



## Report of the 5<sup>TH</sup> Africa Water Week and 9<sup>th</sup> AMCOW General Assembly

26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week and the 9<sup>th</sup> AMCOW General Assembly were held at the King Fahd Palace Hotel, Dakar, Republic of Senegal from the 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week was convened by the African Ministers Council of Water (AMCOW), the African Union, and the Government of the Republic of Senegal with the theme “PLACING WATER AT THE HEART OF THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”. The supporting Institutions which sponsored the event included the European Commission, the German Cooperation and the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa.
2. Preceding the commencement of the 5<sup>th</sup> African Water Week, a three a day Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of AMCOW was held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014 to review the annotated agenda and other issues slated for consideration at the 9<sup>th</sup> AMCOW General Assembly which held from May 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. The conference had an opening plenary, and parallel technical sessions focusing on the following sub-themes:
  - a. Sub Theme 1: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:- Partnerships, Innovations and Investments – Post 2015
  - b. Sub Theme2: Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development
  - c. Sub Theme 3: Waste Water Management and Water Quality
  - d. Sub Theme 4: Water and Disaster Risk Management
3. A Business Forum, Civil Society Forum and World Water Forum Africa Regional Process were also organized as part of the conference. The Business Forum was organized under the theme: Private Sector Engagement, the Civil Society Forum on implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation, and the World Water Forum 7 Regional Process was organized to launch the Africa Preparatory Process. The deliberations at the Forums were facilitated by The African Union Commission, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, ANEW/WaterAid, Water for People, Beyond 2015 Coalition, CONIWAS, UWASNET, KEWASNET, EWP.

Several side events and exhibitions relating to water, waste water and sanitation were organized through the duration of the Africa Water Week by public and private sector organizations, Civil Society and NGOs ( Annex1)

## **II. PARTICIPATION**

4. The following Members States of the African Union participated in the 5th Africa Water Week: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt (as observers) Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.
  
- 2 High level representatives from United Nations Agencies, the African Development Bank, Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies as well as delegates representing NGOS, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector participated in the deliberations. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 2**

## **III. OPENING CEREMONY**

The opening ceremony was presided over by the Prime Minister of The Republic of Senegal, Her Excellency Mrs. Aminata Toure, who welcomed delegates and thanked them for responding to the invitation of the Government of Senegal. Prime Minister Toure emphasized the importance of the occasion given the centrality of water in the socio-economic development of African countries and the role it can play in promoting peace and integration in Africa. It is for that reason, she said that Senegal accords high priority to water in its development endeavors.

Addressing the session, the Interim President of AMCOW / Minister of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honorable Sarah Reng-Ochekpe, and the host Minister of Water Resources & Sanitation of the Republic of Senegal / incoming President of the AMCOW, Honorable Pape Diouf, highlighted the significance of the gathering which is taking place as the Millennium Development Goals period comes to an end. They also stressed the benefits of efficient management of water resources and thanked international partners for their support to AMCOW in its drive to forge ahead and achieve the goals enshrined in the Africa Water Vision 2025.

Other speakers at the session included representatives from the African Union, World Metrological Organization, the International Committee of World Water Forum, Water and Sanitation for Africa and several International Non Governmental Organizations. They all emphasized the need to ensure that water plays a key role in the Post 2015 Development Agenda and to engage policy makers and legislators in an effective dialogue such that water is given due prominence in national development agenda. The speakers also stressed the imperative of working together to attain the continent's goals for transformational changes and sustainable development without which the overarching goal of poverty reduction would not be realized. Whilst recognizing the need for an integrated approach encompassing all areas of social and economic development the representatives called on policy and

decision makers to place water in all its ramifications at the core of national development programmes.

Earlier the Executive Secretary of AMCOW Mr. Bai Mass Taal welcomed the dignitaries and other delegates to the opening ceremony. He thanked the Government of the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Africa Water Week and Prime Minister Aminata Toure for consenting to open the conference. The Executive Secretary called for effective and efficient management of Africa's water resources and appealed for renewed cooperation among AMCOW member states in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs and the African Water Vision and Framework for Action for water and sanitation.

