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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMEN- TATION OF THE JULY 2008 DECLARATION ON SHARM EL-SHEIKH COMMITMENTS FOR ACCELERATING THE ACHIVEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE JULY 2008 DECLARATION ON SHARM EL-SHEIKH COMMITMENTS
FOR ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WATER AND
SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA**

I. Introduction

1. Preamble: This report is prepared in pursuance of Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI) decision by the African Heads of State and Government on the Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa (para q) requesting the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) "to annually report on progress made in the implementation of our commitment on water and sanitation with support from regional partners and to submit these reports for our consideration".

2. The decisions of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit are important commitments for accelerating the MDG goals and targets on water and sanitation in Africa. They have carried the water and sanitation crises and policy challenges to the centre stage of the African development agenda.

3. The 5th World Water Forum, in Istanbul, Turkey, provided opportunities to build alliances and strengthen existing partnerships to address Africa's water and sanitation challenges. Istanbul also raised the profile of water and sanitation in Africa called for by the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments. The Africa Day during the forum served as a platform to enable Africa to bring to the attention of the international community the high level political commitments made in 2008 and to foster partnership for their implementation in bridging the water and sanitation divide in Africa. It also served as a platform for engaging Africa's governments, stakeholders and partners in advancing the regional commitment to water and sanitation and mobilizing broad regional and international support to implement the commitments made by the Heads of State and Government.

4. It is important to recognize that the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments are overarching framework encompassing all existing commitments and declarations adopted by AMCOW, in particularly:

- Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa, 2004
- Brazzaville Declaration and Programme of Work, 2007
- The 2008 Tunis Ministerial Declaration and outcome of the first African Water Week on Accelerating Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development
- The eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on sanitation, 2008
- Outcomes of the Sirte 2008 conference on water and energy for agriculture.

The Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration is basically to increase the continent's efforts to implement past declarations on water and sanitation.

5. Soon after the June 2008 Summit, AMCOW convened a meeting in October in Addis Ababa to prepare a roadmap for the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments. An implementation strategy was developed with three principal focal areas:

- Continuing to put in place basic services on water and sanitation through existing initiatives;
- Strengthening the operational mechanisms in areas where low implementation capacity is a bottleneck to progress;
- Refining strategies and policies where these are needed.

6. It should be recognized that there are different countries with different starting positions. Therefore the challenges to progress are different. Some countries can scale up delivery because the operating environment has been set in place. Other countries need to strengthen their operational mechanisms and will require support, mainly in fragile states.

7. At the 2008 AU Summit on Water and Sanitation, the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture made a frank assessment of the present situation on the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation in Africa. Her presentation included these three key points and concerns:

- From 1990 to 2006, 245 million Africans gained access to drinking water but the population *without* drinking water increased by 61 million to 341 million;
- From 1990 to 2006, 153 million Africans gained access to adequate sanitation but the population *without* access to adequate sanitation also increased by 153 million to 583 million;
- 26 of the 54 countries in Africa are on track to meet the MDG drinking water target but only six countries are on track to meet the MDG sanitation target.

8. A key goal pursued by AMCOW, during the reporting period was the acceleration of a number of Pan African initiatives during the reporting period aimed at accelerating the implementation of:

- the 2003 Declaration of African Water Ministers and programme of action adopted by the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water;
- the 2004 Sirte Declaration of the Assembly of the African Union on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa;
- the Africa Water Vision 2025 which was acknowledged in 2004 by the African Union;

- the outcomes of the 2005 International Conference on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative held in Paris where a framework for meeting the MDG targets in rural Africa was adopted;
- the 2006 Conference of African River and Lake Basin Organizations (RLBOs) in Kampala, Uganda which adopted measures for strengthening existing and creating new RLBOs and as well as relationship of the African Network of Basin Organizations with AMCOW;
- the 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;
- the 2007 Brazzaville Declaration of AMCOW on water governance, financing, strategic approaches and implementation;
- the 2008 eThekewini Declaration of AMCOW on sanitation;
- the 2008 Ministerial Declaration and outcome of the first African Water Week in Tunis on Accelerating Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development.

