGs". For Africa, this Summit of Heads of State and Government is a crucial event for converting previous

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<sup>1</sup> GMR, 2008, Global Monitoring Report: MDGs and the Environment - Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development, Washington: World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

declarations and commitments into new 7-year national and regional action plans and implementation strategies and address the long-term security challenges.

## II. AFRICA'S WATER AND SANITATION CHALLENGES

### *Water and Sanitation Management Goals and Priorities in Africa*

11. Over the last three decades in Africa, national to regional water management plans largely focused on nine key water policy challenges and needs. Water supply and sanitation has been among the nine main identified challenges confronting the sector. However, the sanitation gap has not received the extra attention commensurate with the magnitude of the sanitation problem.

12. At the 2003 Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water attended by Ministers of water from around the continent, the following key water management goals and priorities were identified for Africa for at least the next decade:<sup>2</sup>

- a) Meeting basic needs: Affordable access to safe water and sanitation are basic human needs which are essential for the health and well-being of families, communities and countries.
- b) Providing water for food security: Reasonable food security is also a basic human need and right which is dependent on the availability of adequate and clean water.
- c) Protecting ecosystems and livelihoods: Development which harms and destroys freshwater ecosystems and livelihoods is not sustainable and should not be called development.
- d) Managing risks: Too many preventable diseases and deaths and economic losses are caused by floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards.
- e) Financing water services: Innovative financial mechanisms are needed to meet the new water and sanitation targets and integrated water management programmes.
- f) Integrating water management/shared water resources: Water resources shared by communities and countries must be jointly managed on an equitable and sustainable basis.
- g) Valuing and allocating water: Water valuation and allocation must reflect its economic, social and environmental values in all uses and give priority to the basic needs of the poor.

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP, 2003, Water Policy Challenges and Priorities in Africa, Report for the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on December 8-12, 2003, Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme.

- h) Ensuring water wisdom: Water policies and management depend for their effectiveness on accurate and timely information being available to decision-makers.
- i) Governing water wisely: Water policies also depend for their effectiveness on the involvement of all key stakeholders in planning, decision-making and implementation.

***Actions Needed to Meet the Challenges***

13. From the above some of the key actions to meet the challenges are:

- a) Tripling access to water and quadrupling improved sanitation: Africa still has unacceptably low proportional coverage for water and sanitation. Given the projected increases in population and economic growth, achieving the 2015 targets will require tripling the earlier rates at which additional people gain access to water in the 1990s and quadrupling the rates for improved sanitation.
- b) Closing the sanitation gap of the urban poor: In many cities the proportion of people with sanitation that is "safe and convenient" is much lower than the proportion with "improved" sanitation. In many large cities, less than 10 percent of their inhabitants have sewer connections.
- c) Reducing high water related diseases and deaths: For young children the rates and risks of diarrhoeal disease linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene is up to 240 times higher than in high-income nations. Of the over 1 million annual deaths from malaria and the over 250 million people worldwide infected by schistosomiasis, over 80% are in Africa.
- d) Preventing water pollution from cities: Few cities in Africa have rivers flowing through or near them that are not already heavily polluted. Nearby lakes, estuaries and seas are also heavily polluted.
- e) Enhancing rain-fed agriculture, improving and expanding irrigated agriculture to reduce food insecurity: Doubling the irrigated area and intensifying rain fed agriculture to meet the food security needs of the continent.
- f) Doubling hydropower generation and services: There is potential for big, small and micro-hydro schemes in Africa to meet energy needs of development and in support of rural households, where topographic and hydrologic conditions are favourable.
- g) Reducing the costs of water related disasters: Since the mid-1990s Africa experienced nearly a third of all water-related disasters occurring worldwide. The economic losses, almost always uninsured, have had

significant adverse impacts on national economies, development strategies and households. A shift from reactive to “anticipate and-prevent”, and risk reduction strategies is needed.

- h) Sharing water equitably among different sectors and countries: Much of Africa is dominated by shared international water bodies and underground water systems. Unlike in other continents, international rivers in Africa are often shared and even by as many as ten countries.

### III. WATER AND SANITATION LINKS WITH OTHER MDGs

14. The MDG targets for water and sanitation are also of special concern because they are so critical for achieving many of the other MDGs. For example, the lack of clean water and basic sanitation are main causes of child mortality (MDG 5) and major risk factors for maternal health (MDG 6). Through their effect on malnutrition (MDG 2), water-related infections cause annual losses in education performance (MDG 3) which in Ghana are equivalent to 4.9% of GDP. Globally, the economic burden of water and other environmental health hazards are estimated at 1.5 to 4% of GDP. The 2006 United Nations Human Development Report estimated that Africa loses about 5% of GDP, or some \$28.4 billion annually from inadequate investment in water and sanitation. Water and other environmental risk factors play a role in 80% of diseases worldwide (MDG 7), including malaria, diarrhea and respiratory infections. Today malaria alone kills a child every 30 seconds. The lack of clean water and basic sanitation also accounts for 90% of diarrhoea cases which contributes to another 1.8 million deaths annually.<sup>3</sup>

15. Water is especially critical for reducing poverty (MDG 1) and sustaining economic development and growth from the local to global levels. Poverty is no longer assessed in exclusively economic terms as the lack of income or as low GNP per capita. A decade ago UNDP introduced the innovative Human Poverty Index which recognized income poverty but also and more realistically viewed poverty in terms of five other key indicators: literacy, life expectancy, availability of health services, the proportion of underweight children under five years and access to safe water.

