DECISIONS OF THE 6th AMCOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO) MEETING
Abuja, 31 July 2009

Carrying forward the commitments of the Sharm El-Sheikh AU Summit on Water and Sanitation: a “Sprint to the Finish Line”

1. Support of the Federal Government of Nigeria
   i. Sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Federal Government of Nigeria for hosting the meeting and for the solid support and commitment to AMCOW.
   ii. Profound gratitude for the support rendered by the Government in hosting, equipping and facilitating the operationalization of the AMCOW Secretariat

2. Implementation of the Decisions of the 6th Meeting of the Executive Committee
   i. Takes note of the progress reports submitted by AMCOW’s partners on implementation of the decisions entrusted to them.
   ii. Expresses its satisfaction with the actions taken by the respective cooperating partner (Task Managers) of the AMCOW Initiatives which have resulted in accelerating the expected implementation
   iii. Requests the Task Managers of the AMCOW initiatives to submit periodic progress reports to the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the relevant decisions entrusted to them

3. Implications for AMCOW of the African Union Assembly Decision on Specialised Technical Committee (STC)
   i. Welcomes the African Union decision on the Specialised Technical Committees (STCS) and the integration of water in one of the committees
   ii. Undertakes to submit annual progress reports to the Executive Council of the AU on actions taken to implement the Sharm El Sheikh commitments on Water and Sanitation
   iii. Initiates the necessary consultations with the different organs of the African Union with a view to developing an efficient operational, reporting, administrative, legal, financial and other modalities to ensure compliance with the provisions in the AU guidance document on the Specialised Technical Committees.
iv. Directs the Executive Secretary to undertake a systematic follow-up of this decision and to report to the 8th Session of AMCOW Executive Committee (Johannesburg, South Africa, November 2009)

4. Governance, Institutional and Operational Arrangements of AMCOW

i. Recalls that at its previous sessions, the Executive Committee considered the strengths and weaknesses in the governance, institutional and operational arrangements of the Council

ii. Directs the Executive Secretary, in close co-operation with the TAC and partners, to undertake an exhaustive review and assessment of opportunities for strengthening AMCOW’s organizational and operational arrangements, particularly at the National and Sub-regional levels. The assessment should include the consideration of opportunities for strengthening co-operation with the Regional Economic Communities, Sub-regional Ministerial bodies and relevant Pan African Institutions.

5. State of the AMCOW Trust Fund (UNEP)

i. Takes note of the report submitted by UNEP on the current status of the Trust Fund and directs it to be providing quarterly update to be sent to the Executive Secretary for onward transmittal to the Executive Committee members

ii. Further takes note of the following

   a. The need to ensure that the Trust Fund caters for the requirements of AMCOW and the functioning of the Secretariat

   b. The need to explore with the EC/EU possibilities for greater flexibility in the application of the terms and conditions of the grant.

iii. Notes with appreciation the significant contributions and co-financing provided by the European Union Commission / European Union, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-HABITAT, United Nations Education Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), African Development Bank (ADB), Global Water Partnership (GWP), German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ), World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme (WB/WSP/Africa), US State Department and others to the Trust Fund

iv. Expresses appreciation to those African States that have so far made contributions to the Trust Fund and/or covered, in a significant way, the financial costs of AMCOW’s activities

v. Urges those African States which have not yet done so, to effect their contributions to the AMCOW Trust Fund.

vi. Directs the Executive Secretary to write to all governments reminding them of their contribution to the Trust Fund.

vii. Further directs the Executive Secretary of AMCOW, the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the relevant Departments of the European Commission and UNEP to consult on the options available upon expiration of the agreement in December 2009.

viii. Further directs the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee to reflect on measures needed to ensure a predictable financial base for AMCOW’s sustainable operations.

ix. Approves the request of the Executive Secretary to operate an account in Abuja for AMCOW.
6. Implementation of AMCOW Initiatives

