

Dakar Declaration of the General Assembly of the African Ministers Council on Water on the Prioritization of Water Security and Sanitation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda - May 31 2014

1. **Arising** from the 9th General Assembly of the African Ministers Council on Water held in Dakar, Senegal from May 30th to 31st 2014;
2. **Against** the background of the Declaration on the Accelerating the Achievement of the Water and Sanitation Goals by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008;
3. **Recalling** the outcome document "The Future We Want" of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, 20-22 June 2012 and the on-going negotiations of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;
4. **Reaffirming** the Africa Shared 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 environment";
5. **Recalling** the imperative to move from commitments to actual implementation of the decisions made at the highest political levels as espoused by the African Ministers Council on Water in the Regional Report to the 5th World Water Forum;
6. **Informed** by the outcomes of the 2011 Africa Water Sector Report to the Assembly of the African Union on the Implementation of the July 2008 Assembly Declaration on the Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water Security and Sanitation Goals in Africa, the 2008 eThekweni Commitments on Sanitation, and the outcomes of the 5th Africa Water Week with the theme "Placing water at the heart of the post 2015 development agenda";
7. **Acknowledging** the fact that urban growth in Africa is one of the highest in the world and that urban water security is at risk because of increasing pressure on water resources, poor or no wastewater management and exposure to extreme events;
8. **Recalling** the Sirte Declaration (Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl. 1) of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union to 'support the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in its role of preparing plans and policies related to water resources management on the continent';
9. **Recognising** the important role played by the African Ministers Council on Water in bringing water issues to the highest level of the continent's decision-making;
10. **Aware** of the the poor performance of many African countries in attaining the MDG targets for sanitation;

AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER

11. **Recognising** the considerable interest shown in the continent's water security and sanitation agenda demonstrated by the over 1000 participants from governments in Africa; Regional Economic Communities and River and Lakes Basin Organisations; Intergovernmental Organisations; development and financing partners; and Civil Society Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations; youth and women organisations from the continent and beyond in attendance at the 5th Africa Water Week in Dakar, Republic of Senegal:

We, the General Assembly of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), meeting on the back of the 5th African Water Week held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, make this Declaration on Prioritisation of Water and Sanitation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, commit to the implementation of the AMCOW Triennial Work Programme 2014 – 2016 to reinvigorate the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa, and welcome partners to commit and contribute to its Implementation;

- a) **commit** to elevate “Water security and Sanitation for Growth in Africa” as AMCOW’s strategic focus up to 2025, building on national experiences under National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategies;
- b) **call** for the tackling of Africa’s infrastructure deficit, especially the prioritization of the implementation of water projects in the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, in order to unlock the productive sectors of national economies and advance the sustainable use of water resources to support agriculture food security and growth, and on wastewater and pollution management;
- c) **commit** to mobilizing domestic resources and addressing the issue of sustainable financing, including the replenishment and increase of AMCOW’s African Water Facility and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative, in line with past declarations;
- d) **commit** to implementing a regular monitoring and reporting of actions taken on the commitments made at the highest political level to inform policies and plans; and to annually report on progress in the implementation of the Sharm el Sheikh commitments on Water and Sanitation to the Assembly of the Heads of State and Governments of the African Union;
- e) **reaffirm** that a distinct Water Security and Sanitation goal is essential in the post-2015 global development agenda that ensures secure, productive and sustainable water for all purposes, and sanitation and hygiene interventions, and that the integrated delivery of the two are a prerequisite for sustainable socio-economic development and the achievement of total health outcomes;
- f) **assert** that the Water Security and Sanitation goal should be supported by a set of targets covering the following five themes: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Water Resources Management; Water Governance; Wastewater and Water Quality Management and Water and Disaster Risk Management;

- g) **emphasise** the need for urgent attention from all governments and partners to build on the progress made to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to address the unfinished business of water and sanitation in the post-2015 development agenda, especially given the pivotal role of water security and sanitation for sustainable economic growth and social progress in Africa;
- h) **call** for the retention of AMCOW as a Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Water Security and Sanitation in the African Union in line with the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments decision in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, to strengthen AMCOW as a key regional mechanism for promoting cooperation on water security and sanitation in the region and as an instrument to coordinate the implementation of these commitments and for reporting on the status of implementation.

Done in Dakar, Senegal, this 31st May 2014


Hon. Sarah Reng-Ochekpe
Minister for Water Resources, Federal Republic of Nigeria /
AMCOW Interim President