



Statement of the Director for Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE) of AUC, Mr. Harsen Nyambe, on the Occasion of the 2nd Regional Consultation on Water Action Decade

Hon. Jumma Hamidu AWESO, Minister of Water and Irrigation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Represented by Dr. Adam Karia, Rector and CEO of Water Institute

Mr. Charles Ako, the Representative of the UN ECA

Representatives of Regional Economic Communities

Madam Ndiyakupi Neghituwamata, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reforms, Namibia and Chair of AMCOW TAC

Dr. Rashid Mbazira, Executive Secretary of AMCOW Secretariat

Representatives of Member States, TAC members

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great honor to deliver this statement of the African Union Commission at this event of the 2nd Round of Africa Regional Consultation on the Mid-Term Review of the United Nations Water Action Decade, a key and important milestone towards UN Water Conference 2023.

The African Union Commission warmly welcomes all of you in this hybrid event. I salute AMCOW Secretariat, UNECA, member states and all partners and. Special thanks goes to the Government and People of Tanzania for hosting this Second Regional consultation workshop. Special appreciation to our AMCOW team – led by the Executive Secretary Dr. Rashid – for spearheading organization efforts of this event that brought us together in person and remotely.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

The vision of creating a prosperous, inclusive, and peaceful Africa cannot be achieved without addressing water and related environment challenges.

In this respect, Africa's commitment on water and sanitation is on the rise. This is evidenced by the launch of the Africa Water Investment Program (AIP), International High Level Panel (IHLP) on Water Investment in Africa. The panel that is co-chaired by H.E. Macky Sall, the President of the Senegal and the current chair of the African Union. The Inauguration of the Panel will take place during COP 27, today in the afternoon 08/November. The Panel will work towards closing the gap in water investment, through - providing high-level advocacy on water security and sanitation investments, and supporting AIP resource mobilization efforts.

AUC is happy to see that the Executive Committee (EXCO) of the Governance of AMCOW in the 13th Ordinary Meeting – called for consolidation of the Africa common position and input to the UN 2023 Water Conference.

These commitments strengthen already existing commitments such as the Africa Water Vision 2025, AU Sharm El-Sheikh declaration on water and sanitation and AU Agenda 2063.

Dear Participants,

It is high time for Africa to work together in addressing our challenges of water security in a changing climate. AUC will continue working with the various partners in providing support at policy level but also in mobilizing partnerships and capacities at various levels.

AUC will commit to work diligently in coordination and harmony with Pan-Africa institutions, stakeholders at all levels and partners in taking forward the outcomes of the Second Regional consultation to bring about Africa priorities and key messages towards accelerating meeting of the water-related goals and targets of the Agenda 2030 which is urgently needed in our Continent. In this regard, the UN Water Action Decade on Water is an important vehicle which we will fully work to implement.

I am looking forward to our fruitful deliberations – towards consolidation of Africa's messages and recommendations to accelerate actions to achieve the UN Water Action Decade - "*water for sustainable development*".

I Thank you Very Much