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PRESS RELEASE

Brazzaville Hosts 6th Session of African Ministers' Council on Water

Members of the AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed AWF activities

Brazzaville, 29 May 2007: On 26-27 May 2007, Members of the AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representing the five sub-regions of the continent concluded a review of the activities of the African Water Facility in Brazzaville. They emphasized the compelling need to take action to improve access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. They also underscored the need to address the challenge of integrated water resources management across the continent. The meeting also reviewed the AWF operations programme covering the period 2005-2007 based on issues contained in the concept note submitted by the AWF. The meeting preceded the 6th Ordinary Session of the African Ministers Council for Water (AMCOW) scheduled to commence in the Congolese capital on 28 May. "Issues for initial focus in the review process relate to the need to better integrate the AWF with the key areas of emphasis in the water sector emanating from the African Water Vision and Framework for Action, the consensus of the international development community, and the values that are inherent in the design of the Facility," AWF Coordinator, Abdirahman Beileh, said during a presentation. Representatives of AMCOW-TAC from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Congo, DRC, Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda participated in the review.

From 28 to 31 May 2007 delegates to the sixth ordinary Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW-6) have converged on Brazzaville to discuss a range of issues on improving water supply and sanitation on the continent. The agenda of the meeting includes roundtable discussions on leveraging partnerships for water and sanitation infrastructure with support from institutions like the EU-ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries); resources for the African Water Facility (AWF) as well as follow-up actions on the G8-Africa Water Action Plan and the Africa Commission Report on water.



The discussions will also consider funding commitments toward the attainment of the water targets made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and those of the Millennium Development Goals. Other issues include deliberations on the state of collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation; preparations for the 2008 Year of Sanitation as well as the impact of climate change. The ministers will discuss the report of an AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee-AWF meeting that reviewed the strategic goals and objectives of the facility, its alignment with regional/international consensus and donor initiatives; infrastructure development within the context of NEPAD and the Africa infrastructure consortium (ICA). The meeting was preceded by a range of activities, including a youth forum on water, AMCOW sub-regional consultations, as well as the civil society and media forums.

The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative led by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to mobilize financial resources for water sector development in Africa. Created in 2004, the AWF is hosted and managed by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Further information on the AWF is available at www.africanwaterfacility.org

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