



**DECISIONS OF THE
13TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GOVERNING
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)
CAIRO, EGYPT
13 – 15 JUNE 2023**

Preamble

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of AMCOW, the 13th Ordinary Session of the AMCOW Council of Ministers (the Council) was convened on 13 to 15 June 2023. It comprised of two parts:

- i) the session of the Technical Advisory and Technical Experts Committees (TAC and TEC) on 13 – 14 June 2023; and
- ii) The Ministerial Session on 15 June 2023.

Rising on 15th June 2023, the 13th Ordinary Session of the Council took the following decisions:

GA/13/2023/CAI/1 on the 2022 Annual Report of the Commission 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 (Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)).

The Governing Council, recalling AMCOW Decision **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/1**:

- 1.1 **Tasks** the AMCOW Secretariat to avail the final report to the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC-ARBE) for processing through the relevant organs of the Commission responsible for preparing and submitting documents to the AU Heads of State and Government.
- 1.2 **Enjoins** AUC-ARBE to undertake all required processes to present the report through the relevant organs of AU for the consideration of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU Assembly of HoSG).
- 1.3 **Endorses** it for submission as part of AMCOW's inputs to the 4th Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC on ARDWE).
- 1.4 **Tasks** the AMCOW Secretariat, in collaboration with the AUC, to work with Member States to establish baselines and capture as much information as possible for the 2023 WASSMO reporting cycle. The 2023 edition of the WASSMO Report will constitute a key element of the situation analysis to inform formulation of the technical proposals for the post-2025 Africa Water Vision.
- 1.5 **Encourages** Member States to prioritize the data collection process and to provide all required data.
- 1.6 **Further tasks** the Secretariat, in collaboration with AUC and Member States, to conduct a multi-level dialogue process to:

- 1.6.1 assure broad and active stakeholder input into prioritisation of the technical proposals and articulation of the action framework of the post-2025 Africa Water Vision, culminating into the 3rd African Implementation and Partnership Conference (PANAFCON-3) in 2024;
- 1.6.2 assure high-level political ownership of the Vision and, in turn, active commitment to actualise it. Emphasis will be placed on making a business case for the water and sanitation economy as an essential success factor of national fiscal policy; and,
- 1.6.3 ensure that the post-2025 Africa Water Vision is aligned to and is adopted as an implementation framework of Agenda 2063.
- 1.7 **Appeals**, through the STC on ARDWE, to the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union to adopt **'Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development'** as the theme of the African Union for 2026.
- 1.8 **Acknowledges** the contributions and support of Cameroon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Tanzania to the capacity needs assessment.
- 1.9 **Takes note** of the outcomes and recommendations of the capacity needs assessment and **tasks** the Secretariat to finalise elaboration of the programme to identify and address capacity constraints at Member States level for:
 - 1.9.1 data collection and storage;
 - 1.9.2 information generation and accessibility;
 - 1.9.3 utilisation of the information to support decision making processes and policy advocacy; and,
 - 1.9.4 inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms and functionality of National Coordination Platforms.
- 1.10 **Acknowledges** the invaluable support of AMCOW's funding, technical and implementing partners and **tasks** the Secretariat to establish and expand the partnerships required to mobilise resources to support Member States to implement the recommendations of the WASSMO reports.

GA/13/2023/CAI/2 on the 2023 Report on the implementation of the 2015 Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene.

The Governing Council:

- 2.1 Takes note** of the Member States' commitment to report on the implementation of the May 2015 Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene.
- 2.2 Acknowledges** the support and information provided by the Member States to prepare the 2023 AfricaSan Ngor Report.
- 2.3 Further acknowledges** the contributions and the invaluable support of AMCOW's funding, technical and implementing partners to Member States' efforts in pursuit of the Ngor Commitments on Hygiene and Sanitation.
- 2.4 Adopts** the 2023 AfricaSan Ngor report and its recommendations after consideration of further inputs from the TAC in the 4 week period up to 11 of July 2023, **and endorses** it for submission as part of AMCOW's inputs to the 5th Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC on ARDWE).
- 2.5 Tasks** the AMCOW Secretariat to avail the final report to the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC-ARBE) to process it through the relevant organs of the Commission responsible for preparing and submitting documents to the AU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government.
- 2.6 Further tasks** the Secretariat to mobilise and expand the partnerships required to implement the recommendations of the report.
- 2.7 Calls on** all Member States to submit the outcomes of their self assessments for the next cycle of reporting on the Ngor Commitments.
- 2.8 Urges** Member States and the relevant partners to add new impetus to ongoing efforts to improve sanitation and hygiene services delivery for all in Africa.