9. The year 2008 also marked the halfway point for the 2015 water, sanitation and other MDG targets. But 2008 also marked the turning point for achieving the MDG targets by 2015 and especially in Africa. The Heads of State and Government Assembly of the African Union (AU) during June 30 to July 1, 2008 in Egypt, addressed Water and Sanitation as the special theme for their Summit. The policy paper for the Summit emphasized that "currently about 300 million people lack access to adequate water supply and an estimated 313 million people lack access to adequate sanitation. Low access to sanitation and water supply are the root causes of many diseases that affect Africa." The Summit policy paper also pointed out that "the latest WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme concludes that in 9 out of 54 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. It is imperative therefore that Africa and its development partners live up to their commitments if the MDGs on water supply and sanitation are to be met."

10. The AU Summit culminated in the adoption of the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of the Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa. In the preamble to their new commitments, the Heads of State and Government recognized "that water is and must remain a key to sustainable development in Africa and that water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for Africa's human capital development". Moreover, they also frankly confirmed "that there is an *underutilization* and *uneven* sharing of water resources in Africa" and that "not much progress has been made in Africa compared to the rest of the world to achieve the MDGs target, and that based on current trends Africa needs to accelerate its efforts".

11. The AU Summit Commitments particularly cited the need to make progress on the following eight challenges: water and sanitation infrastructure financing, water conservation and equitable distribution, closing the sanitation gap, breaking the silence on sanitation and hygiene, adapting to climate change, integrated management of national and trans-boundary surface and ground water, investing in information,

knowledge and monitoring, institutional development as well capacity building.

II. Actions

A. Actions: African Initiatives and partnerships on water and sanitation

12. Action taken on implementing the Sharm el Sheikh Decisions are itemized in detail in Annex I. Outlined below are the key overall outcomes of the specific actions and programmes, as an assessment of general progress towards implementing Sharm el Sheikh and achieving the MDGs on water and sanitation.

13. The "African Water Vision for 2025: Equitable and Sustainable Use of Water for Socio-Economic Development" which was subsequently noted at the 2004 AU Summit of African Heads of State and Government, provided a strategic direction for the work of AMCOW. The 2000 Millennium Summit and the adoption of the MDGs, has inspired accelerated efforts through new regional partnerships and initiatives to bring the MDG targets from the margins to the mainstream of the national and regional agenda for sustainable economic and social development with special attention and priority to achieving the MDG targets for safe water and sanitation.

14. The African Water Ministers have appropriately been in the forefront since the 2000 Millennium Summit in proposing strategic policy, legal and institutional changes for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water resources at all levels. AMCOW has still succeeded in launching such important new initiatives as: the AMCOW Trust Fund; the African Water Facility (AWF); the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI); the Water and Sanitation for African Cities Programme; the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Initiative; the African Water Development Report; an African Water Journal and African Water Information Clearing House; the networking of water basin organizations and trans-boundary water initiatives; the promotion of new regional and international dialogues on Africa's water policy challenges; the strengthening of collaboration with civil society by formalizing relations with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEWS); the expansion of collaboration with African river and lake basin organizations through the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO); the forging of close collaboration with the G8 on new initiatives on water in Africa and with the European Union on implementing the EU Water Initiative for Africa.

15. AMCOW initiated or has been associated with all the initiatives on water and sanitation in Africa which are highlighted in this report. The 2008 Ministerial Declaration and outcome of the first African Water Week in Tunis on Accelerating Water Security for Africa's Socio-Economic Development addressed issues for consideration by the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government in June 2008, the G8 Summit in July 2008 in Japan and the 5th World Water Forum held in March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. Key messages in the Tunis Ministerial Declaration included the need: to formalize the status of AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union – this was accomplished at the January 2009 AU Summit; to make the African Water Facility and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative constant agenda items in their deliberations and dialogue with international partners; to encourage member countries to urgently develop climate change adaptation strategies and mainstream water resources development in these strategies; to endorse and implement the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions; to priori-

tize and increase the allocation of resources in national budgets for national plans to achieve the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation.

