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**DECISIONS OF THE  
13<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING  
COUNCIL OF AMCOW HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

**Preamble**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of AMCOW, the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee (EXCO) was convened from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022. It comprised of two parts:

- i) the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) session from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022; and
- ii) the Ministerial Session on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of EXCO received and considered progress reports on the implementation of AMCOW Work Programme, the 2021 audit report and financial progress report, AMCOW's 3-Year Programme and budget and other matters arising from continental initiatives.

Rising on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of EXCO took the following decisions:

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/1 on submission of the 2022 Annual Report of the Commission on the implementation of the July 2008 Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa (Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)).**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 1.1 Takes note** of the Member States' commitment to report on the implementation of the July 2008 Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa, as well as the related targets of the SDGs.
- 1.2 Adopts** the report and its recommendations.
- 1.3 Tasks** the AMCOW Secretariat to avail the final report to the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-ARBE) for processing through the relevant organs of the Commission responsible for preparing and submitting documents to the AU Heads of State and Government.

**1.4** **Recalls** the decision of the EXCO on the 2021 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report –EO/EXCO/3/2021/WDH/1– taken at its 3rd Extra-Ordinary Session:

**1.4.1.** to **reaffirm acknowledgement** of the tremendous support from Member States, the AfDB, the AWF and the RECs, as well as the contributions of UNICEF, GWP, the UN-Water Agencies and other partners supporting the operationalisation of the National Coordination Platforms in the Member States;

**1.4.2.** to **reiterate** the appeal to AMCOW's current funding partners, namely: the AfDB – through the AWF, the BMGF, USAID and SIDA to champion the process for instituting a sustainable financing and resource mobilisation mechanism for the full operationalisation of WASSMO particularly at Member States level.

**1.4.3.** to **task** the AMCOW Secretariat to establish and expand the partnerships required to mobilise resources to support Member States to implement the recommendations of the WASSMO reports; and strengthen national level WASSMO capabilities for decision making and evidence-based policy advisory support

## **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/2 on progress in the implementation of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPGs) and the ASPGs in Action**

### **The Executive Committee:**

**2.1** **Takes Note** of the demand from some Member States for support to utilise the ASPGs.

**2.2** **Appreciates** the commitment of AMCOW's implementing partners that are undertaking to provide support to Member States to utilise the ASPGs to strengthen their sanitation and hygiene policy frameworks.

**2.3** **Commits** to promote, to AMCOW's funding partners, the Engagement Plans developed in respect of any aspect of the AMCOW Work Programme.

**2.4** **Urges** all Member States to take up the opportunity presented by the ASPGs to contribute to an Africa-wide improvement of the policy environment outlook for safely managed sanitation, as well as strengthening the related delivery systems.

**2.5** **Acknowledges** the renewal of the partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation towards accelerating access to safely managed sanitation in Africa **and appreciates** the Foundation's investment of US \$3.5m to support implementation of the ASPGs in Action sub-programme.

**2.6** **Tasks** the Secretariat to actively engage other funding, implementing and technical partners to secure the resources required to support all Member States to utilise the ASPGs to align with international best practice.

## **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/3 on development of the AMCOW Strategic Programme on Groundwater for Water Security and Resilience in Africa**

### **The Executive Committee:**

- 3.1 Takes note** of the progress made in the development of the Strategic Programme on Groundwater for water security and resilience in Africa.
- 3.2 Further takes** note of ongoing groundwater initiatives on the continent that should contribute to the development of the Strategic Programme.
- 3.3 Directs** the Secretariat to work with Member States and partners to formulate and initiate implementation of the Strategic Programme on groundwater for water security and resilience in Africa.
- 3.4 Further Directs** the Secretariat to mobilise the necessary financial and technical resources for the implementation of the programme for the benefit of Member States.

## **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/4 on outcomes of AMCOW Sub-regional Ministerial/ Technical Experts Committee Meetings**

### **The Executive Committee:**

- 4.1 Takes note** of the outcomes from the Sub-regional Technical Experts Committee Meetings and adopts the Aide-Memoires of the meetings.
- 4.2 Commends** Member States, RECs and RLBOs for their active participation and contributions to deliberations during the meetings.
- 4.3 Congratulates** the Member States nominated to assume leadership responsibilities on the policy organs of AMCOW for 2023-2025.
- 4.4 Directs** the Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States and RECs to support the Arab Republic of Egypt towards the preparation and successful hosting of COP27; and the Republic of Senegal towards adoption of the Dakar Declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum during the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- 4.5 Commends** Member States that are up to date with their country contributions and encourages them to continue supporting AMCOW.
- 4.6 Directs** the Secretariat:
  - a. to provide the necessary documentation and reminders to Member States on the arrears of their country contributions and **urges** Member States to show commitment to AMCOW by paying their country contributions.
  - b. to work with Member States to ensure that the documents are channelled through the most appropriate institutions.

