



## PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **AMCOW Receives 2 million Euros AWF Funding for Water Sector Reporting**

**Harare, Zimbabwe -December 4<sup>th</sup> 2013** - The African Water Facility (AWF) has offered the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) a € 2 million grant to establish a monitoring and reporting system for the water sector in Africa. The project is in line with the Africa Water Vision call for action for the creation of a sustainable system for monitoring and sharing of information on all aspects of water use in the continent.

Its objective is to develop a harmonised national, basin and regional water sector monitoring and reporting system in Africa to enable AMCOW to report annually to the African Union (AU) Summit on the state of water in Africa. The project will also assist AMCOW and AU to establish a data management system that will drive continuous credible reporting on the sector on the state of water development and use for decision making at the level of heads of state and governments.

“AWF will continue to catalyse actions to propel the provision of water and safe sanitation to more African populations and to actualize more efficient development and management of our water resources. And one of the surest ways of doing this is to develop an efficient system of monitoring and evaluating what we do” said Dr. Bahri Akissa, the AWF Coordinator at the signing of the contract at the just concluded AWF Governing Council meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

To AMCOW Executive Secretary, Mr. Bai Mass Taal: “This project will enable us promote greater country accountability on Sharm el Sheikh Commitments made by our Heads of States on water and sanitation. However, the greater beneficiaries will be the people of Africa who are going to benefit from greater access to drinking water and safe sanitation as direct fallouts from such increased accountability actions by governments and other actors in the sector.”

The project to be implemented by AMCOW Secretariat over a period of 24 months consists of four main components: (i) preparation of a harmonised reporting system and format; (ii)

preparation of the annual reports based on harmonised system (iii) capacity building of AUC and AMCOW including establishment of data management and reporting platform as well as training and (iv) project management.

**About the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW):** AMCOW's mission is to provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems. Since inception in 2002 and as a Specialized Technical Committee for Water and Sanitation in the African Union, AMCOW works with the African Union Commission, United Nations system, inter-governmental and regional organizations, development and co-operation partners, financial institutions, and civil society groups to spearhead efforts to address Africa's water and sanitation policy challenges, and is tasked with developing an implementation strategy and reporting mechanism on the AU Heads of State and Government Sharm el-Sheikh commitments on water and sanitation. **For more on AMCOW, visit [www.amcow-online.org](http://www.amcow-online.org)**

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**About the African Water Facility (AWF):** The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), established in 2004 as a Special Water Fund to help African countries achieve the objectives of the Africa Water Vision 2025. The AWF offers grants from €50,000 to €5 million to support projects aligned with its mission and strategy to a wide range of institutions and organizations operating in Africa. Its three strategic priority activities are (1) **preparing investment projects** to mobilize investment funds for projects supported by AWF; (2) **enhancing water governance** to create an environment conducive for effective and sustainable investments; (3) **promoting water knowledge** for the preparation of viable projects and informed governance leading to effective and sustainable investments. Since 2006, AWF has funded 84 national and regional projects in 51 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €935 million as a result of its project preparation activities, which constitute 70 percent of its portfolio. On average, **each €1 contributed by the AWF has attracted €30** in additional follow-up investments. The AWF is entirely funded by Algeria, Australia, Austria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank. The AWF is governed by a Governing Council representing its 15 donors, UN-Water Africa, the AU via NEPAD, AMCOW and the AfDB. **For more on the AWF, visit [www.africanwaterfacility.org](http://www.africanwaterfacility.org)**

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