**V. 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week Programme** The programme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week is as summarized below :

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May: Conference opening Plenary, Statements (introductory statement, welcome statement, goodwill statement, key statement and goodwill messages), opening exhibition and technical sessions and discussion panel, side events and exhibition

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May: Teaser plenary and technical sessions, discussion panel, side events and exhibition

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May: teaser plenary, Technical sessions and discussion panel, side events and exhibition

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May has been consacred for parallel sessions such as Business forum, Civil Society forum and presentation and adoption of the Africa process of the 7<sup>th</sup> World water Forum .

## **VI. PRESENTATION OF THEME**

The main theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week was “**PLACING WATER AT THE HEART OF THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**”. Water is needed in all aspects of human life. In the words of the Senegalese Minister for Water and Sanitation “there can be no development without water. Water, especially water security, adequacy and sufficiency of water supplies are essential, to the business of civil society, government, business and industry”.

The above remarks were further buttressed by the Interim President of AMCOW, Hon. Sarah Reng Ocheke who in her address to the plenary stated that:

“The centrality of water to development is no longer debatable – a fact that has been proven throughout history. And yet water's social, economic and environmental value is often overlooked.”

Furthermore, as underscored by the June 2012 Rio+20 outcome and subsequent major development forums, Water is at the core of sustainable development because of its overarching linkage to a number of key global challenges such as poverty reduction, sanitation and healthy human living as well as the well being and productivity of our

populations. Water is vital for ensuring food security and energy, while effective and efficient development and management of the resource is a key instrument for mitigating the anticipated impact of climate change and climate variability.”

These views were echoed by speakers from international and nongovernmental organizations who delivered goodwill messages.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week therefore was taking place at a propitious moment in the continent’s endeavors to plan strategies that serve to place the issues of water and water resource management at the heart of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The rate of success achieved in this effort will depend to a large extent on the ability and willingness of governments, private sector, and civil societies to forge a meaningful partnership in the design and implementation of policies for sustainable development acceptable to all stakeholders. Collaboration and cooperation with and support from the international community would be crucial in this regard.

## **VII. MAIN MESSAGE FROM THE THEME**

The main message from the theme is the centrality of water in human existence and the need to adopt a holistic approach in the management of the resource from source to consumption in such a way that human needs are catered for in sufficient quantity and quality for human wellbeing and a driver to economic development.

## **VIII. PARALLEL SESSIONS**

### **Parallel Session 1**

#### **Sub-Theme 1: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Partnerships, Innovations, and Investments- Post – 2015**

There were eight sessions which discussed a broad range of topics including the results of the SWA High Level Meeting held in Washington in April 2014, policy and governance reforms, the role of local government in providing sustainable WASH services, technological innovations and how information and communications technology can be utilized in reaching the majority of the population and in creating accountability and empowering consumers in WASH initiatives. Other topics discussed included finance mobilization, the importance of strategic alliances within the health, education and other sectors in order to achieve effective implementation of Post-2015 WASH targets and on how to bring low income consumers into the formal water supply market.

The parallel session was informed about the high level participation at the Washington meeting including several Ministers of Finance and of Water Resources and Sanitation as well as water experts and representatives from international donor agencies. The main issues raised at the consultation were related to (i) harmonization and coordination of development partners (ii) improving human resource capacity in governments, (iii) political prioritization, (iii) evidence-based decision making and national policy generation and (iv) planning and financing of WASH.

There were Case studies Presentations of country experiences from Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Kenya. The efforts and plans by Governments to involve the private sector and civil society in these countries were explained. The delegates described positive reforms and broad based development frameworks for the engagement of the private sector and civil society in addressing challenges in operations, maintenance and functionality of water sources and systems. It was noted that the roles and responsibilities of the private sector in WASH service delivery had been clarified and Governments were providing the policy and regulatory support to ensure that the private sector not only thrives in terms of business, but was also providing required and affordable services.