16. The above as well as a number of other commitments, programmes and initiatives for helping achieve the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation have been launched and especially at the regional and sub-regional levels in Africa, culminating in the high-level political commitments for accelerated action at the recent AU Summit of Heads of State and Government. However, between now and 2015 it is also evident that a lot more needs to be done to implement the AU Summit commitments and especially at the national and local levels.

17. Major initiatives launched by the African Union, AMCOW, the African Development Bank, key UN agencies, EU, GTZ, Global Water Partnership, WSP/World Bank, a number of Development Cooperation Partners, and by several other partnerships of the region include:

- the adoption of a comprehensive work programme to support actions for meeting the MDG targets for water and sanitation, establishing the **AMCOW Trust Fund** to facilitate the financing of MDG related actions;
- mobilization of resources for the AMCOW trust fund, to which the EU and UNEP made contributions as well as a number of African countries;
- The **African Water Facility** (AWF) was instituted as Special Fund of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in May 2004, following the formal request from AM-COW to establish a fund to mobilize and apply resources to finance water infrastructure and water investment facilitating activities in Africa. The resource mobilization pledges to date total €110 million from ten donors: EU, Canada, France, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Spain, and Algeria. The total number of projects that have been approved since inception now stands at 44, with a commitment amount of €44.90 million;
- the **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. Overall, rural water delivery through RWSSI has achieved appreciable results and should be further scaled up. Since the start of RWSSI in 2003, 20 operations have been approved in 18 countries with total financing of US\$ 2.15 billion, of which the Bank contributed US\$ 847 million. An additional US\$ 75 million came from the RWSSI Trust Fund. The donors to the RWSSI TF so far are France, Denmark, and Netherlands. To date, a total Euro 90 million has been pledged, 73% received so far. The remaining US\$ 1.23 billion has been leveraged from other donors, governments and beneficiaries;
- the **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;

- the **Water and Sanitation for African Cities Programme** aims at creating an enabling environment and capacity building for pro-poor investments in water and sanitation in urban areas;
- the **Africa Civil Society Network on Water** (ANEW) aims to promote dialogue, learning and cooperation on water issues in the region, and to facilitate and support the participation of African civil societies in water policy formulation and the implementation of development plans in the African water sector;
- the **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;
- the **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 rain-fed agriculture;
- the **European Union Water Initiative** (EUWI) is designed to help countries achieve the MDG water and sanitation targets by supporting the sustainable delivery of water and sanitation infrastructure and improved water governance in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to the tune of €500m;
- the **German G8 Africa Action Plan and Trans-boundary Water Management** focuses on strengthening cooperation among river basin organizations and building transboundary water management capacity in Africa;
- the **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.

III. The way forward and recommendations

18. For action at the regional level, the 2008 AU Summit Commitments included the following three actions for follow-up action and implementation in 2009 by the AU Assembly:

- Convene in 2009 a joint meeting of African Ministers of Water and of Finance to develop appropriate financing policies in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development cooperation partners;
- Adopt new measures for strengthening AMCOW as a key regional mechanism and other regional stakeholders and initiatives for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation such as the AMCOW initiative on sustainable management of water resources and the roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission;
- Review progress made on strengthening partnership at all levels in our countries and between Regional Economic Communities as well as with the international development agencies and promoting public-private partnerships for fast-tracking

actions for achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation.

19. Success in achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation will depend on the actions taken by national and local authorities with the support of the international community. The political will and commitments to achieve the 2015 MDG targets was clearly expressed by the African Heads of State and Government at the AU Summit in July 2008. That Summit marked a turning point and gave a green light for the concerned national Ministers, Ministries, local authorities, civil society groups and the private sector to work together to convert the AU Summit commitments into effective and accelerated programmes of action, especially in the 28 African countries which are *not* on track to meet the 2015 MDG drinking water target and/or the 48 countries which are *not* on track to meet the 2015 MDG sanitation target;

20. Using the 2008 AU Summit commitments as their inspiration and guide, governments should consider convening in 2009 their own National Summits on Water and Sanitation involving representatives of the concerned Ministries, local authorities, civil society groups, the private sector and development cooperation partners. One of the first tasks of such a meeting would be to develop and/or approve a detailed report on progress made and needed at the national to local levels to achieve the MDG targets for water and sanitation by 2015 and then to commit to convening further national Summits and updating and publishing similar reports annually until 2015.