16. Economic growth puts by far the greatest and often unsustainable demands on water resources, especially for expanding irrigated agriculture and industries. Further economic growth is simply not attainable without adequate water. But in many developing countries economic growth is also not sustainable without new water management policies for making more efficient, effective and equitable use of the available water in or shared by their countries.

### IV. AFRICA'S RESPONSES, INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

17. Since the Millennium Summit in 2000 and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, renewed efforts were made to bring these water crises and

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<sup>3</sup> All of the cited indicators are also from the recent World Bank-IMF Global Monitoring Report.

challenges from the margins to the mainstream of the national and regional agenda for sustainable economic and social development with special attention and priority to the MDG targets for clean water and basic sanitation.

18. At the meeting of African Water Ministers in Abuja, Nigeria in April 2002: a) an "Abuja Ministerial Declaration on Water: A Key to Sustainable Development in Africa" was adopted; b) priority concerns and actions needed for equitable and sustainable use of water resources in Africa were set out; c) the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) was established with, as its first priority, to "strengthen intergovernmental cooperation in order to halt and reverse the water crisis and sanitation problems in Africa". Since then and especially during the last few years AMCOW with partners and other stakeholders organized major forums for dialogue on African water issues and launching of initiatives among them:

- 2002 Water and Sustainable Development in Africa: Regional Stakeholders' Conference for Priority Setting in Accra, Ghana, recommended the establishment of the African Water Facility and the establishment of new and rationalization and strengthening of existing River Basin Organizations.
- 2003 Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where a consensus on African water priority actions were reached.
- 2004 Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa adopted by 2nd Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union meeting in Sirte, Libya.
- 2004 The African Development Bank Water Week brought together key stakeholders and launched the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative.
- 2005 International Conference on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative held in Paris where the Framework for meeting the MDGs target in rural Africa was adopted and donors and African Governments made commitments for increased financing for rural water supply and sanitation.
- Africa has more than a dozen River and Lake Basin Organizations (RLBOs). The 2006 Conference of African RLBOs in Kampala, Uganda which called for the strengthening of RLBOs and the establishment of new ones where they do not exist. AMCOW has since then formalised its relationship with RLBOs through the Bureau of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO).
- 2006 Joint Statement on Water and Sanitation between African Stakeholders led by AMCOW and the UN Secretary-General's Advisory

Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) in Tunis, which resulted in the initiation of the AU Summit on Water and Sanitation.

- 2008 eThekweni Declaration at the AfricaSan Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene in Durban, South Africa where country specific action plans were recommended.
- 2008 Ministerial Declaration and outcome of the first African Water Week in Tunis on 26 -28 March 2008 on Accelerating Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development where concrete recommendations on building water infrastructure to attain water security were prepared.
- Furthermore, AMCOW strengthened its collaboration with development partners and civil society organizations. This resulted in formalizing its relations with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW). In addition a dialogue on Mobilizing Concerted Action on Africa's Water Agenda was organized in Berlin in cooperation with the German Ministry of Development Cooperation.

19. Major initiatives and actions have been instigated and are under implementation at national and regional level. Some of these initiatives are highlighted as follows:

- The African Development Bank's ***Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)*** aims to accelerate access to water supply and sanitation services in rural Africa with a view to attaining 80% coverage for an estimated investment of US\$14.2 billion.
- ***The African Water Facility (AWF)*** is an instrument conceived to facilitate the availability of financial resources to build Africa's water infrastructure institutions and management capacity to meet the targets and goals of the African Water Vision 2025 and the MDGs.
- ***African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO)*** with the objective is to promote integrated water resources management at the level of water basins as an essential tool for sustainable development.
- ***Africa Civil Society Network on Water (ANEW)*** which has been formally recognized by AMCOW, aims to promote dialogue, learning and cooperation on water issues in the region, and to facilitate and support the participation of African civil society in water policy formulation and the implementation of development plans in the African water sector.
- ***German G8 Africa Action Plan and Trans-boundary Water Management*** focuses on strengthening cooperation among river basin organizations and building trans-boundary water management capacity in Africa.



