

# HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA, 23-26 MAY 2023, KAMPALA, UGANDA

## THE KAMPALA DECLARATION ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA

### Preamble

**Recalling** the Decisions and Declaration of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the River and Lake Basin Organisations (RLBOs) and the African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO) of October 2021;

**Further recalling** the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, and the shared commitment of AU Member States to implement the Dakar Declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, "*A Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development*" in response to Africa's ambition to actualise *the Africa Water Vision 2025* and achieve the goals of the *Ngor Commitments*; the *AU Agenda 2063*; and the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*;

**Recognising** the sense of urgency highlighted by the UN 2023 Water Conference to inject new impetus into ongoing actions to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030;

**We**, the Stakeholders on transboundary water resources management in Africa met in Kampala to set the agenda and launch the continental campaign to assure the effective implementation of the *Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum*; and the UN 2023 Water Action Commitments;

**Noting** the continuing need to strengthen the efforts of River and Lake Basin Organisations (RLBOs) in areas of institutional and financial capacity for planning, promotion, and implementation of transboundary programs and joint investment programs; low visibility leading to impatience and low enthusiasm from our Member States which hinders our ability to fulfil the mandates entrusted in us;

**Recognizing** the crucial role of water and sanitation for the social and economic development of Africa;

**Further recognizing** that sustainable transboundary water resources management is and remains key to sustainable development in Africa;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the African Water Vision 2025, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal 6 and its targets;

**Aware** of the need to accelerate progress on transboundary water resources management and development, water conservation and equitable distribution, adapting to climate change, integrated, cooperative and conjunctive management of national and transboundary surface and ground water, investing in infrastructure, data, information, knowledge and monitoring and institutional development as well capacity building;

**Recognizing** the progress that has been made on the achievement of the water and sanitation goals of the African continent by the African Union Commission, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Regional Communities, the African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO), the River and Lake Basin Organisations (RLBOs), and the African Development Bank, and other development partners;

**Commit to:**

1. **Strengthen** collaboration mechanisms and linkages between LRBOs through implementation of joint programs and action plans;
2. **Leverage** technical and financial resources of Development Partners through existing and new transboundary cooperation arrangements to support management of shared water resources for socio-economic development of Africa;
3. **Further strengthen** our efforts towards investment in transboundary projects for achieving the African Union Agenda 2063, Africa Water Vision 2025, and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 6 and its targets;
4. **Strengthen** our collaboration in the areas of data and information services (including earth observation systems) to further enhance knowledge-based decision-making across the continent;
5. **Institutionalize** high level engagements of Heads of LRBOs and hold annual meetings to assess progress, share lessons, and set priorities for consideration by the Governing Council of AMCOW Executive Committee.

**Undertake to motivate action to:**

- a) Enhance political commitment and allocate commensurate resources to support transboundary water resources management initiatives, including investment in infrastructure, capacity building, and research and development.



- b) Strengthen regional cooperation frameworks and mechanisms to facilitate information sharing, joint planning, and coordinated implementation of transboundary water management projects.
- c) Promote sustainable and inclusive water governance structures that involve all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, civil society organizations, and indigenous groups, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes.
- d) Foster knowledge exchange and technical cooperation among African Member States and development partners, leveraging expertise and best practices to enhance capacity and improve the effectiveness of transboundary water resources management.
- e) Promote the integration of responses to water-related disasters into national and regional development plans, sectoral policies, and climate change adaptation strategies, recognizing the interdependence of water resources with other sectors.
- f) Engage with international organizations, financial institutions, and donors to mobilize additional financial resources and technical support for transboundary water management and development projects, focusing on the most vulnerable regions and communities.
- g) Provide support and resources to facilitate collaborative work between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in setting the approach, mechanisms, processes, and roadmap for advancing the preparation of the post-2025 Africa Water Vision framework.
- h) Work closely with AMCOW and other partners to integrate the continental indicators of the Lake and River Basin Organisations (LRBOs) into the Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting (WASSMO) platform.
- i) Encourage the active engagement of relevant stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, and the private sector, in the development of the post-2025 Africa Water Vision framework.
- j) Conduct a multi-level dialogue process to:
  - i. **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;
  - ii. **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,

- iii. **Ensure** that the post-2025 Africa Water Vision is aligned to and is adopted as an implementation framework of Agenda 2063.

**NOW THEREFORE, WE:**

- I. **Appeal** to the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue Economy (ARBE) of the African Union to facilitate submission of the decisions of this stakeholder engagement in Transboundary Water Resources Management in Africa to the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC on ARDWE);
- II. **Appeal**, to the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE), to recommend to policy organs of the African Union to adopt '*Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development*' as the theme of the African Union for 2026;
- III. **Commit** to meet annually before the end of May to evaluate progress on our undertakings and review, as appropriate, the Kampala Joint Action Plan on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Africa.

**Done on the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2023, in Kampala, Uganda.**



**Eng. Sylvester Anthony Matemu**

African Network of Basin  
Organizations (ANBO) President/  
Executive Director, Nile Basin  
Initiative

**Dr. Rashid Mbaziira**

The African Ministers' Council on Water-  
(AMCOW).  
Executive Secretary

**Lake Victoria Basin  
Commission (LVBC)**

**Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel-(OSS)**



**Orange Senqu  
Commission  
(ORASECOM)**

**Okavango River Basin Commission –(OKACOM)**

**Nile Basin Discourse-NBD**

**Commission  
Internationale du Bassin  
Congo- (CICOS)**



**Economic Community of  
Central States –(ECCAS)**

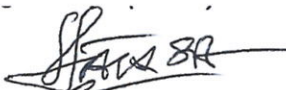
**Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA)**

**Economic Community of  
West African States  
(ECOWAS)**

**Limpopo Watercourse Commission –(LIMCOM)**


**Gambia River Basin  
Development Organisation  
(OMVG)**

**Senegal River Basin Organization (OMVS)**

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Laouana FOFI  
Haut Commissaire

**Lake Tanganyika Authority  
–(LTA)**


**Volta Basin Authority-(VBA)**

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**MONO Basin Authority-  
(MBA)**


**Zambezi River Authority –(ZRA)**

  
Le Directeur  
Dadja

M.C. MUNDUAWA  


**Niger Basin Authority-  
(NBA)**

**Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)**

FELIX NGANLAGASI  


**Songwe River Basin  
Commission**

**Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivière  
Rusizi/Ruzizi- ABAKIR)**

