1. Introduction

As part of the preparatory process for the 6th AMCW Ordinary Session to be held in Congo Brazzaville, a TAC meeting was held on 4-5 March 2007 in Abuja Nigeria. The meeting reviewed the progress made on the policy decisions adopted by the EXCO and followed up by TAC during the period 2004-2006. Prior to this TAC meeting, there were some preparatory Sub-Committees formed on agreed upon themes, and these also presented their reports for further consideration by TAC. A number of new and or emerging issues on which urgent action needed to be taken were also discussed. Some issues discussed in the meeting required follow-up and/or consultations either at national, sub-regional or regional levels.

2. Attendance:

The TAC meeting was attended by members from:

Central Africa: Republic of Congo
Eastern Africa: Kenya, Uganda
Northern Africa: Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco
Southern Africa: Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia
Western Africa: Nigeria, Burkina Faso

In attendance were the representatives of the African Union, ANEW, Africa Development Bank and African Water Facility, officials of the UN Water Africa (i.e. WMO, UNEP, UN-Habitat), UNSGBA, FEMA, WB-WSP and Global Water Partnership. The full participants list is attached Annex 1.

3. Opening:

The meeting was called to order by Dr Henry Ntale, Chairman of TAC, at 9:30, who welcomed participants for honouring the invitation and also thanked Nigeria for hosting the meeting. UNEP was also thanked for the logistical support to the meeting. Participants were informed that the TAC meeting was expected to make recommendations to EXCO as part of the preparations for the 6th Ordinary Session expected to take place 30th April-5th May 2007.
4. Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was adopted as attached in Annex 2.

5. Report of the TAC - Outcomes and Recommendations

5.1 AMCOW Memorandum of understanding
The members were informed that the MOU was distributed to member states for signature, but only 11 countries have so far signed. Some countries had not received the MoU while others were still in consultations.

TAC Recommends the MoU be circulated again to the rest of the member countries along with the invitation to the 6th Ordinary Session and there should be follow up.

5.2 Rotation of the AMCOW presidency
Ministers will recall that they requested TAC to recommend a procedure for the biennially revolving AMCOW Presidency. After Central Africa the following presidency should go to Southern Africa and thereafter to Northern Africa.

TAC Recommends the order for the revolving Presidency will be as follows: Central Africa, Southern Africa, Northern Africa, West Africa, Eastern Africa. The particular country to hold the Presidency should be left to the sub-regional consultations.

5.3 Secretariat Hosting Agreement
EXCO will 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.

5.4 Financing the Triennial work programme
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. The programme now covers 2007-2009. All member countries should get the revised copy of the programme.

The rest of the contributions are expected to come from counterpart contributions (GTZ, GWP, etc.) and AMCOW member states. Participants were informed that apart from Nigeria that made a substantial contribution at the onset, only three countries to date are in advanced stages of making their $10,000 agreed upon annual contribution. It was noted with concern that the work programme could 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.

Ministers are reminded that the Trust Fund agreement with UNEP is due to be reviewed in December 2007.

The following issues were noted:
• 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.

**TAC Recommends**

- That a sub-committee on developing a resource mobilization strategy be formed (as per Executive Committee decision of June 2005). The membership will consist of UNEP, AfDB, Kenya, Algeria, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and South Africa. WSP also volunteered to be on this committee. 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.

- Requests the AMCOW president 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.

5.5. Relationship with AU

The AU informed 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.

**TAC recommends** to EXCO that they express appreciation to the AU regarding this decision.

5.6. AMCOW Communications Strategy

Development co-operation partners were requested during the June 2005 EXCO 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. The development of the strategy will commence soon since funds are now available in the Trust Fund.

5.7. AMCOW Secretariat

You will recall that the EXCO of February 2006 approved the AMCOW Secretariat structure and that an independent body initiate the recruitment process. Discussions with UNEP on this issue have also been initiated. Some funds have now been received to commence with recruitment, but Ministers should take note that the funds received from EU can only support the recruitment of one person – the Executive Secretary.

**TAC recommends:**

- That recruitment of the Executive Secretary commence as soon as possible;
- That the AMCOW President’s office and the Secretariat in Abuja and Congo Brazzaville consult and come up with an interim arrangement for the Secretariat.

5.8 Strengthening Sub-regional 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.
TAC recommends to further explore modalities of strengthening sub-regional structures, noting that funds are now available to convene regular meetings of sub-regional organs.