- **European Union Water Initiative (EUWI)** is designed to help countries achieve water and sanitation targets by supporting sustainable delivery of water and sanitation infrastructure and improve water governance in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to the tune of €500 million.
- **Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)** with the primary objective of building a strategic partnership among donors to facilitate the development of infrastructure in support of economic growth and poverty reduction in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, transport, telecommunications and urban infrastructure.
- **Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP)** of the World Bank focused on developing policies, finding innovative solutions, promoting best practices and developing capacity for sustained service access.
- **Water and Sanitation for African Cities Programme** of UN-HABITAT with the objective of creating an enabling environment and capacity building for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in urban areas.
- **Africa Water Development Report, the African Water Journal and the Africa Water Clearing House** which provide a framework for information dissemination on Africa's water and sanitation challenges.
- **Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)** to address issues of agricultural sector growth, rural development and food security by promoting investment to increase the area under irrigation to 20 million hectares by 2015 and improve efficiency of rainfed agriculture.
- **Development of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies for the Region** aims to incorporate disaster risk reduction in development policy and activities and calls for integration of DRR into national and regional development plans.

20. From its inception in 2002, AMCOW has worked closely with the Commission of the African Union (AUC) and played a key role in discharging the AU/NEPAD agenda in the water sector. It has thus lived up to expectations as the putative Specialized Technical Committee of the AU as called for in the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa.

#### ***AfricaSan 2008 - The eThekweni Declaration***

21. Ministers and head of delegations responsible for sanitation and hygiene from 32 African countries and other stakeholders, attended the AfricaSan 2008 conference in Durban, South Africa on 18-20 Feb. The conference, which was convened under the auspices of AMCOW adopted the eThekweni declaration. The declaration calls

upon the Heads of State and Government of Africa to:

- Raise the profile of sanitation and hygiene on the continent;
- Support the leadership of AMCOW to track the implementation of the eThekweni Declaration and prepare a detailed report on progress in mid 2010, when AMCOW will provisionally host a follow up AfricaSan event;
- Establish, review, update and adopt national sanitation and hygiene policies; and establish one national plan for accelerating progress to meet national sanitation goals and the MDGs by 2015, and take the necessary steps to ensure national sanitation programs are on track to meet these goals;
- Increase the profile of sanitation and hygiene in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and other relevant strategy related processes;
- Ensure that one, principal, accountable institution takes clear leadership of the national sanitation portfolio and establish one coordinating body with specific responsibility for sanitation and hygiene, involving all stakeholders;
- Establish specific public sector budget allocations for sanitation and hygiene programmes;
- Allocate a minimum of 0.5% of GDP for sanitation and hygiene;
- Encourage behavioural change for improved sanitation and hygiene;
- Develop and implement information. Monitoring systems and tools to track progress at local and national levels;
- Involve women and youth in all aspects of decision making related to sanitation and hygiene;
- Build and strengthen capacity for sanitation and hygiene implementation, including research and development, and support knowledge exchange and partnership development;
- Give special attention to countries and areas emerging from conflict or natural disaster; and
- Request the African Union Commission, Development partners and financial institutions to support, as appropriate implementation of sanitation and hygiene activities in the continent.

**First African Water Week**

22. The African Ministers Council on Water at its 6<sup>th</sup> session in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo (May 2007) decided to institutionalise an annual African Water Week. The first African Water Week, convened by AMCOW was hosted by the African Development Bank in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia in late March 2008 in Tunis, Tunisia. It was convened in close cooperation with African Civil Society organisations, network of African River and Basin organisations, United Nations Water Africa, Regional and International Water partnerships and Development Cooperation Partners. The week attracted over 500 participants including 26 African Water Ministers as well as other representatives of African government and parastatal organizations, bilateral and multilateral institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia.

23. A main outcome of the First African Water Week was a Ministerial Declaration which captured the actionable recommendations from the deliberations of the conference. The declaration addressed issues for consideration by the forthcoming Summit of AU Heads of State and Government, the G8 Summit in July 2008 in Japan and the 5th World Water Forum to be held in March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. Key messages in the Ministerial Declaration included the need to:

- formalize the status of AMCOW as a Specialised Technical Committee of the African Union;
- make the African Water Facility and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative constant agenda items in their deliberations and dialogue with international partners;
- develop national plans and strategies for achieving water security;
- present to development partners an MDG Water and sanitation investment plan;
- Enhance public private partnerships in the water and sanitation sector;
- encourage member countries to urgently develop climate change adaptation strategies and mainstream water resources development in these strategies;
- endorse and implement the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions; and
- prioritise and increase the allocation of resources in national budgets for national plans to achieve the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation.

24. As a contribution to "the preparatory process for the July 2008 African Summit of Heads of State and Government which will be dedicated to water and sanitation", the participants in the first African Water Week identified the key issues and agreed on recommendations for action in the following ten thematic areas as contained in

the Tunis Outcomes and Ministerial Declaration on: *“Accelerating Water Security for Africa’s Socio-Economic Development”*.

