

**Decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of AMCOW,  
27 - 28 November 2017, Abuja, NIGERIA**

**Preamble**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of AMCOW, an Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of the AMCOW Council of Ministers, originally scheduled for July 2017, was hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 27 – 28 November 2017. It culminated in festivities to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AMCOW in Abuja, Nigeria, as well as a dialogue session with AMCOW's funding and implementing partners to chart the strategic directions of AMCOW towards the realisation of the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the global agenda on sustainable development.

EXCO considered the AMCOW Activity Report for the period September 2016 – September 2017 on the implementation of Decisions from the 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AMCOW Governing Council held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 22 July 2016 (**Annex 1**).

The 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of AMCOW took the following decisions, as well as noting the recommendations of the TAC relating to local resources mobilization and involvement of sanitation ministers into AMCOW governance structure.

**1. EXCO/11/2017/ABV/1 on AMCOW's financial and audit reporting:**

**1.1 The Executive Committee:**

**1.1.1 institutionalises** the TAC Sub-Committee on Finance that shall be composed of the TAC Chair and Vice Chairs for the duration of their term of service;

**1.1.2 adopts** the revised financial rules and regulations (**Annex V**);

**1.1.3 adopts** the revised Staff rules and regulations (**Annex VI**);

**1.1.4 directs** the Secretariat a;

**1.1.5 further takes Note** of the 2016 Financial Statement and Audit Report; **and approves** the following for the continued effective running of the AMCOW Secretariat:

i. The 2016 AMCOW Financial Statement (**Annex VII**)

ii. The 2016 AMCOW Audit Report

iii. The July – December 2017 AMCOW Secretariat budget of five hundred fifteen thousand nine hundred sixty dollars and two cents (US \$515,960.02)

iv. The January – December 2018 AMCOW Secretariat budget of two million two hundred eleven thousand eight hundred sixty four dollars and forty cents (US \$2,211,864.40). **Annex VIII** presents the combined July 2017 to December 2018 AMCOW Budget.

**1.1.6 Directs** the Secretariat to implement the Audit Report recommendations.

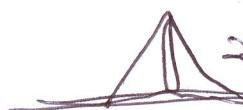
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2. EXCO/11/2017/ABV/2 on Flexible Mechanisms for Payment of AMCOW Member States' Contribution:

2.1 The Executive Committee:

- 2.1.1 **Notes** with appreciation the commitment of the Member States that have endeavoured to fulfil their financial obligations to AMCOW;
- 2.1.2 **Further notes** the continued support of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, amounting to the equivalent of US \$100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollars) per annum through the Ministry of Water Resources; and,
- 2.1.3 **Urges** Member States to clear arrears of their contributions for the period 2007 to 2016; and pay their annual contribution of US \$10,000 (US dollar ten thousand only) for 2017, as per the June 2005 Declaration of the Meeting of the AMCOW Executive Committee in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (**Annex IX**).

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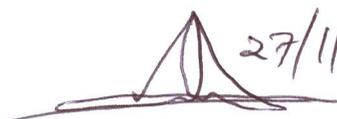


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3. EXCO/11/2017/ABV/3 on Advancing the African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring System:

3.1 The Executive Committee:

- 3.1.1 **adopts** the 2016 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector M&E Report;
- 3.1.2 **commends** the 42 Member States which were able to upload data into the online portal for the 2016 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector M&E Report within a short and limited timeframe;
- 3.1.3 **requests** the support of the Commission of the African Union towards the Secretariat of AMCOW to ensure that the Member States that faced challenges to conduct self-assessments for the 2016 report are facilitated and also contribute to the preparation of the 2017 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector M&E Report;
- 3.1.4 **enjoins** all Member States to participate in the process to prepare the 2017 report in order to ensure that the baseline situation for SDG 6 is established for Africa;
- 3.1.5 **notes and commends** the contributions of the Africa Union Commission, RECs and Regional Institutions, UN agencies, and other development partners including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for developing an Africa-owned monitoring and reporting system linked to global monitoring systems for reporting on the SDGs;
- 3.1.6 **reiterates** AMCOW's appreciation of the financial support of the Africa Water Facility (AWF) at the Africa Development Bank towards the establishment of the African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System;
- 3.1.7 **further reiterates** the call upon the African Water Facility, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the supporting partners to continue funding the initiative through Phase II of the programme to operationalise a functional African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System with a special focus on delivery of the Capacity Building Programme.

