

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

**African Ministers' Council on Water
(AMCOW)**

Founding, Mission, Vision and Mandate



Establishment

2002 Abuja Ministerial Declaration on water – a key to sustainable development in Africa.

Mandate

promote cooperation, security, social, economic development and poverty eradication – through effective water resources management and utilisation.



The President Of The Federal Republic Of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Gcfr Having A Group Photograph With The Delegates At The African Ministers Council On Water (amcow) Meeting April 29-1st May, 2002

Founding, Mission, Vision and Mandate

MISSION

Provide political leadership, policy direction, and advocacy in the provision, and use mgt of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems

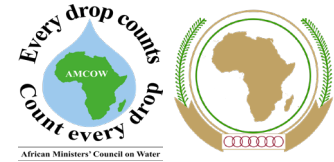
VISION

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.



AMCOW
Story

ESTABLISHMENT OF AMCOW



- Formed in 2002 by the Abuja Ministerial Declaration on water – a key to sustainable development in Africa.
- Primarily to promote cooperation, security, social, economic development and poverty eradication – through effective water resources management and utilisation.
- The 2008, 11th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly in Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration: (i) strengthened AMCOW as a key regional mechanism to promote cooperation on water and sanitation; (ii) mandated AMCOW to implement and report annually on water commitments of the continent to the HoSG.
- The organs and structures of AMCOW serve as the Sectoral Committee on Water and Sanitation of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, Water and Environment (STC on ARBWE) of the Africa Union

Relationship between AMCOW and the African Union

Assembly		<p>This is the supreme policy and decision-making organ of the AU.</p> <p>The Assembly is composed of all Member State Heads of State and Government.</p>	
Executive Council		<p>The Executive Council coordinates and takes decisions on policies in areas of common interest to Member States.</p> <p>It is responsible to the Assembly. Executive Council is composed of foreign ministers or such other ministers or authorities as are designated by the governments of Member States.</p>	
Specialized Technical Committees (14 STCs)	Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)	<p>The Specialised Technical Committees (STCs) are thematic committees on key AU projects and programmes. In this regards the AU Constitutive Act has established 14 STCs. STCs are responsible to the Executive Council. They Composed of Member State Ministers and/ or Senior Directors/ Officially Designated Experts.</p>	<p>The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) is charged with preparing the work of the Executive Council. Composed of Permanent Representatives and other plenipotentiaries of Member States.</p>

Among the 14 Specialised Technical Committees (STCs) of the African Union is the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, Water and Environment (STC on ARBWE).

Relationship between AMCOW and the African Union (Cont'd)

Decisions and declarations of the AU Assembly to strengthen the AMCOW as a key regional mechanism for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation in Africa.

- a. **Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl. 1(II):** 2004 Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of implementing integrated and sustainable development of agriculture and water in Africa, undertaking:
 - i. *to support the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in its role of preparing plans and policies related to water resources management on the continent; and*
 - ii. *to adapt the mandates, structures and activities of AMCOW, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment [AMCEN] and the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture [CAMA] in order to integrate them into the activities of the Commission of the African Union and its Specialised Technical Committees (STC)";*

Relationship between AMCOW and the African Union (Cont'd)

Decisions and declarations of the AU Assembly to strengthen the AMCOW as a key regional mechanism for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation in Africa.

- b. Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XI):** 2008 Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa, undertaking:
- i. to mobilise action towards sustainable and integrated water resources management; and,*
 - ii. to provide policy guidance for coordination of water resources management and water supply and sanitation initiatives as well as the funding mechanisms put in place for these initiatives*

Requested AMCOW to annually report on progress made in the implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh commitments on water and sanitation, with support from regional partners, and to submit these reports for AU's consideration.

Relationship between AMCOW and the African Union (Cont'd)

Decisions and declarations of the AU Assembly to strengthen the AMCOW as a key regional mechanism for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation in Africa.