**Main outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> African Water Week**

- **Infrastructure Platform for Achieving Water Security:** Serious commitments to reduce poverty can no longer go hand-in-hand with a perpetuation of the low infrastructure base on waters of such high natural variability. Achieving water security transcends issues of integrated water resources management, establishing a clear nexus between water and agriculture, promoting trans-boundary partnerships to share benefits, and accumulating relevant data and information to inform policies and programmes.
- **Transboundary Cooperation:** Effective river and lake basin organisations are key to management of the resources, coordination of the actors at the resources scale, development of infrastructure and benefit sharing as well as harmonising the national and basin wide development agendas.
- **Meeting the Water & Sanitation Millennium Development Goals:** There is increasing evidence that many African countries may miss the achievement of the MDG targets for water and sanitation. The main reasons attributed to the situation include weak governance and weak institutional and policy arrangements; a lack of commitment to policy undertakings, including a disconnect between national budgets and requirements for water and sanitation financing; a lack of finance to meet investment requirements, as a result of fragile economies, ill-defined or absence of well-articulated sector-wide investment plans, and inappropriate financing and pricing arrangements; the absence of roadmaps defining the steps towards achieving the targets; weak monitoring and evaluation.
- **Financing Infrastructure for the desired water security objectives:** Significant progress has been made in defining the regional finance gap. Regional and international advocacy has secured a doubling of commitments by the G8 in line with recommendations from authoritative bodies, though target dates have yet to come into force and a global call for improved coordination has yet to be effected.
- **Addressing the Social and Environmental Challenges:** Environmental issues are still inadequately dealt with during the implementation of the IWRM concept in Africa and globally. And the reasons attributed to this include: lack of clarity on specific environmental management objectives in water bodies, unavailability of data on requirements of ecosystems, inadequate tools to estimate requirements, and inadequate capacities to apply the tools. This is not a tenable situation given the important role the ecosystem plays in alleviating water scarcity.

- **Climate Change and Adaptation:** Climate change and variability is expected to have serious negative impacts on many sectors including hydropower generation and agriculture in the major river basins in Africa. Water resources are inextricably linked with climate, so the prospect of global climate change has serious implications for water resources and regional development. The water sector is key for adaptation to climate change in Africa.
- **Groundwater Management:** The key to unlocking water security lies in their more stable and secure supply of water for domestic needs, agriculture and livestock and energy production. The principal challenges are to prevent overexploitation and to exploit the widespread but hidden resource.
- **Agricultural Water Use and Food Security:** Improved management of rainwater will help reduce risks and vulnerability to climate variability, thereby rendering agricultural production more stable and secure, and assist the large numbers of poor people living in rural areas where there are limited livelihood opportunities outside of agriculture. Rainwater harvesting has a huge potential for meeting domestic water supply as well as for improving and/or maintaining ecosystems functioning on which millions of people in the region depend for their livelihood.
- **Stakeholders Roles and Partnerships:** Effective coordination is needed if there is to be strategic impact. Multi-stakeholder engagement creates the ownerships and responsibilities that are essential to progress, especially with moves towards demand-led approaches and sustainable developments.
- **Investing in Information, Knowledge and Monitoring:** Good information aids decision-making and enables better choice and design of infrastructure. Data enables monitoring progress towards the MDGs. Despite this, insufficient resources are invested in the supply and dissemination of water information and therefore not enough information is produced.
- **Institutional Development and Capacity-Building:** There is a need for improving overall water governance including the institutional capacity building, strengthening of management processes for planning and provision of effective service delivery. Its also includes building adequate capacity for improving the current low involvement of private sector and civil society organizations. Capacity is further constrained by the lack of innovative scientific and social research to support water-use infrastructure delivery in Africa.
- **Rainwater harvesting and reuse:** There is need to develop water harvesting strategies to complement implementation of water related MDGs and for climate change adaptation in Africa. Furthermore Africa

needs to develop and implement water reuse as part of water conservation strategy.

## V: PERSPECTIVES ON KEY ISSUES BEFORE THE SUMMIT

25. Clear and specific commitments by African Heads of State and Government to ensure the equitable, sustainable use, more integrated management of water resources in and shared by their countries. By doing so accelerating progress toward achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation. During the last few decades and years there has been no lack of declarations and action plans on water and sanitation in Africa. But there has been a lack of, sincere commitment, technical capacity and funds to implement those plans and close the growing gap between those proposed plans and the continuing lack of safe water and sanitation for several hundred million poor people throughout Africa.

26. For our planet and especially our continent, the equitable and sustainable management of water and the MDG targets for water and sanitation are and must remain the priority policy challenges for at least another two decades. Too many of the adults and children who die from too little water in droughts, too much water in floods or too polluted or too disease ridden water are in Africa. Yet these deaths could be prevented by better water management policies and practices.

