AFRICAN MINISTERS’ COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS’ COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW) MEETING
NAIROBI, KENYA, 22-23 NOVEMBER 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the EXCO of AMCOW was convened by its President in order to deliberate on strategies for carrying forward the Brazzaville Declaration, Outcomes and Decisions. The meeting took place at the United Nations Conference Centre in Nairobi and was hosted by the Government of Kenya (Ministry of Water and Irrigation) in close cooperation with United Nations entities in Kenya. The following members of the Executive Committee attended.

The meeting was preceded by the following segments: the AMCOW side event on Africa and Climate Change which was convened by the President of AMCOW and hosted by the Minister of Water and Environment of Uganda and chaired by Minister of Water of Tanzania. This segment took place in Jinja, Uganda, on 16 & 17 November 2007. The Tanzania Minister of Water represented the President of AMCOW and chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives of governments, Pan-African Institutions, UN Agencies, Civil Society groups, African Scientific Institutions, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to the UN, Development Cooperation Partners, the Media, and major groups. The outcomes included the Jinja Declaration on Africa and Climate Change which included specific contributions to the November 2007 meeting (Kampala, Uganda) meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth. It also encompassed contributions to AMCOW which call for the convening by AMCOW of a Preparatory Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change in view of the serious impact on Africa’s Water Resources. The outcome of such a conference will fit into the 2009 Conference of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties which will take place in Copenhagen. The Jinja Declaration is in Annex I.

The second segment was on the AMCOW Decisions regarding the institutionalization of dialogue on Groundwater Management in Africa and took place in Nairobi on 18-19 November 2007. The results of the meeting included specific proposals for the establishment of an AMCOW Commission on Groundwater Management. The outcomes include specific recommendations relating, inter alia, to the establishment by AMCOW of a Groundwater Commission.

This was followed by the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (Nairobi, 20-21 November 2007) of AMCOW which reviewed the decisions and outcomes of 6th Session of AMCOW and formulated specific recommendations for the consideration for EXCO meeting. The TAC also put in place a Sub-Committee which was mandated to review the applications for the post of the AMCOW Executive Secretary. The outcomes of the review were presented to the EXCO which decided on the steps to be taken in order to finalise the recruitment and hiring process. The following TAC members attended.

The meeting of EXCO (Nairobi, 22-23 November 2007) was opened by the President of the AMCOW who also chaired the deliberations. The Kenyan Minister of Water and Irrigation welcomed the EXCO members to Kenya and also delivered a statement. Opening remarks were made by the Director General of the UN Office in Nairobi and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Executive Director of UNEP, Director of Water and Sanitation Department and of the African Water Facility of the African Development Bank, the Ambassador of France in Kenya representing the European Union. This was followed by Statements of the respective Vice Presidents of AMCOW for Southern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Northern Africa.
II.  The EXCO

The EXCO meeting had before it the provisional agenda and the Draft Report of the TAC. The Chairman of the AMCOW TAC provided an overall briefing and overview of the outcomes of the segments which preceded and also introduced the recommendations of his committee (TAC).

III. CONTEXT OF THE MEETINGS

The Brazzaville Outcomes and Decisions, adopted by the 6th Session of African Ministers’ Council on Water provided impetus and strategic direction for AMCOW’s future work. The decisions which were adopted aim at consolidating the mandate of the Council in order to reinforce its role in bringing the water sector from the margins to the mainstream of the broader socio-economic development of the African Union. Central to the strategy adopted in Brazzaville, are the following:

- Further engaging in the regional integration processes, especially with the AU but also with other regional and sub-regional bodies. The full engagement, involvement and contribution of all African countries will be critical;
- Strengthening the structures of governance in AMCOW, the technological and technical capacities of its organs, including the Secretariat, as well as reinforcing support arrangements for the effective implementation of our decisions and work programme;
- Consolidating and coordinating existing regional and international partnerships, as well as identifying and engaging in new partnership arrangements;
- Securing self-reliance with regard to the means of implementing our own decisions while counting on international solidarity for augmenting our own efforts and resources; and
- Promoting and monitoring actions on the MDGs related to the water and sanitation sectors in Africa, and enhancing AMCOW’s capacity to catalyze the necessary measures.

