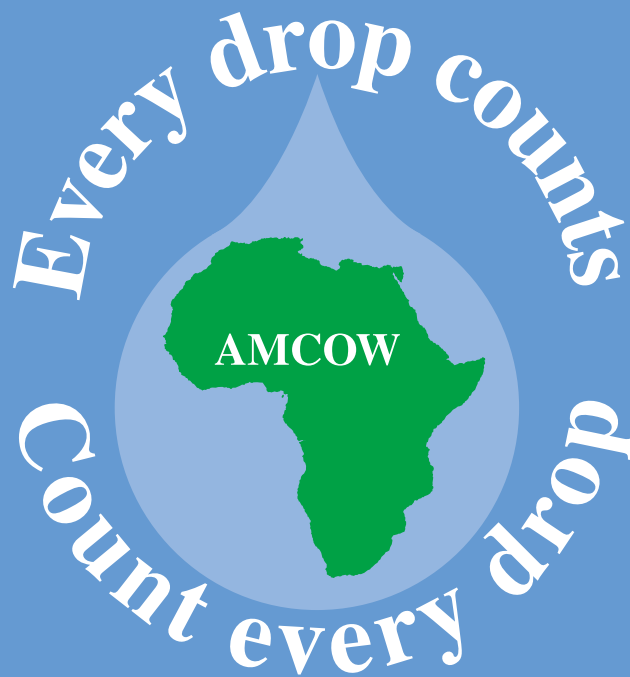




African Ministers' Council on Water

Corporate Profile



African Ministers' Council on Water

Preface

There is a major transformation taking place on the African continent – a fundamental reform and renewal focused on African ownership, leadership, and self-reliance, while leading to a new partnership with the developed countries that is based on mutual respect, responsibility and accountability. African leaders have been engaged in this process since taking the decision in Zambia in 1999 to transform the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU). The Constitutive Act of the AU provides for greater political integration and commits African countries to principles of democracy, human rights, good governance, gender equality, and people-centred development.

In 2001, the same principles and values inspired the adoption of NEPAD as the socio-economic development programme of the AU. Water resource management is a priority area for NEPAD, on which it is focused through the African Water Vision for 2025, aiming to shift towards more equitable and sustainable development and management of Africa's water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and environmental sustainability. It is within this political and institutional setting that the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) has emerged as the principal mechanism for policy dialogue and coordination of strategies on water and sanitation among the African countries and with the international community.

The Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at their 2nd extraordinary session in Sirte, Libya in February 2004, declared their support for the African Ministers' Council on Water for its role in developing the plans and policies related to the management of all water resources on the African continent. The Sirte Declaration recommended integration of AMCOW into the AU as one of the specialised technical committees.

At the AU we believe that AMCOW is a prime example of how African governments are now taking control of our own development. As this brochure illustrates, the sort of collaboration and commitment shown by governments and other stakeholders through their engagement in AMCOW, can lead to important achievements. This is the way forward for Africa.



Rosebud Kurwijila

Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
African Union Commission



"The formation of AMCOW is a welcome positive political development for Africa. The political commitment of the African nations to confront its water challenges is clear as demonstrated by the launching of NEPAD and AMCOW. The objectives of AMCOW are in line with objectives of the African Union and the NEPAD and, therefore, I expect that the prime objective of this partnership is to contribute to the eradication of poverty and place African countries individually and collectively on the path of sustainable growth and development.

Water poses a number of challenges for Africa in its effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals of halving, by 2015, the number of people without access to water and sanitation. Water plays a pivotal role in society; it is critical for economic development; for human and social welfare, especially for the poor; and for environmental sustainability. AMCOW should seize this opportunity when our development partners have openly and clearly expressed their interest in helping Africa improve its safe water and sanitation coverage. AMCOW should be the continental arm for moving forward on global concerns and initiatives to address the anticipated global water crisis.

Let me assure you of my political commitment and support to AMCOW".

Excerpt from the speech of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Uganda delivered at the 5th session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) Entebbe, Uganda, November, 2004.