27. While certainly a huge political, financial and technical task, the challenge of achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation in Africa is not impossible if re-planned and implemented in a strategic and practical way over the next seven years.

## VI. KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2008 AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

28. During the last five years the gap has widened in the continent between the delivery rate for safe water and basic sanitation services and the 2015 MDG targets. During the same period the need for action has become even more urgent.

29. There is therefore the need to focus on the following:

d) **Increase** our efforts to implement our past declarations related to the water and sanitation;

Meeting the MDGs for Water Supply and Sanitation:

e) **Raise** the profile of sanitation by addressing the gaps in the context of the eThekweni Declaration on sanitation in Africa of the Ministers of Water;

f) **Develop and/or update** national water management policies, regulatory frameworks, and programmes and prepare national strategies and action

plans for **achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation over the next seven years;**

- g) Significantly increase domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and **Call** upon Ministers of Water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans and allocation of increased resources to the water and sanitation sector;
- h) Mobilize increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives such as Rural Water and Sanitation Initiatives, the African Water Facility; Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 Initiatives on water and sanitation;
- i) Create conducive environment to enhance the effective involvement of the private sector;
- j) Promote effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes;
- k) Promote programming that addresses the role and interests of youth and women, given that the burden of poor water and sanitation falls disproportionately on women and children;

#### Protection and Management of Africa' Water Resource Base

- l) Address the water security issues including agricultural water use for food security as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first African Water Week;
- m) Ensure the equitable and sustainable use through integrated management of national or shared water resources in Africa particularly water resources shared among other countries, starting with the Lake Chad Basin as an urgent priority;
- n) Build institutional and human resources capacity at all levels including the decentralized local government level for programme implementation, enhance information and knowledge management, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation;
- o) Put in place adaptation measures to improve the resilience of our countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to our water resources and our capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets;

#### Financing the Water Sector in Africa

- p) Significantly increase domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and **Call** upon Ministers of Water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans and allocation of increased resources to the water and sanitation sector;
- q) **Develop** local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sector;
- r) Mobilize increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives such as Rural Water and Sanitation Initiatives, the African Water Facility; Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 Initiatives on water and sanitation;

#### Engaging Major Groups

- s) Promote effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes;
- t) Promote programming that addresses the role and interests of youth and women, given that the burden of poor water and sanitation falls disproportionately on women and children;

#### Role of AMCOW and RECs

- u) Strengthen AMCOW as a key regional mechanism, and other regional stakeholders, as relevant, for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation;
- v) Strengthen AMCOW's initiative on sustainable management of water resources, including groundwater, surface water, rainfall and transboundary water resources and to implement its roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission;
- w) Strengthen partnership at all levels in our countries and between Regional Economic Communities as well as with the international development agencies and promote public-private partnerships with the view to fast tracking actions towards meeting the MDG on water and sanitation in our continent;

#### UN System-wide Support to Africa

- x) **Strengthen** partnership with the United Nations System, notably UN-Water Africa, in mobilizing continued support to AMCOW and to the Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa for the implementation of the outcomes of this summit.