IV. OUTCOMES AND DECISIONS OF THE EXCO MEETING

The following decisions of the 6th Session of AMCOW were given due consideration:

1. Governance, institutional and operational arrangement:

The Executive Committee:

a) **Decides** to note with appreciation the progress made by the African Union Commission toward the integration of AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee (STC) into the structure of the AU, and urge the Commission and the Member States to hasten their respective consultations with the view to concluding the integration by the end of the year 2007;

b) **Takes note** with appreciation the AU Commission’s “Guidelines for establishing a Cooperative Framework Agreement for the Integrated Management of Transboundary Basins”, and urge the Commission to ensure a wide distribution of the guidelines among Member States to be used as a reference document.

c) **Takes note** that the AU Commission is finalizing the printing of the guidelines which will be in all the four AU languages. The necessary distribution will be undertaken.

d) **Decides** to undertake further consultations with the AU on the implications on AMCOW membership of the Council’s integration in the AU.

e) **Invites** the Sub-regional Vice Presidents to reflect on the way forward and to agree on a time-frame for implementing the above mentioned decisions. The AMCOW TAC is of the view that the necessary action on the items raised in the President’s letter should receive early attention.
f) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to appeal to those countries which have not yet signed the MoU to take the necessary measures. Contribution to the AMCOW Trust Fund by member states will leverage donor contribution.

g) **Directs** TAC to develop specific proposals for the AMCOW Presidency handing over modalities for its consideration.

h) **Notes** that the Host Country Agreement was concluded and signed on 17 February 2006 by the Nigerian High Commission to Uganda and mandates the President of AMCOW and Vice President of AMCOW for Western Africa to undertake the necessary consultations with the Federal Minister of Water and Agriculture of Nigeria on the implementation of the Agreement.

i) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to send a letter of appreciation to the Nigerian Government for the measures taken for the signing of the Host Country Agreement.

j) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to send a note of appreciation to the AU Commission for the assistance rendered in the recruitment process of the post of Executive Secretary of AMCOW.

k) **Notes**, with appreciation, the outcome of the work of Review Committee which was put in place by TAC to evaluate the applications received for the post of Executive Secretary of AMCOW

l) **Directs** TAC to interview the top five candidates and submit to EXCO a list of three most suitable candidates for its consideration.

m) **Decides** to take the final decision at its meeting in the margins of 2nd African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene Sanitation to be held in Durban in February 2008.

n) **Directs** the Secretariat and the President’s Support Office to finalize the modalities for cooperation by the end of December 2007.

2 **Affiliations** – Civil Society, RLBOs

2.1 **Civil Society organizations**

The Executive Committee:

Welcomes and appreciates the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on one hand between (i) AMCOW and ANEW and on the other hand between (ii) AMCOW and GWP.

2.2 **River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/LBOs)**

The Executive Committee:

a) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to transmit the decisions to the chair of ANBO and to bring to his attention the recommendations of the 6th Session of AMCOW and inviting the Executive Committee of ANBO to perform the functions of the AMCOW Water Basin Organization Sub-Committee. In this regard, to also inform the Chair of ANBO that South Africa has been proposed to chair the Committee.

b) **Decides** that a member of the AMCOW TAC be delegated to sit on the Executive Committee of ANBO;

c) **Requests** the AfDB to place the item on the establishment a Multi-stakeholder Forum to coordinate inputs of key stakeholders like ANBO, ANEW, GWP on the agenda of the AfricanWater Week.

3. **ENHANCING AMCOW’S RELATIONS (YOUTH, WOMEN, PARLIAMENTARIANS)***
3.1 African Children’s Water and Sanitation Initiative

The Executive Committee:

a) **Expresses** appreciation to UNICEF for facilitating the first ever African Children’s Assembly on water;

b) **Requests** UNICEF to cooperate with AMCOW, UN-Habitat and others to institutionalize an AMCOW annual/biennial children’s assembly on water; Council will designate a member country to explore ways and means of operationalizing the recommended action.

4. **FINANCIAL MATTERS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

The Executive Committee:

a) **Considers** the report of the Finance Department of UNEP

b) **Invites** the AfDB to provide a briefing on progress made in resource mobilization for the African Water Facility

c) **Requests** TAC to establish a Sub-committee for the purposes of developing a resource mobilization strategy. The resource mobilization sub-committee should map out all resources coming from development co-operation partnerships.