GA/13/2023/CAI/3 on Progress o the utilisation of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPGs) and implementation of the ASPGs in Action Programme.

The Governing Council:

- 3.1 Acknowledges** the support of the Member States and the technical contributions of the AMCOW Sanitation focal point persons, the TAC and the various partners contributing to the ASPGs in Action programme.
- 3.2 Adopts** the components of the monitoring and reporting mechanism to track the outcomes of utilising the ASPGs.
- 3.3 Tasks** the AMCOW Secretariat to provide leadership and engage all relevant partners and stakeholders to:
 - a. build consensus on:
 - i. an agreed indicator framework for monitoring changes in Member States' enabling environments for sanitation and hygiene services provision in line with global and continental commitments; and,
 - ii. an agreed data gathering and reporting format, and, by extension, an information sharing and dissemination approach.
 - b. finalise a data collection and information generation protocol that defines – among others – the modalities and or systems for situation assessments and periodic reporting.
- 3.4 Further tasks** the Secretariat to mobilise the necessary partnerships and resources to support ongoing efforts to strengthen capacity at Member States' and other relevant levels to operationalise the monitoring and reporting mechanism.
- 3.5 Urges** Member States and all partners and stakeholders to actively facilitate the institutionalisation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism to track the outcomes of utilising the ASPGs.

GA/13/2023/CAI/4 on the Hosting of the AfricaSan 7 Conference

The Governing Council:

- 4.1 **Acknowledges** the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia for committing to host the seventh edition of the Conference of the Africa Sanitation movement, which has been branded the AfricaSan7 Conference.
- 4.2 **Further acknowledges** the leadership and support of the Commission of the African Union; the contributions of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the members of the Africa Sanitation International Taskforce; as well as the contributions of the multitude of other partners and stakeholders committed to organising a successful AfricaSan7 that will contribute to raising the profile of sanitation in Africa's development planning processes.
- 4.3 **Urges** Members of the Council to honour the invitation of the Republic of Namibia to the AfricaSan7 Conference on 6 – 10 November 2023 in Swakopmund, Namibia.
- 4.4 **Further urges** Members of the Council to extend the invitation to counterpart ministers for finance and the ministers responsible for sanitation, hygiene and environmental affairs where these functions do not all fall under the AMCOW National Focal Point institutions in our countries.
- 4.5 **Requests** the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Water and Land Reform of the Republic of Namibia to convene a Ministerial Session during the Conference to consider the outcomes of AfricaSan7.
- 4.6 **Invites** Member States; the African Development Bank; the Office of the UN Special Advisor on Africa; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; AMCOW's development, technical, coordinating and implementing partners; and the private sector to actively support preparation of the Conference and the eventual action on its outcomes.
- 4.7 **Calls for** broad participation and the involvement of all stakeholders to set the strategic direction for the sector for implementing the outcomes of 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, and the UN 2023 Water Conference.

GA/13/2023/CAI/5 on the 2022 Annual External Audit Report and Financial Progress Report from January 2023 to March 2023.

The Governing Council:

