

AFRICAN WATER FACILITY

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of the Governing Council 8 July 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) aimed at mobilizing resources from donors to finance water infrastructure and investment facilitating activities in Africa. At the request of AMCOW, the African Development Bank accepted to host the Facility and accordingly its Board of Governors approved a legal instrument which established the African Water Facility Special Fund in May 2004.

The Instrument called for the creation of a Governing Council to provide policy direction to the Facility. In order for the AWF to start operations, there was the need for the Governing Council to hold its inaugural meeting to adopt various documents including the Rules of Procedure and the Operational Focus, Programme and Indicative Budgets for the short and medium terms. Accordingly, the inaugural meeting of the Council was organized on 8 July 2005 in Tunis. The detailed agenda of the meeting is contained in Annex 1. The minutes of the meeting contained herein summarize the main decisions taken at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by nominees to the Governing Council and representatives of all the participants of the AWF Special Fund. The list of persons who attended the meeting is contained in the participant list as Annex 2.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

The Governing Council meeting was preceded by an opening ceremony with statements made by the following persons:

- i. Mr. Omar Kabbaj, President of the African Development Bank, made the Opening remarks to declare the Governing Council meeting formally opened
- ii. Mrs. Maria Mutagamba, Uganda's Minister of State for Water and Chairperson of AMCOW made a statement on behalf of AMCOW;
- iii. Mr. Amor Abed, Tunisian Secretary of State in charge of Water Resources and Fisheries made a welcome statement on behalf of the host country.

3. CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

The formal Governing Council meeting was started after the Opening Ceremony. The Honourable Maria Mutagamba presided over the first part of the meeting comprising i) Adoption of the Governing Council Rules of Procedure and ii) Election of the Governing Council Chairperson. Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, , presided over the rest of meeting after his election as Chairperson of the Governing Council.

4. COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The members of the Governing Council representing various constituencies and participants of the African Water Facility Special Fund were named as follows:

AMCOW

- i. Mr. Habib SY, Senegalese Minister of State for Agriculture and Water, representing West Africa;
- ii. Mr. Bruno Jean R. ITOUA, Congolese Minister of Energy and Water, representing Central Africa;
- iii. Mr. Shiferaw J. TEDECAH, Ethiopian Minister of Water Resources and Development, representing East Africa;
- iv. Mr. Mohamed OUBAZIZ, Algerian Advisor at the Algerian Embassy in Tunis, representing North Africa;
- v. Dr. Mamphono Khaketla, Lesotho's Ministry of Natural Resources, Representing South Region (Absent).

DONORS

- i. Mr. Francis STEPHAN, French Foreign Ministry, representing France;
- ii. Mr. Per TRULSON, Norwegian Foreign Ministry, representing Norway, Sweden and Denmark;
- iii. Mr. Brian Pagan, Canadian Fund for Africa, representing Canada;
- iv. The European Commission*;
- v. Mr. Raimund MAGIS, representing Austria.

* The donors group agreed to give a seat to the European Commission, pending the completion of the required formalities. Mrs. Monique LE-GENISSE, ACP-EU Water Initiative, represented the EC at the meeting.

AFRICAN UNION- NEPAD

Mr. Reatile Mochebelele

UN WATER AFRICA

Mr. M. Twafik, UN Water Africa.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. C. Boucher, Vice President, Policy and Planning, Representing the ADB

5. GOVERNING COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Governing Council adopted Rules of Procedure for the conduct of its business after lengthy deliberations on the draft rules tabled at the meeting. The main points of discussion centred on the following:

1. Substantive Consultation between the Bank and the Governing Council:

The Governing Council revised section 1(2) of the proposed Rules to include a requirement that the Bank consult regularly with the Governing Council for the purposes of formulating the indicative budget and work program, and other matters relevant to the Water Fund. This will ensure the participation and review by the Governing Council, of the annual budget and work programme of the AWF prior to its presentation to the Board of Directors of the Bank for approval.

2. Chairperson:

The Governing Council resolved to delete the reference in draft Section 2(5) that the Chairperson was not a member of the Governing Council. The provision was further amended to confirm that the Chairperson will not exercise any voting rights.

3. Term Limits:

The members of the Governing Council though noting the benefits of having term limits and the best practices resolved that there should be no term limits for members of the Governing Council, who should continue to serve at the option of their appointing authority. Accordingly, proposed Section 2(7) on term limits was deleted.

4. Quorum:

Members of the Governing Council questioned the basis for making ten (10) members constitute the quorum under section (3). The legal counsel explained that the proposed number of representatives for a quorum is to ensure that decisions are taken by at least a majority of the representatives on the Governing Council.

5. Decision-Making:

Members of the Governing Council deliberated on section 3(4) and agreed to delete reference to the “double” requirement under the proposed Rules, which required that a formal vote may be taken at the request of two members representing two different participants. The Governing Council agreed that the requirement of “two different participants” was unnecessary and thus, deleted it from the proposed Rule.