Foreword

Water is one of the most important resources affecting Africa's socio-economic development and ecosystem integrity. Yet with only 9% of global freshwater resources (4,050 km³/yr) the situation in Africa is not encouraging. These meagre resources are unevenly distributed across the continent: Western and Central Africa are the only regions with significant renewable freshwater resources; Northern, Eastern and Southern Africa have the smallest endowment. Water scarcity is further exacerbated by climate variability and the all-too-common perception that water is an infinite and free commodity.

It is estimated that over 300 million people in Africa face water scarcity conditions. By 2025, 18 African countries are expected to experience water stress. On the other hand, Africa has 60 international river basins whose water potential could benefit all riparian communities. Transboundary cooperative mechanisms for the management of these shared water resources are underdeveloped, further reducing the potential to meet increasing freshwater requirements for domestic, agricultural, industrial and environmental needs. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will remain elusive in Africa unless a paradigm shift in water resources management occurs.

Given the commitment of our leaders to liberate Africa from poverty and disease, and their recognition of the central role of water in sustainable development, the above situation led them to launch the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in April 2002. The Council has since then provided political leadership and strategic direction for water management and development in the continent.

AMCOW's credibility has resulted in many successes already. It has established the African Water Facility (AWF), hosted by the African Development Bank, for mobilization of resources for achievement of the MDG/WSSD targets for water and sanitation. Major development partners have committed resources to the AWF. AMCOW has cooperated with the UN agencies dealing with water, and has begun a strategic partnership with the European Union Water Initiative. It is charged with oversight of the implementation of NEPAD's water component. Through its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and sub-regional arrangements, AMCOW cultivates a clear relationship with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and River Basin Organizations (RBOs) for execution of trans-boundary water management and development programmes.

As the current President of AMCOW, I strongly believe the Council is on the right track and warrants support from all stakeholders to translate the African Water Vision into reality and put Africa on the road to achieving her commitments to the global community.



Mrs. Maria Mutagamba
President of the African Ministers' Council on Water
Minister of State for Water Resources, Uganda



