MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW), ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 27-28 JUNE 2005

SUMMARY REPORT (CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS) TO AMCOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Introduction

In furtherance of the implementation of the decisions taken at the fifth session of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), in Entebbe, Uganda, November 2004 and as part of the follow up action envisaged, the President of AMCOW agreed to the convening of the meetings of:

a) Technical Advisory Committee of AMCOW in Addis Ababa, 27-28 June 2005
b) Executive Committee of AMCOW, 29th June 2005 and
c) Coordination with Regional institutions, UN Agencies and Development Cooperation partners, 30 June 2005

2. Attendance:

The TAC meeting was attended by members from:

Northern Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco
Eastern Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda
Southern Africa: Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa
Western Africa: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal
Central Africa: D.R. Congo, Republic of Congo

In attendance were the representatives of the African Union, NEPAD, Africa Development Bank and officials of the UN Water Africa, i.e. WMO, UNECA, UNEP and the European Union, Global Water Partnership.

3. Opening:

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Henry Ntale, Chairman of TAC who delivered in which he highlighted on the task before the participants. The meeting was formally opened, on behalf of H.E. Minister Jarso, Minister of Water Resources, Ethiopia by Ms Martha Solomon, who is also the Chairperson of the Eastern Africa Sub-regional TAC. She requested Dr. Ntale to chair the meeting. Ms Solomon called on the participants to come up with recommendations for the consideration of the Executive Committee. Dr. M. Tawfik, WMO, in his capacity as the chairman of UN-Water Africa thanked AMCOW for inviting the UN Agencies to participate in this important meeting and he assured the participants of UN systems support to their activities to achieve their goals. Statements were also made by representatives of the African Development Bank, African Union, NEPAD, African Development Bank, and the UNEP, UNECA.
4. Agenda Items:

The meeting accorded particular attention to the Agenda items relating to the triennial work programme and trust fund of AMGOW, the African Water Facility, and strengthening AMGOW work at the country and sub-regional level, relation between AMGOW and AU, relations with regional economic communities as well as river and lake basin organisations. In addition, the implementation of the EU Water Initiative for Africa was reviewed with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee for accelerating progress.

Consideration was given to the hosting agreement proposed by the government of Nigeria with respect to AMGOW Secretariat. Furthermore, the AMGOW’s contribution to the 2005 World Summit on the five-year review of the millennium declaration as well as the forthcoming G8 Summit were discussed. In this regard, the implications for AMGOW of the outcomes of the 13th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development were considered including the needed follow up in the region.

Proposals for enhancing coordination and communication between and among the members of AMGOW were discussed. The role of AMGOW in the 2006 4th World Water Forum was also given due consideration by the participants.

5. Outcomes and Recommendations:

5.1 Hosting Arrangement

Expressed AMGOW’s gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic for Africa and the UN Water Africa for providing excellent arrangements and facilities which facilitated the smooth conduct of the meetings.

Also expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia and its Ministry of Water Resources for its gracious agreement to host the meeting and for the solid support and hospitality extended to AMGOW.
ANNEX 1


5.2 Work Programme:
A progress report on the consideration by the EU Water Facility of the funding proposal submitted by AMCOW was presented. The purpose of the proposal was to secure funding support for the implementation of the triennial work programme of AMCOW. A response from the EU acknowledging receipt of the proposal. The Chair of AMCOW-TAC will follow up.

5.3. Trust Fund:
In line with the decisions of the fifth session of AMCOW (Uganda, November 2004), an AMCOW Trust Fund was to be formally established and UNEP to be requested to manage it. The participants noted the measures taken by the President of AMCOW culminating in the establishment of the Fund. It was also noted that UNEP Executive Director announced a contribution of One hundred Thousand Dollars from the Organisation. It was also recalled that the President of AMCOW had undertaken a number of bilateral consultations with development cooperation partners with a view to mobilising contributions to the Trust Fund.

i) Express appreciation to the Government of Nigeria for its gracious contribution of US$449,500 towards operational cost of the office secretariat;

ii) Express appreciation to the President of AMCOW and the Executive Director of UNEP for the step taken culminating in the establishment of the AMCOW Trust Fund and for UNEP’s contribution of US$100,000.

iii) Requests the President of AMCOW to convene a meeting with the development cooperation Ministers of Germany, Denmark, Canada, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Representatives of the African Union and the European Union on support to AMCOW Trust Fund.

