DURBAN POLITICAL DECLARATION SIGNED ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD WATER DAY ON 22 MARCH 2017

PREAMBLE

We, the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), Inter-sectoral Ministers, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa United Nations (UN) Agencies, Provincial and Local Governments, Business people, Labour Major Groups (Women, Youth, people living with disability) and representatives of Governments and Civil Society gathered in Durban, South Africa, on the occasion of the 2017 World Water Day, featuring the launch the 2017 World Water Development Report, entitled “Wastewater: The untapped resource” and the HLPW announcement of the “Call for Action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal-6 on Water and Sanitation”, in line with the Action Plan initiative on ‘Access to Water and Sanitation services for 10 Billion People’; acknowledge and support the synthesis of the preamble as captured, to “Encourage the development and deployment of public awareness and education campaigns for civil society, businesses and government representatives around water quality, sanitation, gender and health”. The Durban Political Declaration agreed by all Political leaders mirror the key principles, pillars and vision of the African Union, AMCOW, and HLPW Action Plan in support of the implementation of the SDGs. The Political Declaration seeks to encourage the acceleration plans and programmes and commit to the rollout of the Action Plan initiative.
Therefore, we:

a. **Arising from** the 2017 World Water Day Celebrations, the Global Launch of the UN World Water Development Report 2017 entitled: "Wastewater: The Untapped Resource" and the announcement of the Call for Action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal-6 on Water and Sanitation held in Durban, the Republic of South Africa from 22 to 24 March 2017;

b. **Recalling** the African Union Heads of State and Government decision (Dec/AU/Dec.516(XXII)) 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, the eThekwini Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions adopted in South Africa in February 2008;

c. **Further recalling** the Dar Es Salaam Roadmap for Achieving the N’gor Commitments on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa following the 6th Africa Water Week held in Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 18 – 23 July 2016;

d. **Noting** the outcomes of the Dakar Declaration on Water Security and Sanitation and the N’gor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene adopted by the African Ministers Council on Water during the 5th Africa Water Week in May 2014 and the 4th Africa Sanitation Conference (AfricaSan 4) in May 2015 respectively;

e. **Mindful of the** Africa Water Vision 2025 of “An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment”;

f. **Further Recalling** the aspirations and commitments espoused in the African Agenda 2063 to optimize use of Africa’s Resources to ensure positive socio-economic
transformation; the 2004 Sirte Declaration (Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl.1(II)) on integrated development of Agriculture and Water in Africa; and the 2008 Tunis Declaration on Accelerating Water Security for Africa’s Socio-Economic Development; and

g. **Welcoming** the work of the AMCOW on the establishment of Africa web-based monitoring and reporting system for water and sanitation sector and linked to the global monitoring processes and efforts to strengthen and institutionalize harmonised monitoring and reporting system at member states, sub-regional, and basin levels to report on actions taken to implement these High Level Declarations including Political Declaration commitments.

**We resolve and commit ourselves to:**

1. **Support and strengthen** the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation and related goals by ensuring coherence in the implementation of our policies in line with the HLPW Action Plan.

2. **Support and share** the best Practice Models initiatives championed by regional leaders who serve as members of the High Level Panel on Water, (South Africa, Senegal and Mauritius).

3. **Request the** African Heads of States and Government through African Union Commission (AUC) to prioritize Water and Sanitation as central to Africa’s Economic Development and Growth. In addition designate AMCOW as the Technical Advisory Committee within AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment to champion the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) at the political level.
4. *Increase* budgetary allocation to match the central role of water security and sanitation in Agenda 2030 and in line with the Sharm El Sheikh declaration, *request* AMCOW, African Development Bank (AfDB) and AUC in collaboration with development partners, to convene meetings of Ministers responsible for Water, and Finance to develop and implement appropriate financing policies and models for water and sanitation.

5. *Strengthen* national and trans-boundary water institutions, through collaboration to enhance water security in ensuring effective and efficient governance mechanisms; and evidence-based planning.

Adopted in Durban, the Republic of South Africa on 22 March 2017.