NOTED INFORMATION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS’ COUNCIL ON WATER ON 21ST OCTOBER 2011

We, the Executive Committee of the Africa Ministers’ Council on Water, rise from our meeting this day the 21st October 2011 in Johannesburg, fully conscious that the sustainable use of water resources within the water, energy and food sectors has become a key factor for more sustainable and equitable economic growth patterns, especially in developing countries.

We take note of the following information on actions taken on past EXCO decisions and other AMCOW matters:

1.0 EXCO/009/2010/ADDIS/6.0: Operationalization of the Pan African Water Sector Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting format to the AU

EXCO notes that AWF is currently supporting monitoring and evaluation in North Africa sub region on the sub regional level, and in Uganda on the country level.

EXCO notes that newly recruited AMCOW Secretariat Programme Officers overseeing regions are currently vested with the responsibility of Monitoring and Evaluation Assessment in their respective sub regions working in conjunction with the Programme Officer in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation stationed at the African Union Commission (AUC) Directorate Office in Addis Ababa and under the supervision of the Programme Coordinator. Their primary function will be to collaborate with the TAC members to operationalize regional monitoring and evaluation system, under the framework of the M&E system developed by the African Development Bank and adopted by AMCOW EXCO in Addis Ababa.

2.0 EXCO/009/2010/ADDIS/11.0: Operationalization of the Africa Groundwater Commission (AGWC) and Nomination of Consensus Female Candidate for West Africa for the Commission

EXCO notes that the process of operationalizing the Africa Groundwater Commission (AGWC) is on-going and that AMCOW Secretariat has actively engaged its network of partners to operationalize the AGWC.

EXCO also notes that AMCOW is working closely with UNESCO on a new project on “Groundwater Governance: a Global Framework for Country Action”; and that a regional consultation workshop on the framework for Africa region is planned for June 2012.
EXCO further notes that AMCOW is working closely with the International Hydrological Association on a programme on “Groundwater: Our Source of Security in an Uncertain Future”.

EXCO notes that West Africa sub region TAC has presented a female Commissioner candidate for the AGWC from the region; however EXCO members from the sub region are yet to deliberate on it.

EXCO notes that the AMCOW Secretariat will continue to serve the secretariat functions for the Commission until the Commission’s secretariat becomes functional in the proposed host country, Libya.


EXCO notes that AMCOW is working closely with Bonn+11 to make input to the Rio+10 on the issues of energy, water and food security.

4.0 EXCO/009/2010/ADDIS/13.0: Strengthening AUC/AMCOW/EC Partnership

EXCO notes with appreciation that the German Government and EC provided the sum of €4m (Four million Euros) and €1.5m (One million, five hundred thousand Euros) respectively totalling €5.5m (Five million, five hundred thousand Euros) being managed by GIZ to support AMCOW.


EXCO notes that UN-HABITAT in conjunction with the South African Government and AMCOW successfully organized the World Water Day in Cape Town from March 20 – 22nd 2011 with the theme “Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge”, and that several sessions focusing on the diverse challenges were discussed and solutions recommended.

EXCO also notes that the theme of the World Water Week held in Stockholm from August 21 – 27, 2011 was “Responding to Global Challenges: Water in an Urbanizing World” and that UN-HABITAT and AMCOW effectively used that platform to move forward the Cape Town recommendations to ensure that water is integrated in all plans of urbanisation and UN-Habitat work priorities especially as it concerns Africa.
6.0 **EXCO/009/2010/ADDIS/20.0: Reinstating Zimbabwe to serve in the Executive Committee as Vice President for Southern Africa**

EXCO notes that the decision to reinstate Zimbabwe to serve as the Executive Committee Vice President for Southern Africa Region has been implemented.

EXCO further notes Mozambique’s expression of dissatisfaction at the decision.

7.0 **Development of AMCOW’s Staff and Financial Regulations**

EXCO notes that the TAC Working Group has commenced work on this and refers to its directive that the draft AMCOW’s Staff and Financial Regulations be completed within 3 months, circulated to relevant stakeholders before being presented at the next EXCO for ratification.

8.0 **Reports of Lead Agencies on AMCOW Initiatives**

EXCO notes with satisfaction the work of all partners in addressing the water and sanitation challenges facing Africa especially GWP’s Water, Climate and Development Programme, the pilot implementation of which will support eight countries in developing water security and climate resilient investment strategies; and the production of the AMCOW Gender Mainstreaming Strategy by GWP, WSP and other partners.

EXCO further notes that AMCOW Gender Mainstreaming Strategy was launched during AfricaSan3 in Kigali by the AMCOW Vice President (Southern Africa), Hon. SS Nkomo on behalf of the AMCOW President.

EXCO also notes the TAC recommendation that lead agencies and partners should provide written reports as part of documentation for EXCO meetings.

9.0 **Draft AMCOW Governance Analysis**

EXCO notes that work on the AMCOW Governance Structure is on-going and that the final report will be presented at the next General Assembly of Ministers through EXCO for ratification.

10.0 **Green Growth Initiative**

EXCO commends on-going deliberation on the sustainable use of water resources within the water, energy, and food sectors and notes the recommendation that all action in the water, energy and food security nexus requires an enabling framework which includes the establishment of good governance principles and much better policy coherence.
EXCO also notes the convening of the Conference Bonn 2011: The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus- Solutions for the Green Economy coming up in November 2011 which will focus on four important action fields:

- Policy Coherence and Governance
- Ending Wastage
- Valuing Ecosystems
- Innovation and Technology

11.0 **MoUs with AMCOW**

EXCO notes that the TAC Working Group on MoU guidelines has commenced work and will present the final draft for EXCO approval at its next meeting.

*NOTED IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA ON FRIDAY, 21ST OCTOBER, 2011*

*SIGNED BY THE MEMBERS OF AMCOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*