EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

AFRICAN MINISTERS’ COUNCIL ON WATER SEVENTH SESSION
13 NOVEMBER 2009
Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS’ COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

JOHANNESBURG, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
13 NOVEMBER 2009
PART I: INTRODUCTION

1. Background

1. The ministerial segment of the seventh session of the African Ministers’ Council on Water was held on 13 November 2009 at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Meetings of the expert group segments preceded the ministerial segment. The 7th Ordinary Session was part of the 2nd Africa Water week 9 – 13 Nov divided into three segments;

   i. 2nd Africa Water week 9 – 10 November
   j. PANAFCON II 11 November
   k. AMCOW Executive Committee meeting 12 November
   l. 7th Ordinary Session of AMCOW

2. Objective of the AMCOW 7th session

2. The main objectives of the seventh session were to review the status of implementation of AMCOW Decisions in particular the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments and to map out implementation strategy and the way forward.

3. Participation


4. It was attended by representatives of African regional and sub-regional organizations, United Nations agencies, secretariats of various River and Lake basins, private sector water operators, bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and media houses in Africa.

5. Opening Ceremony

6. The Minister at the Office of the President of South Africa, Hon. Trevor Manuel, kicked-off the opening session on behalf of the President of South Africa, H.E. Jacob Zuma. In his address he underlined South Africa’s resolve to make water and sanitation top priority for Africa under AMCOW Presidency of South Africa. He reminded the Assembly to be aware of water as a public good. He dwelled on rainwater harvesting and storage, so the absence of rain very speedy translates
into absence of water. He reminded the Assembly that water is life and that as Africans we have been robbed of water, robbed of life and that democracy itself is imperiled. His final message was “Everyday more children die from dirty water than HIV/AIDS, malaria, war and accidents put together,” and hoped this message will become the battle-cry of the AM Cow

7. The ministerial segment was officially opened by Mr. Jean Richard Bruno Itoue, President, African Ministers’ Council on Water, at 11.45 p.m. on Friday, 13 November 2009. He called on the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to present the report of the TAC.

8. Opening statements were also made by representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC), Ms Olusola Sodeke on behalf of the Chairman of the AUC, Mr. Halifa Drammeh on behalf of the UN system, Mr. Serign Jallow on behalf of the African Development bank.

9. 4.1 Statements by representatives of international organisations and AM Cow partners were made including reiterating their continued support to AM Cow:

- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- World Bank (WB/water and sanitation programme/Africa
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Global Water Partnership

PART II: DELIBERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Ministerial segment deliberated on the following issues:

1. Consideration of the progress report of the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee.

With regard to implementation, Committee members noted that considerable progress has been made during the reporting period. Significant progress has been made in consolidating AM Cow’s institutional arrangements and governance structures, and the implementation of its Work Programme and Decisions. These achievements include the following.

i) Firm Political Leadership

The African Union and its Commission have shown significant leadership and strategic direction of the continental water and sanitation agenda. The convening, by the African Union Heads of State and Government of a Summit devoted to the theme of water and sanitation, and the subsequent adoption of the Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments,
demonstrate the firm political commitment. The Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments represent Africa’s roadmap to the 2015 MDG targets and those of the Africa Water Vision 2025.

The recognition of AMCO W by the African Union Heads of State and Government as one of its Specialized Technical Committees is another major achievement. In addition, the Council finalized recruitment of the Executive Secretary with the support of the AU Commission.

ii) AMCO W’s Leadership Role
The outstanding benchmark of the period under review was the significant heightening of political commitments aimed at improving water and sanitation management in Africa and the recognition of the specific leadership role played by AMCO W in this regard.

AMCO W developed common positions and perspectives on a number of critical water policy challenges, including adopting and presenting the African Regional Position Paper to the Fifth World Water Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March 2009. AMCO W also adopted the Operational Strategy and The Roadmap for the Implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments.

AMCO W presented a detailed report, to the 2008 African Union Heads of State and Government, on Africa’s Water and Sanitation situation, highlighting, inter alia, regional efforts being made to address these challenges. At the sub-regional level, steps were taken to strengthen AMCO W’s governance structures and their functioning.

