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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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**REPORT OF THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)**

**BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO
28-31 MAY 2007**

REPORT OF THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

1. Background

1. The sixth Ordinary session of the African Ministers' Council on Water was held from 28–31 May 2006 at the Palais du Parlement, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The Ordinary session was preceded by meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of AMCOW and a meeting of the Executive Council of AMCOW.

2. The main objectives of the sixth session were to review the status of implementation of AMCOW Decisions and Programmes, its budget and future activities.

2. Participation

3. The Following Member States of the African Union participated in the Conference:

Algeria; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; Egypt; Ethiopia; Ghana; Kenya; Lesotho; Libya; Mali; Mauritania; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; South Africa; Senegal; Sudan; Tanzania; Togo; Tunisia; Uganda; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The following agencies, organizations and institutions were represented at the Conference: ADB; UNEP; FAO; UN/ISDR; UN/HABITAT; ANEW; GTZ; ENDA; CREPA; CICOS; GWP; SADC; NOTTAWASA Institute; Nile Basin; WWF and Denmark

3. Opening Ceremony

5. The 6th session of AMCOW was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo. Statements were made by the AU Commission, ministers, ambassadors, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations. All the statements underlined the need for judicious management of Africa's waters and the need for cooperation in the management of transboundary waters. The outgoing AMCOW President, Mme Maria Mutagamba, presented the President's Policy

4. Election of Bureau

6. The Conference elected the following Bureau:

Chair:		Republic of Congo
Vice Chair:	Eastern Africa	Burundi
Vice Chair:	Northern Africa	Mauritania
Vice Chair:	West Africa	Senegal
Vice Chair:	Central Africa	Chad

Vice Chair Southern Africa Lesotho

Outcomes

Executive Council

7. The Executive Council of AMCOW endorsed the following recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which it included in its recommendations to the Ordinary Session.

- On rotation of the AMCOW presidency, the TAC recommends that the presidency rotate as follows: Central Africa, Southern Africa, Northern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa. Particular country would be determined through sub-regional consultations. It was announced that South Africa had been selected by the Southern Africa sub-region as the next president;
- That a resource mobilization subcommittee be established and that the AMCOW President affirm with member states that their contributions should continue to be remitted if AMCOW is integrated as an AUC Specialized Technical Committee (STC);
- That the process of integration of AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union be hastened, given that the Assembly agreed in principle that AMCOW become a STC;
- That a political solution would be found to address Morocco's membership in AMCOW once the latter becomes an STC of AU.
- That there is a need for an annual African water week.
- That an African water summit be held in 2008 linking with the joint water infrastructure financing meeting and the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) The value of including both finance and infrastructure ministers at these events was highlighted; and
- That the River and Lake Basin organizations institutionalize groundwater management.
- That water harvesting be promoted in the continent.
- That the Bureau of the African Network of Basin organizations become a Committee of AMCOW on transboundary waters.

General Assembly of AMCOW

8. The sixth ordinary session of AMCOW General Assembly adopted a Brazzaville Declaration and several Decisions on the development of the water sector in Africa. In

the Brazzaville Declaration, AMCOW recognized the need for equitable and sustainable management of water as the top development challenge for Africa. The declaration contains decisions taken by ministers. Among others, the following decisions were taken:

- To note with appreciation the progress made by the AUC toward integrating AMCOW into the STC structure of the AUC 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 AUC's "Guidelines for the establishment of cooperative framework 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;
- Further consultations be undertaken with the AUC on the implications on AMCOW membership integration as STC in the AUC;
- EXCO endorse the proposal to launch and institutionalize an annual African Water Week;
- The African Water Week will be hosted by the AFDB in Tunis in 2007, and in Kenya in 2008;

The relevant Decisions and Declarations are attached as annex.

**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 Mvoumba, 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) and 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.

III. The Brazzaville Outcomes and Decisions: Looking Ahead

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 AU reported that the January 2007 AU Assembly had agreed in principle that AMCOW become a Specialized Technical Committee of the AU. AU emphasized that AMCOW will be an autonomous and distinct Specialized Technical Committee of AU. AU also noted that they did not foresee any changes in the current structure of AMCOW, as they want to maintain the momentum of achievement that has been made by AMCOW to date.

Ministers took note that the Heads of State and Government, in their collective wisdom, decided in 2004 to integrate the mandate and structure of AMCOW into the Commission of the African Union and its Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) in order to ensure a more streamlined and inclusive development of the sector. The Commission has concluded its study on the various options for STCs and made pertinent recommendations on the transformation, not only of AMCOW, but also of the AMCEN and the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture. Ministers also note that at its 10th session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January this year, the Executive Council, after examining and deliberating on the report of the Commission, adopted a decision requesting Member States to carry out internal consultations on the recommendations with the relevant sectors within their countries. Thereafter, consultation should be held between the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the Commission, and that final proposals should be submitted to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2007.

