

AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)



CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN RIVER AND LAKE BASIN ORGANISATIONS

Kampala, Uganda – 19-20 October 2006

RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

20 October 2006

Participants to the Conference of African River and Lake Basin Organizations (R/LBOs) meeting in Kampala, Uganda, 19-20 October 2006, resolved that action should be taken in the following areas.

I. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Conclusions

- We need good data on both surface and ground water that could be turned into useful information. In data gathering useful management indicators must be identified before hand and the data should be able to provide the indicators.
- A good water (surface and ground water) data storage system should be developed in every river basin organization and should be shared with other RBOs.
- Data security and confidence in data sharing should be built within each river basin organization and between RBOs.
- AMCOW should partner each RBO to come up with a comprehensive information system based on the water cycle.
- Increase cooperation between RBOs and global environmental conventions such as Ramsar.

Recommendations

Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT)

- a) AMCOW to deliberate on IBWT Workshop Guidelines (Ghana, Sept'06)
- b) The development of IBWT projects requires reliable and credible information (including historical, baseline data, scientifically based)

- c) Rigorous economic and social analysis should be used to develop a common understanding of the costs and benefits of an IBWT project
- d) "Mapping" of regional IBWT plans should be done
- e) Mobilization of finances for sustainable financial support of the RBOs is needed.

RBO Data Sharing

- a) AMCOW should partner each RBO to come up with a comprehensive information system based on the water cycle.

Groundwater in Africa

- a) Develop a proposal for managing and protecting groundwater resources within the framework of RBOs in implementing the Africa Water Vision 2025. The focus will be on:
 - Awareness building
 - Capacity building
 - Knowledge base
- b) Improve basic knowledge of groundwater resources in Africa
- c) Delineate major risk aquifer systems
- d) Assessment of socio-economic roles and benefits of groundwater in Africa
- e) Capacity building including strategic partnership of key groundwater groups and projects in the region
- f) Increase awareness of groundwater issues
- g) Assessment and archiving of best practices solutions for groundwater protection

II CAPACITY BUILDING

Conclusion Mobilizing Financial Resources

- Coordination & harmonization of resource mobilization
- Raising more resources from riparian countries through targeting the private sector
- Supporting the AWF – governments should increase AWF role; an important gap is in project conception.

Recommendations:

- a) Increase capacity of RLBOs to prepare good project proposals
- b) Prepare communication strategies to, among others, raise awareness of governments and the private sector
- c) Reinforce resource capacity of AWF according to recommendation of AMCOW EXCO, i.e. African governments should contribute to AWF
- d) Create enabling environment to involve private sector (from the planning to execution stage of projects)
- e) RBOs should develop and prepare clear vision and action plans with priorities to leverage donors.

Conclusion: Building Capacity in Social Development

- Social development issues should be an integral part of the activities of RLBOs
- Need for capacity building and meeting information requirements of communities

Recommendations:

- a) Develop and implement monitoring mechanisms for reporting of impacts and providing feedback
- b) Institute frequent stakeholder forums (part of communication strategy)
- c) Develop and create an agenda/mechanism for improved bargaining/negotiations
- d) Build capacity for organized civil society networks

Conclusion: Human Capacity Building

- Gender mainstreaming
- Retention of staff – enabling environment, motivation, institutional setting
- Sustain political commitment

Recommendations:

- a) Train water experts in basic and new technologies using specialized institutions (e.g. UNESCO)
- b) Improve motivation and competitive incentive packages for staff
- c) Institute mechanism for career promotion
- d) Capacities to be developed include:
 - Negotiation skills
 - Maintaining multi-disciplinary undertakings
- e) Improve existing curricula and create new courses
- f) Take into account good governance – peer review mechanism

III INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Conclusions

- The establishment of a committee by the President and Executive Committee of AMCOW, to further elaborate this discussion. Membership should be drawn from the AU, AMCOW, ANBO, sub-regional economic communities ANEW, and could include UN-Water/Africa, and other partners.
- The committee will prepare terms of reference for their responsibilities for presentation to the President and Executive Committee of AMCOW, for forwarding to the Executive Committee of ANBO.

- The committee will prepare a proposal for options for a future affiliation between AMCOW and ANBO, taking into consideration the issues identified in the meeting. The proposal will be presented to the Executive Committee of AMCOW for review;
- The proposal as endorsed by the AMCOW Executive will be presented to the General Assembly of ANBO in January 2007. Whatever is resolved by the ANBO Assembly would then be submitted to the next ordinary session of AMCOW for their consideration, and final presentation, for information, to the AU Summit in July.

Recommendations:

- I. That the President and Executive Committee of AMCOW, to further elaborate this discussion, establish a committee, to be known as the Tekateka Committee, whose core members will include the following:
 - a. Chair – R. Tekateka, South Africa
 - b. Representative of AMCOW
 - c. Representative of the African Union
 - d. Representative of ANBO
 - e. Representative of the African Network on Water (ANEW).
 - II. That the President of AMCOW extends invitations to participate in the committee to ECOWAS, EAC and SADC, as well as a R/LBO that is not a member of ANBO.
 - III. ANBO may wish to designate an additional representative.
 - IV. The committee may request specific technical and other inputs from partners.
 - V. The venue of the inaugural meeting will be one of two options: South Africa, host country of the Committee Chair, or Uganda, host country of the AMCOW President's support office.
 - VI. It is proposed that the inaugural meeting be held Friday-Saturday, 17-18 November 2006.
 - VII. Working documents for the inaugural meeting: the Chair will prepare a draft agenda plus a brief issues paper (2-3 pages), with key questions for consideration of the members. These documents will be sent to the participants along with any required background documents.
 - VIII. UNEP Regional Office for Africa/UNEP Collaborating Centre (UCC), GTZ, UNESCO, African Development Bank/African Water Facility, and other members of UN-water/Africa are being requested to cover the travel costs for the meeting (8-10 participants).
 - IX. The President of AMCOW will formally invite members to serve on the committee and to attend the inaugural meeting.
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