I. 2\textsuperscript{nd} African Water Week

i. Expresses appreciation to the Government of South Africa for agreeing to host the 2\textsuperscript{nd} African Water Week

ii. \textit{Decides} that the theme of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} African Water Week will be \textit{Carrying forward the commitments of the Sharm El-Sheikh AU Summit on Water and Sanitation: a “Sprint to the Finish Line”}

iii. Further decides that the Program of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} African Water Week will include the following segments:
   a. The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference
   b. If possible, the G8 President and the 5 African Heads of State who participated in the June 2009 G8 summit in Italy be invited to the High Level segment
   c. Also decides that all events will be held in conjunction with the 7\textsuperscript{th} Ordinary Session of AMCOW hosted by the Government of South Africa in response to the request of AMCOW

iv. Further directs the Executive Secretary to set up a small committee to identify special persons to invite for the High Level Segment, including those who have contributed significantly to the establishment of AMCOW since its beginning

b). \textit{Action Plan and operational strategy to implement the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments}

Notes the progress made by AfDB in developing the action plan and operational strategy and requests that it be finalised and submitted to the 7\textsuperscript{th} Session

II. ADB-African Water Facility

i. Expresses appreciation to African Development Bank for hosting the fund; the chair of the governing council and the staff of the AWF for the implementation of the Council’s decisions and the resource mobilisation efforts undertaken.

ii. Endorses the Progress Report of the AWF for the period January to June 2009

iii. Calls upon the international community, and particularly the EU/EC and the G8 Group of Industrialised countries to consider stepping up financial support for the AWF to meet its 2009-2011 programme

iv. Renews its call on African Governments that have not yet done so to also make financial contributions to the facility

III. Water Supply and Sanitation

i. Notes with satisfaction progress made in implementation of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) and welcomes the efforts of AfDB to convene the second international conference on RWSSI to be attended by Ministers of Water and Finance in the near future.

ii. Calls upon other partners to support this important initiative in Africa
iii. Notes the progress made in financing urban water supply and sanitation in Africa by AfDB and other partners and calls for increased support to the peri-urban small and medium towns with better targeting of aid to the most needy countries.

IV. Water for African Cities

i. Welcomes progress made in implementation of the Water for African Cities Programme and the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative and expresses appreciation to UN-HABITAT.

ii. Requests UN-HABITAT to explore modalities to extend the programme to other cities not yet covered and to report on its progress to the Executive Secretary on a regular basis.

V. Solid Waste Management

Notes that solid waste especially plastics, synthetic and organic refuse is a growing hazard that threatens water quality and human health in all urban areas, and calls for partnerships and concerted actions to address this growing problem.

VI. E-Thekwini commitments and Action Plan for AfricaSan

i. Notes the significant progress made by the World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme Africa (WSP) in the implementation of the e-Thekwini declaration and notably the development of national action plans for a number of African countries.

ii. Urges WSP to extend the implementation of the AfricaSan commitments and action plan to cover other countries not yet in their list.

iii. Directs the Executive Secretary to ensure improved coordination and monitoring with other implementing agencies such as AfDB, UNICEF and WaterAid.

iv. Endorses the first African Award Ceremony at the 2nd African Water Week.

VII. Global Framework for Action- GF4A

i. Welcomes the GF4A initiatives and directs the Executive Secretary to liaise closely with the Working Group that has been set up to prepare for the High Level Meeting in 2010, and other partners, to ensure a successful outcome.

ii. Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate AMCOW’s participation in the initiative as well as the forthcoming high level meeting in 2010 and other relevant meetings convened under the GF4A initiative.

iii. Urges all Initiatives in support of water and sanitation in Africa to work together.

VIII. Africa at the 5th World Water Forum


ii. Notes with appreciation the lead role played by the African Development Bank in the regional preparatory process for the World Water forum.
IX. Pan African Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

i. Notes the work in progress by AWF with regard to the establishment of the mechanism and welcomes the participation of partners in its implementation.

ii. Requests the AWF to finalise the guidelines and summit it to the Executive Secretary before the next EXCO in November 2009.