AMCO W convened in March 2008 the first African Water Week which adopted the Tunis Ministerial Declaration on Acceleration of Water Security. The AMCO W Secretariat, hosted by the Government of Nigeria, became operational and the Executive Secretary recruited. Both the TAC and EXCO met several times as part of the efforts to keep under constant review the implementation of Ministerial decisions and the AMCO W Work Programme.

iii) AMCO W’s Regional Cooperation
There has been increased recognition of AMCO W as the leading regional coordination mechanism, which has led to the fostering of regional and international cooperation. AMCO W entered into strategic partnerships with key and relevant Pan-African Institutions, who have undertaken actions in carrying forward the water and sanitation agenda. Considerable efforts were made to strengthen collaboration with key institutions, including the Regional Economic Commissions, African Network of Basin Organizations, African Network of Civil Society Organizations on Water and Sanitation, financial institutions, as well as international partners, such as United Nations entities, and Africa’s development partners.

iv) African Water Facility
The Governing Council has become fully operational. Significant resources have been mobilized and over 50 projects have been approved with total financing of approximately Euros 60 million. Financing commitments have increased to Euros 110 million. Few
African countries have contributed to the Facility. Member states are urged to make the US$100,000 as per decision of the facility Governing Council.

v) Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative
The Initiative has supported 22 projects with total financing of approximately US$2.2 billion. These projects have so far provided water access to 8 million people and sanitation services to 4 million people. This contributes significantly to attaining the MDG targets on water and sanitation.

vi) African Development Bank
It also noteworthy that there has been a significant increase in AfDB financing for water and sanitation which is approaching US$ 500 million per year, in addition to support for other water sector development activities. The African development bank has played vital role in the implementation of AMCOW workprogramme and support to AMCOW secretariat. The Bank provided financial and technical support to the second Africa Water week.

vii) AMCOW Trust Fund
Financing needs for the water sector have been accorded greater attention. Additional resources have been mobilized for the AMCOW Trust Fund. With respect to resource mobilization, the period under review witnessed a noticeable increase in contributions from Member States to the AMCOW Trust Fund. The European Union grant of Euro 2.6 million was supplemented by significant co-financing (56%), jointly from Member States, and other partners such as United Nations entities and the AfDB. Other contributions were in connection with the convening of the AMCOW events in Johannesburg. The Government of South Africa contributed over US$700 000, GTZ provided US$131,000, the AfDB contributed US$100,000, UNEP and other entities also substantially supported the events and covered certain costs. The conveners of the thematic sessions covered the necessary costs and sponsored a number of participants.

The EU grant in support of the AMCOW work programme came to an end 31 October 2009 but upon the request of AMCOW, has been extended to 31 October 2010.

viii) Water for African Cities
The AMCOW initiative on Water for African Cities also registered notable successes, with significant funding from the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, Norway and Sweden. To date, a total amount of US$37 million has been mobilized for Phases I and II. Phase III is currently being planned and is likely to attract additional resources.

ix) African Groundwater Commission
Measures were also taken to operationalize the African Groundwater Commission (AGWC), following the development of the roadmap. The initial reactions of development partners are positive and consultations are underway with a view to securing financial commitments and resources. The North African sub-region identified Libya for the Chair of the AGWC.
x) Knowledge Management Products
Africa Water Development Report, Africa Water Information Clearing House Mechanism, and the Africa Water Journal are the subject of consultations with development partners, with a view to securing the necessary funding for second stage production. In the meantime, in response to the EXCO decision (Abuja 2009), work has commenced on the preparation of the Africa’s Water Resources Atlas, spearheaded by UN-Water/Africa in close cooperation with AMCOW.

xi) National Sanitation Action Plans
Considerable resources have been committed by the World Bank WSP Africa towards the development of national sanitation action plans as called for in the eThekwini Ministerial Declaration. The benefits of implementation at the country-level are increasingly being felt, for example through the development of national sanitation action plans. Currently WSP is working in 40 countries.

WSP and AMCOW jointly organised a special event “AfricaSan award” to award individuals, institutions, NGOs in recognition to their contribution on sanitation in the continent. Awards included prize money, certificate and trophies.

xii) Implementation Roadmaps
The Brazzaville, eThekwini, Tunis and Sharm el-Sheikh Declarations, Sirte Ministerial Declaration on Water for Agriculture in Africa in addition to the African Regional Position Paper, constitute the water and sanitation sector policy development agenda for Africa.

xiii) Cross-Cutting Issues
AMCOW, the AU and Pan-African Institutions are increasingly addressing the critical issues of water infrastructure, with greater attention being accorded to the impacts of climate change on water, as well as other cross-cutting issues such as agriculture and water, rainwater harvesting and food security and energy.

xiv) Global Water Partnership
The Global Water Partnership supported the implementation of the AMCOW work programme in the following areas: developing Integrated Water Resources Management plans, promoting gender mainstreaming, addressing climate change impacts on water resources, working with sub-regional organizations, and providing co-financing for the AMCOW Trust Fund activities (US$400 000).

xv) Special Event bestowing President Sirilf Johnson
This was one of the highlights of the Water week. President Sirilf Johnson, President of the republic of Liberia was bestowed by ANEW/WaterAid and AMCOW as Goodwill Ambassador on water and sanitation for Africa. She accepted to serve Africa in this capacity in a video message to the assembly.