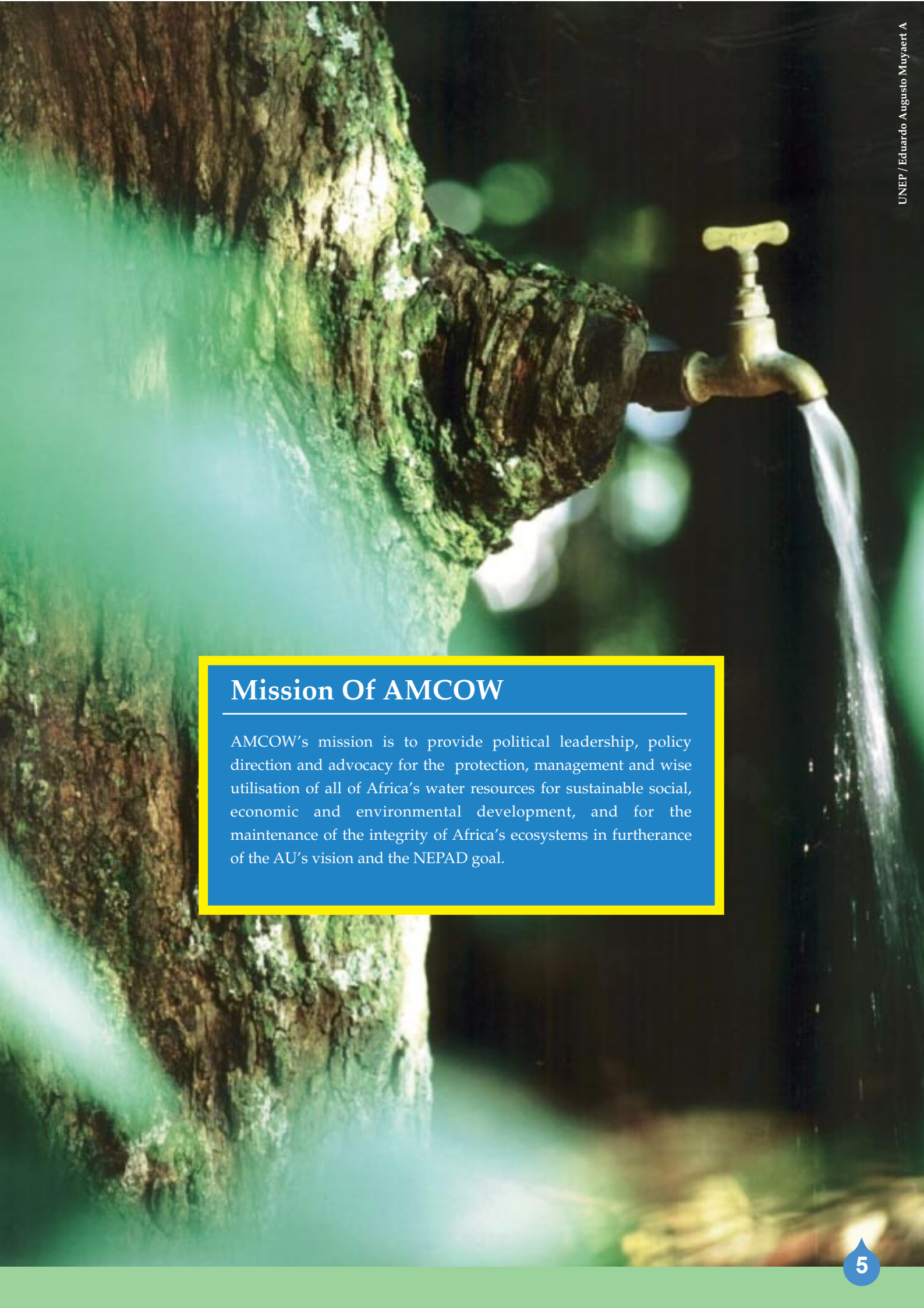
Introduction

For several years African leaders have been engaged in a process of renewal of the continent, heralded in 1999 with the decision to transform the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU). The negotiation of the legal framework for the AU generated intense discussion about the challenges facing the continent and what needs to be done to address them. The resulting Constitutive Act of the AU provides for greater political integration and commits African countries to principles of democracy, human rights, good governance, gender equality, and people-centred development.

In 2001 the same principles and values inspired the adoption of NEPAD as the socio-economic development programme of the AU. One of the priority areas for NEPAD is water and sanitation, and in response to the challenges faced in this sector the African Water Vision for 2025 was developed to stimulate a shift in approach towards more equitable and sustainable development and management of Africa's water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and environmental sustainability. It is within this political and institutional setting that AMCOW has emerged as the principal mechanism for policy dialogue and coordination of strategies on water and sanitation among the African countries and with the international community.

"We need to turn commitments into action. In this process, it is critical that these commitments and support are coordinated and focused and that linkages and synergies are established to a common African agenda and set of implementable actions, in order to secure maximum effectiveness in achieving our water and sanitation goals and objectives."

- Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairperson of the NEPAD Steering Committee



Mission Of AMCOW

AMCOW's mission is to provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy for the protection, management and wise utilisation of all of Africa's water resources for sustainable social, economic and environmental development, and for the maintenance of the integrity of Africa's ecosystems in furtherance of the AU's vision and the NEPAD goal.



The Abuja Ministerial Declaration On Water

A Key to Sustainable Development in Africa

Consequent to the commitments African Ministers made at the International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn, Germany (December 2001) and at the continental meeting held in Accra, Ghana (early 2002) the African Ministers in charge of water affairs met in Abuja, Nigeria during 29–30 April 2002 under the chairmanship of H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and agreed on "the Abuja Declaration", which, in addition to formally launching AMCOW, confirmed the Ministers' joint commitment to realizing a number of deliverables. Subsequent AMCOW sessions have identified new deliverables.

Key Deliverables

- (a) Promote actions which will help advance, with respect to water and sanitation, the objectives of the Constitutive Act of the AU and the goals of the African Water Vision;
- (b) Ensure concerted international support for the operation of AMCOW as soon as possible in order to place water-related concerns at the centre of Africa's political and developmental agenda;
- (c) Support AMCOW's regional programme of action on water to provide a framework for concrete actions in addressing key water-related concerns;
- (d) Develop a regional water investment programme to promote financing for Africa's water sector;
- (e) Organize, annually, special ministerial round-tables/dialogue sessions to focus attention on progress made or needed in four major areas, (i) governance (ii) financing (iii) capacity building and (iv) technology transfer -- in the water sector in Africa.
- (f) Launch a Special Regional Awards Scheme to recognize: (i) major achievements/successes of African governments in promoting water sector reforms, particularly with regard to water governance, water policy reforms, percentage of national budgetary allocation to water and sanitation, legislative reforms to facilitate access to safe water, capacity-building, and technology transfer; and (ii) major contributions of the private sector, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies, financial institutions, inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies and individuals in expanding access of the poor to safe and adequate drinking water.