Several bilateral and multilateral donor agencies as well as IGOs and NGOs informed the participants about their organizations plans to support the efforts of countries in facilitating access to sustainable water and sanitation services and facilities. They stressed the

commitments of their organizations to provide support and assistance in order to improve sanitation and hygiene for African countries. The possible areas for intervention were:

On sustainable of urban sanitation projects and how to scale up and integrate useful innovations in the development process of countries;

Impact evaluation such as testing innovations and conducting research in sanitation solutions and using appropriate technologies;

Strengthening partnerships and engagements with governments, consumers, private sector entities and civil society organizations in developing holistic programs and messages that address linkages with sanitation and hygiene.

Strengthening the coordination frameworks and linkages between government ministries involved in health, sanitation, education and nutrition and their partners in the private sector and civil society.

Main messages from the session were that Africa is a dynamic continent, with a rapidly expanding population and an exponential rate of urbanization as it embarks on economic development and social change. As a consequence there is bound to be a heavy demand on WASH in the continent and the need to provide adequate services and facilities accessible to all will be equally demanding. Therefore the Parallel Session dealing with the above noted Sub-Theme arrived at a general consensus that:

- WASH issues need to be seen as Human Rights issues. But presently, in most African countries, many communities in the urban and peri-urban areas in particular have little access to basic WASH infrastructure and services.
- It is both urgent and necessary for governments and other service providers to address the specific WASH needs of urban and peri-urban communities.
- Commitments made at the High Level Meetings should be fulfilled and mainstreamed in the national plans and budgets of governments to minimize wastage of resources and to ensure synergies and coordination between governments, private sector and civil society in the implementation of activities.
- Focus should not only be on sustainability of water, sanitation and hygiene interventions and innovations, but also on ensuring the democratic control of services and facilities for sustained equal access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services to all.
- Promoting South-South cooperation which should , however not be seen as finding a replacement for North –South cooperation but rather as a complementary solution to filling the technology and financing gaps in Africa’s water and sanitation sector.

- This 2 paragraphs below from the the session 2 may be placed here: suggestion by Charles Ngangoue
- The need for joint partnership between governments and the private sector to ensure equitable access to secure water supplies and sanitation was emphasized.
- Financial leveraging by private sector service providers is necessary to guarantee sustainability and security of access to water supply and sanitation.
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## **Parallel Session 2**

### **Sub theme 2: Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development.**

Eight sessions were held under this sub theme attended by representatives from UN Agencies, Multilateral Financing Institutions, African and International NGOs.

The objectives of the Session were as follows:

- To assess the status of and identify key challenges to water infrastructure development and sustainable growth for food security, agricultural growth and energy production
- To frame water resources within the context of the debate on how Africa's natural resource can contribute towards Africa's transformation and sustainable development
- To show benefits of trans-boundary cooperation for national and regional development and how countries can optimize economic development through cooperation on trans-boundary waters
- To explore potential options for water financing, investments plans and resource mobilization
- To map out pathways that will help to realize Africa's potential in developing its water resources in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The need for joint partnership between governments and the private sector to ensure equitable access to secure water supplies was emphasized.

Financial leveraging by private sector service providers is necessary to guarantee sustainability and security of access to water supply.

Finally governments should create conducive political, legal and social environments required to embolden the private sector to invest in water resources infrastructure development and management. The support of and collaboration from the international community would be crucial for the realization of the goals and targets envisaged in the post 2015 Development Agenda.

The presentations made centered on issues pertinent to the fulfillment of local governments' responsibilities for the provision of WASH services and the challenges they face in this endeavor. A video clip was screened documenting the experiences of local

government workers representing national and local governments in the provision of WASH. It highlighted the difficulties encountered by various stakeholders in striving to provide sustainable WASH services for their communities.

In the discussions that followed, a consensus emerged, that in order to achieve the goals envisaged in WASH, there was need to adopt a new paradigm. In order to make the session more interactive and participatory, ten (10) case studies from various African countries were reviewed by Working Groups and presentations were made at the end of the sessions. Lessons learnt from the review of the case studies can be summarized as follows:

- Local governments should not be overburdened with direct service delivery functions to ensure institutionalized support.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance Indicators is critical to the success of ODF.
- It is necessary to reinforce the capacities and competencies of local governments to ensure sustainable water and sanitation.
- Effective decentralization and transfer of financial and technical resources to communities is needed.

