

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### DELIVERING ON AFRICA'S WATER SECURITY COMMITMENTS

#### A Roadmap for Implementing and Reporting Actions to the African Union

Prepared as Working Document for AMCOW  
by African Development Bank

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## FOREWORD

The year 2008 saw a number of significant water-related events and declarations. These include the Ministerial Conference on Sanitation (eThekweni), the First African Water Week and Ministerial Declaration (Tunis), the dedication of the African Union (AU) Summit in June 2008 to water and sanitation (Sharm El Sheikh), the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Agriculture and Energy (Sirte), and the establishment of the Groundwater Commission. These events have increased awareness of regional water security and sanitation issues, notably water for growth and development, the achievement of the water and sanitation MDG targets, impact of climate change and variability on water resources, food security and need for improved regional co-operation on water resources management and infrastructure development. These are all consolidated in the commitments made by the Heads of State and Governments.

Africa has now reached the point where there needs to be greater **convergence** between the high level **commitments** and **delivery** through concrete and unambiguous **actions**, strengthening and scaling-up of existing mechanisms and initiatives, and refinement of strategies to address the challenges in water security. This was amplified during the launch of the Regional Paper at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, where the message of **delivery on the commitments** was shared with Africa's partners and friends.

The preparation of this *Framework for Reporting Actions* on water security provides AMCOW with a mechanism for reporting regularly to the AU Heads of State and Government on the progress that countries are making towards meeting goals set in the MDGs and the Africa Water Vision. The greater effort is, of course, in the implementation of the actions identified under the various thematic and sub-thematic areas, where country ownership and commitment are essential elements. It is hoped that the obligation to report will push countries to constantly remind themselves of the need to take those actions that address their water security issues.

The AMCOW secretariat will provide the required support and co-ordination to ensure that countries report their water actions regularly. The Regional Economic Commissions, the River and Lake Basin Organisations, the African Development Bank, the Water and Sanitation Program (Africa) UN Water (Africa), the African Water Association, and ANEW, among others, have a responsibility to support AMCOW and countries to implement the actions identified in this document. This requires that they define their agenda and programmes to align with, and respond to, the implementation of these actions.

The actions contained in this document are taken from the Africa Regional Paper "Bridging Divides in Africa's Water Security: An Agenda to Implement Existing Political Commitments". These actions were arrived at through a regional consultative process that elicited inputs from regional water and sanitation actors. The actions represent good practice and should of course take country circumstances into account during implementation. This document provides an overall framework for reporting action. Countries and regional bodies should develop their specific frameworks and localise the actions identified. Further, the secretariat will use AMCOW's existing structures, notably members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - to ensure the effective implementation and reporting of the actions. The approaches expounded in this report are designed to enable commencement of delivery and report on achievement. This should be revised as experiences are gained and countries develop suitable systems for their unique situation.

On behalf of AMCOW, I wish to thank the African Development Bank/African Water Facility for the leading role in the preparation of this plan and the Bank's Multi Donor Water Partnership for its financial support. I would also like to thank AMCOW's partners and regional actors who contributed to the preparation of this document.

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This document was prepared by Mr. Kwabena Sarpong Manu consultant of the African Development Bank with inputs from Bank staff and national and regional actors through the consultation process undertaken for the fifth World Water Forum Regional Documents Preparation.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the African Development Bank or AMCOW.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## E.1 Introduction

The Heads of State and Governments of the African Union, meeting in Sharm El Sheikh in July 2009, tasked the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) to regularly report on the implementation of the commitments that have been made on water security and sanitation in various declarations. In fulfilment of this request, Africa's Regional Paper submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum by AMCOW in Istanbul in March 2009, discussed in detail the water security challenges facing the continent. It further defined a number of actions to respond to the commitments made and to seek support from all partners in implementing them. In arriving at the recommended actions, a series of regional consultations, which formed part of the preparations towards Africa's participation in the Forum, were held. These actions form the basis for the *Framework for Reporting Actions*.