Governance Of AMCOW and Related Institutional Arrangements

AMCOW Governing Council

The Council serves as the principal inter-governmental body on water issues and is composed of 53 African Ministers responsible for water affairs. The Council has the following functions:

- To keep the state of Africa's water resources under review and promote desirable actions of common interest to Africa;
- To facilitate sub-regional, regional and international cooperation through the coordination of issues relating to water policies and actions among African countries;
- To support international cooperation on water-related issues through development of common positions on matters of global concerns as well as cooperation in implementation of relevant conventions and international agreements;
- To encourage mechanisms that promote best practices in water policy reforms, integrated water resources management, food security, water supply and sanitation, and also assist in delivery of national, sub-regional and regional programmes;
- To provide a forum for dialogue with UN agencies and other partners on water programmes;
- To promote, in the region, studies regarding climate change, develop policies and strategies for the management of water resources during drought and floods, and develop policies and strategies for averting water crises in Africa;
- To keep under review and constantly seek to strengthen the financing of the water sector in Africa;
- To promote sub-regional and basin-wide cooperation.



UNEP / Chinese Photographer

AMCOW corporate profile

AMCOW Executive Committee

The Committee is composed of the President of the Council and 15 other members elected from the five sub-regions of Africa. The present Executive Committee membership is as follows:

- President, Uganda
- Eastern Africa: Ethiopia (Vice-President), Rwanda and Tanzania
- Western Africa: Senegal (Vice-President), Ghana and Burkina Faso
- Central Africa: Republic of Congo (Vice-President), Chad and DR Congo
- Northern Africa: Algeria (Vice-President), Morocco and Libya
- Southern Africa: Lesotho (Vice-President), South Africa and Namibia

The Committee has the following functions:

- To ensure that decisions of the Council are implemented,
- To endorse the programs and budgets for the approval of the Council,
- To decide on arrangements for the sessions of the Council,
- To decide on strategic directions of the constituent organs of AMCOW.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The current TAC consists of technical experts from the five sub-regions of Africa:

- Southern Africa: Lesotho, South Africa and Namibia
- Eastern Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania
- Western Africa: Senegal, Ghana and Burkina Faso
- Northern Africa: Algeria, Morocco and Libya
- Central Africa: Republic of Congo, Chad and DR Congo



UNEP / Nguyen Van Dung

AMCOW corporate profile

TAC has the following functions:

To provide technical support to the Council in:

- Formulation of policies and strategies for the consideration of the Executive Committee
- Coordination with other institutions, and
- Operational follow-up of issues and decisions.

Sub-regional Committees

These consist of a Ministerial committee and technical experts responsible for ensuring that arrangements are in place for sub-regional coordination on AMCOW matters. Sub-regional Committees have the following functions:

- Approval of sub-regional programs developed by sub-regional TACs,
- Coordination of sub-regional programs,
- Reporting to the Executive Committee of the Council.

AMCOW Secretariat:

The Secretariat is headed by an Executive Secretary responsible for:

- Day-to-day running of the secretariat,
- Taking action on the decisions of the Council,
- Preparing programs and budgets for consideration by the Executive Committee,
- Providing secretariat services for the sessions and meetings of the organs of the Council,
- Reporting to the Executive Committee.



AMCOW corporate profile

AMCOW Commitments, Initiatives And Achievements

- Institutionalization of continent-wide water policy dialogue at the ministerial and experts level;
- Coherent engagement of governments, international organizations and institutions, UN specialized agencies, private sector, NGOs, and others in reversing and halting the water crisis in Africa;
- Integration of water policy challenges and priorities in Africa;
- Successful holding of the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2003;
- Establishment of the African Water Facility;
- Signing a partnership agreement between Africa and the European Union on support for water-sector management and development in Africa;
- Development of a portfolio of water projects/initiatives;
- Putting in place institutional arrangements for AMCOW;
- Contribution to the international fora dealing with water and sanitation issues;
- Development of a tri-annual work-plan;
- Establishment of AMCOW institutional structures and Trust Fund to finance implementation of the triennial work programme.