The key messages that emerged at the end of the sessions included the following:

1. Local governments must minimize responsibilities on service delivery.
2. Local governments should have effective support from national governments for service providers.
3. Monitoring must be a key component of WASH service delivery and it must be adapted to local realities.
4. Variability of tariffs should be a possibility.

### **PARALLEL SESSION 3**

The Sub Theme: **Waste Water Management and Water Quality**

Eight sessions were held and participants , included representatives from member states, UN Agencies CSO and other stakeholders active in all the spheres of water resources development and management. The main objective of this Technical Session was to raise awareness about the challenges that countries face in the domain of waste water management and water quality. It was at the same time an opportunity to share experiences on this important but often neglected aspect of water management and to identify the potential positive derivatives that would accrue to the economy and social development of African countries if waste water management is given the attention it deserved. The specific objectives of the session were:

- To set the scene on current challenges in Africa concerning WWM & WQ

- To provide the latest updates on the Global, African and country level agenda concerning WWM & WQ
- To exchange experience on how to use waste water as a resource
- To introduce the concept of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM)
- To explore affordable waste water treatment options
- To engage in a debate about the relationship between scientists and decision makers

Apart from presentations, panel discussions and contributions from the floor there were short film/video clips on waste water management in Senegal and graphic displays of approaches to waste water treatment, waste water reuse for income generation programs and projects.

The general consensus at this Technical Session was that in most African countries, waste water management is still given a very low priority in local, municipal and national levels, despite the rapid deterioration of water sources.. Wastewater is mainly considered as threat but it could be considered as an opportunity (and already a reality in various African countries) as follows:

- The socio-economic benefits of appropriate waste water management and water quality, in terms of health, improved habitat, cost savings, productive use and tourism are significant enough to justify investments (estimation of cost / benefit ratio can reach up to 1 to 9)
- Practical experiences show that wastewater can be a resource for irrigation with basic treatment and proper hygiene practices; sludge can be used as a source of energy, and fertilizers.
- The productive use of waste water can generate income, development of micro enterprise and employment, as well as contribute to urban food security and poverty alleviation.
- Decentralized waste water management and the use of natural treatment systems can be done on site for reduced capital investments, increased efficiency and improved sustainability.
- Matching water quality with various usage can yield important cost savings.

Water Safety Plans as well as Sanitation Safety Plans provide an efficient and integrated approach for improved water quality that involves relevant stakeholders at each stage of the water cycle. The water quality guidelines for ecosystem and the 2006 waste water reuse guidelines provide appropriate frameworks and orientation to the improvement waste water and water quality management.

This state of affairs was seen as a serious anomaly because with population increase, economic growth and rapid and uncontrolled urbanization vast quantities of waste water is generated which if not properly managed would lead to discharge of huge volumes of untreated sewage, toxic waste and pollutants into underground water sources and rivers that could have adverse effects on the health status of the communities particularly on children and other vulnerable groups.

Poor waste water management and the lack of recycling facilities , and inadequate drainage infrastructure were identified as causes of environmental degradation that contribute to climate change leading to high intensity rainfalls, floods and the consequent disastrous impact on agricultural production and human habitation.

A very important feature of the deliberations in this Technical Session was the unanimous view that waste water should be seen not as an irritant but as a resource that, after treatment using appropriate technologies, could be recycled and reused for agricultural production and vegetable gardening through irrigation methods and to generate alternative energy to facilitate income generating activities as well as for household use. Several demonstrations were shown on different methodologies to attain those objectives but some delegates cautioned about the inherent health risks and dangers of using treated waste water for agricultural production and vegetable gardening. The session also stressed the need for a cost-benefit analysis of waste water treatment technologies and of alternative energy generation to determine their economic viability and environmental suitability.