- 5.1 Takes note** of the Audit Report on the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2022.
- 5.2 Further takes note** of the progress made in the implementation of the auditor's recommendations raised in the 2021 Management Letter
- 5.3 Approves** the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 and discharges the Accounting Officer accordingly.
- 5.4 Takes note** with appreciation of the continued support of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the Ministry of Water Resources, towards the core running costs of the Secretariat.
- 5.5 Appreciates** the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Botswana, Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania, for being up to date with their financial obligations to AMCOW as at 31st December 2022.
- 5.6 Commends** Burkina Faso, the Republic of Benin, the People's Republic of Ghana, Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe for substantially settling their arrears as at 31st December 2022.
- 5.7 Further appreciates** the Benin Republic and the Republic of South Africa for already paying their country contributions for 2023.
- 5.8 Further commends** the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Eswatini for substantially settling their arrears as at 31st March 2023.
- 5.9 Urges** Member States that are in arrears to settle their obligations which currently stand at US\$5,625,766 (Five million six hundred twenty-five thousand seven hundred sixty-six United States dollars). The proceeds are required to assure a relative degree of autonomy of the Secretariat in coordinating the implementation of the AMCOW Work programme.
- 5.10 Directs** the Secretariat to implement the auditor's recommendations raised in the 2022 Management Letter and report progress at the 14th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of the Governing Council.
- 5.11 Reappoints** Messrs Ernst and Young as External Auditors of the Council for the financial years ending 31st December 2023 and 2024

GA/13/2023/CAI/6 on the AMCOW Workplan and budget for the FY2023

The Governing Council:

- 6.1 Approves** the updated workplan for the financial year 2023 and the corresponding budget amounting to US\$4,191,100 (Four million one hundred ninety one thousand one hundred United States Dollars).
- 6.2 Acknowledges** with appreciation the financial contribution from the Member States, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the African Development Bank through the Africa Water Facility (AfDB/AWF) towards the implementation of the 2023 Annual Workplan.
- 6.3 Tasks** the Secretariat to mobilise partnerships and resources to close the funding gap and or achieve the earlier approved projections.

GA/13/2023/CAI/7 on the AMCOW Strategy for Youth and Gender Inclusion (YoGI) in Africa's Water and Sanitation Sector.

The Governing Council:

- 7.1 Acknowledges** the support of the Member States and the contributions of the various partners and stakeholders towards the preparation of the AMCOW Youth and Gender Inclusion (YoGI) Strategy 2023-2030
- 7.2 Adopts** the AMCOW Youth and Gender Inclusion Strategy to revitalise implementation of the 2013 AMCOW Policy and Strategy for Mainstreaming Youth in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Africa and the 2011 Policy and strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector
- 7.3 Tasks** the Secretariat to promote the YoGI strategy and establish the partnerships required to operationalise the Strategy at all levels.

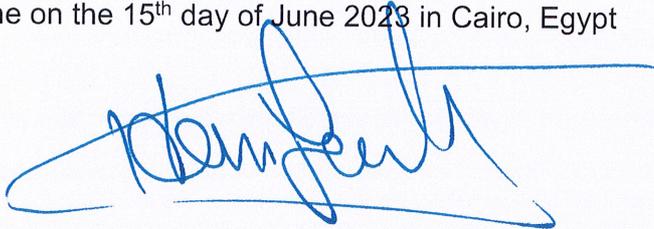
GA/13/2023/CAI/8 on AMCOW Engagements at the UN 2023 Water Conference

The Governing Council:

- 8.1 Notes** with appreciation the report on AMCOW's activities at the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- 8.2 Further notes** the commitments undertaken by the Member States; the initiatives launched to add new impetus to the pursuit of the water and sanitation goals in Africa; and the over 700 commitments contained in the outcome document of the Conference.
- 8.3 Recalls** Council Decisions **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/13** on Africa's Midterm review of the UN Water Action Decade 2018-2028; and **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/15** on the appointment of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Water and **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/5** endorsing the Dakar Declaration as Africa's contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference
- 8.4 Welcomes** the announcement, as one of the key outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, that a UN Special Envoy on Water would be appointed by the UN Secretary General.

- 8.5 Commends** the efforts exerted by the Egyptian Presidency of COP27 and the leadership provided by the AU Member States to advance the African Agenda and interests to make water a top priority in UN climate change negotiations as initiated by the introduction of Water as part of the informal agenda of COP27.
- 8.6 Urges** Member States to prioritize action to translate the commitments and initiatives into tangible benefits for the people at the lowest level.
- 8.7 Further urges** Member States to implement the recommendations of the reports launched at the UN 2023 Water conference to get back on track to achieve the goals of the Water Action Decade as well as the Africa Water Vision 2025

Done on the 15th day of June 2023 in Cairo, Egypt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hani Sewilam', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Prof Hani Sewilam
Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Arab Republic of Egypt
and
President of the AMCOW Governing Council