  
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4. EXCO/11/2017/ABV/4 on AMCOW Work Programme and Water Resources Management – Priority Action Programme:

4.1 The Executive Committee:

- 4.1.1 **Acknowledges** with appreciation the work of the informal sub-committee on strategic planning – comprising of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Senegal; the Central Africa Republic; the Republic of South Africa; and the Republic of Uganda – that guided the process of preparing the AMCOW Strategy 2018 – 2030 and the AMCOW Knowledge and Information Management Strategy;
- 4.1.2 **Takes note** of the progress made to prepare the draft AMCOW Strategy 2018 – 2030;
- 4.1.3 **Institutionalises** the TAC sub-committee on Strategic Planning, not only to work with the Secretariat to finalise the draft strategy by the end of March 2018, but also continue to provide guidance to the Secretariat on similar activities in the future;
- 4.1.4 **Requests** the AMCOW President to consider and give anticipatory approval of the strategy on behalf of the Governing Council upon finalisation of the Strategy, to fast-track processes to mobilise the funding required to initiate implementation of the Strategy;
- 4.1.5 **Adopts** the AMCOW Knowledge and Information Management Strategy as a first step to the long-term establishment and management of a reliable water resources knowledge base for improving the sector investment outlook and, in turn, leading to improvements in water management in Africa;
- 4.1.6 **Acknowledges, with appreciation**, the contribution of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen the capacity of AMCOW to lead the sanitation and hygiene agenda in Africa.
- 4.1.7 **endorses** ongoing efforts to develop programmes to establish Economic Accounting for Water in Africa; finance the implementation of SDG 6 and other related SDGs; and strengthen transboundary water management institutions;
- 4.1.8 **commits** to providing the full support of the Council to the related resources mobilisation activities; and,
- 4.1.9 **calls upon** Member States to politically and financially support national level implementation of the activities arising out of those initiatives.

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5. EXCO/11/2017/ABV/5 on Operationalizing the African Groundwater Commission:

5.1 The Executive Committee:

- 5.1.1 **Takes Note** of the offer by the Republic of Kenya to temporarily host the African Ground Water Commission; and **request** other Member States to financially support the work of operationalising the AGWC;
- 5.1.2 **Further takes note of** the recommendations of the stakeholders' meeting of the African Groundwater Commission **and directs** the Secretariat to develop practicable proposals for operationalising the AGWC.
- 5.1.3 **Directs** the Secretariat, with support from the TAC subcommittee on strategic planning to provide an update on the status of implementation at its next session in July 2018.

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## MATTERS NOTED

### 6 LOCAL RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

#### 6.1 GA/10/2016/Dar/2: Governing Council Decision on Local Resources Mobilization

- 6.1.1 **Commends** the Member States that have committed resources to the cause with particular mention of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Burkina Faso for honouring their pledges.
- 6.1.2 **Calls** on Member States with outstanding pledges to honour them; and encourages Member States and other supporting partners to respond to the call to raise resources for the water sector in Africa.

#### 6.2 Status of Implementation:

- 6.2.1 The AWF has been following up with each country which pledged support to the AWF at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille in 2012. The Republic of Burkina Faso disbursed to the AWF the total amount pledged. Efforts to formalise commitments from other countries are yet to be concluded. The AWF has send formal reminders to countries to honour their pledges. Letters signed by AfDB Vice-President Operations were sent to Ivory Coast, Chad, Niger and Republic of Congo. A notification was received that Nigeria formally committed its pledge of US\$1 million.

### 7 STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMCOW AND THE AUC IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AMCOW WORK PROGRAMME AND OTHER MATTERS

#### 7.1 GA/10/2016/Dar/4: Governing Council Decision on Strengthening the Relationship between AMCOW and the AUC in the Implementation of AMCOW Work Programme and other Matters

- 7.1.1 **Notes** with satisfaction the establishment of the Ministerial Sector Committee on Water and Sanitation of the newly operationalised African Union Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE).
- 7.1.2 **Further Notes** with satisfaction that the Ministerial Sector Committee on Water and Sanitation will be served by the organs and structures of AMCOW, and commends the collective effort – under the Republic of Senegal's Presidency of AMCOW – that led to this outcome.
- 7.1.3 **Decides** to actively engage the AUC's Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Legal Department to develop proposals for rebranding as well as reviewing the AMCOW Governance Framework to ensure seamless integration into the activities of the Commission of the African Union and its newly operationalised Specialised Technical Committee on ARDWE. The proposals should be brought for the consideration of the AMCOW-EXCO at its 13th Ordinary Session in June 2017.

