I. Elements for the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration and Commitments on Water and Sanitation

i. The roadmap submitted by the AU Commissioner should be integrated in the triennial work programme of AMCOW. The Executive Secretary is directed to integrate the follow-up as a key component of the AMCOW Secretariat’s work programme.

ii. The roadmap and the Secretariat’s work programme are to be distributed as soon as possible to the sub-regional vice-presidents of AMCOW and through them to the other AMCOW members as well as to the RECs.

iii. The AfDB and WSP are requested to work closely with the AMCOW Executive Secretary.

iv. AMCOW will submit to the office of the Commissioner an annual progress report on the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration, in order to bring it to the attention of the Heads of State and Government at their July Summit.

II. The proposed Pan-African Mechanism for the Monitoring and Evaluation of progress in the Water and Sanitation Sector at the country, sub-regional and regional levels

i. The M&E report should be finalized [by January 2009] based on comments from the M&E working group and submitted for AMCOW’s consideration as soon as possible, in order to provide for its quick decision.

ii. African Water Facility should accelerate support for the development of sub-regional mechanisms to show concrete results by 2010.

III. Implementation and coordination of commitments relating to Water (African Development Bank):

i. AMCOW should take steps towards prioritization of water and sanitation in national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

ii. Continue to advocate support for Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) at the all level to mobilize the required resources needs.

iii. With regard to the infrastructure consortium, there is need for increased synergy between the consortium and AMCOW and use of Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) data in policy and strategy development and implementation plans.

iv. AMCOW welcomes the holding of the meeting on infrastructure financing in Senegal and requests the Executive Secretary to monitor the follow-up to the meeting.
v. The draft roadmap developed by ADB and considered by TAC, for operationalizing the Tunis Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the 1st African Water Week (Tunis, March 2008), is to be finalized in order to forward it to the Exco for its consideration and adoption.

vi. The regional report currently under preparation for WWF5 should include consolidated action plans encompassing the water and sanitation agenda within the framework of the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments.

IV. Proposals by the Kenyan Government for the hosting arrangements for the 2nd Africa Water Week

i. Kenya is ready to host the 2nd AWW by March 2010 and proposed to host the event in March 2010 instead of 2009. It requests to have at least a full year for proper organizing of the event.

ii. In response to the Kenya Government request, the EXCO agreed to their holding of the event in 2010, and invited South Africa to host the 2nd African Water Week in conjunction with the 7th regular session of the Council in 2009, in order to be in line with the decision of the 6th session of AMCOW that the African Water Week be convened on an annual basis.

V. AMCOW Strategy for strengthening the AMCOW/G8 Partnership

i. AMCOW TAC and experts from some G-8 countries discussed joint work toward implementing the AU and G-8 Summit commitments.

ii. It was agreed to embark on a joint effort and joint implementation strategy.

iii. Agreement to identify successful approaches, and modalities at country and regional level which could be multiplied and up-scaled as key pillars of a joint implementation framework.

iv. AMCOW to submit draft Terms of Reference for joint work (for consideration on the occasion of the G-8 expert meeting in Japan in December).

v. G-8 invited AMCOW to participate in expert meeting in Japan in December; the EXCO will consider bringing AMCOW recommendations to the expert meeting.

VI. AMCOW Strategy for the High Level Conference on Water for Agriculture and Energy

i. All members of AMCOW are encouraged to participate in the conference.

ii. The organizers of the conference should explore ways and means of facilitating the participation of AMCOW Ministers and their technical experts in the meeting.

iii. AMCOW’s contribution to the conference should include a report on its decisions related to the theme of the conference.

iv. The Executive Secretary is directed to cooperate with relevant institutions to prepare AMCOW’s contribution to the conference and to explore possibilities for arranging dialogues among participating Ministers of water, energy and of agriculture.

VII. Africa’s Road Map for the 5th World Water Forum

i. Endorse the regional roadmap for Africa’s participation in the Forum and take note of the preparations towards the Africa Day at the Forum

ii. Encourage Ministers to participate in the Africa Day, and ensure national participation of public, private and civil society organizations;

iii. Set a date in the 3rd - 4th week of January 2009 for the Regional Steering Committee to meet to endorse the regional document;
iv. Engage in the Forum’s Political process and to create the necessary links with the Forum Secretariat and coordinator of this process at the World Water Council.

v. Highlight AMCOW partnerships at the Forum with the aim of bringing in additional partners.