## E.2 Implementation of water security actions

The set of actions required to deliver on the political commitments have been consolidated under two key focus areas in water security: *Water for Sustainable Development, and Enabling Mechanisms for Development*. One hundred and forty three actions (143) actions have been defined to meet the 38 commitments made in the 7 themes under 2 main areas i.e. Water for Sustainable Development and Enabling Mechanisms for Development. The actions defined are consistent with the achievement of the Africa Water Vision 2025 and, in many cases, elaborate on the actions identified in that document. The attainment of the desirable outcomes of the commitments requires decisions and activities at various levels - most notably at country level, sub-regional economic commissions (such as COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, MAGREB, and SADC), water-basin organisations (the RLBOs) and by Africa-wide organizations (such as the AU, NEPAD, ECA and AfDB).

Some of the key actions to achieve various targets in water and sanitation, to be taken principally at the country level, are noted below:

Theme	Actions
1. Water Infrastructure for Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop water sector investment plans, together with strategies for achieving water security</li> <li>b. Review national policy and strategy to incorporate appropriate framework for investment in agriculture and energy.</li> </ul>
2. Achieving the Water and Sanitation MDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prepare or update national water management policies, strategies and action plans for achieving the MDG targets for W&amp;S</li> <li>b. Conduct an inventory of W&amp;S services and infrastructure available in member states</li> <li>c. Increase the pace of decentralised delivery of W&amp;S services</li> <li>d. Systematically increase to meet the 0.5% of GDP for sanitation</li> </ul>
3. Managing and Protecting Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prepare plan for integrated management of water resources in all national and transboundary water resources</li> <li>b. Design a framework for monitoring groundwater levels on a basin level and transboundary aquifers</li> <li>c. Formulate an investment programme and prepare guidelines on the implementation of infrastructure of regional importance</li> </ul>
4. Global Changes and Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review policies to integrate potential climate change impacts</li> <li>a. Undertake an audit of climate change risks and put in place mitigation measures</li> <li>b. Improve data and information exchange and sharing with regional bodies and international organisations</li> </ul>
5. Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish the national financial requirements for water infrastructure as a first step</li> <li>b. Develop sector investment plans (drinking water and sanitation, agricultural water use, energy) to attract more donor funding</li> <li>c. Strengthen existing mechanisms such as the African Water Facility and other regional initiatives</li> <li>d. Mobilise the support of the international community around the regional commitments</li> </ul>
6. Governance and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish framework for private sector participation</li> <li>b. Promote decentralisation in the delivery of services</li> <li>c. Build local level capacity to enable local authority operate effectively</li> </ul>
7. Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Undertake country assessment of the human resources requirements – national and local government levels - to meet water security challenges and develop programmes for building institutional and human capacity</li> <li>b. Develop the data, information and knowledge base for planning, implementation and monitoring</li> <li>c. Strengthen the M&amp;E capacity for credible and consistent reporting</li> </ul>

### E.3 Main strategies for delivery

The main strategies for delivering on the commitments will be through: i) improving delivery through existing major programmes; ii) strengthening practical support to national and local efforts; and iii) laying foundations through consolidation of knowledge.

The activities of AMCOW, regional bodies and partners shall focus on strengthening the following initiatives and programmes to deliver on the commitments instead of announcing new ones. This is in addition to the enhancing and strengthening current multilateral and bilateral financing support around the delivery on the regional commitment.

These initiative include:

- i) the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative, whose aim is to accelerate access to water supply and sanitation services in rural Africa with a view to attaining 80% coverage;*
- ii) the African Water Facility, an instrument conceived to facilitate the availability of financial resources to build Africa's water infrastructure institutions and management capacity to meet the targets and goals of the African Water Vision 2025 and the MDGs;*
- iii) the Water for African Cities, with the objective of creating an enabling environment and capacity building for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in urban areas;*
- iv) the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), that addresses issues of agricultural sector growth, rural development and food security by promoting investment to increase the area under irrigation and improve efficiency of rainfed agriculture;*
- v) the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, with the primary objective of building a strategic partnership among donors to facilitate the development of infrastructure in support of economic growth and poverty reduction in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, transport, telecommunications and urban infrastructure.*
- vi) Other key regional initiatives include the PANAFCON which promotes partnership around meeting the basic needs, the Ground water Commission to promote sustainable ground water development, and ANBO for creating networking of basin organisation to harmonize transboundary cooperation.*