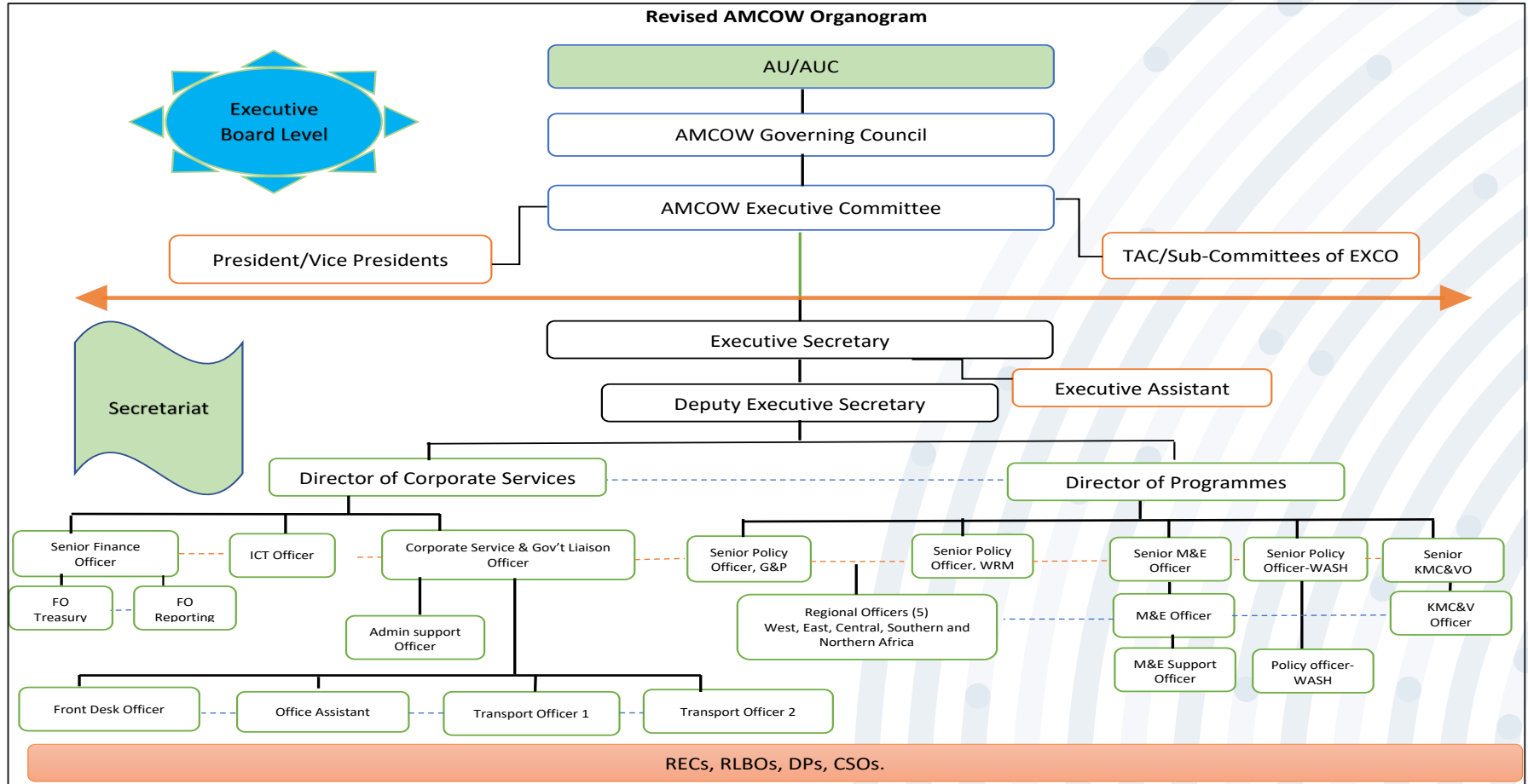
- c. **Assembly/AU/Dec.227(XII):** 2009 Decision that reconfigured Ministerial Conferences into 14 Specialised Technical Committees (STCs), including the committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE).
 - i. The organs and structures of AMCOW serve as the Sectoral Committee on Water and Sanitation of the STC on ARBWE as per:
 1. Resolution 1 of the inaugural session – in 2015 – of the STC which established – among others – a Sectoral Committee on Water and Sanitation;
 2. Resolution 2 of the same STC resolving “to adopt the Ministerial commitments; programmes; and partnerships in the water and sanitation sector as tools for the implementation SDGs in Africa, as well as the Common Africa Position on Post MDGs and the Africa Water Vision 2025”.