From the deliberations of the parallel session of sub-theme 3 the following key messages were identified:

- that waste water management which for so long was subsumed under the fabric of water quality and sanitation should be accorded equal priority in water policy formulation and that the political will to do so ought to be clearly articulated and manifested by the leadership;
- that waste water management should be flagged as a separate SDG target and the political will should be translated into practical policies at the national and local levels;
- there should be intense inter ministerial and inter departmental dialogue and cooperation to push the waste water management agenda at the national level with a view to developing a coherent policy framework and strong institutional structures as well as securing sufficient funding for waste water management;
- that massive sensitization of the populations on all issues relating to waste water management and quality water should be undertaken;

By and large the Parallel Session dealing with the sub theme on waste water management and water quality identified waste water as a global concern and at the same time an economic and physical resource that requires an improved governance environment for its management encompassing unswerving political commitment, integrated planning, collaboration and innovation in order to ensure a sustainable development in the cyclical provision, use and disposal of water which is a basic and indispensable commodity for the survival of our communities and indeed of human civilization

#### **PARALLEL SESSION 4**

## Sub theme: **Water and Disaster Risk Management.**

The sub theme was targeted at bringing the actors on water related risk assessment and management together. The aim was to share experiences, increase awareness about the magnitude, dangers and challenges related to water disasters and its management. Success in this endeavor will largely require commensurate increases in the level of effort devoted to the application of concepts and techniques of disaster risk reduction, and the vulnerability of people and their livelihood, the wise management of land and water resources; and improving disaster preparedness and early warning systems.

The main objectives of the theme are broadly three:

1. Engender a common vision of disaster risk reduction for a shared responsibility for more resilient and water secure world
2. Articulate clear approaches for the application of concepts of integrated water resources management and disaster risk reduction in concrete actions and
3. Share experiences on water related disaster risk management.

Presentations and discussions during the session focused on key issues, strategies and policies that improve member states' capacity for effectively dealing with and mitigating disasters. Thematic discussions for various sessions of the topic were centered on water related disasters, most notably floods and drought,. In Africa, water related disasters account for more than 80 % of all people affected by natural disasters. Globally, the number of people affected and the estimated damage from water related disasters continue to increase with an estimated cost of US\$1.0 trillion over the period 2000-2010. Climate change is expected to increase the likelihood of extreme events leading to higher incidences of floods and droughts. Improved water resources management (WRM) appears to be the key strategy to confront the challenges. Building water security and applying the concepts of disaster risk management will be pivotal to ensuring the success of any development agenda post 2015.

Regarding integrated flood management, discussions examined concepts and principles for integrated flood management; international flood initiatives; floods and the assessment of socio-economic losses and loss or damage of data collected. Presenters highlighted paucity of accurate time series data as the key challenge for effective prediction and forecasting of the incidence, intensity and extent of floods; the lack of relevant tools and capacity for accurate forecasting and; use of diverse prediction /forecasting technologies often leading to conflicting forecasts between and within the same region. The unwillingness of local communities to accept and act upon early warnings where and when they are given often tend to exacerbate the resultant damage or loss to lives and property.

The session also examined the issue of water security and climate resilient development in the drive to tackle the scourge of drought and climate variability. Issues emerging from the subsequent presentations and discussions concluded that concerted effort is needed for integrated drought management through accurate forecasting mechanisms, effective disaster preparedness policies and strategic response plans. It was also recommended

that a reliable communication strategy to mitigate the incidence of climatic shocks be developed in consultation and collaboration with the most vulnerable communities.

The session was given a brief presentation on water and disaster risk management in Senegal including the causes of perennial floods due to rapid expansion of population centers and inadequate infrastructures. Measures to mitigate these problems through national efforts and international cooperation were highlighted.

