



Final Communiqué:

The Libreville Multi-stakeholders' Declaration on Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa

PREAMBLE:

- a. *Emerging*** from the deliberations during the 7th Africa Water Week held in Libreville, Gabon from 29th October to 2nd November 2018;
- b. *Invoking*** the Africa Water Vision 2025 of “*an Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, and the environment*”.
- c. *Mindful*** of the aspirations and commitments espoused in
 - i. the African Union Agenda 2063 to optimize use of Africa’s Resources to ensure positive socio-economic *transformation*;
 - ii. the 2008 Sharm el - Sheikh Declaration (Assembly/AU/Delc.1(XI)) on accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa;
 - iii. the 2004 Sirte Declaration (Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl.1(II)) on integrated development of Agriculture and Water in Africa;
 - iv. the 2008 Tunis Declaration on Accelerating Water Security for Africa’s Socio-Economic Development;
 - v. the 2015 N’Gor Declaration on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa; and
 - vi. the 2016 Dar es Salaam Roadmap for achieving the N’Gor Commitments on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa.
- d. *Aiming*** at implementing the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030 on ensuring a water secure Africa with safely managed sanitation for all.
- e. *Noting*** efforts to improve the global water governance through an open and inclusive dialogue among UN member states and all relevant stakeholders and ignite action through the United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”
- f. *Further*** noting the landmark decision of the World Water Council to host the 2021 World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal;

Further

- g. *Drawing attention*** to the commitments of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind and to embed this understanding in the budget, policy, implementation and monitoring processes of our countries;

- h. *Recognizing*** the imperative to apply nexus perspectives in the formulation and implementation of policies and activities in the water, agriculture, energy and environment sectors; as a way to optimize investments in the water value chain and to foster socio-economic development;
- i. *Further recognising*** water as a primary medium through which climate change will have an impact on development; and conflicts resolution and mitigation.
- j. *Highlighting*** that water resources management should, therefore, be the linchpin for adaptation and mitigation to climate change in Africa
- k. *Responding*** to the need to revitalize AMCOW's stewardship of a strategic pan-African Groundwater Initiative in partnership with Africa's active groundwater networks
- l. *Affirming*** the need to take advantage of opportunities inherent in water management instruments, gender mainstreaming and empowerment, youth engagement and application of legal frameworks at local, national and transboundary level;
- m. *Referring*** to the key role of water to realize Africa's aspirations to build robust, competitive and climate resilient economies; industrialise; create jobs; and deliver inclusive socio-economic development and livelihoods improvement as a critical step in addressing the root causes of peverty and migration.

We, the stakeholders and participants of the 7th Africa Water week

resolve to undertake the following actions:

- i.** commend African governments for their efforts to address the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene challenges, in their aspiration to improve the living standards of the people.
- ii.** call upon the African Union to designate 2021 as the year for water and sanitation in alignment with the 2021 World Water Forum to be hosted in Dakar, Senegal;
- iii.** call upon African governments to establish a conducive enabling environment including improved systems thinking, mechanisms to ensure citizens' participation, transparency, integrity and accountability for well-targeted water and sanitation interventions;
- iv.** urge Member States to strengthen partnerships with the private sector and other non-state actors to increase Africa-wide water investments through existing and innovative mechanisms and sources aimed at both bridging the water infrastructure gap and promoting access to innovative technologies to build resilient sustainable livelihoods;
- v.** call for increased focus on addressing the human resource capacity gap and deteriorating data monitoring networks which hamper availability of surface and groundwater resources data in adequate quantity and quality;
- vi.** urge AMCOW to set up an African Groundwater knowledge sharing and policy coordination desk at AMCOW Secretariat for the promotion of increased understanding and use of groundwater resources in addressing water security in Africa;
- vii.** prioritise safe and affordable drinking water for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised people, including women and children, and pay particular attention to peri-urban and rural communities within joint sector planning and budget allocations;
- viii.** call on Member States to honour their commitments to achieve safely managed sanitation in order to maximise benefits for health, education, gender equality and socio-economic development and environmental wellbeing;

- ix. call on Member States to improve operational systems aimed at ensuring water quality through provision of scientific and laboratory bases for monitoring the effectiveness of water treatment and delivery services;
- x. urge AMCOW partners to further develop the Water Africa Secure Initiative (WASA) a data and information sharing platform readily usable to support decision-making;
- xi. encourage governments to further improve their transboundary water cooperation through legal frameworks /conventions, and coordination at lake and river basin commissions level;
- xii. call upon the African Development Bank, the African Union and AMCOW together with other relevant partners to institutionalise a platform for regular interaction between Ministers of finance and their counterpart Ministers of water and sanitation on the margins of the annual General Meetings of the African Development Bank.

Done in Libreville, Gabon on this 2nd Day of November 2018.