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 EXCO will recall that it instructed TAC to strengthen the sub-regional institutions of AMCOW. The EXCO of June 2005 also requested each sub-region to come up with its plan of activities. Funds are now available to move forward with this request. Several vice-presidents noted in their sub-regional reports an urgent need to strengthen their operations as sub-regional entities of AMCOW.

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

At its 5th regular meeting in Tunis, June 2004, AMCOW EXCO directed TAC to reformulate the proposed AMCOW constitution into a Memorandum of Understanding. The process was duly completed and the proposed MoU was agreed upon at the 5th Ordinary Session in Entebbe, Uganda, November 2004. Following that meeting the MoU was circulated to all AMCOW member states for signature. To date only 11 countries have signed.

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

Ministers recall that in their last General Assembly they instructed the Executive Committee to negotiate a hosting agreement with Nigeria for the Secretariat. The hosting agreement was signed, which made the AMCOW Secretariat a legal entity in Nigeria.

The 6th Session of AMCOW takes note with appreciation:

- *The finalization and signing of the host country agreement for the AMCOW Secretariat.*

1.4 Secretariat and its urgent needs

The EXCO of February 2006 approved the AMCOW Secretariat structure. It agreed that the AU should handle the recruitment process. The EU budgetary support for the triennial work programme allows for recruitment of the Executive Secretary.

EXCO decided during their June 2005 meeting to request development co-operation partners to support the development of a fully fledged AMCOW information and communication strategy. With the assistance of World Bank (WSP) the Terms of

Reference for the information and communications strategy consultancy were prepared. Several members noted the urgent need to improve the information and communication services provided by the Secretariat.

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 candidates 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 Council noted with appreciation that support that has been provided by various donors, in particular GTZ and GWP, to maintaining a support office for the AMCOW President since the 5th Ordinary Session. It also noted that some resources are allocated under the new support from the ACP-EU Water Facility for similar support to be provided to the incoming Presidency. It was also understood that the anticipated support for a resource centre (strategy unit) under the G-8 German initiative would, once established, augment the technical capacity of the Council in general, and the President's support office and the AMCOW Secretariat in particular. It is further noted that there is an emerging cooperation between AMCOW and the water units of the sub-regional economic communities. There is a need to formalize and expand this mode of cooperation.

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

Considering the on-going effort to strengthen the role of AMCOW at the sub-regional level, including consolidation of relations between AMCOW and the Regional Economic Communities and other partners within the context of the AU integration process, each of the five Vice Presidents presented a brief statement, outlining achievements made and challenges facing AMCOW in their respective sub-regions over the recent term.

The EXCO members noted that various meetings, consultations and briefings had been held by the sub-regional bodies of AMCOW, focused on issues related to IWRM, trans-boundary waters, infrastructure, stakeholder consultation mechanisms and institutional arrangements. The presentations also mentioned the ministerial changes and nominations for EXCO and TAC members in the respective sub-regions.

Some of the technical issues, included in the sub-regional reports, were discussed in details under other agenda items. The full sub-regional reports are available in Annex 4.

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

AMCOW recognizes the importance of working with Civil Society Organisations in order to promote the process of achieving water and sanitation MDGs for Africa. EXCO sought to formalize, through a MoU, the relationship between ANEW and AMCOW. The MoU contains the intentions and what each institution does and the spirit under which the engagement is conceived. Noted that for the last one year ANEW has been in close collaboration with AMCOW. It will be important for ANEW to regularly share information with AMCOW on its plans and activities, in order to avoid overlap.

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)

Ministers noted that representatives of African River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/LBOs) met in Kampala, Uganda, 19-20 October 2006 to chart the way forward in engaging their institutions in the continent-wide effort to address the water crisis in Africa. Building on the conclusions and recommendations of this Conference, the President of AMCOW instituted a Special Committee to spearhead a dialogue and come up with proposals towards developing a regional coordination mechanism, and enhancing relations between AMCOW and African River and Lake Basin Organisations. The Committee focussed on Institutional, Programmatic and Legal aspects of embracing Africa's R/LBOs into the AMCOW framework to streamline water governance in promotion of the water agenda on the continent.

The meeting appreciated the Action Plan and adopted the report, and further noted the steps so far reached in formalising the relationships with ANBO. Again it was noted that the leadership of ANBO is ready and prepared to co-operate, and during their General Assembly in March 2007, decided to revise their statutes so the African basin

organizations would be the core members of the network and all others would be associate members.

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 Council notes with appreciation the contributions of youth and women in the preparations for and participation in the 6th Session. They further welcome the unfolding cooperation between AMCOW and parliamentarians.