#### International Solidarity

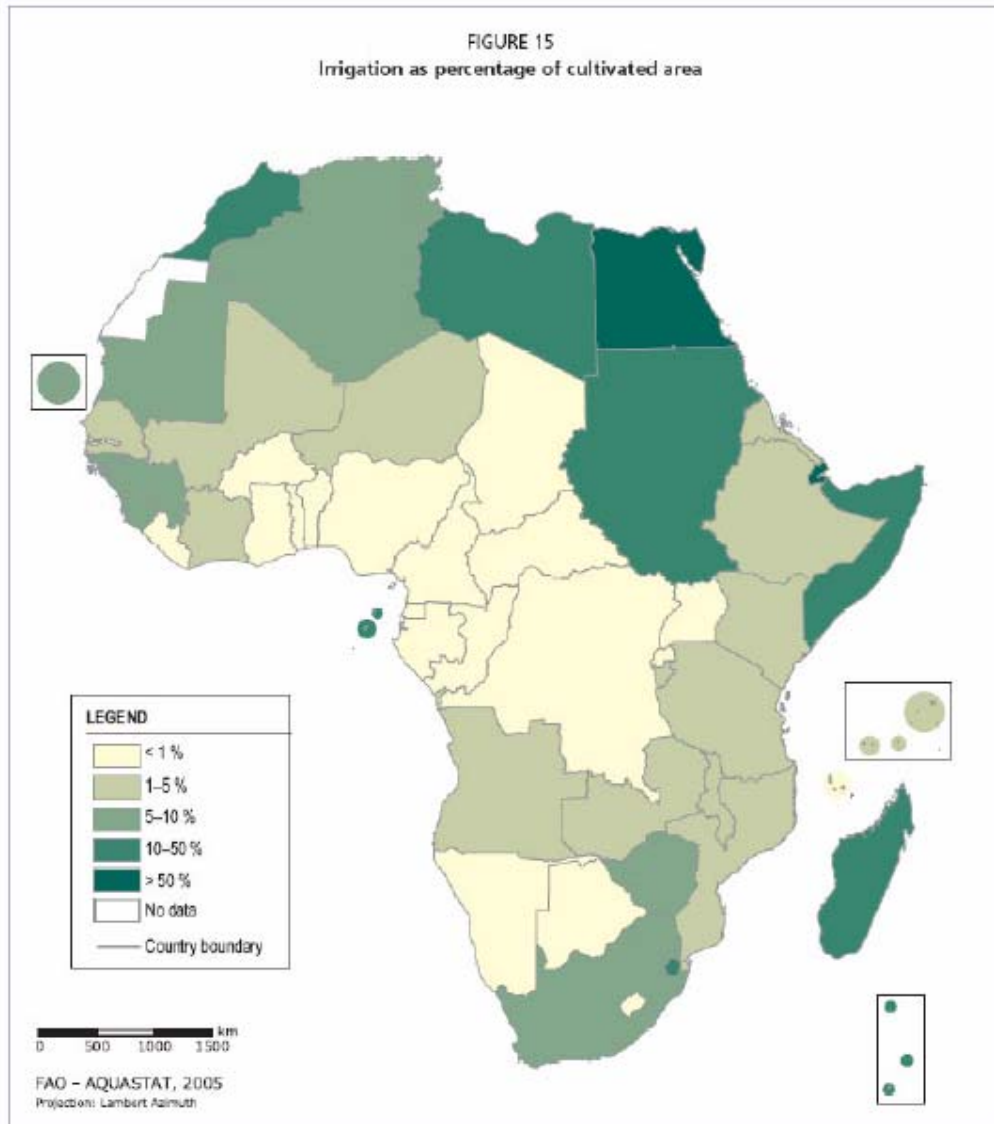


What is also needed at the imminent G8 Summit in Japan and other subsequent high-level international meetings are clear and specific commitments by international agencies and partners to improve the coordination and integration of their various water and sanitation initiatives, to convene and participate in more regular multilateral and bilateral policy dialogues on water with their national and regional partners in Africa and to provide the additional funds and technical assistance needed to implement the new national and regional plans and investment strategies for improving water management and achieving the MDGs for water and sanitation.

#### Reviewing and Reporting on Progress

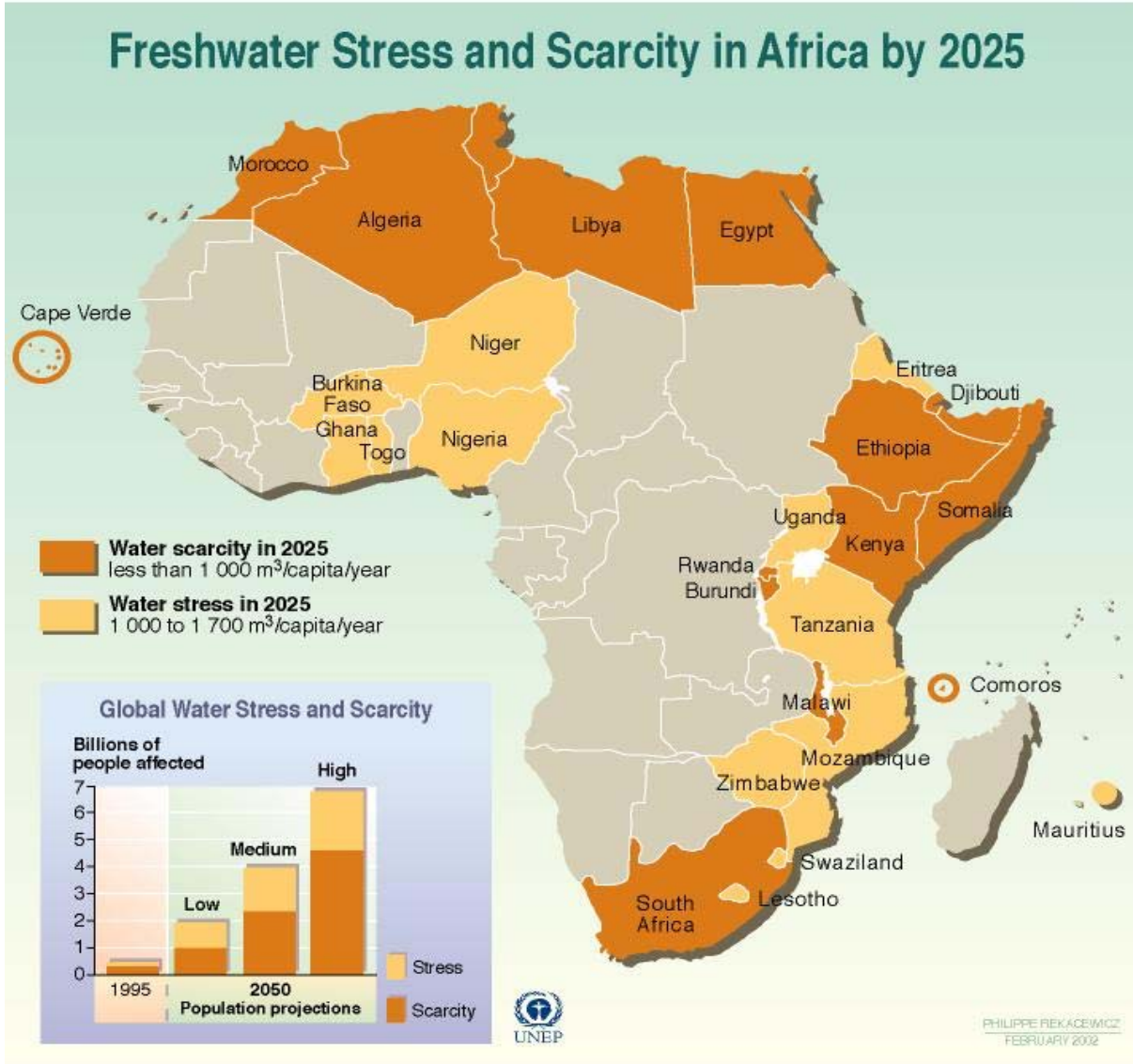
- y) **Entrust** AMCOW with the responsibility for reporting on progress made in the implementation of our commitments on water and sanitation with support from regional partners.