iv) Requests the President of AMCOW to consider inviting selected dignitaries to serve as Patrons of AMCOW for the period 2005-2006 who can assist in the mobilization of resources in support of AMCOW’s work. In this regard, the participants, in an indicative manner mentioned H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, Prime Minister of Senegal (a founding member of AMCOW), H.E. Mr. Joachim Chisano, former President of Mozambique (currently the UN Secretary General’s Special envoy), H.E. Ambassador Salim Mohammed Salim, former Secretary General of the then Organisation of African Unity and currently Ambassador for Water), Mr. K.Y. Amaoko, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic for Africa and a member of the Commission for Africa).

v) Requests the President of AMCOW to formally invite all African countries to make a minimum contribution of US$10,000 annually. This will underscore ownership and commitment and therefore can encourage positive donor support.
vi) Further request the President of AMCO\textsuperscript{W} to develop an effective resource mobilisation strategy of AMCO\textsuperscript{W} and to this end may commission a study with a view to presenting recommendations to the 6\textsuperscript{th} Ordinary Session (AMCO\textsuperscript{W}) for the adoption of a medium and long-term strategy for the sustainable financing of the work programme and related activities.

vii) Requests the President of AMCO\textsuperscript{W} to initiate consultations with the ADB on the possibilities of financial support from the ADB Water Partnership Programme.

viii) Express appreciation to the Government of Germany and its Technical Cooperation Agency for the support extended to AMCO\textsuperscript{W}’s effort for the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of the AMCO\textsuperscript{W} work programme and its commitment. The Executive Committee thanks the German Technical Cooperation Agency for facilitating, through financial support, the convening, in Addis Ababa, of the AMCO\textsuperscript{W} meeting.

5.4 African Water Facility:
Express appreciation to the ADB for the arrangement made for the management and operation of the African Water Facility and welcome the appointment of Mr. Bedoumra Kordje, the Director and the other staff.

AMCO\textsuperscript{W}-TAC noted the progress made in the establishment of the African Water Facility, including arrangement for the convening of the inaugural meeting of the governing council in Tunis, Tunisia on 8\textsuperscript{th} July 2005. In this regard, all AMCO\textsuperscript{W} representatives on the governing council of AWF are urged to attend this important meeting.

5.5 The EU Water Initiative for Africa:
Notes the assessment of the progress made and needed in the implementation of the EU Water Initiative for Africa notably the activities of the five Thematic Working Group (Water Supply and Sanitation; Integrated Water Resources Management; Finance; Research and Development; Monitoring and Evaluation).

Requests the President of AMCO\textsuperscript{W} to facilitate a comprehensive assessment of the strength and weaknesses in the implementation of the Terms of Reference and for the Thematic Group and to consult with the EU on the modalities for a mid-term review to agree on the road map on the way forward.

5.6 AMCO\textsuperscript{W} relationship with the AU:
Express appreciation to the African Union and its Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture for the ongoing consultations on AMCO\textsuperscript{W}’s relationship with the Union (African Union).

Welcomes the Sirte Declaration which “requests the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to adapt the mandate, structures and activities of AMCO\textsuperscript{W}, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, and the African Ministers Conference on Agriculture in order to integrate them into the activities of the AU Commission and its specialised technical committees.
Appreciates the briefing provided by the African Union on the constitutive act as it relates to the specialised technical committees.

Requests the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture to integrate into her report to the Ambassadors the following AMCOW proposals:

a) the establishment, at the policy level, of a separate STC on Water Resources Management in order to take account of the magnitude of the water agenda on the continent and the need for its focussed handling;

b) maintenance, at the operational level, of existing organisational and financial arrangement of AMCOW. In this regard, a contact between the AU Commission and AMCOW should be stepped up to work the modalities for enhanced coordination and harmonisation;

c) AMCOW recommends that at the technical and legal level, the African Union study the establishment of a Specialized Technical Committee on Water Resources within the AU. The study to which AMCOW will be closely associated with will be aimed at analyzing all integration modalities of AMCOW within the African Union in accordance with the decisions of Heads of State and Government of Sirte.

d) During the transitional phase of realization and adoption of this study, AMCOW will have to pursue a work program, strengthen its capacities and intervention effectiveness. In this regard, AMCOW and the Specialized Committee of the African Union will have to strengthen the coordination of their activities in order to harmonize their programs and their interventions.

5.7 Strengthening Coordination with Regional Communities, River and Lake Basins and other relevant institutions:

Resolve to take necessary measures to strengthen AMCOW’s cooperation with the regional economic communities, river and lake basin organisations and other relevant institutions as well as civil society groups in the work of AMCOW.