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.

2 Financial matters and means of implementation

Recalling the decision to establish a Trust Fund, an AMCOW Trust Fund was formally established and hosted by UNEP, which also made a contribution of \$100,000. The proposal to the EU Water Facility was approved for Euros 2.6 million. The whole three-year work programme requires Euros 5.9 million. Considering the delay in securing funding, the work programme was revised to reflect the time lapse. Furthermore, countries that have made pledges to the African Water Facility are encouraged to follow through on them.

The following issues were noted:

- The work programme can not be implemented using only the funds so far contributed by EU. The contributions from member states remain crucial and should be sent to the account managed by UNEP.
- The exact contributions made by development co-operation activities need to be reflected.
- All contributions should be acknowledged and documented. There should be no overlaps between AWF and AMCOW. The AWF remains a development arm of AMCOW, and the Trust Fund only supports operational activities of the institution.

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.*

2.1.1 African Water Facility (AWF)

The report of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the AWF was presented. Ministers were invited to note the satisfactory progress in the implementation of the African Water Facility. The AWF Governing Council at its 4th meeting in October 2006 directed that there be a review of the Operational Programme (2005-2009) in consultation with AMCOW. Of the Euros 500 million required for the fund, only 60 million Euros have been pledged, and of that only 20 million has been received. Members noted the need to strengthen communication between the AWF and AMCOW, and the

President observed that a second donor consultation should be held soon, to be adequately prepared for by the committee to be set up.

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To set up a committee of 10 AMCOW TAC members to work with 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, as to international partners.*

3. ***Initiatives***

3.1 AMCOW initiatives

3.1.1 Africa Water Week

Following the AfDB Water Week of July 2004, the need for an African Water Week has been expressed by various water sector stakeholders, including AMCOW and the AfDB. This figured prominently in the dialogue between African stakeholders and the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation.

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *That EXCO endorse the proposal to launch and institutionalize an annual African Water Week;*
- *That the 200t African Water Week will be hosted by the AfDB in Tunis in 2007;*
- *That 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)

Following the decision of EXCO requesting the AWF to establish an M&E system for the water and sanitation sector, a broad-based multi-stakeholder consultation was held in Tunis in 2006. The Tunis meeting underscored the importance of national M&E processes. The main recommendations of the Tunis meeting were:

- 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.

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

- *To note that implementation of the above processes is underway.*

3.1.3 World Water Forum

EXCO is invited to note the successful coordination of Africa's participation in the 4th World Water Forum. The participation by Africa included presentation of the “regional document” and Africa's participation in seven thematic sessions.

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

Ministers believe that it is time in the history of AMCOW that we begin to recognize the many earlier contributions that have helped make our Council what it is, and for this reason I wish to propose to this Session that we establish an awards 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 appreciation to the past AMCOW*
 - *Recognise the contributions of M.SALL, PM Senegal, Edward Lowassa, PM Tanzania, Joyce Mujuru, Vice president Zimbabwe, Ronnie Kasrils, Minister of Intelligence, South Africa, Martha Karua, Minister of Justice, Kenya, Monyane Moleleki, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lesotho*

3.2 Partner Initiatives

3.2.1 African Development Bank initiatives

3.2.1.1 Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)

Ministers were invited to note the report presented at AfDB by ICA highlighting the objectives, and achievements, including activities relating to the scaling up of investments in infrastructure, capacity building, fostering co-operation and donor co-ordination.

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)*

Ministers were invited to note that the implementation of the RWSSI began in 2004 and by the end of 2006 the AfDB has approved \$536 million for programmes in 13 countries. This will increase to \$803 million by the end of 2007 with the addition of six countries to cover 19 countries and provide access for a total additional 32 million people. The report revealed that AfDB will only achieve 59% of planned Phase I financing by the end of 2007, a shortfall in relation to the commitment to achieve the first phase of the programme. The same trend in shortfall is expected in the commitment of other donors as well as national commitments.

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*

Ministers were invited to note that the IPPF responds to the identified need for preparation of bankable projects, particularly those amenable to private sector participation. The funding so far mobilized is US\$ 8 Million.

3.2.1.4 *Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework Study*

Ministers were invited to note that MLTSF is intended to identify lessons learnt in the implementation of the Short Term Action Plan (STAP) in the development of sustainable infrastructure development. The report was adopted, although with emerging concerns associated with increasing emphasis on the “need to raise awareness on water on the continent”, rather than putting into practice issues pertinent to provision of water resources.

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/LBO.*

3.2.2 World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme

Participants were informed that WSP would like to engage more with AMCOW in a more formal and predictable way. Previous and ongoing support was appreciated. WSP-Africa has written to the AMCOW President indicating willingness for WSP continued partnership and support to AMCOW activities. The support highlighted includes: supporting the presidency on WSS issues, extending the Country Status Overview to cover more African Countries, improved WSS sector monitoring national and continental level plus other areas identified by AMCOW, where the support from WSP would add value.