ANNEX I: IRRIGATION AS PERCENTAGE OF CULTIVATED AREA



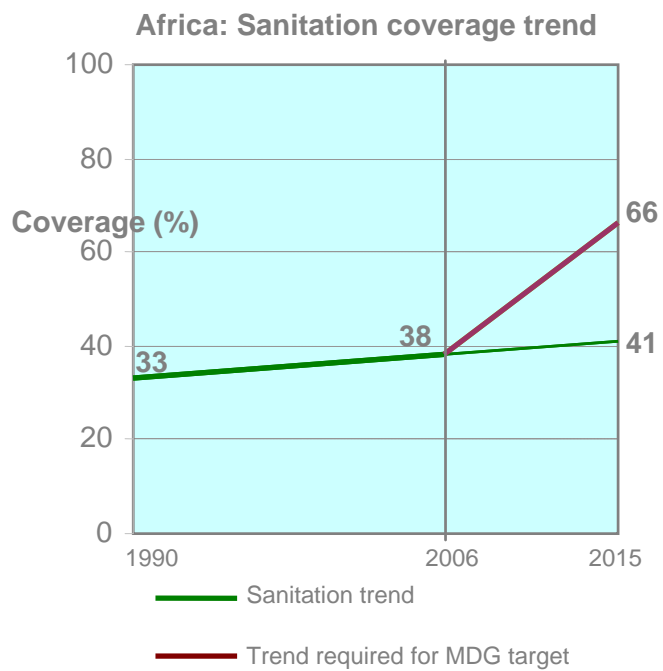
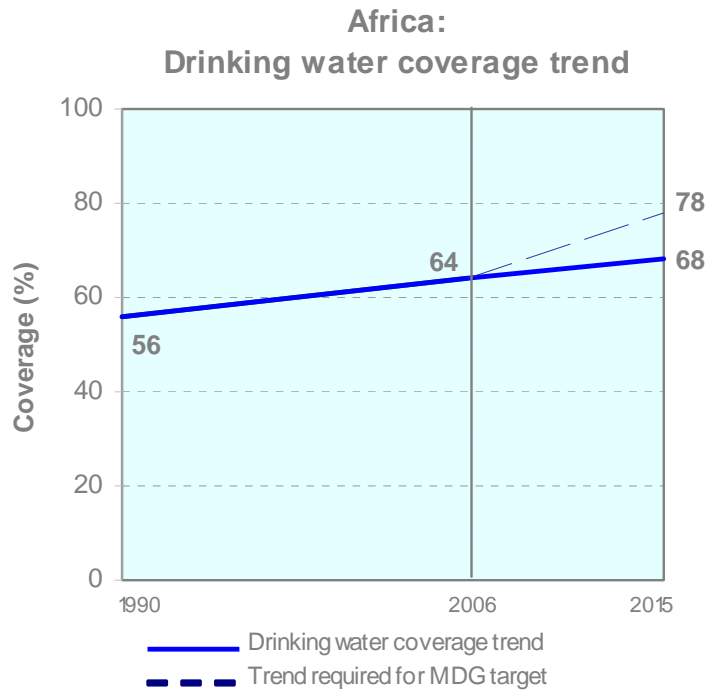


ANNEX III



Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa; Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO), UNEP, Earthscan, London, 1999; Population Action International.