5.8 Strengthening AMCOW’s Sub-regional Presence

Requests the AMCOW Vice Presidents of the Sub-Region to (a) explore the possibilities to institutionalise regular sub-regional ministerial consultations with a view to monitoring progress in the implementation of AMCOW decisions and to develop (b) to promote closer involvement of the regional economic communities and relevant inter-governmental bodies in furtherance of the goals of AMCOW; (c) to encourage the full participation of AMCOW National focal point in the implementation of AMCOW decisions (d) work out modalities for supporting the work of AMCOW in the sub-regions including through special partnership arrangements.
5.9 **Recommendations of the Commission for Africa on the Establishment of Centres of Excellence for Water Sciences Technologies**

Welcomes the recommendations of the Commission for Africa and the follow up measures identified by the NEPAD Workshop (Nairobi, May 2005). In this regard, endorse the proposal for the convening, in Abuja Nigeria, in the second half of 2005 of a joint meeting of the NEPAD Ministers of Science and Technologies and the AMCOw Ministers to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Workshop.

Requests AMCOw TAC to work closely with the relevant NEPAD institutions in the preparation and convening of the joint Ministerial meeting.

5.10 **2005 World Summit**

Call on AMCOw Ministers to carefully review the draft outcome document of the Summit which was distributed by the general assembly on 3 June 2005 for review by Government and other concerned parties with a view to ensuring that Africa’s water related concern are duly addressed.

5.11 **G8 Summit**

Welcome the attention accorded to AMCOw and Africa’s water policy challenges in the report of the Commission for Africa. Request the G8 Summit to adopt measures for the strengthening of AMCOw’s coordinating role in the region.

5.12 **4th World Water Forum:**

requests the AMCOw TAC to participate in the preparation for the 4th Water Forum to be held in Mexico in 2006 with a view to ensuring an active AMCOw presence and participation;

requests AMCOw TAC to closely collaborate with the relevant African institutions including ADB and other partners of AMCOw (UN Water Africa, Development cooperation partners, African Civil Society groups) in developing AMCOw’s input and contribution in the 4th WWF.

Establish for the above purpose, jointly with the ADB, UN Water Africa and other partners, (a) steering committee, to be chaired by an AMCOw Executive Committee member, to provide overall guidance. The membership of the Committee should include representative of the AMCOw EXCO, AU, ADB, UN Water Africa and NEPAD, (b) a technical committee to be co-chaired by AMCOw TAC and ADB to give technical guidance. The membership should include AMCOw, ADB, UN Water Africa, GWP, ANEW, World Water Council (WWC) and other relevant bodies.

The President of AMCOw to formally request the ADB to play the role of regional beacon and support AMCOw in putting together Africa’s contribution and ensuring Africa’s participation in the 4WWF.
5.13 Gender and Water Resources Management in Africa:
Reaffirm the commitment taking by AMCOW at the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference (PANAFCON), Addis Ababa, December 2003 to gender and water resources management and sanitation in Africa.

Note with appreciation the progress made in the development of the Action Plan on mainstreaming gender in the Africa water policies programmes and projects and request the AMCOW TAC to collaborate with all concerned parties in the development of implementation proposal.

5.14 Monitoring Progress:

Ensuring the implementation in Africa, of the internally agreed goals and commitments.

Request the President of AMCOW to develop proposals for the systematic monitoring of the Millennium declaration, outcomes of World Summit on Sustainable Development and those of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) - water cycle (12th and 13th Session of the CSD) follow up by AMCOW member countries.

5.15 AMCOW’s Communication and Information Strategy:

Commend the President of AMCOW for the steps taken to develop communication and information strategy and note with satisfaction the progress made in this regard. The necessary measures should be taken to complete the process and request Development Cooperation partners – ADB and UN Water Africa to fully support the ongoing measures or the development of a full-fledged AMCOW information and communication strategy.

5.16 Hosting Agreement:

i. AMCOW EXCO expresses its appreciation and accepts in principle the offer of the Government of Nigeria.

ii. The draft agreement be referred to legal experts for refining along the lines recommended above. This process should be completed within two weeks from the date of submission.

iii. The revised draft be presented to the Government of Nigeria for consideration. (It is hoped that the Government of Nigeria shall have completed its consideration within four weeks).

iv. AMCOW EXCO should mandate the President of AMCOW to accept on behalf of AMCOW the offer of the Government of Nigeria after the latter’s favourable consideration of the document. The President may sign the agreement with the Government of Nigeria or mandate the future Executive Secretary to do so on behalf of AMCOW. It is hoped that the Secretariat will become functional by January 2006.