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/5 on the Dakar Declaration “A Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development”**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 5.1 Applauds** the success achieved by the Government of the Republic of Senegal in hosting of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.
- 5.2 Endorses** the Dakar Declaration “A Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development” and **urges** the Republic of Senegal to submit this as Africa’s contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- 5.3 Further endorses** the Dakar Declaration: “A Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development” as embodying Africa’s common position and key messages to COP27.
- 5.4 Directs** the Secretariat to engage the Republic of Senegal and other Member States on strategies to raise the profile of Water and Sanitation in the pursuit of the goals of AU Agenda 2063.

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/6 on hosting of the 2022 World Toilet Summit by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 6.1 Takes note** of the hosting of the 2022 World Toilet Summit by the Federal Republic of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources.
- 6.2 Calls upon** Member States to support and show solidarity with the Federal Republic of Nigeria towards a successful hosting of the 2022 World Toilet Summit.
- 6.3 Urges** Member States to actively participate in deliberations during the World Toilet Summit

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/7 on the 2021 Annual External Audit Report and Financial Progress Report from January 2022 to August 2022.**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 7.1 Takes note** of the Audit Report on the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021.
- 7.2 Further takes note** of the progress made in the implementation of the auditor’s recommendations raised in the 2020 Management Letter

- 7.3 **Approves** the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 and discharges the Accounting Officer accordingly.
- 7.4 **Takes notes** with appreciation of the continued support of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the Ministry of Water Resources, towards the core running costs of the Secretariat.
- 7.5 **Acknowledges with** appreciation the offer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to provide support to strengthen the internal audit function at the Secretariat.
- 7.6 **Appreciates and commends** the Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Botswana, Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Angola for their commitment to AMCOW as demonstrated by being up to date in their country contributions and urges them to continue supporting AMCOW.
- 7.7 **Further appreciates and commends** the Republics of Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, and Rwanda for substantially settling their arrears.
- 7.8 **Takes note** of the commitments made by the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the Republic of Malawi to settle their arrears before the end of 2022.
- 7.9 **Urges** Member States that are in arrears to settle their obligations which currently stand at US\$5,436,174 (Five million four hundred thirty-six thousand one hundred seventy-four United States dollars). The proceeds are required to assure a relative degree of autonomy of the Secretariat in coordinating the implementation of the AMCOW Work programme.
- 7.10 **Directs** the Secretariat to implement the auditor's recommendations raised in the 2021 Management Letter and report progress at the 14th Ordinary Session of the Governing Council

#### **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/8 on AMCOW's 3-year Work Programme and Budget (2022-2024)**

##### **The Executive Committee:**

- 8.1 **Approves** the 3-Year Work Programme (2022-2024) and the corresponding budget amounting to US\$20,057,532 (Twenty million and fifty-seven thousand five hundred thirty-two United States Dollars).
- 8.2 **Acknowledges** with appreciation the financial contribution from the Member States, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the African Development Bank – through the African Water Facility (AfDB-AWF) – the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), NVF and BGR towards the implementation of the 3-Year Work Programme (2022-2024).
- 8.3 **Takes note** with appreciation the commitment of the AfDB and EC-INTPA to financially support the implementation of the AMCOW triennial work programme and affirms AMCOW's commitment to a successful completion of the necessary processes.

- 8.4 **Urges** continued engagement of the AfDB, EC-INTPA, UN-Water with the Secretariat to expedite the process to the extent that it is possible.
- 8.5 **Directs** the Secretariat to broaden the scope of engagement with current and potential Development Partners to mobilise requisite financial and technical resources for the implementation of the 3-Year Work Programme.

### **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/9 on the review and proposed amendments to the Staff and Financial Rules and Regulations and the Organogram**

#### **The Executive Committee:**

- 9.1 **Recalls** the Governing Council decision GA/10/2016/Dar/16 to review the Staff and Finance Rules and Regulations in alignment with the African Union Commission.
- 9.2 **Further recalls** EXCO Decision EO/EXCO/2/2021/WDH/6 that, among others, directs the conduct of a comprehensive review of the Staff Rules and Regulations, Salary Structure, Job Grading and Benefits package.
- 9.3 **Takes note** of the financial implications of aligning the current Salary Structure to that of the AUC and the amendment of the Organogram to strengthen the Secretariat as per the recommendations from the independent studies on organisational effectiveness.
- 9.4 **Approves** the amendments to the AMCOW Staff Rules and Regulations and the AMCOW Financial Rules and Regulations
- 9.5 **Approves, in principle**, the Secretariat organogram and salary structure **and directs** that their operationalisation shall be dictated by availability of sustainable funding for the duration of any new and all existing employment contracts for activated positions.
- 9.6 **Directs** the Secretariat to annually present the budgets for any position proposed for activation in any financial year.
- 9.7 **Further Directs** the Secretariat to ensure regional balance in operationalising the approved organogram and ensure that the TAC are informed in advance when new positions are being activated.
- 9.8 **Directs** the Secretariat to engage with Development Partners to operationalise the AMCOW Pool Fund for Staff Costs. The guaranteed projected performance of the Fund, over any defined period of the Secretariat's financial obligations related to staff costs, shall be a key determinant in activating and or deactivating positions on the organogram.