#### 7.2 Status of Implementation

- 7.2.1 The Second Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (Ministers' Session) was held on 02 - 06 October 2017 at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 7.2.2 In accordance with the Rules of Procedure governing STCs, the Bureau of the STC was elected as follows: Chairperson: Burkina Faso also representing the sectoral ministerial committee on Water and Sanitation; 1st Vice Chair: South Africa; 2nd Vice Chair: Mauritania; 3rd Vice Chair: Rwanda; and Rapporteur: Republic of Congo.
- 7.2.3 The Ministerial Session approved the STC report and recommendations for onward submission to the Assembly of the African Union at it session in January 2018, whereupon the transition period for the full integration of the activities and organs of the ministerial conferences into the activities of the African Union shall commence.

- 7.2.4 As part of ongoing efforts to prepare the AMCOW Strategy 2018- 2030 and the AMCOW Knowledge and Information Management Strategy, H E the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture hosted the Executive Secretary in Addis Ababa at a meeting to discuss the strategic direction for the future of AMCOW.
- 7.2.5 A joint AUC-AMCOW Secretariat retreat was held in February 2017 to conduct an internal review of 2014-2016 Work Programme and prepare the 2017 joint AUC-AMCOW Workplan. In addition, the joint team worked on the initial input to the work of the TAC Sub-Committee on Finance on the basis of which the draft AMCOW Financial and Staff Rules and Regulations were developed

## 8 AMCOW 2M4M INITIATIVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

### 8.1 GA/10/2016/Dar/7: Governing Council Decision on the AMCOW 2M4M Initiative to Contribute to Universal Access to Water and Sanitation

- 8.1.1 **Takes Note** of the aspirations to support AU Member States to extend water supply and sanitation services to an additional minimum of 108 million for water supply and 216 million people in Africa for sanitation under the new AMCOW 2M4M Initiative designed to scale up the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan;
- 8.1.2 **Resolves** to request AfDB to support the implementation of the 2M4M with a seed fund.
- 8.1.3 **Decides** to organize a Resources Mobilization Roundtable aimed at raising funds for the implementation of the AMCOW Work Programme 2017 – 2019 with particular emphasis on the 2M4M initiative and the implementation the Kigali Action Plan.

### 8.2 Status of Implementation:

- 8.2.1 The overarching goal of the initiative is to contribute to Africa's efforts to assure Universal Access to Water and Sanitation by 2030. In order to put in place a functional system for benchmarking Member States' progress towards that goal. Focus at this stage is, therefore, on establishing the baseline for all AU Member States to aid the process of measuring progress. Those activities are currently being undertaken within the framework of the M&E System.

## 9 COORDINATING THE AFRICAN PROCESS FOR THE 7TH WORLD WATER FORUM

### 9.1 GA/10/2016/Dar/9: Governing Council Decision on Coordinating the African Process for the 7th World Water Forum

- 9.1.1 **Takes note** of the actions taken to support Africa's bid to host the 9th World Water Forum in an African country, especially the endorsement of the bid proposal by the Government of Senegal to host the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2021.
- 9.1.2 **Urges** collaboration with the AUC, member states, RECs, and other relevant regional institutions to support the bid and lobby the international community to lend their support to this laudable effort by an African country to host WWF9 in the continent.

### 9.2 Status of Implementation:

- 9.2.1 It is with immense pride that the Governing Council is informed of the success of the bid of the Republic of Senegal to host the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2021. The Government of the Republic of Senegal wishes to extend its appreciation to all Member States for their support that made it possible. In the same vein, the Government of Senegal seeks the continued support, contributions and active participation of the organs of AMCOW; the AU Member States; the RECs, and regional institutions to make the 9th World Water Forum a success for Africa.