6. Administrative Expenses:

With respect to Section 4, the Governing Council members amended the proposed Rule by restricting the payment of travel and subsistence allowance costs to members representing AMCOW and the African Union under NEPAD. Expenses of the Chairperson of the Governing Council, in carrying out the reasonable functions of that office, are considered to be part of the administrative expenses of the Governing Council.

6. APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

The AMCOW nominee for the Chair of the Governing Council, Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, , Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, was unanimously endorsed by all members of the Council, and consequently the nomination was carried. Following his appointment as

Chairperson of the Governing Council, Dr. Abu Zeid presided over the meeting for the rest of the items in the agenda of the Governing Council. .

7. STATUS REPORT

The Status Report of the African Water Facility was discussed and accepted by the Governing Council with some minor corrections. The following observations were made:

- i. The Canadian contribution as reported may be incorrect due to the use of an incorrect exchange rate;
- ii. Sweden and Portugal have both offered to second staff to the Facility but their offers were not reflected in the Status Report.

8. AREAS OF INTERVENTION AND OPERATIONAL FOCUS FOR 2005

The meeting deliberated on the draft Programme and Operational Focus Document. The Governing Council took note of the areas of intervention as defined in the Instrument establishing the African Water Facility, namely:

- **Facilitation**
 - i. Implementation of National IWRM
 - ii. National and regional capacity building
 - iii. Information and knowledge
 - iv. Monitoring and evaluation
 - v. Programme and project preparation
 - vi. Transboundary water resources management

- **Capital Investments**

The operational focus for the rest of the year 2005 was agreed as follows:

- i. Building pipeline of projects;
- ii. Establishment of water information system;
- iii. Establishment of benchmarking and monitoring system.

The Director of the AWF was requested to revise the medium-term programme and make proposal for the 2006 focus areas for the next Governing Council meeting in October 2005. Members advised that consideration should be given to the following aspects during the revision:

- i) Explicit inclusion of sanitation in project pipeline;
- ii) Greater clarification and detail on capital investments components; and
- iii) Promotion of private sector participation.

Public Disclosure: In order to foster transparency and garner potential interest in the operations of the AWF, important information should be made available to the public through the Internet.

In this connection, the Director was requested to prepare a Communication Strategy for consideration at the next meeting of the Governing Council.

9. CURRENCY DENOMINATION

The Governing Council approved the adoption of the EURO as the currency denomination of the African Water Facility Special Fund. The ADB Management should take the necessary steps to open the new account.

10. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Members of the Governing Council made comments and observations on the draft Operations Procedures of the AWF. The comments include the following:

- i. Recipient eligibility of AWF funding as contained in Section 7.1.1 should include River Basin Organisations (RBO) and Regional Economic Groupings (REGSEC);
- ii. Undertake full socio-economic impact assessment, including gender, for all AWF funded activities;
- iii. The Facility should use other measures for assessing country priority accorded to water development in addition to country PRSP;
- iv. To gain time in processing projects and activities, the proposed threshold for approval of AWF activities by the ADB Board of Directors should be on lapse-of-time basis;
- v. Beneficiary contribution to facilitation activities funded by the AWF should not be a prerequisite for financing;
- vi. Undertake an effectiveness audit of the AWF operations in the medium-term possibly by the year 2009;
- vii. Include a requirement that the Bank consults regularly with the Governing Council for the purposes of formulating the indicative budget and work program.

11. NEXT MEETING

The Governing Council fixed the next meeting for around the end of October 2005.

AGENDA OF GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

**AFRICAN WATER FACILITY
AGENDA FOR INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL,**

HOTEL SHERATON, TUNIS, 8 JULY 2005

Time	Item No.	Description of Item
9:00 am - 9:10 am	1	Welcoming Remark by the Representative of the ADB President
9:10 am - 9:20 am	2	Opening Statement by AMCOW Chairwomen
9:20 am - 9:30 am	3	Opening Statement by Representative of Host Country
9:30 am - 10:00 am	4	Coffee Break
10:00 am - 10:10 am	5	Approval of the Agenda
10h10 am - 10:30 am	6	Confirmation of Members of the Governing Council
10:30 am - 11:00 am	7	Approval of Rules and Procedures for the Governing Council
11:00 am - 11:15 am	8	Election of Governing Council Chair
11:15 am - 12:00 am	9	Status Report on AWF
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm	10	Lunch Offered by Bank
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	11	Areas of Intervention and Operational Focus for 2005
3:30 pm - 3:40 pm	12	Determination of Currency for the AWF
3:40 pm - 4:40 pm	13	Operations Procedures
4:40 am - 5:00 pm	14	Coffee Break
5:00 pm - 5:20 pm	15	Date and Venue for the Next Meeting
5:20 pm - 5:50 pm	16	Miscellaneous Items
5:50 pm - 6:00 pm	17	Closure

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