## **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/10 on Review and Proposed Amendments to the AMCOW Governance Framework**

### **The Executive Committee:**

- 10.1 Takes note** of the proposal and decide that the Minister responsible for Water affairs remains the substantive member, with alternate members derived from other Ministries dependent on the subject matter.
- 10.2 Approves** the amendments to the AMCOW governance arrangements and adopts the 2022 AMCOW Governance Framework Document.

## **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/11 on Resource Mobilization and financial sustainability**

### **The Executive Committee:**

- 11.1 Takes note** of AMCOW's collaboration with AfDB and UNICEF as co-conveners of the Water and Sanitation Sector Development Partners Coordination Forum (DPCF).
- 11.2 Endorses** the approach of the DPCF as a sector coordination mechanism for the alignment of Official Development Assistance objectives at continental, regional and national level to broaden and deepen the impact of water and sanitation continental policy initiatives.
- 11.3 Directs** the Secretariat to collaborate with AfDB and UNICEF to institute a resources mobilisation round-table – under the auspices of DPCF – at such established partner engagement platforms as the Africa Water Week, the AfricaSan conferences and the AfDB Annual General Meetings.
- 11.4 Calls upon** Member States to regularly contribute to the Africa Water Facility Trust Fund to ensure its sustainability.

## **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/12 on Progress in the implementation of AMCOW's Knowledge Management and Information Sharing programme**

### **The Executive Committee:**

- 12.1 Takes note** of the launch of the Africa Water and Sanitation Knowledge Agenda during the World Water Week.
- 12.2 Tasks** the Secretariat to work with Member States and partners to set up the Africa community of practice for the delivery of the Knowledge Agenda to enhance the continent's ability to generate and share indigenous water and sanitation knowledge.

- 12.3 Urges** Member States, RLBOs and RECs to nominate focal persons to join the Africa Water and Sanitation Knowledge Challenge.
- 12.4 Directs** the Secretariat to Mobilise funding to facilitate action on knowledge management and information sharing function for the benefit of Member States and the water community.
- 12.5 Further directs** the Secretariat to put in place mechanisms to mobilise knowledge resources for the AMCOW knowledge hub and library for the benefit of Member States and the water community.

#### **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/13 on Africa Regional mobilization and Consultations on the mid-term review of the UN Water Action Decade 2018-2028.**

##### **The Executive Committee:**

- 13.1 Adopts** the key messages from the Africa Regional Consultations on the Mid-term review of the Water Action Decade and related African initiatives towards the UN 2023 Water Conference (Doc.13/AMCOW/EXCO/An11a) and **calls upon** Member States to share the key messages with their permanent representatives to the UN to inform the Preparatory Meeting and Stakeholder consultation for UN 2023 Water Conference on 24 to 25 October 2022.
- 13.2 Urges** Member States to actively participate in the upcoming milestone events to consolidate the Africa common position and input to the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- 13.3 Directs** the Secretariat to engage with Member States for their active participation in the second of consultations on the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade – Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028.
- 13.4 Tasks** the Secretariat to mobilise the water community in Africa to actively participate in COP27, the UN Groundwater Summit, the ongoing consultations on safely managed sanitation and the AfWSA Congress and Faecal Sludge Conference as part of a series of engagements towards the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- 13.5 Appeals** for political buy-in from the HoSG of the African Union to promote the development and implementation of integrated policies and strategies to raise the profile of water and sanitation and its cross-sectoral linkages for socio-economic development of the continent.

#### **EXCO/13/2022/WDH/14 on Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Resources Management**

##### **The Executive Committee:**

- 14.1 Takes Note** of the Team Europe Initiative to support water security in Africa and cross-sectoral achievement of 2030 Agenda.



- 14.2 Urges** Member States to take up the opportunity presented by the Team Europe Initiative to improve transboundary water resources management and water security in Africa.
- 14.3 Tasks** the Secretariat to finalise the Action Document for the Team Europe Initiative in line with the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030.

