DECISIONS OF THE 7th AMCOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO) MEETING

Johannesburg, 12 November 2009

Carrying forward the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation adopted by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government: “a sprint to the finish line”

I. Reporting of country actions in respect of water security


ii. Countries should internalise the actions in their national plans and provide annual reports on their water security status;

iii. Regional Bodies - RECs, RLBOs - should adopt the reporting mechanism and provide input to AMCOW’s annual report on progress on water security;

iv. The modalities for a peer review mechanism on country water and sanitation progress shall be developed by the secretariat in consultation with partners;

v. The AMCOW Secretariat shall be strengthened to monitor and report actions;

vi. The Executive Committee (EXCO) should give directives on themes of future annual Africa Water Weeks and institutionalize the week at the AU level.

II. Convening of Meeting of Water and Sanitation Ministers

i. The meeting of African Ministers of Water and Finance requested by the AU and to be convened by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) will be held in the first quarter of 2010. The meeting will be dedicated to reviewing achievements and to mobilising resources for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) 2nd and 3rd phase implementation; that meeting will also discuss broader water security issues of AMCOW initiatives.

III. Actions: In order to carry forward the outcomes of our meetings in Johannesburg, we shall direct our attention and actions to the following:

i. Convening of meetings of African Water Ministers and Finance Ministers, together with development partners; establishing a short-term African Water Finance Task Force to bring
together the finance story, and to monitor impacts of the current financial crisis on investments in African water;

ii. Accelerating progress on implementing the 2008 eThekwini Declaration and AfricaSan Action Plan, notably the development of national sanitation and hygiene policies;

iii. Increasing commitment to the African Water Facility to scale up its support for major infrastructure programmes and projects;

iv. Promoting scale-up support to Country Sector Reviews, National MDG Investment Plans and National Finance Strategies;

v. Reviewing achievements and to mobilising resources for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} phase implementation;

vi. Developing strategies to accelerating progress in drinking water and sanitation in Africa, in particular fragile states, where the coverage gaps are greatest, under the aegis of AMCow;

vii. Encouraging urgent disbursement of implementation funds in small-scale water management in response to the Africa Food Price Crisis;

viii. Encourage a stronger collaboration between financial institutions in the framework of Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CADAP) supporting water for agriculture and energy including the AfDB-Business Plan for agricultural water development, water storage enhancement, the IsDB-Jeddah Declaration and the WB-Irrigation Business Plan;

ix. Launching and adoption of the pan-African Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework as the monitoring tool in Africa for water and sanitation;

x. Planning for the Third African Water Week as a forum for high-level policy dialogue and knowledge dissemination;

xi. Strengthening engagement with the G8 over implementation of the Evian Action Plan and Joint Statement of the G8 Africa Water Partnership;

xii. Strengthening AMCow’s presence at sub-regional and national levels, including especially regular convening of sub-regional meetings of AMCow EXCO and institutionalizing partnerships with regional economic communities;

xiii. Adopting special measures to ensure gender mainstreaming, particularly recognising the role and interests of youth, women and children are incorporated in all water and sanitation policies and programmes;

xiv. Assessing the threat of climate change to the viability of water resources and capacity to meet the 2015 MDG water and sanitation targets and put in place adaptation measures;

A. Developing and/or strengthening and implementing among riparian countries the water management policies, laws and action plans for the equitable and sustainable use of shared water resources.