



Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Partners, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Africa Focus Day at the 2012 World Water Week. I also bring felicitations from my immediate predecessor and immediate past President of the African Ministers Council on Water, Dr Hesham Kandil, now the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. He sends his warmest regards to colleague Ministers and recalls with nostalgia the meeting together of the AMCOW Ministers at the last General Assembly and Africa Water Week in Cairo in May 2012.

Being new on the saddle I am equally delighted that this meeting provides me the opportunity to meet and interact with the AMCOW regional Vice Presidents and colleague Ministers for the first time. I hope that our interactions will be most fruitful in moving AMCOW forward.

Over the years, it has become a time-