21. With or without such National Summits on Water and Sanitation or similar national meetings, a checklist of actions needed at the national to local levels to follow-up and implement the 2008 AU Summit Commitments for achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation includes:

- Develop and/or strengthen and implement national to local water management policies, laws and action plans for achieving the MDG target for water by 2015;
- Develop and/or strengthen and implement national to local sanitation policies, laws and action plans for achieving the MDG target for sanitation by 2015 with special attention to gaps identified in the 2008 eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on Sanitation in Africa;
- Develop and/or update a report on progress made and needed at the national to local levels to achieve the MDG targets for water and sanitation by 2015 and review, update and publish it annually until 2015;
- Assess the human resources and expertise needed to implement the water and sanitation initiatives by 2015 and then expand the relevant education and training programmes;
- Develop national investment plans and make the necessary budgetary allocations for implementing the water and sanitation programmes;
- Mobilize private sector, donor and other financial support for water and sanitation initiatives from the national to local levels, including financial incentives, instruments and markets for private sector investments and new public-private sector partnerships in the water and sanitation sectors;

- Decentralize to local authorities the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the water and sanitation programmes;
- Adopt special measures to ensure the role and interests of youth and women are incorporated in all water and sanitation policies and programmes;
- Assess the threat of climate change to the variability of water resources and capacity to meet the 2015 MDG water and sanitation targets and put in place adaptation measures;
- Develop and/or strengthen and implement with other riparian countries the water management policies, laws and action plans for the equitable and sustainable use of shared water resources.

22. The overall goal for the African Water Vision for 2025 is "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". The African Water Vision sets out the following ten indicators for success which will continue to be targets in the work of AMCOW. The indicators are the following:

- (1) There is sustainable access to safe and adequate water supply and sanitation to meet the basic needs of all;
- (2) There is sufficient water for food and energy security;
- (3) Water for sustaining ecosystems and biodiversity is adequate in quantity and quality;
- (4) Institutions that deal with water resources have been reformed to create an enabling environment for effective and integrated management of water resources in national and trans-boundary water basins, including management at the lowest appropriate level;
- (5) Water basins serve as a basis for regional cooperation and development and are treated as natural assets for all within such basins;
- (6) There is an adequate number of motivated and highly skilled water professionals;
- (7) There is an effective and financially sustainable system for data collection, assessment and dissemination for national and trans-boundary water basins;
- (8) There are effective and sustainable strategies for addressing natural and man-made water resource problems, including climate variability and change;
- (9) Water is financed and priced to promote equity, efficiency and sustain

ability;

- (10) There is political will, public awareness and commitment among all for sustainable water resources management, including the mainstreaming of gender issues and youth concerns and the use of participatory approaches.

23. The African Water Vision will also continue to be a framework for action with four main thrusts:

- Strengthening water governance
- Improving water wisdom
- Meeting urgent water needs
- Strengthening the financial base for the desired water future

24. The African Water Vision calls for new ways of thinking about water as well as new ways of managing water at all levels:

- At the *national* level it will require "fundamental changes in policies, strategies and legal frameworks as well as changes in institutional arrangements and management practices. It will necessitate the adoption of participatory approaches, management at the lowest appropriate level and the mainstreaming of gender issues and the concerns of youth.";
- At the *regional* level it will require "partnership and solidarity between countries that share common water basins";
- At the global level it will require "assistance from Africa's development partners in mobilizing seed funding for priming the urgent developments needed to underpin sustainable development of the region's water resources."

IV. Suggested Decisions

At the June/July 2009 Summit, Heads of State and Government may wish to consider, inter alia, the following draft decisions.

