14th May 2012

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE 8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS’ COUNCIL ON WATER ON MAY 14TH 2012

We, 33 Ministers and Ministers representatives responsible for water affairs in Africa acting in our capacity as the Council of Ministers of the Africa Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), rise from the 8th General Assembly of AMCOW which held this day the May 14th 2012 in Cairo, Egypt, fully conscious that the sustainable use of water resources within the water, food, energy and transport sectors has become a key driver for more sustainable and equitable economic growth patterns for developing countries, especially for the people of Africa.

Therefore we resolve and decide as follows:

1.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/1: General Assembly endorses the Pan African Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting Roadmap for country report preparation and submission to AU, and authorises that where any country has genuine difficulties with capacity to prepare reports, assistance to such country be considered.

2.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/2: General Assembly also endorses the following institutional arrangements and directs the Secretariat to put into operation with immediate effect:

   I. Pan African M&E Task Force: Members and working arrangements.

   II. Pan African M&E Steering Committee: Members and working arrangements.

3.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/3: General Assembly noting that the AMCOW Secretariat, in collaboration with AfDB, organised a one-day donors conference on the margins of the 6th World Water Forum for the replenishment of the African Water Facility (AWF) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) as well as for the full implementation of the 2011 – 2013 AMCOW Triennial Work Plan and replenishment pledges made at the conference and while commending the pledging donors; directs the AMCOW Secretariat to dutifully follow up, along with the AFDB, and ensure these pledges are redeemed and funding for both RWASSI and AWF enhanced; and call upon countries that did not pledge to so as soon as possible.

4.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/4: General Assembly noting the AMCOW 10TH EXCO Meeting appeals to member countries to pay up their country contribution to AMCOW from 2007 to date in accordance with the letter of 30th July 2010 by the AMCOW President to AMCOW Ministers; hereby renews the call upon member countries to pay up their country contribution to AMCOW from 2007 to date in accordance with the mandate of the 7th Meeting of the Executive Committee convened on 29 June 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and AMCOW EXCO decision EXCO/010/2011/J’BURG/8;
GA/011/2012/CAIRO/5: also calls upon all AMCOW Ministers to endeavour to meet their costs of attending AMCOW meetings at own countries’ expenses.

5.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/6: General Assembly noting the recommendations of a High Level Discussion themed “Strengthening Africa’s Water Management Function at Sub-Regional Level”, at the 6th World Water Forum among AMCOW’s Regional (RECs, R/LBOs, CSOs) and Funding Partners, and that AMCOW Secretariat has prioritised involvement of the RECs in all running activities to strengthen mutual knowledge, test current operating frameworks and build a momentum towards a realistic and sustainable collaboration of member countries;

adopts the recommendations of the High Level Discussion at the 6th World Water Forum for Strengthening Africa’s Water Management Function at sub-regional level, and urges all concerned to take actions towards implementing them with immediate effect.

6.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/7: Concerning the hosting of 8th AMCOW General Assembly / 4th Africa Water Week, General Assembly extends AMCOW’s sincere appreciation to Libya for the commitment they have shown to AMCOW despite the difficult situation they faced at the time; and express AMCOW’s sincere appreciation to Egypt for hosting the General Assembly and the 4th Africa Water Week despite the short notice and equally challenging situation in the country and for accepting the position of AMCOW presidency for 2012-2014.

7.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/8: Considering the draft AMCOW Governance Analysis, General Assembly directs the formation of a TAC Working Group to review and finalize a Governance document based on the consultant’s recommendations and present for consideration at the next AMCOW EXCO meeting.

GA/011/2012/CAIRO/9: Approves that AMCOW EXCO meetings be held once per year, sub-regional meetings be held once per year and Africa Water Week be held biannually.

8.0 GA/011/2012/CAIRO/10: Considering the development of AMCOW’s Staff and Financial Regulations, General Assembly adopts the AMCOW Staff and Financial Regulations in principle and directs the Secretariat to implement them.

9.0 EXCO/11/2012/CAIRO/11: Having consulted on the issue of current suspension placed on signing MoUs with AMCOW as regarding collaboration agreements with partner organisations, General Assembly lifts the suspension for signing new MoU with partners, and directs AMCOW Secretariat to propose MoU with strategic partners, as deemed necessary by the Executive Secretary for approval of EXCO if they meet the following criteria:

I. MoU should be for specific programme(s) and / or activities linked to the AMCOW work plan
II. MoU should be for a specific period linked to the timeframe for implementation of the programme and/or activities
III. MoU should contain clear mechanisms for tracking implementation, evaluating success and feedback to the parties

10 GA/11/2012/CAIRO/11: Having considered AMCOW 3-year Budget, General Assembly approves the AMCOW Secretariat budget of Euro 5,182,224.46 for its requirements in the next 3 years (2012-2014) with a shortfall of this amount Euro 2,719,723.29 and directs AMCOW Secretariat to work with AMCOW EXCO to source funding for the shortfall from country contributions and other donors.

ADOPTED IN CAIRO, EGYPT ON MONDAY, MAY 14TH 2012 AT THE 8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

SIGNED BY

DR HESHAM KANDIL
MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION, EGYPT / AMCOW PRESIDENT (2012-2014)