Actions are to focus on practical tools and mechanisms in the following areas:

- i) Expanding the infrastructure platform and rehabilitation of existing assets;*
- ii) Preparing national strategies and action plans for achieving the 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation ;*
- iii) Updating national policies/plans/ strategies for achieving water security, sanitation and hygiene;*
- iv) Operationalizing IWRM principles for economic, social and environmental needs;*
- v) Initiation by RECs/RLBOs of regional dialogues on climate change and appropriate adaptation;*
- vi) Developing adaptation strategies and actions to minimise the impact of climate change;*
- vii) Finance mobilization and innovative finance instruments;*
- viii) Decentralised delivery through empowerment of local authorities;*
- ix) Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms;*
- x) Strengthening cooperation of transboundary water resources management*

In the short term, countries will find it a useful strategy to increase allocations for project planning, feasibility studies and project and programme structuring and packaging, to increase the quantity of solid investment-ready water and sanitation projects. This could be carried out through their own resources or external support. For example, the African Development Bank has expressed its readiness to support countries to do this. The resources of the African Water Facility could be focused on this as well.

In broad terms, country actions to ensure water's contribution to sustainable development shall focus on the following strategic considerations:

- *Linking water and economic growth;*
- *Fostering partnerships between riparian and regional markets to share the benefits in water infrastructure;*
- *Meeting the basic needs of the people through new and expanded infrastructure to deliver water and sanitation services;*
- *Ensuring that those who already have service do not slip behind as a result of neglect of existing assets; and*
- *Reducing the effects of climate change that have a potential negative impact on livelihoods.*

The enabling mechanisms needed to ensure an effective, efficient and sustainable delivery of services shall in turn focus on the following, among others:

- *Promoting good governance which has the characteristics of participation, accountability, transparency and responsiveness;*
- *Better pricing of services that assures sustainable use of the assets and delivery of services; and*
- *Improved information, knowledge and capacity to support the delivery framework.*

## E.4 Reporting of water security actions

Reporting of the actions taken at the country and sub-regional levels is an important aspect of the regional water agenda as it responds to the requirements of the African Union and more importantly, provides a useful reference for the status of water security in Africa. The principles underlying the implementation and reporting of the actions are the following:

- a. AMCOW oversight and co-ordination: political leadership, institutional and capacity strengthening, sub-regional facilitation
- b. Country ownership of actions, which stresses the importance of countries relying taking control of the processes required to implement the identified actions;
- c. Civil society participation/citizens engagement, that requires the active participation of the populace in the decisions that concern them;
- d. Peer review and support to showcase good lessons and provide direction and support to countries in pursuing their water security actions;
- e. Co-operation, support and alignment of programmes from regional bodies and international partners
- f. Simplicity and common framework for reporting actions that will allow comparisons to be made, put less pressure on countries in reporting their actions (with an emphasis on the implementation of the actions themselves)
- g. Dissemination and sharing of results by AMCOW to support learning;
- h. Recognition of the reality that there are many countries, different starting positions, which requires that some countries will need considerable support – financial and technical - to implement their water security actions.

## E.5 Synergy with other reporting mechanisms

The framework recognises the existence of a number of reporting mechanisms and tools and proposes feeding into these instead of duplicating them. These mechanisms include the Pan African Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the JMP reporting of the water and sanitation MDGs, the Global Assessment of Sanitation and Water Supply (GLAAS), Country Status Overview (CSO) and the Africa Water Development Report, which is linked to the World Water Development Report (WWDR). Synergies are required in the gathering and use of information/data gathered through various country processes in order to reduce the reporting burden on countries.