Call on African Governments and AMCOW to:

- Develop and/or strengthen and implement national to local water management policies, laws and action plans for achieving the MDG target for water by 2015;
- Develop and/or strengthen and implement national to local sanitation policies, laws and action plans for achieving the MDG target for sanitation by 2015 with special attention to gaps identified in the 2008 eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on Sanitation in Africa;
- Develop and/or update a report on progress made and needed at the national to local levels to achieve the MDG targets for water and sanitation by 2015 and review, update and publish it annually until 2015;

- As part of the 2nd African Water Week, to re-convene the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water and Sanitation, at which Ministers will:
 - o Present National progress reports on achieving the MDG targets on water and sanitation and implementing the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments;
 - o Reflect on opportunities for enhancing water augmentation technologies and updating an inventory on such technologies;
 - o Re-launch the 2003 Pan-African Conference initiatives and launch new initiatives.

Annex 1 – Actions taken to implement the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments

Action taken on implementing the Sharm el Sheikh decisions is itemized below.

- (a) Increase our efforts to implement our past declarations related to water and sanitation.

In 2007 at its 6th Session in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, AMCOW (now re-named as the African Ministerial *Council* on Water) considered how best to accelerate action on the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation. While recognizing that progress had been made but a lot still needs to be done, the AMCOW Water Ministers agreed on further measures which included:

- the adopting of 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 the launching of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative;
- the strengthening of collaboration with civil society by formalizing relations with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW);
- the expansion of collaboration with African river and lake basin organizations;
- the forging of close collaboration with the G8 on new initiatives on water in Africa and with the European Union on implementing the EU Water Initiative for Africa.

The Commission met in December 2008 with the SADC Parliamentarians in collaboration with the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) for advocacy and awareness creation on past declarations on water and agriculture in order to garner support for; and develop relevant and appropriate Legislative Acts to implement the decision at the regional and national level.

- (b) Raise the profile of sanitation by addressing the gaps in the context of the 2008 eThekwin Ministerial Declaration on sanitation in Africa adopted by AMCOW.

- Meetings of the AfricaSan International Task Force - The first meeting took place in Nairobi (Kenya) in November 08. The second meeting of the Task Force will take place in July 09 in Abuja (Nigeria);
 - Funding proposal - Proposal completed and sent to the AMCOW Executive Secretary for review;
 - First African Awards Ceremony - Concept Note finalized and endorsed by the AfricaSan International Task Force at its first meeting. \$100,000 budget secured from WSSCC. First Awards Ceremony to be launched at the AMCOW in Abuja in July 09;
 - AfricaSan Country Level Action Plan and Peer Review Mechanism - 18 Action Plans developed and submitted to AMCOW;
 - AfricaSan window within the AMCOW web site - working on migrating the Africa2008 website to AMCOW web site, including designing pages for the AfricaSan follow-up program (Country action plans, Awards, Communication and Knowledge, M&E, etc.);
 - M&E of Sanitation MDG Target - S&H indicators included into CSO2/GLAAS and GF4A initiative and the AfricaSan website window in AMCOW will include a database on S&H in Africa;
 - The second AfricaSan conference will be held in 2011, but the annual Africa Water Weeks under the auspice of AMCOW and AfDB will include an AfricaSan Day;
 - Tracking system and indicators adopted by the AfricaSan International Task Force at its first meeting held in Nairobi (Kenya) in November 08.
- (c) Address issues pertaining to agricultural water use for food security as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first African Water Week.

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 the following key issues which were considered by the G8 Summit in July 2008 in Japan and the 5th World Water Forum held in March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey:

- (i) Infrastructure platform for achieving water security
- (ii) Meeting the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals
- (iii) Financing Infrastructure for the desired water security objectives
- (iv) Addressing the social and environmental challenges
- (v) Climate change and adaptation
- (vi) Groundwater management
- (vii) Rainwater harvesting to assure food security, domestic water supply and ecosystem functioning

- (viii) Stakeholders roles and partnerships
- (ix) Investing in information, knowledge and monitoring
- (x) Institutional development and capacity building

