ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Second Ordinary Session
30 - 31 January 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Assembly/AU/Dec.490-516(XXII)
Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXII)

DECISIONS AND DECLARATION
DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
SHARM EL SHEIKH COMMITMENTS ON ACCELERATING
WATER AND SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/12(XXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **WELCOMES** the very detailed information on progress made by Member States in relation to the commitments made in Sharm El Sheikh as well as the comments and observations from Member States on the report;

2. **COMMENDS** Member States especially Rwanda and Tunisia which recorded the best performances in the achievement of water and sanitation goals;

3. **DECIDES** to designate H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to champion the awareness and mobilizing process of Member States towards the effective implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh commitments on water and sanitation States in Africa;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to strengthen their capacities and to assess the overall needs in order to facilitate the preparation of bankable projects and to remove barriers that hinder the rapid use of available funds at the African Development Bank, and in particular, for fragile States, to reduce the gap and improve their performance in the water sector;

5. **RECALLS** that the implementation of the African Water Vision 2025 is a vital necessity for unlocking the development potential of Africa and highlights the link between water, agriculture and the environment;

6. **ENDORSES** Decision EX.CL/Dec.802(XXIV) adopted by the Executive Council at its last session on 29 January 2014.
EX. CL/Dec.783-812(XXIV)
EX. CL/Recom.(XXIV)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session
21 – 28 January 2014
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JULY 2008 ASSEMBLY DECLARATION ON THE SHARM EL-SHEIKH COMMITMENTS FOR ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA [Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)]

Doc. EX.CL/817(XXIV)

The Executive Council,


2. **COMMENDS** the positive response of Member States in conducting self-assessments and providing information for the preparation of the inaugural report to the Assembly of the African Union on progress in achieving water and sanitation goals in Africa;

3. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the enormous effort invested by Member States in implementing Assembly Declaration [Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)] to accelerate the achievement of the water and sanitation goals;

4. **FURTHER NOTES** the great promise of those efforts to assure water and food security in Africa, as well as reducing the vulnerability of many Member States and the peoples of Africa to climate variability and change;

5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that considerable challenges also still abound, particularly to mobilise the minimum levels of investment required to meet the targets of the Africa Water Vision 2025 for basic water supply and sanitation; irrigated agriculture; and for supporting institutional development, capacity building, research, education and information management;

6. **RECOGNISES** the efforts of the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), in mobilising the key stakeholders and development partners to strengthen the partnership with AU Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for establishing a mechanism for regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress in implementing the commitments on water and sanitation to the AU Assembly;

7. **WELCOMES** the Commitment of Africa’s leadership to further the pursuit of water and sanitation goals; and on the capacity challenges to be addressed to establish a functional African Water and Sanitation Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System as a basis for informed decision making within the African Union;

8. **ENCOURAGES** the participation of Member States in the subsequent rounds of the report preparation in order to obtain a complete picture of progress in the implementation of the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments and requests the
Commission to ensure that the template reaches all MS with a view to ensure that all member states respond;

9. **RECOMMENDS** that the report be updated with data that Member States have promised to provide;

10. **RECOMMENDS** as follows:

   a) to increase investment in Member States to improve access to basic sanitation in Africa and raise the profile of sanitation;

   b) to ensure synergy and complementarity of the efforts of sector institutions and development partners to avoid duplication of actions. Furthermore, more emphasis should be placed on actions with benefits that can be felt at community level, thus improving the living conditions of our people;

   c) to conduct a study to determine levels of underground water available in Member States with a view to support irrigated agriculture. The Commission of the African Union, in collaboration with AMCOV, will support Member States in this activity;

   d) to raise at least 50 million Euros from Member States and development partners to fund implementation of activities for water development, utilisation and management, as well as improvement of hygiene and sanitation at community level. With the aim of reaching at least an additional five million people, focus for this intervention should be placed on the 10 Member States in which the least progress has been reported in water and sanitation development. Part of this funding shall be raised by forgoing water and sanitation events in 2015;

   e) to submit to the Heads of States and Government, the designate His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda to provide leadership in the implementation of the intervention in 9(d) above. He will present the 2015 African Water and Sanitation Report to the AU Assembly;

   f) to enhance the capacity of Member States to prepare bankable projects, as well as resolving all bottlenecks hindering an accelerated use of available funds at the African Development Bank to support fragile and poor performing countries in closing the gap for improving their water sector performance;

   g) to intensify efforts to facilitate peer-to-peer experiential learning and networks development among the water and sanitation Monitoring and Evaluation Focal persons at national level, particularly to share lessons from the experiences of the top performing Member States while at the same time appreciating the challenges faced by those Members States facing
difficulties in either implementing the commitments and or monitoring their progress;

h) to conduct a comprehensive capacity needs assessments by Member States to inform a programme to strengthen national level M&E systems as well as institutionalising the vertical (continental-regional-national) and horizontal (between Member States or regional institutions) linkages required to establish a fully functional African Water and Sanitation M&E System.

11. **ENJOINS** the pursuit of the Africa Water Vision 2025; not as an option but, rather, as vital to unleashing Africa’s development potential.