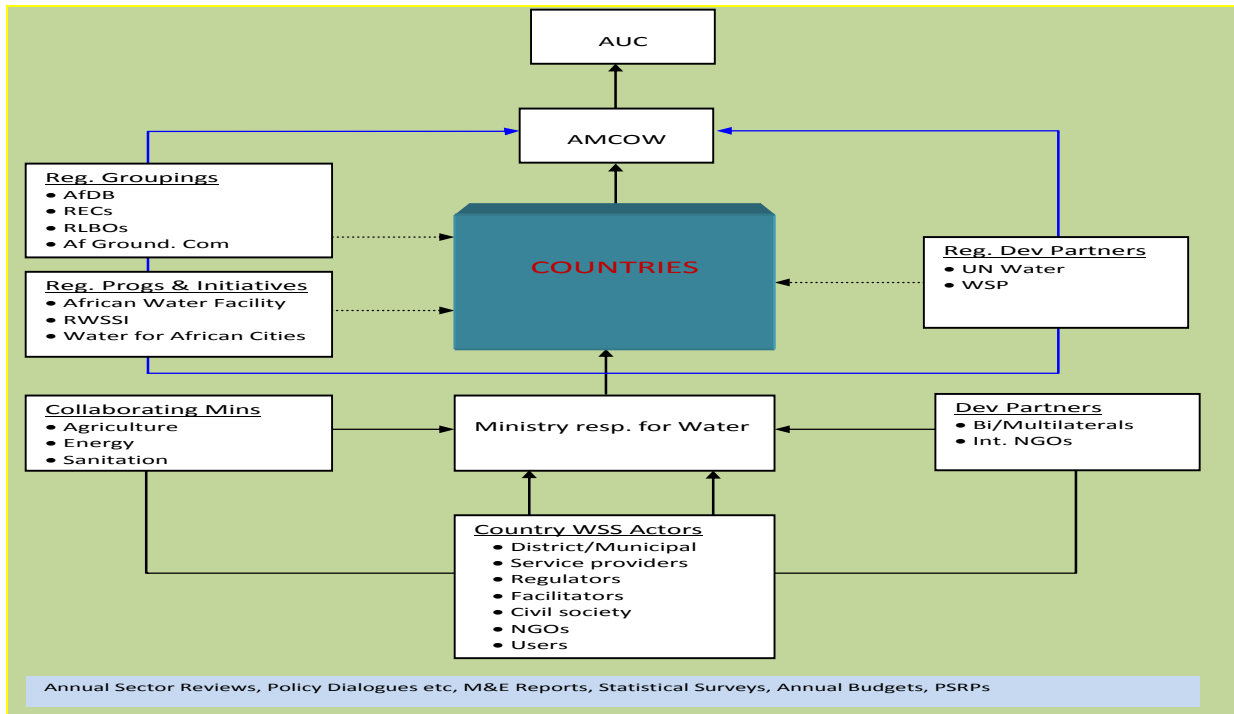
## E.6 Institutional set-up for reporting

Figure E.6.1 describes three levels of activity – country, sub-regional and regional levels. The roles of each of the identified players are discussed in the main body of the document. A brief overview of the roles of the key institutions is provided as follows.

- ❖ **African Union Commission:** The AU represents Africa’s political leadership, with a commitment to accelerating progress towards Africa’s water security. The Commission has the responsibility for ensuring the annual water sector reports are submitted to the Heads of State and Governments at their Summits.

- ❖ **AMCOW:** AMCOW has responsibility for co-ordinating the regional water agenda and to report annually to the AU on the implementation of the actions.
- ❖ **AMCOW Member Countries:** Countries have the primary responsibility of designing national strategies and action plans, implement the actions and report to AMCOW on achievement on annual basis.
- ❖ **National Civil Society Organisations:** Civil society organisations (CSOs) provide both water and sanitation delivery facilities as well as serve as advocacy groups in pushing the agenda for the sector.
- ❖ **Regional Economic Commissions:** The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is charged with providing knowledge on economic problems and advising countries and regional organisation on economic and technological development.
- ❖ **Regional economic communities:** They are required to foster greater co-operation in the development of trans-boundary water infrastructure and report on achievement in their regions to AMCOW for regional consolidation.
- ❖ **African Development Bank :** The AfDB 's role is important in mobilising resources for the implementation of the actions and report on achievement. The African Facility that is hosted by the Bank need to focus in providing support to countries and regional organisation in preparation of strategies and action plans to support resources mobilisation efforts.
- ❖ **River Basin Organisations:** RBOs are responsible for operationalising the transboundary co-operation commitments, implement development projects and programme and manage to ensure sustainable benefit generation. RBOs will provide reports of activities in pursual of the agenda of regional co-operation in trans-boundary water infrastructure development.