At the 5th World Water Forum in Turkey, the Heads of State Summit came up with an Istanbul Declaration while the Ministerial Conference concluded with an Istanbul Ministerial Statement and the Istanbul Water Guide. The Parliamentary process outputs included the establishment of a Fund within the national water budget of developed countries to “Devote 1% of that national water budgets to help developing countries and under-developed countries” to focus on water programmes to meet MDG target. The Local Authorities’ Dialogue on the Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC) evoked the need to mobilize financial resources. The Africa Regional Day at the 5th World Water Forum exemplified the mobilization of broad regional and international support to consolidate existing commitments. The event provided the global platform for the launch of the Africa Regional Position Paper which indicated that an estimate of US\$50 billion annually will be required to meet targets in three key areas: access to drinking water and safe sanitation; water for agriculture; and hydroelectric power and multi-purpose storage.

- (d) 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 (7) years: ADB-RWSSI is assisting African countries to develop and update national plans to achieve 80% access to water supply and sanitation in rural areas by 2015.

- (e) Create conducive environment to enhance the effective engagement of local authorities and the private sector:

Local Authorities and the private sector are involved in the preparation of national plans on water and sanitation and their implementation. Local Authorities and small scale operators are actively involved in rural areas.

- (f) Ensure the equitable and sustainable use, as well as promote integrated management and development, of national and shared water resources in Africa:

AMCOW is actively working with ANBO to ensure equitable and sustainable use of shared water resources. AMCOW has established a sub-committee on trans-boundary waters, chaired by ANBO, which will report to the AMCOW TAC. GWP has engaged several African counties to use IWRM as a tool to attain sustainable and equitable use of shared water resources.

- (g) Build institutional and human resources capacity at all levels including the decentralized local government level for programme implementation, enhance information and knowledge management as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation. The ADB monitoring and evaluation programme for Africa is building institutional and human resource capacity at the national level. The African Development Bank developed on behalf of AMCOW a format for the Operationalization of the Pan-African Mechanism for the Monitoring and

Evaluation of progress in the Water and Sanitation Sector at the country, sub-regional and regional levels. The Commission, AMCOW, AfDB and UNECA held a meeting from 10 – 13 December 2008 with SADC on the format given to Member States at the November meeting while the other RECs met in January 2009 to consider the format. The Bank will finalizing the format which will serve for monitoring the progress and evaluation in the Member States.

The Commission, AMCOW and the GTZ / EU met in March 2009 on areas of support to implement the Sharm El-Sheikh commitment. The areas identified for support are: Implementation of the African water and sanitation strategy, bringing forward Water Resources Management in Africa and Improving institutional structures. Germany through GTZ will finalize the necessary requirements for the Programme support. The Government of Sweden also met with the Commission and will finalize support for the trans-boundary water management.

- (h) 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;

The Government of Denmark is working with African countries to put in place adaptation measures to improve resilience to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to water resources. The Government of Greece is also supporting on Climate Change issues.

In 2009 AfDB adopted a Bank Group Climate Risk Management and Adaptation Strategy. The Strategy defines the Bank Group's support to its regional member countries in their efforts to respond effectively to the new challenges and opportunities thus responding to the expressed concerns of the G8 States and the African Heads of State and Government on the impacts of climate change on development, stability, social welfare and poverty reduction in Africa. Significant attention is given to water resources management.

- (i) 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.

In this area more work needs to be done. Domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national programmes need to be increased. There is still too much dependence on ODA. Water must be seen as an economic commodity. The return on investment in water is profitable. For every \$1 spent the return is about \$4-\$6. Finance Ministers must be convinced to make such investment by increasing domestic financial resources to water and sanitation. The cost of non-investment far outweighs the cost of investment.

- (j) Develop local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors.

Micro-financing in water and sanitation is gaining ground in Africa. Kenya is leading in such ventures. Small scale water operators need co-funding from non-traditional financial institutions.

- (k) Mobilize increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives including national projects and 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:

The African Development Bank has a key leadership role in helping finance and securing additional external funds for implementing new national and regional plans for improving water resource management in and among countries and for achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation. But no amount of financial resources can solve Africa's water challenges without firm commitments by its political leaders and decision-makers.