Relationship between AMCOW and the African Union (Cont'd)

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 - 3. the recommendation of the 3rd session of the STC – in 2019 – that “... self-financing ministerial conferences such as AMCEN, AMCOMET and AMCOW to be given consideration to serve as support mechanisms of the STC so that impactful results can be achieved in the sectors that they cover”; and,
 - 4. the resolution of the 3rd Session of the STC on re-configuration of Ministerial Sectoral Committees, which “AGREED that existing Ministerial Conferences be considered as support mechanisms for the STC”.

An Overview of AMCOW's Governing Organs



Functions of AMCOW Organs

Organ	Council of Ministers
Composition	All ministers responsible for water and sanitation affairs
Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes best practices and common actions of interest to Africa in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water policy reforms; water, food and energy security; cooperation on transboundary water resources management; and water, sanitation and hygiene services provision. Strengthens financing mechanisms of the water sector in Africa
Meetings	General Assembly once every 2 years
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Headed by a President (Member State) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current President: <u>Senegal</u> Presidency rotates among the sub-regions: Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and <u>Western</u> The President is supported by 5 Vice Presidents. Current VPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central: Republic of Equatorial Guinea Eastern: United Republic of Tanzania Northern: Kingdom of Morocco Southern: Republic of Zimbabwe Western: Federal Republic of Nigeria

General Guiding Principles

- Ensure ***continuity & retention of Institutional memory***. For EXCO this principle applies where the immediate outgoing President shall remain in EXCO and the Member hosting the next GA shall also be in EXCO(*Governance Framework, section 5.2.2-Composition of EXCO*)
- Nomination of other Member States to represent the Region in EXCO & TAC shall be on ***Rotational basis***.
- Member States serving in AMCOW's policy Organs, including Sub-committees, Technical Advisory Committee(TAC) and the Executive Committee(EXCO) must show moral leadership by ***being up to date in their financial obligations*** to AMCOW(*EXCO Decision GA/11/2018/LBV/3*)
- **AWF GC**-Immediate Outgoing AMCOW President and immediate outgoing 4 VPs from the other Regions other than that of the Outgoing President.
- **AWF TAC**-Immediate Outgoing TAC Chair and TAC VCs from the other Regions other than that of the Chair and one more member per Region.

Functions of AMCOW Organs

Organ	Executive Committee (EXCO)
Composition	15 members including the AMCOW President and Vice Presidents
Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take decisions on behalf of the Council in the interim of the General Assembly 2. Endorses the programmes and budgets for the approval of the Council 3. Decides on strategic directions of the constituent organs of AMCOW
Meetings	Once every year
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 representatives from each of the 5 regions for a term of 2 years 2. Representation is on a rotational basis 3. Current EXCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: Republic of Equatorial Guinea (VP), Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic • Eastern: United Republic of Tanzania (VP), Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Rwanda • Northern: Kingdom of Morocco (VP), Arab Republic of Egypt, Islamic Republic of Mauritania • Southern: Republic of Zimbabwe (VP), Republic of Angola, Republic of Zambia • Western: <u>Republic of Senegal (P)</u>, Federal Republic of Nigeria (VP), Republic of Ghana

Functions of AMCOW Organs

Organ	The Africa Water Facility (AWF)	
Description	An initiative of the AMCOW hosted by the AfDB	
Functions	Resources mobilisation and providing project preparation funding for water resources development and water and sanitation services provision in Africa	
Meetings	Once every year	
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AMCOW appoints five (5) members of the AWF Governing Council 2. They comprise the immediate outgoing AMCOW President and the four AMCOW Vice Presidents representing the sub-regions excluding that of the outgoing President 3. The VPs are supported by AMCOW-TAC Members from their countries 4. Current AWF Governing Council: 	
Region	Council	TAC
Central	Republic of Sao Tome & Principe	Republic of Gabon, Republic of Sao Tome & Principe
Eastern:	Republic of Kenya	Republic of Kenya, Republic of South Sudan
Northern:	Arab Republic of Egypt	Arab Republic of Egypt, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Southern:	Republic of Angola	Republic of Angola, Republic of Madagascar
Western:	Republic of Benin	Republic of Benin, Republic of Sierra Leone

