AFRICA FOCUS DAY

Water Security: Opportunities for the 21st Century
Managing Africa Water Resources: Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday 28th August 2012, 09:00 – 17:30

Main Messages
• Our efforts to improve governance of the water sector should focus on improving the effectiveness of the institutional linkages between AUC, AMCOW, RECs, R/LBOs and member states.

• It is important to place water as an engine of growth. Without that, most of on-going efforts for development in Africa may not deliver the desired outcomes.
• Without shifting focus from water supply and sanitation, it is vital to also raise the priority given to water for food, energy and industrial production
• It goes without saying that the achievements of AMCOW in the last decade could not have been possible without the immense support of AMCOW’s development cooperation and funding partners.

• The immeasurable financial commitment of AMCOW’s partners need to be matched by the contributions of AMCOW member states. Domestic funding solutions to development programmes ensure ownership and provide better sustainability.
• Governments are advised revise their intentions for endorsing new commitments until previous commitments are met or at least reasons for delays have been identified and analyzed especially regarding MDGs. Feasible alternatives for reaching the sanitation goals have to be specified to overcome the existing huge African inequalities. Furthermore, mobilizing the political will is a pre – requisite to achieve commitments.
• Establishing a functional **Enabling Environment** is another pre-requisite to sustainable development, as identified several years before, we need to continue creating such an enabling environment
• Continue **building capacities** within the water sector. 300% more capacities are required. A proper mechanism for capacity building has to be in effect. This has to be driven by governments.

• Enhance **technology transfer** and capacities to run it for Africa,

• Local **Centers of Excellence** are much needed and could be supported by Peer to Peer cooperation.
• Horizontal integration across the water sector is much needed. Decisions have to be streamlined between water, agriculture, environment, energy, and finance sectors.

• Need to tie national visions to African Vision

• Promote Regional and Basin wide IWRM as one package and link it to National IWRM Plans
• Water should be treated as a **business opportunity** rather than a **risk opportunity**, while recognising water as a **social commodity**; several examples exist to support this.

• Water is a **UNITING FACTOR**.

• **Sustainability** of water sector projects is the key to **attract private investments**.
• Identify explicitly the requirements for a *good project*, a **bankable project**, to gain a higher opportunity for funding when submitted to development partners (with positive and sustainable Social and Environment impacts, and pertaining to achievement of the African Vision 2025 and AMCOW’s WORK PLAN, national and regional policies and strategies), A well **established mechanism to help nations in making their proposals bankable** is needed. In this regard we acknowledge the efforts by AWF, PIDA and ICA
• Proper **M&E systems** are required for effective follow up and reporting on progress. We acknowledge the efforts by AMCOW and its partners to achieve such goals.

• **Data management** in all of its prospects need to be enhanced. Starting at the national level, data collection, processing, sharing, and support for decision making have to be further developed.

• Promote moving towards **green cities** paradigm
Thank you,
Let us all hope for the best of our people and the best of our nations.