The main messages were:

- the need to develop competences and technologies to improve forecasting and assessment of disaster risks preparedness;
- disaster management and mitigation strategies and the assessment of available and potential supplies of water resources should be accorded high priority in the face of competing demands for water resources;
- formulation of sound policies and effective implementation of programmes and projects are important requisites in sustainable water resources management.
- An integrated approach to disaster risk management should guide actions on droughts and floods focusing on:
  - ✓ From defensive to **pro-active** approaches;
  - ✓ From Ad-hoc to **Integrated Flood and Drought Management**
  - ✓ Towards a **culture of prevention and preparedness** by managing flood and drought
  - ✓ **Balancing risks** and achieving sustainable development needs;
  - ✓ **Change in decision making processes** to include risk management approaches.
  - ✓ Integrate the vertical planning and decision making processes at regional, national and community levels into a **multi-stakeholder approach** including key sectors, especially agriculture and energy;
- Monitoring droughts and floods requires a joint effort of HydroMet Services and should include ground truth data to improve the reliability and the application of satellite data based products.
- Early warning systems should be designed to bridge the gap between providing information and taking action
- The need for goals and targets is obvious – the real challenge is implementation. The SDGs presents a way to do things differently, such as a greater stakeholder involvement.
- Monitoring and review of the data is not an option but an imperative in the process of data collection and production of information.
- Recent advances show satellite data will contribute greatly to environmental monitoring in the future and especially monitoring hydro climatologic phenomena.

#### **Key Recommendations:**

- A pro-active approach that moves the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction into practice in communities needs to be strengthened.
- Integrate the vertical planning and decision making processes at regional, national and community levels into a multi-stakeholder approach to disaster risk management.

- Capacity of institutions and individuals will need to be strengthened so that they can deliver against nationally owned targets.
- Institutional coordination remains a challenge, especially in circumstances where there is an underlying capacity deficit.
- We need to speak another language: Communicating the economic impacts and the social and human costs of the lack of DRR. Quantification of the costs can help to make the costs more visible
- Need for countries to continue strengthening data collection and the monitoring of water resources
- Civil society involvement, particularly from women and youth and pressure from civil society on the decision-makers is key to move from speeches to action.

## **DRAFT REPORT OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> AMCOW GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 IN DAKAR, REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL.**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AMCOW convened in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014. The Opening Ceremony was attended by 29 African ministers of water resources and sanitation and declared open by the Prime Minister of Senegal Her Excellency Madame Aminata Toure deputizing for H.E President Macky Sall. The 9<sup>th</sup> GA followed immediately after the African Water Week (26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014) which was attended by 1,125 delegates comprising representation from 50 African countries, international organization and development partners.

2. In his introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary of AMCOW Mr. Bai-Mass Taal, expressed gratitude to H.E. President Macky Sall, the government and people of the Republic Senegal for hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> African Water Week and the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AMCOW. He commended the pioneering role, leadership and commitment of President Macky Sall from the formative stages of AMCOW to its transformation into the global voice that it has become in the area of water resource and sanitation . He noted however, that while significant progress has been made, challenges continue to be experienced in areas of access to portable water , water security, water for food production, for , energy generation and health services delivery. The Executive Secretary reminded delegates of the significance of the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which is being held one year to the end of the MDGs period and one year before the start of the SDGs.

### **II. PARTICIPATION**

The following Members States of the Africa Union participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt (as observer), Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (as observers), Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco (as observers), Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra

Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

### **III. OPENING CEREMONY**

1. The General Assembly (through a video clip), received a special message from H.E. Dr. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Africa's Goodwill Life Ambassador for Water and Sanitation. In her statement, she stressed the need for all African governments to join the call for a dedicated water goal that should be given priority on their development agenda and WASH related issues. In addition, the Liberian President, in her capacity as the co-chair of the Global Dialogue for Water Security, expressed the view that it was crucial that African governments pay attention to issues pertinent to water security and sustainable development and management of water resources.

2. H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture delivered a goodwill message from the AU Commission and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment and support for AMCOW activities in water resources management especially in the development of coherent policies, strong institutional arrangements and resources mobilization. She stated that The AU has a long term vision for the transformation of Africa into a peaceful, prosperous and integrated continent and water resources development and management was a fundamental pillar in this endeavor. She highlighted the need for African countries to have targeted advocacy on water and sanitation related issues in order to develop a common African position in the post 2015 Agenda.