## Annex IV : Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage Trends



Sources: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme - A Snapshot of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Africa 2008 (DRAFT)

**ASSEMBLY/AU/10 (XI)  
ANNEX 5**

**FIRST AFRICAN WATER WEEK - MARCH 26-28, 2008 TUNIS  
AFRICAN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)**

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON ACCELERATING WATER  
SECURITY FOR AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**FIRST AFRICAN WATER WEEK - MARCH 26-28, 2008 TUNIS  
AFRICAN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)**

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

**PART I: Water, A Key to Sustainable Development in Africa: Our Efforts and Achievements**

1. We, the ministers responsible for water in Africa and present at the First African Water Week, are convinced that ensuring water security through the equitable and sustainable management of water is and must remain the top development challenge for the foreseeable future for our continent. For Africa, it is imperative that we achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation and the other crucial and water-dependent goals on reducing poverty, hunger, child mortality, maternal mortality, and major diseases. The African Water Vision 2025 continues to provide a basis for our actions.
2. Over the last five years, our African Heads of State and Government have demonstrated great political commitment and leadership, which have made it possible for Africa's water crisis and policy challenges to be brought from the margins to the centre-stage of the regional development agenda. We recall that the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference (Dec. 2003) was followed shortly after by the AU Heads of State and Government adopting the Sirte Declaration in January 2004, on the integration of AMCOW' into the AU structures as a Specialized Technical Committee. At its summit in February 2008, the African Heads of State and Government decided that its July 2008 Summit should be devoted to Water and Sanitation.
3. At the sixth session of our Ministers Council on Water, AMCOW considered how best to accelerate action on the MDGs and targets on Water and Sanitation. We recognise that progress has been made but a lot needs to be done. We have also taken a number of enabling measures which include:
  - Adopting a comprehensive work programme to support actions for meeting the MDG targets on water and sanitation, establishing the AMCOW Trust Fund to facilitate the financing of MDG-related actions, the establishment of African Water Facility and launching of the Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Initiative;
  - Strengthening collaboration with civil society by formalizing relations with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (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 cooperating 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 eThekweni (Durban) Declaration on Sanitation in February 2008. We also welcome the African EU statement on Sanitation which commits the International Community to support our effort on Sanitation in Africa.

5. We instituted the African Water Week series to discuss opportunities and challenges of achieving water security for Africa's socio-economic development in furtherance of AMCOW's mission.
6. We have at the first African Water Week deliberated on the following key themes: **infrastructure platform for achieving water security; meeting the water and sanitation MDGs; financing infrastructure for water security; climate change and adaptation; addressing the environmental and social challenges and the institutional development and capacity building.**

**PART II: Partnership for Regional and National Actions to Accelerate Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development**

7. Our Heads of State and Government join global leaders in reaffirming international commitments to the Global Partnership for Development set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
8. We highly appreciate the international support and solidarity extended to AMCOW and Africa for addressing the water and sanitation challenges. In order to meet the special needs of Africa, we call upon our governments, national and regional organisations, the international community, and development partners, to extend concrete, substantial and tangible support to the following quick impact actions:

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

- mobilize investments to attain the necessary water infrastructure platform , 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 mobilizing 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 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 of 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 directing an increasing proportion of multilateral finance into infrastructure;
- 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 use 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 managing risks associated with climate change;
- institutionalise dialogue on groundwater management in Africa and implementing 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 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 in this in their water resources development;
- d) endorse the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions;
- e) provide political support for the continued implementation of the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water;
- f) prioritize and increase the allocation of resources, through national plans, to water and sanitation in national budgets;
- g) strengthen co-operation among riparian states for the mutual benefit of the parties.

**PART IV: Key Messages to the G8 Summit 2008 in Japan**

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

- a) implement the respective G8 initiatives on water for Africa, notably the 2003 Evian Plan on Water, 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) implementing 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 reiterate our gratitude to the government of Kenya, UNEP, UN-HABITAT and UNESCO for having accepted to host the Second African Water Week 2009/10 which will take place in Nairobi Kenya.

##### **Endorsement of Tunis Outcomes**

13. We endorse the attached 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 President Donald Kaberuka and Management of the African Development Bank for the firm commitment towards addressing Africa's critical water challenges and for continuous and substantial support to AMCOW. 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 AMCOW 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, and UN Water Africa;
- 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.

**Tunis 28 March 2008**

**Assembly/AU/10 (XI)**  
**Annex 6**

## **The eThekweni Declaration**

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# Key Issues for the African Union summit on water and sanitation

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