Functions of AMCOW Organs

Organ	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Composition	25 members including the AMCOW President and Vice Presidents
Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advises the EXCO on technical and/or administrative matters relating principles, procedures and programmes 2. Coordination, operational follow-up, and reporting on progress in implementing EXCO and Council decisions 3. Facilitation of two-way feedback on AMCOW activities at continental, sub-regional and country levels
Meetings	Once every year
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5 representatives from each of the 5 regions for a term of 2 years 2. Headed by a TAC Chair supported by 5 Vice Chairs 3. Representation is on a rotational basis 4. Current TAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central: Republic of Equatorial Guinea (VC), Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Tchad • Eastern: United Republic of Tanzania (VC), Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Somalia, Republic of Uganda • Northern: Kingdom of Morocco (VC), People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Libya, Mauritania • Southern: Republic of Zimbabwe (VC), Republic of Angola, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Zambia • Western: Republic of Senegal (Chair), Federal Republic of Nigeria (VC), Republic of Ghana, Republic of Mali, Republic of Niger

Functions of AMCOW Organs

Organ	The Secretariat (AMCOW-Sec)
Functions	<p>Provides all the constituent bodies of AMCOW with administrative, financial management and logistical support to fulfil their individual roles and functions. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking action on the decisions of the Council and EXCO• Preparing work programmes; budgets; and reports• Providing secretarial services for the sessions and meetings of all organs of AMCOW
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria, with Regional Offices in each of AMCOW's sub-regions hosted by<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central: Economic Community of East African States (ECCAS)• Eastern: Intergovernmental Development Authority (IGAD)• Northern: Union du Maghreb Arab (UMA)• Southern: Southern African Development Community (SADC)• Western: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Functions of AMCOW Organs

Organ	Sub-regional Ministerial Committees (SMC)
Composition	Member States in each sub-region
Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer policy guidance in the implementation of AMCOW's Work Plan at the sub-regional level 2. Facilitating the adoption and implementation at national level of continental policy initiatives
Meetings	Once every year in the interim of the Ordinary Session of the EXCO
Organ	Technical Experts Committee (TEC)
Composition	Member States in each sub-region
Functions	Advise the SMC on technical matters relating to AMCOW's initiatives at sub-regional level
Meetings	Once every year prior to the SMC
Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presided over by the Vice Chairs

National Focal Point Institutions (NFPIs): the ministries responsible for water and sanitation affairs, liaise and work with the Secretariat to translate continental policy initiative into action at national level.

Powers and Responsibilities of the TAC Chair

The TAC Chair shall:

- ☐ Serve as the **technical advisor** to the **AMCOW President**.
- ☐ **Coordinate the activities of TAC** at continental level.
- ☐ **Convene the TAC meetings** in collaboration with AMCOW Secretariat.
- ☐ **Chair the TAC meetings**.
- ☐ Support activities to **mobilise financial resources for AMCOW activities** at regional and international level.
- ☐ Prepare, with support from the Secretariat, and **present the TAC report to EXCO**.

Powers and Responsibilities of the TAC Vice Chair

The TAC Vice Chairs shall:

- i. Serve as the **technical advisors** to the **Vice Presidents** of their respective regions.
- ii. **Chair the sub-regional Technical Experts Committee (TEC).**
- iii. **Provide leadership to the TEC** in raising awareness on and **advocate for the implementation of AMCOW's Work Plan** at the sub-regional and national levels.
- iv. **Coordinate the technical support** of the TEC in the **implementation of major water and sanitation initiatives** taking place within their respective sub-regions.
- v. **Organise and support the convening of annual sub-regional AMCOW meetings** (ministerial and technical experts committees) to:
 - i) **facilitate two-way feedback** on AMCOW initiatives, activities and programmes at continental, sub-regional and country levels;
 - ii) **review the status of implementation** of the AMCOW workplan in their respective sub-regions;
 - iii) **report annually** to the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of **AMCOW** and the **African Union Commission (AUC)** on the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheik commitments; and,
 - iv) **provide a consultative forum** for proposing new initiatives, programmes and/or activities to be implemented in the sub-region and **raise any issues of relevance to AMCOW**;
- **Provide sub-regional inputs** to the TAC report.
- Any other function as delegated by the **Sub-regional Ministerial Committee** and or the **AMCOW sub region Vice President**