**Figure E.6.1: Institutional Arrangements for Reporting Water Actions**



- ❖ **Other active actors include the UN WATR Africa;** multilateral and bilateral financing institutions; regional CSOs such as ANEW and ANBO.

## E.6 Monitoring levels, outputs and responsibilities

The monitoring framework is based on the use of national, sub-regional and regional structures and resources to implement. At the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels there are institutions, programmes and initiatives that need to provide one report or other to inform the report that AMCOW will submit to the AU. In a number of cases, actors will not be required to do anything more than what they are currently doing. However, they will need to respond to a format and frequency of reporting that will address the requirements of AMCOW.

**Figure E.6.2: Monitoring levels, outputs and responsibilities**

	Country Level	Sub-regional Level	Regional Level	International Level
Outputs from reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports on Country Actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trans-boundary WRM Actions</li> <li>• Regional water infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Regional integration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Status Overviews</li> <li>• Financing [portfolios, requirements]</li> <li>• Progress on African Water Vision</li> <li>• Updates on sanitation, climate change, g'water management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global water resources assessments</li> <li>• Tracking of MDGs</li> <li>• Global financing for WSS</li> <li>• ODA</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministries responsible for water</li> <li>• National consultants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Economic Commissions</li> <li>• River &amp; Lake Basin Organs</li> <li>• Sub-regional initiatives e.g. West Africa Water Initiative</li> <li>• AMCOW TAC Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMCOW Sec</li> <li>• AfDB</li> <li>• WSP Africa</li> <li>• UN Water Africa</li> <li>• Programmes and Initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMCOW Sec</li> <li>• AfDB</li> <li>• UN-ECA</li> <li>• UN-Water</li> <li>• G8, OECD</li> <li>• EU Water Initiative</li> </ul>
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## E.7 Institutional support

The AMCOW secretariat is to take charge of the reporting to the AU. This implies a strengthening of the secretariat to undertake the necessary monitoring. A budget of US\$2.0 million has been proposed to initiate and establish a reporting mechanism and submit a comprehensive report.

At the country and sub-regional levels, no new institutions have been proposed to implement and report the actions, in the understanding that ministries and units responsible for water already exist in RECs and RBOs. These should be the hub around which water security issues shall be tackled. Any new structures and institutions that are required will form part of the actions that countries will have to implement as needed.

## E.8 Way Forward

There are a number of immediate implementation steps to be taken to ensure that the first consolidated report for of the actions for 2010 can prepared and submitted on the 2011 Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government. The key step in this endeavour is the internalisation of the commitments and emerging action as elaborated in Annex 1 into national and sub regional reporting structures. Countries and regional organisation need to take urgent actions in this respect.

The major milestones are listed below:

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**Preparation and Approval of Framework**

- Approval of *FRA* by AMCOW EXCO November 2009
- Printing & dissemination of *FRA* December 2009

**A. Institutional Set Up**

- Seek funding to support reporting of actions January 2010
- Recruit Co-ordinator for AMCOW secretariat March 2010
- National and regional reporting structure April 2010

**B. Commissioning & Roll-Out Of Framework**

- Undertake pilot reporting in 5 countries May 2010
- Roll-out *FRA* at level of RECs June 2010
- Disseminate Reports on Pilot testing on 5 countries July 2010
- Launch of *FRA* at country level July 2010

**C. Report Compilation**

- Undertake country processes for reporting September 2010
  - Begin consolidation of reports October 2010
  - Submit first report on Country Actions to the AU January 2011
-