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/15 on Mobilization in support of Proposals for the appointment of UN Special Envoy on Water.**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 15.1 Affirms support** of the advocacy and outreach campaign in support of the proposal for the appointment of a United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Water.
- 15.2 Urges** the sector Ministers to mobilise the support of their countries to advance the proposal at the UN through their counterparts in charge of Foreign Affairs and or their Permanent Representatives to the UN.
- 15.3 Tasks** the Secretariat to promote the proposal among UN Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS), relevant development partners, civil society organisations and the private sector.
- 15.4 Directs** the Secretariat to engage the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC-ARBE) to bring the campaign up for the consideration of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (HoSG)

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/16 on the ASWAN Forum Conclusions on sustainable peace and development in Africa – Third Edition.**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 16.1 Takes note** of the outcomes of the 2022 ASWAN Forum Conclusions for Sustainable Peace and Development in Africa.
- 16.2 Acknowledges** the Arab Republic of Egypt's contribution to hosting the ASWAN Forum towards a peaceful, resilient and sustainable Africa.
- 16.3 Tasks** the Secretariat to collaborate with the Arab Republic of Egypt, Member States and development partners to implement the conclusions of the ASWAN Forum a Peaceful, Sustainable and resilient Africa.
- 16.4 Further tasks** the Secretariat to support the processes towards COP27 and to present Conclusions of the ASWAN and common messages/voice of the Continent at COP27.

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/17 on Presentation of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (AU-ASRIC) on the Moringa Sand Filter Ultra-violet (MSF-UV) hybrid technology**

**The Executive Committee:**

- 17.1 Takes note** of the work of AU-ASRIC on the Moringa Sand Filter Technology and recognised the importance of improving water quality.
- 17.2 Calls upon** AU Member States to participate actively in the implementation of the project and urges them to avail the resources and enabling environment required to implement the project at scale.
- 17.3 Request** the AUC, AU Member States, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and other UN Agencies and Development partners to support the implementation of the project.

**EXCO/13/2022/WDH/18 on partner Presentations and Reports on joint programming with AMCOW**

**The Executive Committee:**

**Notes** the contributions of the partners, and the recommendations made as follows:

- a. Organise the second round of the Africa regional consultations on the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade.
- b. Encourage Member States to promote cooperation on transboundary water resources management.
- c. Encourage continued cooperation to make the invisible visible, and to make groundwater management a priority in AMCOW Work Programmes.
- d. To implement the Africa Water and Sanitation Knowledge Management challenge roadmap.
- e. To strengthen partnership for implementing the ASPGs in Action Programme.
- f. Promote water and sanitation sector regulation function in all Member States.
- g. Support the work of the AIP High Level Panel as well as promoting the AIP Scorecard.
- h. Support ongoing research on the control and elimination of schistosomiasis in Africa.
- i. Support formal launch of the TEI continental window and promoting its implementation at all levels.

Done this day of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Windhoek, Namibia.

Hon. Carl Hermann Gustav Schlettwein  
**Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform of the Republic of Namibia**  
**AMCOW President**

## **Doc.13/AMCOW/EXCO/An11a**

### **Key Messages from the Africa Regional Consultations on the Mid-term review of the Water Action Decade and related African initiatives towards the UN 2023 Water Conference**

- 1. Adopt the Dakar Declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Dakar, Senegal:**  
Endorse for adoption the Dakar Declaration: *a **Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development***, and invite the international community and all stakeholders to contribute to the effective implementation of the outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar.
- 2. Increase domestic allocations and investment into the water and sanitation sector Africa:**  
It is imperative to raise the profile and value attached to water and sanitation in national systems for economic planning. A key entry point is to make the principles of valuing water the backbone of the action framework for the post-2025 Africa Water Vision aligned to the AU Agenda 2063.
- 3. A call to action to release the full potential of the sanitation economy to benefit business and society in Africa:**  
Realise the untapped potential of private sector participation in the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services for all as a profitable business. Of particular urgency, is the need to address the sanitation failures associated with the disease burden constraining productivity of the labourforce and degrading the environment. The African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPGs) provide the framework for promoting the sanitation economy.
- 4. Enhance Water-related disaster risk reduction and management capabilities in Africa:**  
Promote proactive approaches to flood and drought management centred around the pillars of monitoring, forecasting and early warning vulnerability and impact assessment, as well as preparedness, mitigation and response.
- 5. Consolidate evidence-based and timely decision making at all levels:**  
Prioritise investment for monitoring, evaluation, knowledge and information management and learning. Member States need to foster research and application of knowledge and innovations to inform sector interventions targeted at improving water governance and management, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene services delivery. This is targeted at addressing the challenges faced to access reliable and complete data in the water and sanitation sector.
- 6. Recognise as milestone events in the consolidation of the Africa common position and input to the UN 2023 Water Conference the COP27 in Egypt, the Africa Focus event at the UN 2022 Groundwater summit and ongoing consultations on safely managed sanitation.**
- 7. Endorse the proposal for the appointment of the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Water.**