2. New office bearers
In conformity of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee considered the composition of
the membership of the TAC, EXCO and the Governing Council of the African Water
Facility as reflected in the table below.

With respect to the election of the Chairperson of the Governing Council of the African
Water Facility, the Committee strongly recommends that the AMCOV President consult
with the Executive Committee, in conformity with past practice, taking into account the
need to designate a member who is able to ensure strong political leadership, and has
the ability to effectively engage in resource mobilization with Africa’s development
partners. The Chairperson should also be able to work closely with the Chairperson of
the African Union Commission, African Heads of State and Government, President of
the African Development Bank, and Representatives of the Regional Economic
Commissions, to ensure a concerted approach towards significantly scaling-up the
financial resources for the African Water Facility. Taking the above criteria into account,
H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, immediate past President of AMCOV, was unanimously
elected President of the Africa Water Facility.

### Composition of the New Sub-regional Officers

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<td>Vice President</td>
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An extra seat on the TAC is proposed for Liberia and accepted by the Council.

3. Outcomes of the Second African Water Week (see annex 1)

4. Outcomes of the Second Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water and Sanitation (see annex 2)

5. Way Forward From Johannesburg: Key Steps
In conclusion, AM Cow has agreed on a clear roadmap, which has been welcomed by Africa’s development partners, who undertook to support it. This includes:

i) March 2010 meeting of water and finance ministers;
ii) Roadmap for accelerating the implementation of the eThekweni, Tunis, Sirte and Sharm El-Sheikh Declarations;
iii) Strategies for increasing the financing of the African Water Facility and RWSSI;
iv) Advocating for country-sector reviews and development of national MDG investment plans;
v) Implementing the African Monitoring and Evaluation framework;
vi) Annual reporting to the African Union Commission (2008 -2009; and 2010-2011);
vii) Promoting gender mainstreaming; rainwater harvesting and strengthening civil society participation;
viii) Establishing a sub-committee of AM Cow to focus on sanitation, particularly standardization of technologies;
ix) Institutionalizing and operationalizing the AM Cow sub-committee on trans-boundary waters;
x) Completing the staffing of the AM Cow secretariat;
xii) Ensuring the majority of the African countries contribute to the AM Cow trust fund.

THE 7th SESSION/GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AM Cow ADOPTED THE EXCO REPORT.

6. Closure of the session

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the ministerial segment and the session closed at 14.50 p.m. on Friday, 13 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”

JOHANNESBURG
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
13 NOVEMBER 2009

I. Introduction

1. We the African Ministers of Water, and Heads of delegation assembled in Johannesburg, South Africa on 9-13 November 2009, in its capacity as part of the African Union’s Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, on the occasion of the 2nd Africa Water Week, 2nd Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference and the 7th Ordinary Session of the African Ministers’ Council on Water are determined to carry forward the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation adopted in July 2009.

2. We assembled in Johannesburg at 7th Ordinary Session on 13 November 2009 together with senior officials of the African Union Commission, representatives of Pan-African Institutions, representatives of international communities, civil society women and youth of our region, express our profound gratitude to H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, the people, the government and leadership of the Republic of South Africa, for the excellent arrangement and the conducive environment which facilitated our deliberations. We are deeply thankful to H.E. Ms Buyelwa Sonjica for the very warm welcome and hospitality.

3. We pay tribute to H.E. Minister Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, outgoing President of AMCOW for the commendable leadership demonstrated during his tenure (2007-2009). We highly appreciate the many remarkable and tangible achievements of AMCOW during his stewardship. We acknowledge and recognize that he hands over the presidency at greater heights in the growth of the African Ministers’ Council on Water. AMCOW has come a long way during his tenure and there is now a firm basis for enhanced progress towards the future. Our appreciation also goes to the outgoing members of the AMCOW Executive Committee and the TAC. Their selfless efforts and contributions are highly valued. We welcome the new members of these two committees.