5.9 G8 Action Plan/German Initiative

At its 5th Ordinary Session the AMCOW Council approved the project concept for the G8 Action Plan/German Initiative and directed TAC to develop the project document. Project initiation was successful especially in policy development and this was very useful in supporting the office of the presidency and the TAC chair. The project has completed its inception phase.

As a result of a review of the inception phase (November 2006) the project added two pillars: Strengthening AMCOW Sub-regional structures and Creation of an AMCOW Strategy Unit. The latter pillar in particular 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, synthesising study reports, conducting policy studies and analyses, and collecting data and information at region, continental, and international levels.

TAC recommends that Ministers appreciate the contribution made by the German Government through GTZ and to endorse the two new pillars proposed for the initiative.

5.10. 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. Participants were informed that the strategy for enhancing the engagement of Civil Society Organisations was complete and that the “African Network of Civil Society Organisations on water -ANEW”, was now on board working very closely with AMCOW.

TAC was requested to formalise, 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.

TAC Recommends that EXCO mandate the AMCOW President to sign the MoU on behalf of AMCOW.

5.11. 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 (CSO) 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 current, and incoming Presidency.

**TAC Recommends** that EXCO:
- Consider entering into a MoU between World Bank/WSP and AMCOW spelling out the areas of co-operation.
- Appreciates the WSP and partners support for the CSO reports, and should direct TAC to work with the WSP to extend the study to other African countries.
- 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.
- Officially launch the CSO report during the 6th Ordinary Session of AMCOW.

### 5.12 African Water Facility
Ministers are 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.

**TAC recommends** for EXCO 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 be composed of Lesotho, South Africa, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Uganda, Kenya, Algeria, Egypt, Burkina Faso and Nigeria). The committee will also provide general support and advice to the AMCOW members on the Governing Council.

### 5.13 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.

EXCO is invited to note that implementation of the above processes is underway.

### 5.14 4th World Water Forum in Mexico
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.

**TAC recommends**

- 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.
- AMCOW expresses appreciation to the AfDB and the Committee of Ministers for the
successful coordination of Africa’s participation in the 4th World Water Forum.

5.15. African 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.

**TAC recommends**

- That EXCO endorse the proposal to launch an African Water Week
- That appropriate mechanisms be put in place to plan and prepare for the Water Week
- That AfDB be requested to take a leading role in planning for the event
- That consultations shall be done with AMCOW, the AfDB and the Government of Kenya to explore possibilities to host the African Water Week - considering the proposal by UN-Habitat to offer support to the hosting of the event if held in Kenya

5.16. United Nations Secretary General’s Advisory Board (UNSGAB) Africa Dialogue
Ministers are 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.

**TAC recommends**:

- 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 the necessary preparation to lead to the process.
- UNSGAB should be invited to the next 6th Ordinary Session of AMCOW.
- UNSGAB and AMCOW should engage in formal collaboration arrangements.

5.17 Global Water Partnership (GWP)
Ministers are invited to note that GWP is supporting 12 countries to formulate IWRM plans for achievement of the WSSD target. Eritrea, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi have completed technical drafts of their plans, which are now being incorporated in the national development framework.

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 dialogue in Uganda on 16 march 2007, to be followed by Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda, as well as in three other countries in each sub-region.

In September 2006, GWP supported an East African sub-regional meeting of AMCOW. The meeting directed TAC, with support from GWP, to prioritise identification of constraints and opportunities in financing of water activities within the region. A sub-regional meeting for Eastern Africa, will be held in Nairobi 16-18 April 2007. A similar meeting was held in Southern Africa in 2006, and another is planned for Western Africa in March 2007.

**TAC Recommends** that EXCO:

- Consider entering into a MoU between Global Water Partnership (GWP) and AMCOW spelling out the areas of co-operation.
5.18 Ground Water Initiative
Ministers are 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 and rural areas of the continent.

**TAC recommends** EXCO should urge 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.

5.19 Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)
Ministers are 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.

**TAC recommends** that:
- Consideration be given to the proposal to jointly host a water infrastructure financing meeting in 2008
- Taking note of the issue and engaging with ICA with a view to raise the profile of water within ICA and to his effect initiate a dialogue with ICA.