3. The Welcome Address was delivered by Hon. Sarah Reng Ocheke Interim President of AMCOW and Minister of Water resources of the Federal republic of Nigeria, who thanked the founding fathers of AMCOW for their foresight, dedication and leadership. She saluted President Macky Sall for his role in the establishment of AMCOW and his continued support to the organization and her Egyptian predecessors for spearheading AMCOW in the right direction. She described AMCOW as a continental framework that was designed to provide the political leadership and strategic direction in the promotion, management and utilization of Africa's water resources. She noted that the activities of AMCOW has brought added value in the trans-boundary water resources management and expressed appreciation to the AU for its commitment in further strengthening AMCOW. Minister Ocheke lamented the inadequacies in water and sanitation and overall funding in water resources management and emphasized AMCOW's resolve to remedy this state of affairs through the implementation of the Sham El Sheikh Declaration and the strategies outlined in the African Water Vision 2025 and the promotion of a Youth Policy and Strategy in mainstreaming youths in water and sanitation sector in Africa. The Keynote Message to the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was delivered on behalf of HE President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal by Prime Minister Madame Aminata Toure who welcomed delegates to Dakar and stated that the just concluded 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week provided an opportunity to Senegal to reiterate the country's commitment to water resources management. She highlighted the importance of the resource to human existence and its linkage to all sectors in the social and economic development of African countries including health, education, food production and generation of alternative

energy. Prime Minister Toure therefore called for greater cooperation among African countries in the exploitation and utilization of water sources in the continent. Cooperation she stated was indispensable for the maintenance of peace and security because historically water has been a source of internal as well as interstate conflicts, such as between farmers and herdsman and in construction of dams for irrigation and hydropower projects. The Prime Minister implored African countries to redouble their efforts in the management of water resources in order to maximize the benefits from and avoid wastage of a shared and vital resource.

5. Further goodwill messages were delivered by the representative of the African Development Bank Mr Kebba Mbaye and the Honorary President of the World Water Council, Loic Fauchon. Both delegates renewed the commitment of their organizations to support AMCOW in its activities which conform to the policies and strategies of the AfDB and the WWC in the areas of infrastructural development, governance and in ensuring water security and accessibility.

6. A presentation of the synthesis reports of the sub themes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week were made by the lead Conveners and attached as **Annex** .....

#### **IV. CLOSED SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

The closed Ministerial session examined the annotated agenda (see annex..) presented by the Executive Secretary. The annotated agenda was accepted pending amendments proposed by the Ministers. AMCOW secretariat was given 30 days to submit a financial statement and activity report of the secretariat.

V. One of the highlights of the 9<sup>th</sup> GA is the adoption of the Dakar declaration attached as annex...

#### **VI. LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN MINISTER'S COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW) POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR MAINSTREAMING YOUTH IN WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR IN AFRICA**

To popular applause and ovation the above noted policy and strategy was launched at the resumed open session of the General Assembly by the Interim President of AMCOW, The Hon Sarah Reng Ochekepe, Minister of Water Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The document is attached to this Report as Annex.....

#### **VII. SIGNING OF MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING**

Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA) to further strengthen cooperation between AMCOW and WSA . The CEOs of the two organizations signed on behalf their respective organizations. The MOUs are attached to this Report as Annex.....

## **VII. COMMUNIQUE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VENUE OF 10<sup>th</sup> GA AND 6<sup>th</sup> AWW**

The Interim President informed the GA the candidature of the Republic of Tanzania to host the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Water week in 2016 . This was received by popular acclaim and the delegate from the republic of Tanzania stated that her country would provide the necessary facilities for the successful holding of the two events.

## **VIII. HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF THE PRESIDENCY/PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING INTERIM PRESIDENT**

The Outgoing Interim President, the Hon. Sarah Reng Ocheke, Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria handed over the staff of office to the new President of AMCOW, the Hon. Pape Diouf, Minister of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of Senegal for the period 2014 - 2016. The Nigerian Minister was presented with a plaque in appreciation of the valuable services she rendered to AMCOW during her tenure as Interim President of AMCOW.