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## OTHER BUSINESS

### 10 Bringing Sanitation Ministers into AMCOW's Governance Structure

10.1 In response to the fervent calls to raise the profile of sanitation and hygiene in the decision making processes of AMCOW, a proposal was made to the EXCO to bring the Ministers responsible for sanitation and hygiene in AU Member States into AMCOW's Governance Structure.

10.2 A decision was taken to encourage coordination at National Level between – on the one hand – the government departments responsible for sanitation and hygiene and, on the other hand, the focal point institutions of AMCOW in such a way as to furnish their representatives to the organs of AMCOW with sufficient information to comprehensively deliberate on the pressing matters relating to water management; and water supply, sanitation and hygiene services provision in their countries and or regions.

### 11 Plans for Operationalising the engagement platform for Ministers of Finance, Water and Sanitation

11.1 In line with AMCOW decision EXCO/010/2011/J'BURG/3 – urging AMCOW Ministers to step up the process of in-country meetings with their counter-part Ministers of Finance for the purpose of increasing budgetary allocation for water supply and sanitation as well as in preparation for the continental Water Ministers and Finance Ministers parley under the auspices of AfDB, AMCOW and other partners – a proposal was submitted for the AMCOW Secretariat to engage with the AfDB and the AUC to institutionalise, as a permanent event at the Annual Meetings of the AfDB, a meeting of the Ministers of finance with their counterparts from the water and sanitation sector.

11.2 The proposal was adopted and the Secretariat tasked with putting it into action. Also related to this decision, the Secretariat was tasked to take stock of all Governing Council decisions that are not implemented and bring to the attention of the EXCO the challenges that have constrained action on those decisions. Similarly, a number of Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between AMCOW and its funding and implementing partners. For purposes of evaluating the effectiveness and value addition to AMCOW of the partnerships entered into on the basis of those MoUs, the Secretariat was tasked with providing an elaborate report on the status of implementation of all MoUs.

### 12 Strengthening of the Secretariat of AMCOW through secondment of staff by Member States

12.1 Noting the capacity gaps currently facing the Secretariat as a result of the ending of a number of projects, as well as the associated financial challenges, a request was made to the Member States to directly contribute to the running of the Secretariat by seconding staff.

12.2 The TAC was receptive to the proposal and advised the Executive Secretary to formally communicate the request to all Member States with full details of the terms of reference for the required staff and what is expected of Member States in responding to the request.

### 13 Briefing on New Initiatives contributing to the implementation of the AMCOW Work Programme

13.1 Presentations were made on (i) the Water for Africa Initiative, championed by the Kingdom of Morocco; and (ii) the inception phase of the Africa EU Water Partnership Project (AEWPP) – implemented by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) – on developing multisector business cases for water infrastructure financing. The members of the TAC recognised the significance of the initiatives to advance AMCOW's aspirations of assuring water security in Africa, and provided inputs on how opportunities for synergies with AMCOW's activities can be fully harnessed.

13.2 Similarly, the African Water Facility presented to the TAC its Strategy for the period 2017 – 2025, to which the TAC expressed full support and partnership to ensure success for both the AWF and AMCOW.

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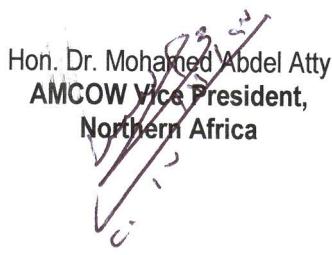
**ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS FOR EXCO**

The Executive Committee adopts the proposed decisions.

Abuja, 28 November 2017



for Hon. Eng. Isack Kamwelwe (MP)  
**AMCOW President**



Hon. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Atty  
**AMCOW Vice President,  
Northern Africa**

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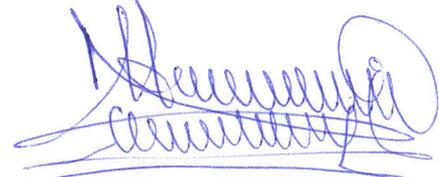
for Hon. Sophia Pal Gai  
**AMCOW Vice President  
Eastern Africa**



Hon. W. Gyude Moore  
**AMCOW Vice President, Western  
Africa**



for Hon. Mrs. Jabulile Mashwama  
(Senator)  
**AMCOW Vice President,  
Southern Africa**



Hon. Herbert Gotran Djono-  
Ahaba  
**AMCOW Vice President Central  
Africa**