To enhance local financing AfDB has undertaken a study on "Financial Instruments to Facilitate Investments in the Water Sector". AfDB, in partnership with African Water Association (AfWA) and the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank (WSP) conducted ratings of seven utilities and a number of pilot activities to assist water utilities to access market financing. The seven African utilities were found to be "investment grade", able to attract domestic lenders and close transactions.

Clear and specific commitments by African heads of state and government to ensure the equitable and sustainable use and more integrated management of water resources in and shared by their countries and to accelerate progress toward achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation are the major challenges and will hopefully be the main legacy of the African Union Summit in July 2008. 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 political will, 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.

- (l) Promote effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes:

The African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) and its members have continued to raise the profile of sanitation at the national, regional and international levels. In addition, ANEW has continued to build the capacity of CSOs to engage with national governments as well as in monitoring progress made in the water and sanitation sector using the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration as a tool for advocacy. Activities have included the following:

- Raising the profile of Sanitation: In October-November 2008, ANEW members in Eastern Africa conducted a rapid assessment to review the implementation of eThekweni and Sharm el Sheikh Declaration at national level. This

process helped in raising the awareness the Declarations as well as the water and sanitation challenges in the region;

- Information sharing and communication: ANEW has dedicated resources and expanded its communication tools to provide effective information sharing with the CSO community. The tools include e-bulletin, newsletters and websites with dedicated pages on key challenges and lessons in the sector;
- CSO participation: CSOs have been actively involved in national and regional processes across Africa in particular; revision and preparations of national policies, plans and strategies on water and sanitation. Furthermore, CSO have represented WSS issues at national, regional and international events including Stockholm water week, 5th World water Forum, World Bank water week etc. The recognition of CSOs was made possible largely by the ANEW-AMCOW partnership;
- Public Participation: ANEW has established national CSO networks in over 38 countries in Africa. The networks hold regular consultations, public debates and learning forums involving key stakeholders in the sector, which serve as a platform for influencing policies and practices as well as engaging with policy makers.

Challenges:

- The capacity of CSOs to effectively engage and influence policies is limited. There is a need to support ANEW in building the capacity of CSOs in the sector to actively engage and monitor progress;
 - Information on progress from key stakeholders at the national level is not easily accessible. There is a need therefore for key stakeholders to create mechanisms that will allow easy access to information;
 - Financing in the water and sanitation sector is a challenge. The commitments on increasing financing have not been met.
- (m) 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.

UN-Habitat through the Water for African Cities Programme has a special focus on youth and children, working closely with educational institutions in the countries of operation.

- (n) Strengthen AMCOW as a key regional mechanism, and other regional stakeholders, as relevant, for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation.

The formalization of AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee of the AU is a major step forward in strengthening its position and capacity as a key regional mechanism.

AMCOW has been in the forefront in proposing strategic policy, legal and in-

stitutional changes for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water resources at all levels. AMCOW has succeeded in launching such important new initiatives as: the AMCOW Trust Fund; the African Water Facility (AWF); the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI); the Water and Sanitation for African Cities Programme; the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Initiative; the African Water Development Report; an African Water Journal and African Water Information Clearing House; the networking of water basin organizations and trans-boundary water initiatives; the promotion of new regional and international dialogues on Africa's water policy challenges; the strengthening of collaboration with civil society by formalizing relations with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW); the expansion of collaboration with African river and lake basin organizations through the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO); the forging of close collaboration with the G8 on new initiatives on water in Africa and with the European Union on implementing the EU Water Initiative for Africa.

The Commission met with the officials of AMCOW to implement this declaration and the January Decision on the Specialized Technical Committee for the institutionalisation of AMCOW into the Special Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. The meeting took place in Addis Ababa from 1 - 2 April 2009 and relevant key stakeholders and partners to harmonize current efforts being undertaken on the implementation of commitments made in Sharm El-Sheikh and discussed the way forward regarding monitoring and evaluation of the various programmes.

- (o) Strengthen AMCOW's initiative on sustainable management of water resources, to implement its roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission:

At its 6th regular session, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, May 2007, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) agreed on taking decisive action to improve the management of groundwater resources in Africa. To this end the 6th Session of AMCOW decided to:

- Promote the institutionalization of groundwater management by river and lake basin organizations 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.