## **IX. INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MAIDEN STATEMENT**

The new President of AMCOW, Honorable Pape Diouf, Minister of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of Senegal delivered a maiden statement in which he thanked his colleagues for electing him to the high position. Minister Pape Diouf promised to do his utmost to consolidate the laudable achievements of his predecessors in making AMCOW a global voice for Africa in water resources development and sanitation so that this vital and basic resource can be harnessed for the sustainable social and economic development of the African continent and in a manner that would guarantee the peace and security of our continent.

The new AMCOW President expressed profound thanks and appreciation to H.E. President Macky Sall for his pioneering role in the establishment of AMCOW and for his continued support and guidance. Minister Diouf also thanked the bilateral and multilateral funding agencies who have been indispensable partners and sponsors of AMCOW in the formulation of water policies and strategies as well as in the design and implementation of programmes and projects.

## **X. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDS/PHOTOGRAPHS**

Announcement of the 10<sup>th</sup> GA and 6<sup>th</sup> Africa water Week in Tanzania

The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was declared closed by the President of AMCOW the Honorable Pape Diouf , Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation of the Republic of Senegal after a group photograph of delegates and a well attended press conference.

**Major Outcome of The 9th General Assembly:**

- 1. Approval of the annotated agenda with new decisions**
- 2. Approval of AMCOW Work Programme 2014 – 2016**
- 3. Adoption of the Dakar declaration**
- 4. Election of new AMCOW governance structure....President, Vice Presidents , EXCO members and AWF members**
- 5. Venue of the 10<sup>th</sup> GA and 6<sup>th</sup> AWW.**
- 6. Placing water at the heart of the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels**
- 7. Agreement on a dedicated water security and sanitation goal Post 2015 SDGs**

## **ANNEXURES: 1**

### **A Statement by Civil Society at 5th Africa Water Week Dakar, Senegal 30 May, 2014**

#### **Post 2015: Call for Dedicated Water and Sanitation Goal**

We, members of the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) made up of social movements, women organizations, and community Based Organizations have actively engaged in the conference discussions on "Placing Water at the Heart of the Post 2015 Development Agenda".

CSOs have consistently maintained that the post-2015 framework provides a unique opportunity to address the various challenges that have left the Millennium Development Goals for Water and Sanitation unattainable in most of our countries. Lessons learned from our experiences on the implementation of the Sham El-Sheikh, EThekwini and SWA High Level Meeting commitments by our governments and other stakeholders are good pointers in shaping our thoughts and actions in our quest for a practicable post-2015 development framework.

At the heart of the post 2015 development framework there must be specific targets and indicators which ensure that the Human Right to Water and Sanitation is reached by enabling everyone to have sustainable access to WASH. We want to see an Africa where water, health and prosperity are afforded to everyone, not just those who can afford what so many now take for granted.

#### **We therefore call for:**

- A dedicated water and sanitation goal within the post 2015 development framework aiming for universal access to these basic services with specific targets and indicators relating to hygiene
- A development framework that is founded on strong governance principles, with clear and transparent reporting and accountability mechanisms and includes the participation of all stakeholders
- Increased harmonisation and alignment of the various water and sanitation commitments and declarations to maximise their potential to firmly place water and sanitation at the heart of post 2015 development agenda
- The water and sanitation goal to be accompanied with adequate resources to meet the targets that will be set and ensure we move from commitments to results on the ground
- A development framework that prioritises reaching the poorest and most marginalised to significantly reduce inequalities in access and accelerate progress towards universal access to water and sanitation
- Investments in the water and sanitation sector to be guided by the principles of affordability, accessibility, quality and sustainability

**We, as civil society commit to:**

- Continue to mobilise resources and energy to support governments to prioritise water and sanitation and make concrete steps towards the implementation of commitments made
- Monitor and follow-up on our government's commitments to ensure leaders are held to account and services are delivered to those who remain unserved
- Advocate on behalf of the poorest and most vulnerable to guarantee that the post 2015 framework places people at the heart of the goals and targets