Powers and Responsibilities of Vice Presidents

1. **Provide leadership** in the implementation of AMCOW initiatives at the sub-regional level, as well as promoting their adoption and implementation at national level.
2. **Represent AMCOW in the water related policy organs of RECs and RLBOs** and liaise with them to streamline the AMCOW policy initiatives into regional water programmes.
3. **Represent AMCOW in all international, regional, and sub-regional meetings** within their respective sub-regions;
4. **Convene annual sub-regional AMCOW (SMC) meetings** to:
 - facilitate two-way feedback on AMCOW initiatives at continental, sub-regional and country levels;
 - review the status of implementation of the AMCOW workplan in their respective sub-regions;
 - report annually to the policy organs of AMCOW and the African Union (AU) on the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheik commitments; and,
 - provide a consultative forum for prioritisation of policy direction at continental level and formulating new initiatives for the sub-region.
5. **Report to EXCO**, with support from the Secretariat, on the annual sub-regional meetings.
6. **Mobilise resources** for AMCOW's initiatives and programs within their respective sub-regions, including overseeing member State contributions to AMCOW within the sub-region.
7. **Convene sectorial meetings** as necessary.

AMCOW STRATEGY (2018-2030)



Endorsed by the Governing Council in April 2018



Outcome-oriented to live up to the ambition of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 of African Union and in line with the expectation of Member States



Informed by emerging challenges and past AMCOW achievements

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Framework of the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030



AMCOW PROGRAMMES

- A. In line with Decision EXCO/13/2022/WDH/8 on AMCOW's 3-year Work Programme and Budget, AMCOW activities are grouped into four programmatic areas, namely:**
1. governance and political dialogue processes;
 2. stakeholder engagement, mobilisation and advocacy for national level domestication of continental policy initiatives;
 3. knowledge brokerage, monitoring and reporting; and
 4. programme management
- B. Project level details are provided as follows:**
- i. the Annual Report of the Commission on the implementation of the July 2008 Assembly Declaration on the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments
 - ii. the 2024 annual report on AMCOW Sanitation Programme;
 - iii. the AMCOW Programme on Strengthening Water Governance Systems and Management Structures in Africa – October 2023 to September 2024 Annual Report
 - iv. the Groundwater for aDvancing Resilience (G4DR) in Africa Project - Quarterly Report for the period September to December 2024



AMCOW INITIATIVES

AMCOW Knowledge Hub of Hubs

The African Ministers' Council on Water launches an open source web-based Knowledge Hub to collect, store and share indigenous water and sanitation information and...

AMCOW Pan-African Groundwater Program (APAGroP)

APAGroP was formally launched and operationalized through two AMCOW-led multi-stakeholder workshops – in Nairobi, Kenya (October 2019) and Kampala, Uganda (February...

AfricaSan

AfricaSan is one of AMCOW's path-breaker initiatives born out of the recognition that investment in sanitation has historically been seriously neglected on our continent...

Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System (WASSMO)

WASSMO is a web-based system and tool designed for member countries in setting specific national, sub-regional and regional targets, for information generation and...

African Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG)

The ASPG Initiative aims to provide support and guidance to strengthen the enabling environment for sanitation in Africa.

Africa Water Week

The Africa Water Week represents a political commitment at the highest level where governments, regional institutions, international partners, the private sector, the...

<https://amcow-online.org/programmes/>

3rd African Implementation and Partnership Conference
on Water (PANAFCON-3)

AU-AIP Water Investment Summit 2025

14th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of
AMCOW Governing Council of Ministers

6th Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical
Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue
Economy, Water and Environment (STC on ARBWE).

39th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in 2026 to
present the post-2025 AWW&P to the HoSG

UN 2026 Water Conference to speed up the
implementation of SDG 6, clean water, and drainage

27- 29, 2025
MAY

TBD
AUGUST

TBD
OCTOBER

3- 6, 2025
NOVEMBER

2026
FEBRUARY

TBD
2026

AMCOW UPCOMING KEY EVENTS





Thank you