AMCOW's Relations With Continental Bodies And Regional Institutions

The Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at their 2nd extraordinary session held in Sirte, Libya during 27 – 28 February 2004, declared their support for the African Ministers' Council on Water for its role in developing the plans and policies related to the management of water all resources on the African continent. The Sirte Declaration recommended integration of AMCOW into the AU as one of the specialised technical committees.



Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water in Africa

The Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 27 to 28 February 2004, agreed on the Sirte Declaration, which states, *inter alia*, regarding water, the following:

"In view of the fact that water is the main factor for the most important economic sectors, the preservation of water resources, their proper distribution to the regions of the continent to meet irrigation needs, human and industrial consumption and the best use of water to face drought and desertification dangers that threaten most of the African arable lands while large quantities of water flow into the oceans and seas, we therefore, DECIDE to:

1. Support the African Ministers' Council on Water for its role in developing the plans and policies related to the management of water resources on the continent.
2. Reactivate the existing mechanisms at the level of the water basin and establish new ones, wherever appropriate, in order to:
 - Develop and promote water resources through support of infrastructure projects that lead to an increase in the establishment of dams, laying down of canals and sinking of wells and providing irrigation equipment;
 - Exploitation of waterfalls to provide electric power and link it to the continent's general network;
 - Carry out studies on untapped water in areas where it is available in large quantities in order to benefit the continent in accordance with the principles of international law and the protocols concluded between the riparian States.

The water component of NEPAD has the objectives: (a) to plan and manage water resources as a basis for national development and regional cooperation (b) to promote cooperation on shared water resources and (c) to ensure sustainable access to safe and adequate water supply and sanitation, especially for the poor. AMCOW's role is to provide strategic direction for achieving these objectives through, *inter alia*, provision of ministerial responses to the water crisis in Africa, a common African position and perspective on the global water agenda, and a platform for regional dialogue and cooperation on water policy. On the basis of such cooperation, the Chairperson of NEPAD made the following statement.



AMCOW corporate profile

"We need to turn commitments into actions. In this process, it is critical that these commitments and support are coordinated and focussed and that linkages and synergies are established to a common African agenda and set of implementable actions, in order to secure maximum effectiveness in achieving our water and sanitation goals and objectives".

- Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairperson of NEPAD Secretariat

In following the subsidiarity principle, AMCOW promotes better working relations with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and River and Lake Basin Organizations as key institutions in the implementation of AMCOW's decisions on investment towards access to safe water and adequate sanitation in Africa. These centres also offer fora, at the ground level, for cooperation on shared water resources.

Strong working relations with RECs and River and Lake Basin Organizations are seen as critical for strengthening AMCOW's effectiveness at the sub-regional and national levels. Ultimately, these institutions will become the focal points for coordination and implementation of water policies developed under AMCOW's auspices. This is part of a broader strategy for strengthening AMCOW that includes enhancing the capacity of the AMCOW Secretariat and the support office for the AMCOW President.

Global Solidarity And Partnerships: Toward A Framework Agreement

Since its inception, a number of partners – UN specialized agencies, international and regional organizations and institutions, civil society groups, and others – have closely collaborated with AMCOW and contributed to the advancement of its work.

The Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, held in Addis Ababa in December 2003, was a landmark event which was organized in collaboration with these partners. The UN-Water/Africa, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Water Task Force were among the co-sponsors of the conference. The partnership segment of the conference included the active presence of EU member states, culminating in a cooperative agreement between the EU and AMCOW. At the same time, a number of other important partnerships were consolidated, such as with the World Bank Water and Sanitation initiative and civil society networks. This cooperation will be further strengthened and institutionalized through a framework agreement between AMCOW and its partners.



Financing For The Water Sector In Africa

AMCOW established the African Water Facility, hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), as a mechanism for coordinated resource mobilization for financing water sector development in Africa. The Facility will complement all other bilateral and multilateral initiatives that contribute to the development and sustainable management of Africa's water resources. The target of the Facility is initially to mobilise US\$615 million to support implementation of the Medium-term (2005/2009) programme. AfDB has already committed US\$ 2.3 million to support the Facility for three years. Major development partners, such as CIDA, European Commission and France, have also committed substantial resources to the Facility while many others have pledged to support it. The Facility is expected to be fully operational by March 2005.