X. UN Water

i. Welcomes the report and the plans envisaged by UN-Water Africa to see the assistance of the World Water Assessment Programme to strengthen the preparatory process for the African Water Development report, the African water Journal, and the Africa water Information Clearinghouse

ii. Welcomes the plans of UN-Water Africa to explore the possibility of preparing an Africa Water Atlas in cooperation with AMCOW and development cooperation partners

XI. African Ground Water Commission (AGWC)

i. Welcomes the efforts made by the interim chair of the AGW commission, Hon. Charity Ngilu, Minister of Water and Irrigation of Kenya,

ii. Welcomes the progress report submitted by the Government of Kenya,

iii. Recommends the acceleration of the commendable efforts being made to implement the workplan for the interim phase of the Commission to end by December 2009.

iv. Requests the AMCOW Vice President for North Africa to officially consult the North African countries and submit to the Executive Secretary, the name of one country in their subregion to assume the chairmanship of the Commission in January 2010, in line with the decision adopted at this EXCO meeting and in line with the decision of the 6\textsuperscript{th} EXCO meeting in Nov.2008. The final decision for the selection will be made in the next EXCO meeting that will take place in South Africa in November 2009.

XII. ANEW

i. Expresses appreciation of the progress report presented by ANEW

ii. Requests ANEW to strengthen its presence at the national and subregional levels

XIII. GWP

i. Notes with satisfaction the report on GWP activities with AMCOW at regional and subregional levels

ii. Expresses appreciation for GWPs fruitful engagement and contributions to AMCOW work program

iii. Invites partners to participate in the AMCOW-AfDB-GWP seminar in Stockholm Water Week and the launch of the Gender Action Plan for Africa’s water resources and sanitation sectors
XIV. **WATERAID**

i. Notes with appreciation the initiatives of WaterAid in support of AMCOW

ii. Welcomes the new Global Initiative Programme of WaterAid

iii. Urges WaterAid to work closely with WSP in the implementation of the eThekwini Declarations.

XV. **Transition of the AMCOW Presidency**-

i. Directs the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the TAC to make necessary arrangements for a smooth transition of the presidency of AMCOW

XVI. **ACP-EUWI**

ii. Requests EUWI to extend special support to African countries and their institutions with a view to enhancing their access to the available funding including the new EU Water Facility

XVII. **US Department of State/USAID**

ii. Expresses appreciation of the US State Department support to the AMCOW Secretariat and requests it to enhance its financial and technical support to AMCOW and its initiatives

XVIII. **Strengthening Strategic Role of AMCOW**

i. Directs the Executive Secretary to establish a working group to recommend modalities for AMCOW to institutionalise strong relationship with the Regional Economic Communities, the subregional ministerial bodies, their Secretariats and water units.

XIX. **AMCOW Subregional plans**

i. Welcomes the arrangements being made by the AMCOW Vice President for Eastern Africa regarding its preparatory meetings for the 7th Session of AMCOW and participation in the 2nd African Water Week

ii. Welcomes the proposal by Eastern Africa to host the 3rd African Water Week

iii. Welcomes the proposal of Western Africa subregion to convene its subregional meeting

iv. Welcomes the proposal of the Central Africa subregion to hold its subregional meeting

XX. **AFWA Proposal**

i. Welcomes the request of AFWA to become a strategic partner of AMCOW

ii. Directs the Executive Secretary to facilitate, in cooperation with the TAC and relevant AMCOW partners the development of a cooperation agreement taking into account the relevant commitments of AMCOW with regard to water operators arising from the consultative processes with the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Water on the subject.

iii. Welcomes the International Water Congress to be held in Kampala in March 2010 and is ready to cooperate fully with AFWA and other partners in making the event a successful one.
XXI. African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR)

i. Notes the important role water regulators can play in sustainable water resources management

ii. Welcomes AFUR interest for partnership with AMCOW,

iii. Directs the Executive Secretary to set up a small working group to study and review AFUR activities and make recommendation to AMCOW on partnership arrangements with AFUR

XXII. CREPA proposal

i. Directs the Executive Secretary and TAC Chair to review the proposal for cooperation with CREPA (Regional Centre for Low-cost Water Supply and Sanitation) and submit the necessary recommendations to AMCOW