4.1 African Water Facility (AWF)

The Executive Committee:

a) **Takes note** of the satisfactory implementation progress of the activities of the Water Facility and approval by the Governing Council of Facility, the Operational Strategy and the Indicative Financing Programme for 2008-2010.

b) **Welcomes** the election of Hon. Monyane Moleleki, Minister of Natural Resources of Lesotho as Chairman of the Governing Council of the Facility and mandated the President of AMCOW to write a letter of thanks to Hon AbuZied Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, for his services as the Chairman of the Governing Council over the past two years.

c) **Decides** that the Committee of 10 AMCOW TAC members continue to work with the Facility for consultation and to facilitate linkages the Facility. To this effect, the President of AMCOW to request the Vice Presidents of the sub regions to nominate two TAC members each and this be communicated immediately to the Facility.

d) **Agrees** to formalise the attendance of TAC Chair and Executive Secretary of AMCOW at the Governing Council and other important meetings of the Facility and for the Director Facility or his representative to attend the TAC and EXCO meetings.

e) **Welcomes** the announcement by Senegal to contribute to the Facility and mandate the President of AMCOW to write a letter to all African Governments requesting contribution to Facility.

f) **Decides** that the AMCOW representative with AWF undertake a series of resources mobilisation missions to donor countries to this effect for AWF to prepare mission programme involving AMCOW.

g) **Requests** AWF to organise high-level roundtable involving EXCO and representatives of donors countries during around the Water Week.
h) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW with support of AWF to take steps to bring the Facility to the attention of African Governments and partners and other high-level decisions makers and that AWF prepare a communication package to facilitate this.

### 4.2 Africa Water Week

**The Executive Committee:**

a) **Appreciates** with satisfaction on the preparatory work conducted by the AfDB and submission of the First Water Week (AWW1) Concept Note elaborating the objectives, themes, date and resources requirement as well implementation modalities.

b) **Endorses** the overarching theme of the First African Water Week as **“Accelerating Water Security for Socio-Economic Development of Africa”** with themes focusing on world experience on achieving water security; cooperation on transboundary water resources; water security challenges and the sanitation gap; water information & knowledge; investing in infrastructure for water; water security and status of achieving the MDG challenges of environmental and social impacts for water infrastructure; roles of stakeholders and the development of appropriate partnerships

c) **Endorses** the proposed event date of March 26-28, 2008 and to this effect for the AfDB to proceed with the first announcement of the event and detailed programme development.

d) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to establish a Steering Committee of representative of AMCOW and other key stakeholders as well a technical committee of representatives of AMCOW TAC and the AfDB.

e) **Mandates** the President to request the AMCOW Minster for host country Tunisia to provide leadership and work with the Bank as senior representative of AMCOW and for AMCOW TAC member from Tunisia to work with the Bank lead the technical process.

f) **Decides** that Kenya Government be requested to host the event in 2009 with support of a consortium of Agencies including UN-Habitat, UNEP and UNESCO; other Development Partners and institutions are encouraged.

### 4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

**The Executive Committee:**

a) **Notes** the satisfactory progress by AWF in launching the comprehensive assessment of existing M&E systems at the national and sub-regional and regional level, programme for strengthening national M&E capacity.

b) **Requests** the Facility to take actions with respect to strengthening the national M&E mechanisms and capacity.

### 4.4 World Water Forum

**The Executive Committee:**

a) **Requests** the committees to be formed for the First Water Week to consider the follow-up actions and concretisation of outcome of the regional participation at the 4th WWF this in the Water Week programme.

b) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to express appreciation to the AfDB and the Committee of Ministers for the successful coordination of Africa’s participation in the 4th World Water Forum. President of AMCOW to send letter of appreciation to the Committee of minister and the AfDB.
c) **Requests** the committees formed for the First African Water Week to also take responsibility for leading the regional process with respect to the 5th World Water Forum.

d) **Requests** the AfDB to continue taking the lead in organising the regional process and identify the key stakeholder for participation in the multi-stakeholders meeting of early 2008.

5. **Partner Initiatives**

5.1 **Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)**

The Executive Committee:

a) **Takes** note that the ICA is preparing water infrastructure financing proposal and that AMCOW will be consulted at the appropriate time.

b) **Mandates** the President of AMCOW to request AWF to facilitate the consultation between ICA and AMCOW and ensure the water and sanitation issues are properly addressed in ICA programmes.

5.2 **Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)**

The Executive Committee:

a) **Takes** note with satisfaction the AfDB has launched the country situation assessment and this will be finalised in 2008.

b) **Requests** AfDB to expand the programme in the remaining countries below MDG targets and for AMCOW to closely work with AfDB on resources mobilisation.

5.3 **NEPAD Water and Sanitation Programme**

The Executive Committee:

a) **Takes** note that preparation of Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework has progressed and that the sector review workshop involving stakeholders were held in August, 2007 provided major input for improving the report of the consultant.

b) **Request** AWF to facilitate the dialogue and collaboration between RECs, RBOs, and AMCOW within the framework the AWF engagement in transboundary water resources management operations.