In November 2007 the Executive Committee agreed to establish an African Groundwater Commission to coordinate implementation of the above decision. Subsequent to this decision, UN-Water/Africa prepared a roadmap for establishment of the Commission. This roadmap was considered at a joint meeting

held under the leadership of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa in October 2008, with the AMCOW Executive, and the African Development Bank, along with other partners. Subsequently the Executive Committee, meeting in November 2008 in Nairobi, decided on interim arrangements for launching the commission, as follows:

- The Kenya Minister of Water and Irrigation will be requested to serve as the interim Chair of the Commission;
- UNEP, UNESCO and UN-Habitat are requested to provide institutional support to the Commission, including the hosting of an interim Secretariat.

The Interim Chair, Kenya Minister of Water and Irrigation, has initiated the process of implementing the above decisions. In consultation with UNEP, UNESCO and UN-Habitat interim Secretariat arrangements for the Commission have been agreed. As per the decision of the November EXCO, UNEP, UNESCO and UN-Habitat are to provide institutional support to the Commission, including the hosting of the interim Secretariat. A coordination team consisting of the three UN partners and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Kenya has been established. The team has met several times and aims to work under the direction of the Executive Secretary of AMCOW on technical matters.

- (p) 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:

Over the last few years AMCOW's cooperation and partnerships expanded rapidly with other organizations in Africa and included the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), African Union (AU), Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa (FEMA), regional economic communities and river and lake basin organizations as well as civil society organizations such as the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW). AMCOW cooperation with UN bodies includes the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), UNEP, UN/HABITAT, UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) and UN/Water. AMCOW's development cooperation partners include Denmark, Canada, European Union (EU), France, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Global water Partnership (GWP), United Kingdom and the World Bank.

- (q) Request AMCOW to annually report on progress made in the implementation of our commitment on water and sanitation with support from regional partners, and to submit these reports for our consideration;

The present report represents the initial effort by the Council to implement this decision.

- (r) Call on African Ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development partners, to hold a meeting of Ministers of Water and Finance to develop appropriate financing policies;

[ADB to report]

- (s) Request the Regional Economic Communities and the Rivers and Lake Basin Organizations to initiate regional dialogues on climate change and its impacts on the water sector with the aim of designing appropriate adaptation measures;

UNEP has taken the lead on this at a recent High Level Meeting, May 20-22 2009 in Bangkok. GWP has also engaged River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/BLOs) on the impact of climate change on the water sector. Denmark has facilitated a dialogue in Africa on the same topic to feed into the Africa Common Position for COP-15 in Copenhagen, December 2009.

- (t) Call upon the G8 to reaffirm at its next Summit in Japan its commitment to fully implement the G8 initiatives on water in Africa, notably the 2003 Evian Plan on Water, to step up their engagement in the sanitation sector and to enter into a strengthened partnership with the AU Member States, through AMCOW, for achieving the Water and Sanitation MDGs.

AMCOW has worked with the G-8 Expert Group on water and sanitation to develop a framework Africa G8 Water partnership. An announcement is expected at soon following the G8 and AU Summits in July 2009.

What is needed at the imminent G8 Summit in Italy 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.

To support the implementation of the African commitments, **G8 countries** is building capacity in African countries to develop and implement national water and sanitation strategies; improve coordination within multi-donor platforms to promote aid effectiveness; align assistance to better reflect national priorities; improve bilateral and multilateral contributions to financial mechanisms aimed at mobilizing investment; assist the AU Commission, AMCOW and Regional Economic Communities in response to the African demands for institutional support.

While recognising that each country has the primary responsibility of its own development success, **both parties** will prioritise the achievement of water-related MDGs in the political agenda. This entails supporting dialogue on water that involves Finance and Planning Ministers, together with development partners. The Africa Water Week due to take place in November 2009 in South Africa will provide an opportunity for tangible progress towards our common goal of meeting our water and sanitation challenges.

2009

Progress report of the commission on the implementation of the July 2008 declaration on Sharm El-Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa

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