

**PARTNERSHIP FOR STRENGTHENING WATER SECURITY IN AFRICA  
CONFERENCE ON THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION  
INITIATIVE & THE AFRICAN WATER FACILITY**

**Declaration**

We Ministers of Finance and Water together with Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the African Development Bank, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and delegations of African governments; representatives of multilateral and bilateral donor agencies; representatives of international and regional organizations, representatives of civil society organizations and private sector attending the AUC, AMCOW and AfDB **CONFERENCE ON THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION INITIATIVE & THE AFRICAN WATER FACILITY** in Marseille, France on March 14, 2012,

**Recognizing** the key role of water and sanitation for sustainable development in Africa;

**Noting** the significant progress made in the implementation of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) since its adoption as a regional framework on 1st April 2005 at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Achieving the Millennium Development Goal on water supply and sanitation in rural Africa held in Paris France;

**Noting** the achievements made by the African Water Facility (AWF) in mobilizing resources and supporting and facilitating the creation of the enabling environment for investments and sector knowledge to achieve water security in Africa;

**Recognizing** the high level political leadership expressed in the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments by the African Union Heads of States and Governments made in July 2008 and the role of AMCOW in providing strategic leadership in the sector; ;

**Aware** of the challenges of providing basic water supply and sanitation services to millions of Africans particularly the continuing low access to water and sanitation in rural areas, and the need to focus on long term water security as a driver of economic and social development, and building **adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change impacts**; and prepare for the Green Economy decisions at Rio +20 cOnference

**Mindful** of the need to mobilize an additional US\$ 8.0 billion required for the achievement of MDG targets in rural Africa, and of the emerging paradigm whereby leadership is translated into budgetary and financial commitments by Africans and the need to strengthen our partnerships to increase resources from bilateral and multilateral programmes and replenishment of the trust funds of the two instruments to achieve their strategic plans;

We hereby:

1. **Commit** ourselves to mobilize the required resources and make all necessary efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target for water supply and sanitation in Africa. by providing sustainable and improved access to water supply and sanitation to the rural population in particular women and children in Africa within the framework of the Rural Water Supply and Initiative;
2. **Call on** all African governments to exhibit leadership in ensuring water security and the provision of basic water supply and sanitation services by significantly increasing their budgetary and financial allocations to the sector and by contributing to the RWSSI and AWF Trust Funds;
3. **Position** achieving water security and access to water supply and sanitation at the centre of African development strategies and to achieve this, call on African governments to prepare plans and financing strategies, improve governance, and strengthen institutional capacities to achieve efficient and sustainable management of the sector;
4. **Support** the strengthening and scaling up of the African Water Facility by committing resources to enable it accelerate development planning and mobilise investments funds to achieve the water security targets of the African Water Vision and Framework for Action for 2025.
5. **Coordinate** our activities at the regional, national and local levels in accordance with the Paris and Busan commitments and to this effect request the African Development Bank with government, AMCOW and key stakeholders to facilitate the establishment of national and regional coordination and monitoring mechanisms;
6. **Consider** that the provision of rural water supply and sanitation services and building the water security capacity are core elements of sustainable livelihoods and building adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change impacts, and further consider that the RWSSI and AWF are within the framework of climate change financing mechanisms;
7. **Support** the effort of the African Development Bank to create green development mechanisms to help African countries attain water security to better respond to climate change challenges and build green economies;
8. **Call** on all stakeholders to strengthen their communications and knowledge sharing platforms and for AMCOW to strengthen reporting to the AUC on Africa's water challenges and state of development;
9. **Call** on Governments to strengthen national information and knowledge sharing platforms and monitoring and reporting mechanisms under the leadership of AMCOW in collaboration with partners;
10. **Support** the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan for transboundary water resources projects to foster regional cooperation to achieve water security in Africa;

**Done on 14 March 2012, Marseille, France**