5.4 **World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme**

The Executive Committee:

a) **Decides** to sign a MoU between World Bank/WSP and AMCOW spelling out the areas of co-operation.

b) **Expresses appreciation** to the WSP and partners for support the Country Status Overview reports, and to direct TAC to work with the WSP to extend the study to other African countries.

c) **Requests** WSP to contribute to the Strategy Unit and see how they can enhance knowledge on issues relating to water and sanitation on the continent.
5.6 G8 Action Plan/German Initiative

The Executive Committee:

a) **Decides** that Ministers appreciate the contribution made by the German Government through GTZ and to endorse the two new pillars proposed for the initiative.

b) **Welcomes** the reaffirmation of GTZ of their commitment to support the President’s Office in Brazzaville as they did in Uganda and to extend such support to the Secretariat in Abuja once it becomes fully functional. The AMCOW President’s office should officially submit their detailed needs to GTZ.

c) **Endorses** the establishment of the TAC Task Team (Algeria, Egypt and Namibia) to develop the concept note for the establishment of AMCOW Resource Centre.

d) **Welcomes** the appointment of a consultant is appointed by GTZ to carry out the needs for the support options of AMCOW Sub-regional structures and to submit the report by end of February 2008 for consideration by AMCOW.

5.7 United Nations Secretary General’s Advisory Board (UNSGAB) Africa Dialogue

The Executive Committee:

a) **Notes** that as follow up to the Tunis consultative meeting of AMCOW-UNSGAB, the briefing of the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) in preparation for the proposed AU Water and Sanitation Summit in 2008.

b) **Requests** AMCOW members in their capacity to brief their respective Heads of State on the possibility of the AU convening a Summit on Water and Sanitation in July 2008 and for the President and Vice-Presidents to follow-up.

5.8 Groundwater Initiative

The Executive Committee:

a) **Decides** to establish a Commission on ground water management.

b) **Directs** UNEP, in close cooperation with TAC and other partners to develop proposals for the consideration of the President of AMCOW regarding the overall institutional architecture of AMCOW to facilitate decision making on the governance of the Commission.

5.9 Rainwater Harvesting

The Executive Committee:

**Requests** the AfDB, AWF and other partners to strengthen cooperation in the region on rainwater harvesting. The AfDB and AWF should support the financing of projects on rainwater harvesting.

5.10 UN-Water/Africa Support to AMCOW

The Executive Committee:

a) **Requests** the UN-Water Africa, jointly with TAC to convene a consultative meeting in the margins of First African Water Week (Tunis, March 2008) to examine modalities and strategies for enhancing the quality of the African Development report and to make recommendations for the establishment of an AMCOW/UN Water Africa Editorial Board.

b) **Requests** UN Water Africa, AUC, AfDB and AMCOW TAC to cooperate in the preparation of a compendium of case study.
c) **Decides** to establish a sub-committee (comprising AMCow, ANBO, AUC, ANEW, UN-Water Africa and other relevant stakeholders) which should examine the critical issues regarding inter-basin transfer on the basis of the above mentioned study.

### 5.11 Water and Sanitation for African Cities

**The Executive Committee:**

a) **Requests** UN-Habitat to submit to the members of AMCow/TAC a copy of the final version of the strategy and action plan for the programme on water and sanitation for Africa Cities.

b) **Expresses** appreciation to UN-Habitat for its continued implementation support to the programme on Water and Sanitation for African Cities as well as the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative.

c) **Notes,** with satisfaction, UN-Habitat’s support to the Water Operators Partnership Mechanism in Africa

### 5.12 Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa (FEMA)

**The Executive Committee:**

**Decides** to include in future meetings, segments for dialogue with the representatives of office bearers of key African ministerial bodies.

### 5.13 EU Water Initiative

**The Executive Committee:**

**Decides** to hold a high level dialogue (Ministerial) to be held every two years and that such meeting should be well prepared for by both AMCow-TAC and their EU counterparts ensuring that EU representation is also at Ministerial level. The First Africa Water Week to be held in Tunis in 2008 provides a suitable venue and an early opportunity for considering the implementation of the decisions of AMCow at its 6th Session.

### 5.14 EU Water Facility

**The Executive Committee:**

**Decides** to initiates consultations with the European Commission and ACP Secretariat as soon as possible regarding the extension of the EU Water Facility.

--------