VIII. Strategy and Road Map for the Implementation of the eThikweni Declaration

i. WSP to develop in collaboration with partners a work program for the implementation of the AfricaSan follow-up activities (Awards, communication and knowledge, M&E, monitoring commitments implementation, country action plans, International Task Force meeting, and preparation of the AfricaSan 03) and a funding proposal for the activities implementation, including a staffing plan by the end of February 2009.

ii. To hold an AfricaSan Awards Ceremony in 2009 back-to-back with an event (AMCOW meeting, 2nd African Water Week), etc.

iii. WSP and partners to assist countries develop national AfricaSan action plan and conduct a peer review mechanism to enhance cross learning and improve sanitation profile.

iv. To open an AfricaSan window within the AMCOW website.

v. To report to AMCOW every 6 months on the implementation of the eThekwini commitments implementation using the proposed indicators and with the support of the AMCOW TAC members.

vi. To work with relevant initiatives on M&E (JMP, GF4A, GLAAS, etc) and countries to include sanitation and hygiene in all M&E activities and programs.

vii. To hold every quarter a VC meeting of the AfricaSan International Task Force and every 6 months a face-to-face meeting.

viii. To develop a concept note for AfricaSan 03 by the end of the first quarter of 2009.

ix. With regard to the eThekwini Declaration, country level implementation of the Declaration should be the subject of systematic follow-up.

x. WSP to work with AMCOW Secretariat to finalize its communication strategy.

xi. Directs the AMCOW Executive Secretary to coordinate activities with WSP.

IX. Road Map for accelerating the implementation of the decisions of the 6th Session of the African Ministers’ Council on Water

(i.) Direct the Executive Secretary to prepare an integrated work plan and implementation roadmap, taking into account the outcomes of the AMCOW Nairobi meetings. The triennial work programme of AMCOW to be up-dated to include recent recommended actions.

X. Measures for the:

   ▫ A. Restructuring the AMCOW Executive Committee

(i.) Request the President to establish a working group to review the MoU with respect to the governance structure of AMCOW and make appropriate recommendations for a more efficient re-structuring.

(ii.) Sub-regions are requested to strongly encourage their Executive members to attend the meetings of the Exco.
B. Strengthening AMCOW’s sub-regional presence

(iii.) Direct the Executive Secretary to develop strategies for strengthening the sub-regional presence of AMCOW

(iv.) All efforts should be made to strengthen the function of AMCOW at the sub-regional level and significantly enhanced cooperation with the RECs as well as related water and sanitation institutions.

(v.) Direct the Executive Secretary to consult with partners on how they can support this initiative.

C. Bringing into full operation the Secretariat of AMCOW located in Abuja, Nigeria

(i.) To accept the recommendations of the assessment report on the urgent needs of the AMCOW secretariat, ranging from staffing, financial resources, communication, political commitment and operational issues.

(ii.) Direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a plan for implementation of the report findings, taking into account the process of finalization of the status of AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union commission, hence the need for an integrated approach.

(iii.) Express appreciation to the German Government for their support to the assessment process.

(iv.) In order to facilitate servicing of the AMCOW work programme activities, following discussions with the Executive Director of UNEP, explore modalities for authorizing the Executive Secretary to act as the focal requesting officer for utilization of the AMCOW Trust Fund.

c. Chairmanship of the African Groundwater Commission and related arrangements

(i.) Welcome the recommendations made for the interim measures with respect the chairmanship, secretariat and related arrangements.

(ii.) Direct the Executive Secretary to prepare the criteria for selection of the Chair.

(iii.) The offer of UNESCO and UNEP to act as the interim Secretariat was accepted. The President of AMCOW will formally invite those countries wishing to host the Secretariat to present a proposal. For this purpose the Executive Secretary of AMCOW is directed to develop the hosting requirements for the Groundwater Commission Secretariat.

(iv.) Pending approval of the selection criteria prepared by the Executive Secretary, the President to appoint an interim Chair and request UNEP to act as the interim Secretariat, taking into account the above considerations to facilitate planning and interaction.

(v.) Partners are encouraged to support the work of the Commission.


(i.) The Council welcomes the decision by Algeria to be the first African country to contribute to the Facility and as well notes with appreciation Spain to become a donor member and commitments by Senegal and UK to contribute to the AWF fund.

(ii.) Call for contributions from African countries and direct the Executive Secretary to monitor and report on the next EXCO Meeting.

(iii.) With support of the Facility continue to engage with donors particularly the G8 forum to assure increased and sustained contributions.

(iv.) Requests the Manager of the African Water Facility and the AMCOW Executive Secretary to undertake a resource mobilization tour to development cooperation partners in order to solicit support for both the AWF and the AMCOW Trust Fund.

(v.) Special appeal to be made during the high-level conference at Syrte, Libya.
e. Specific Recommendations for the consideration of the Executive Committee and Adoption of the Report of the Technical Advisory Committee.

(i.) Express appreciation to the Government of Kenya, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, WSP, GTZ, the G-8 and other partners for hosting the current meeting and providing facilitation support for achieving a highly successful meeting of AMCow EXCO and TAC.