5.20 Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)
Ministers are 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 provide access to an additional 24 million people by 2010. 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. It is also anticipated the same trend in shortfall is expected in the commitment of other donors as well as national commitments.

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

5.21 NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility
Ministers are 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.

5.22 Medium To Long Term Strategic Framework Study
Ministers are 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.

**TAC recommends**
- Under the leadership of AMCOW the water sector should gear itself to participate actively in the development of MLTSF. A forum where issues should be articulated should be created.
- Create close collaboration between the sector, through relevant organs of AMCOW, RECS and R/LBO.

5.23. EU Water Initiative
Ministers are asked to note 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 three areas:

(i) Promoting Water and Sanitation related issues within the African – EU Infrastructure Partnership (IP)
The meeting was informed the EU has established a new financial instrument for the coming years, i.e. Africa EU infrastructure partnership (IP) which will be a major source of financing infrastructure in Africa. 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 has to move towards achievement of the MDGs. The meeting agreed that in order to achieve this, 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.

**TAC recommends** that AMCOW should endorse this idea and instruct 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.

(ii) Establishment of a water policy dialogue forum (WPDF)
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 to sustainable water resources management in Africa. Ministers should further recall that the objective of the initiative is also to reinforce political will and commitment to action as well as to promote water governance. The initiative seeks to catalyze peace and security. Therefore, there has 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.

**TAC recommends** to the Ministers that:
- 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).

(iii) EU Water Facility
The main objective of this item was to raise with AMCOW-TAC the fact that the present EU Water Facility will be coming to an end and that EU would like the Facility to be extended with funds from EDF10. The meeting was informed by EU partners that the Water Facility Unit has agreed in principle to provide 600,000 Euros for the African Working Group (AWG) and 400,000 euros for the Finance Working Group, the meeting was further informed that France and Germany will provide a further 320,000 euros to the AWG activities. A mid-term review of the Facility is going on and hence it is important for AMCOW to express its view so that they be considered under 10th EDF which will be an instrument to finance the Facility.

**TAC recommends that:**
- 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 too much demanding application process for requests to the facility, the funding level of the facility etc. These views should be expressed done through appropriate channels, i.e. African Ministers of Finance and Development who are the negotiators of 10th EDF.

5.24. Water and Sanitation for African Cities
Ministers are 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 initiative.

**TAC recommends to the Ministers to take note of the good progress made by UN-HABITAT in furthering the water agenda.**

5.25 Tiger Initiative
Ministers are 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.

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

Ministers are invited to take note of the presentation of FEMA on its activities. Areas of collaboration with AMCOW were highlighted to include advocacy for hydropower infrastructure development, policy matter and resource mobilization. An invitation was extended to AMCOW to attend the FEMA General Council meeting to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, 28-30 March 2007. The Conference will discuss energy security and sustainability of supply, among other issues.

**TAC recommends to the Ministers to establish formal avenues of collaboration with FEMA and to tap synergies of the two institutions.**

5.27. UN-Water/Africa Support to AMCOW
Ministers may wish to note that UN-water/Africa is the regional body representing the UN-Water (Global) in Africa. The meeting also noted that the final electronic version of the African Development Report was launched by the AMCOW President during the 4th World Water Forum
in Mexico in March 2006. Further it is noted that the publication will be 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. The final edited version will be launched at the 6th AMCOW Ordinary Session in electronic form. 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 this is not a new issue and usually there are different opinions on this issue. Therefore 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.

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.

**TAC Recommends the following:**

▫️ 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.
▫️ That EXCO address the need to reach out to the private sector to support rain water harvesting.

**5.28 New partnerships and consultations with R/LBOs**

Ministers will be pleased to note 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 and mandated a Special Committee to spearhead continued 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 convened its inaugural meeting from 17-18 November 2006 at Sandton City in Johannesburg, with discussions 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 post–conference 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.

**TAC recommends** that the Ministers endorse the recommendations of the 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.**

5.29 Structure and organisation of the 6th Ordinary Session

The EXCO is invited to note that the 6th Ordinary Session of the AMCOW General Assembly will be held in Congo-Brazzaville from 30th April to 5th May 2007. Congo Brazzaville confirmed that state protocol arrangements for hosting the 6th Ordinary Session were in advanced stages.

**TAC Recommends** that:
▫ The Session should be divided into two segments:
  o The partnership for implementation segment,
  o The Ministerial segment.