The meeting appreciates the contribution made by WSP especially the high level support to AMCOW, including the out-going and incoming Presidencies.

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

As a result of a review of the inception phase for the G8 Action Plan/German Initiative (November 2006) the project added two pillars: Strengthening AMCOW Sub-regional structures and Creation of an AMCOW Strategy Unit. The latter pillar seeks to ensure that the AMCOW organs –TAC, EXCO and Council in the regions – get information and professional advice to enhance their decision-making processes. Some of the proposed activities under this pillar include: conducting researches, synthesizing study reports, conducting policy studies and analyses, and collecting data and information at regional, continental, and international levels.

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.*

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

Ministers were invited to note that at the request of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, a dialogue led by AMCOW and organized by AfDB was held on 14th December 2006 in Tunis. The dialogue aimed at exchanging views on the Hashimoto Action Plan as it applies to Africa's water agenda. It was noted that the UNSGAB Chair has written to the AU formally proposing an African Water Summit in 2007 or 2008. It was also noted by members that it is important to get Heads of State to take a lead in promoting the mainstreaming of water strategies.

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)

Ministers were invited to note that GWP is supporting 12 countries to formulate IWRM plans for achievement of the WSSD target. In 2005, GWP undertook an assessment of countries' preparedness for meeting the MDGs on water; a report was submitted to CSD-13. As a follow-up, GWP is supporting a national dialogues in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda, as well as in three other countries in each sub-region. Sub-regional meetings on financing of water activities were held in Nairobi and Southern Africa.

The 6th Session of AMCOW decides:

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

3.2.6 Groundwater Initiative

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, 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.

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

On rain water harvesting, participants were informed that there are some private sector companies interested in this area such a Coca cola and this effort is complemented.

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

- *Initiate 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 meeting noted that the African Development Report was launched by the AMCOW President during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006. Further it was noted that the publication is available during the 6th Ordinary Session. The interim version of the African Water Journal was published in 2003 during the Pan African Conference in Addis. Challenges were experienced with submission of articles, and adequate provision of editorial support. UN Water was thanked on the matter and it was agreed on publishing one issue per year.

On Inter-Basin Water Transfers, participants noted that the Ministers need to be cautious about the matter. UN-water/Africa should consider that not all people are of the same understanding about the issues. The creation of assurance and awareness will be necessary. Some steps such as EIA need to be done.

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

Ministers were invited to note that a report was provided to TAC by UN-HABITAT on progress in implementation of the Water and Sanitation for African Cities Programme and the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative. Also of note is UN-Habitat's role in supporting the establishment of a Global Water Operators Alliance, one of the recommendations of the UNSGAB on water. Two regional meetings of the Africa Water Operators Partnership have since been held, with the support from UN-Habitat and other development partners.

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

Ministers were invited to note that a presentation was made based on the report distributed to the participants, together with a report earlier presented following the recommended format.

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)

Ministers took note that FEMA collaboration with AMCOW should include advocacy for hydropower infrastructure development, policy matters and resource mobilization.

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

Ministers noted that a meeting of TAC and EU took place in Nairobi-Kenya 14th – 16th of February 2007 to address amongst other things the slow progress of the initiative. EU partners tabled a draft strategy report on the way forward towards the implementation of the initiative. The strategy focuses on the following three areas:

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

The EU has established the Africa EU infrastructure partnership and it was agreed that it would be very important for AMCOW to influence EU under EU/ACP negotiations that water is accorded adequate resources if Africa is to move towards achievement of the

MDGs. It will be important for AMCOW to consult with the counterparts in the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning who are responsible for negotiating the partnership and impress on them the importance of adequate financial resources under the IP to be allocated to water.

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

Ministers will recall that in Entebbe they concluded that in order to make effective joint Africa-EU contribution to the achievement of the water and sanitation MDG target 10 and sustainable water resources management in Africa there is to be a Forum with EU Member states that will:

- Facilitate strategic water sector dialogue between Europe and Africa.
- Provide a forum for the European Commission, EU member states and AMCOW to report on their water sector activities in order to increase mutual accountability and
- Contribute to more coherence in the water sector in line with the Paris Declaration.

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 present EU Water Facility will be coming to an end and EU would like the Facility to be extended with funds from EDF10. The meeting was informed that the Water Facility Unit has agreed to provide 600,000 Euros for the African Working Group (AWG) and 400,000 euros for the Finance Working Group, and France and Germany will provide a further 320,000 euros to the AWG activities. A mid-term review of the Facility is being done and it is important for AMCOW to express its views on the future of the 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.

2008

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