4. Our deliberation benefitted greatly from opening address of the Minister in the Presidency (National Planning Commission, Hon. Trevor Manuel, MP., who drew attention to some of the lingering challenges relating to water infrastructure, unplanned urbanisation, inadequate sanitation, lack of access to clean water, the need to strengthen the management of cross-boundary resources and to expand rain water harvesting and storage. The issues raised in the keynote address will be accorded particular attention by AMCOW.

5. Our Session was preceded by a number of segments, notably the 2nd Africa Water Week, the 2nd Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water and sanitation, meetings of the sub-regional organs of AMCOW, as well as meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee. We express our appreciation to the delegation of the
African Union Commission for the strategic direction and political guidance provided during our deliberations. There were also meetings of Civil Society and other stakeholders. We commend the African Ministers of Water representing the five sub-regions of Africa for significantly contributing to the deliberations at our 7th Session

6. We reaffirm our commitment to accelerate the translation into action, at the national, sub-regional and regional levels of the of the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation including its components relating to the Brazzaville Declaration (2007), the eThekwini Declaration on Sanitation (2008) and the Tunis Ministerial Declaration on accelerating Africa’s water security.

7. We express our deep gratitude to Africa’s Heads of State and Government for having significantly enhanced great political commitment and leadership in the water and sanitation sector.

8. The acceptance of H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia to be our Goodwill Ambassador on Water and Sanitation in Africa, reconfirmed the firm resolve of African leaders to demonstrate high level political commitment. We, the African Ministers on Water express our profound gratitude to her for accepting to lend leadership to such a great cause.

II. Preamble

9. We recognize that the years between Brazzaville (6th Session of AMCOW, May 2007) and Johannesburg (7th Session of AMCOW, November 2009) have witnessed a number of significant events and a period during which a number of important declarations were adopted, including the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitment on Water and Sanitation. These include the Ministerial Conference on Sanitation which adopted the eThekwini Declaration, the organization of the 1st Africa Water Week which adopted the Tunis Ministerial Declaration on accelerating Africa’s water security, the Ministerial meeting on Water for Agriculture and Energy held in Sirte, Libya (December 2008), and the Africa Regional events at the 5th World Water Forum. These events and actions have increased awareness of water security and sanitation issues, notably water for growth and development, the achievement for water and sanitation targets in the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the Millennium Development Goals, Impact of Climate Change and Variability on Water Resources, Food Security, Financing, Africa Water Infrastructure as well as the need for improved regional cooperation on Water Resources Management.

10. Our session is being held 5 years prior to the 2015 target date set by the international community for achieving the millennium development goals. We fully recognize that the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, resulting from the July 2008 Summit of African Heads of State and Government, represents, at the highest political level, a crucial impetus for urgently addressing Africa’s Water and Sanitation challenges. It also provides the mandate and direction to making a renewed and re-invigorated push to achieve the MDG water and sanitation target by the 2015.

11. During the period, since our last Council Session, we have seen important progress particularly in consolidating initiatives and strategies that have been agreed at our Ordinary Session in May 2007. We note, with satisfaction, that a large number of initiatives as well as other commitments, programmes and initiatives for helping achieve the 2015 MDG and 2025 Africa Water Vision target for water and sanitation have been launched, especially at the sub-regional and regional levels, culminating in the high level of political commitment for accelerating
action. We applaud the significant actions taken by governments to reform the water and sanitation sector at the national level and the strengthening of relevant policies.

12. Africa has now reached the point where there needs to be greater convergence between the high level commitments and delivery through concrete and unambiguous actions, strengthening and scaling up of existing initiatives and refinement of strategies to close gaps. With this challenge in mind, we have taken a number of critical decisions at our meetings in Johannesburg, which we hereby present to the Africa Union and its relevant organs, African countries and their governments, our people and institutions. Whilst continuing to rely on our resources and strategies, we shall continue counting on international solidarity and partnership to address the implementation challenges confronting us in our pursuit of the achievement of the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation.

13. In light of the above, we express gratitude to the many participants of the 2nd Africa Water Week, the 2nd Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water and Sanitation, the 7th Ordinary Session of the African Ministers’ Council on Water and endorse the outcomes of our events held here in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, on 9-13 November 2009. We also place on record, the key outcomes, recommendations and decisions of this event.

III Decisions and Follow-up Actions

14. AMCOW makes the following decisions as follow-up to the implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation made by our Heads of State in July 2008:

(a) Reporting of country actions in respect of water security

i. The document “Delivering on Africa’s Water Security Commitments: A Framework for Reporting Actions to the African Union” is adopted as the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitment

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.

(b) 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.

15. 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) 2nd and 3rd 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;
xv. 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.