Additionally, UNEP is hosting an AMCOW Trust Fund as a mechanism through which African countries can contribute financially to the work of AMCOW, and through which development cooperation partners have a reliable and consistent means to allocate resources towards the achievement of the MDGs with respect to water in Africa.

The Way Forward

In the relatively short time since its inception in May 2002, the African Ministers' Council on Water has taken great strides to build solidarity and commitment across the continent to address the water crisis in Africa. It has become a shining example of how African governments and their partners can work together to meet the development challenges in the region and fulfil the hope that the Millennium Development Goals can be reached in Africa. While AMCOW has, indeed, been "making it happen", it has only just started out on this journey. There is much left to be done.

Keeping a clear focus on the challenges faced in the water sector in Africa has been a unique strength of AMCOW and its member Ministers. Through continual open dialogue on the major policy issues, the Ministers have developed a common vision of the way forward, incorporated into a comprehensive Work Programme for 2005-2007. The Work Programme envisions major collective efforts to strengthen sub-regional mechanisms for AMCOW and develops coherence with regional and sub-regional bodies. It addresses the need for mobilizing civil society, private sector, the media, youth and the general public. To realize these strategies, AMCOW is strengthening its Secretariat and communication mechanisms. Last but not least, AMCOW is launching initiatives for mobilizing new resources while realizing existing commitments made by development cooperation partners. The sustained commitment and leadership of AMCOW and its partners over the coming years will ensure that this vision becomes a reality.



AMCOW corporate profile

Upon launching of the Africa–EU Water Partnership at the Water Dome in Johannesburg on 30 August 2002, a number of other organizations and development partners expressed support for and willingness to work with AMCOW to solve the water crisis in Africa. Such goodwill was similarly expressed by the 12th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) when the CSD called on other regions to emulate Africa by forming regional bodies similar to AMCOW. The role of AMCOW was equally recognised by the G8 Summit held in Kananaskis, Canada in 2003: among the summit outcomes was the G8 Africa Action Plan whose main focus is water resources in Africa.

UN specialized agencies with water related activities have shown commitment to work with AMCOW to foster synergies in water development. Such agencies include UNEP, UNECA, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, WMO, FAO, and the World Bank. The 2nd phase of the Water for African Cities programme of UN-HABITAT is already linked with the activities of AMCOW. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is also working with AMCOW under the G8–German Initiative to strengthen the capacity for transboundary water management in Africa, as agreed by the Heads of State and Government of G8 countries during their summit in Evian les Bains, France, in 2003.

AMCOW OFFICES

AMCOW key offices are the following (as of March 2005 and subject to change)

The Office of the Council's President

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P.O. Box 7096, Kampala, Uganda Tel. 256 41 236 384 Fax. 256 41 230 891
E-mail: maria@mwle.go.ug

AMCOW Secretariat

Dr. Ja'afar Abubakar Sadeeq, Head
AMCOW Secretariat, Federal Ministry of Water Resources,
PMB 159 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria Tel. 234 9 2342891 Fax: 234 9 2342895
E-mail: amcow2@yahoo.com

Offices of the Sub-Regional Committees in each of the five sub-regions of Africa.

(a) Eastern Africa:

Council Vice-president
Hon. Shiferaw Jarso, Minister for Water Resources
P.O. Box 5744, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

(b) Western Africa:

Council Vice-president
Hon. Habib Csy
Ministere des Mines, de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique,
Building Administratif
Dakar, Senegal

(c) Northern Africa:

Council Vice-president
Hon. Abdelmalik Sellal
Minister for Water, Ministry of Water Resources
P.O. Box 225 Algiers, Algeria

(d) Central Africa:

Council Vice-president
Hon. Philippe M'Vouo
Minister, Ministere de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique
B.P.2120 Brazzaville, Congo

(e) Southern Africa:

Council Vice-president
Hon. Mrs. M Khaketla
Minister for Natural Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 772 Maseru, Lesotho

An AMCOW Directory is available for further contact information.



Conseil Des Ministres Africains Chargés De L'Eau
