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THE 14th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE

AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

29 September 2025, Dakar, Republic of Senegal

Communique on the Adoption of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy and launch of its implementation

I. PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers and the African Union Commissioner responsible for Water, Environment, Sanitation, and related affairs in Africa, assembled at the 14th Ordinary Session of the Governing Council of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) on 29 September 2025, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal;

1. **Guided** by the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063: *"The Africa We Want"* and the imperative to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
2. **Recalling** our commitments under the 2008 Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration;¹ the 2015 N'gor Declaration;² the 2016 Dar es Salaam Roadmap³; the 2023 Swakopmund Declaration⁴; and the 9th Africa Water Week Communique⁵;
3. **Further Recalling** landmark African Union Decisions:
 - 3.1. Assembly/AU/Dec.912(XXXVIII) adopting *"Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063"* as the AU Theme for 2026; and
 - 3.2. Assembly/AU/Dec.931(XXXVIII) endorsing the third African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON-3);

¹ July 2008 Assembly Declaration on the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa (Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI))

² May 2015 Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene adopted by the African Ministers responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene during the 4th Africa Sanitation Conference (AfricaSan 4)

³ The 2016 Dar es Salaam Roadmap for achieving the Ngor Commitments on Water Security and Sanitation in Africa

⁴ November 2023 Swakopmund Declaration on "Accelerated Actions for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery in Africa."

⁵ 9th Africa Water Week Communique on Placing Water and Sanitation at the Heart of Achieving Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want*. [October 2024]



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4. **Recognising** that water is Africa's most strategic resource, fundamental to economic prosperity, cooperation and integration, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and human dignity;
5. **Acknowledging** the invaluable contributions of all Member States; Regional Economic Communities (RECs); River/Lake Basin Organisations (R/LBOs); the African Union Commission (AUC); the African Development Bank (AfDB); UN Agencies; development partners; technical experts; civil society; academia; and the private sector throughout the extensive consultative process;
6. **Appreciating** the outcomes of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings held on 27–28 September 2025;

Hereby issue this Communiqué on the outcomes of our 14th General Assembly.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AFRICA WATER VISION 2063 AND POLICY

7. **WE ADOPT** the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy (AWVP63) of ***“A water secure and resilient Africa with safe sanitation for all”*** as the continent's transformative and strategic framework for:
 - 7.1. achieving inclusive and climate-resilient water security; and,
 - 7.2. for guiding actions towards the realisation of Agenda 2063.
8. **WE COMMEND** the inclusive, participatory, and Member State-led process that culminated in this comprehensive framework. We extend our profound appreciation to:
 - 8.1. the Republic of Zambia for successfully hosting the third African Implementation and Partnerships Conference on Water (PANAFCON-3) in Lusaka that reached consensus on the vision statements and policy goals constituting the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy; and,
 - 8.2. to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the 9th Africa Water Week that provided a platform to agree on a situational analysis of the progress made to realise the Africa Water Vision 2025.

III. DECISIONS ON ENABLING TOOLS AND INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

9. **WE APPROVE** the following key instruments to initiate immediate action towards realising the AWVP63:
 - 9.1. the AMCOW Strategic Operational Plan (SOP) 2026-2030 to position AMCOW as a proactive and influential institution;



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- 9.2. the AMCOW Business Plan 2026-2030 to ensure financial sustainability and continental impact;
- 9.3. the AMCOW Triennial Work Programme and Budget 2026-2028; and,
- 9.4. the Strategic Programme on Groundwater for Water Security and Resilience in Africa (SPGWR) 2026-2033.
10. **WE ENDORSE** the increase of statutory annual contributions from Member States from US\$10,000 to US\$25,000, gradually, over three years effective Financial Year 2027, to enhance AMCOW's financial sustainability and continental ownership. We **strongly urge** all Member States to settle outstanding arrears and commit to timely future payments.
11. **WE TASK** the Secretariat to expedite plans for a permanent headquarters and to fully operationalise the Development Partners Coordination Framework (DPCF) as the primary mechanism for resource mobilisation and alignment.

IV. CONTINENTAL MOBILISATION AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

12. On continental mobilisation and global leadership, we hereby:
- 12.1. **APPEAL** to the AMCOW President, with support from the Vice Presidents, to provide leadership to finalise the vision and policy document and, thereafter, **TASK** the AMCOW Secretariat, working with the AUC Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (AUC-DARBE), to **SUBMIT** the adopted AWVP63 to the relevant AU policy organs for consideration and endorsement by the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government in February 2026.
- 12.2. **REQUEST** H E Moses Vilakati, the Commissioner AUC-DARBE, to facilitate this submission through the Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, Water and Environment (STC-ARBWE).
- 12.3. **APPEAL** to His Excellency President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of the Republic of Senegal and His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema of the Republic of Zambia to provide leadership to present and seek endorsement of the AWVP63 at the said session of the AU Assembly in line with AU Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.912(XXXVIII)⁶ and Assembly/AU/Dec.931(XXXVIII)⁷.

⁶ Assembly Decision on the African Union Theme of the Year 2026 "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063." [Assembly/AU/Dec.912(XXXVIII)]

⁷ Assembly Decision on Hosting of the Third African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON-3) From 27-29 May 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia. Assembly/AU/Dec.931(XXXVIII)]



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- 12.4. **SEEK** the indulgence of the AU Assembly to **ENDORSE** the AWVP63 as **Africa's Common Position and input** to the United Nations 2026 Water Conference to accelerate global action on SDG 6 and place Africa's water priorities at the centre of the international agenda.
- 12.5. **URGE** all AU Member States to mobilise support for the endorsement of the AWVP63 by the AU Assembly and to immediately commence its domestication and implementation at national and regional levels.
- 12.6. **COMMIT** to convening an International Conference on Financing the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy, and **REQUEST** the President of the African Development Bank to facilitate the hosting of the conference on the margins of the Bank's Annual Meetings in 2026.
- 12.7. **FURTHER TASK** the AMCOW Secretariat, working with the AUC, AfDB, UNECA, and partners to develop the first AWVP63 Implementation Plan 2026 – 2033 for launch in 2026;

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONCLUSION

13. **WE EXPRESS** our profound gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of Senegal, under the leadership of His Excellency President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for hosting this 14th AMCOW General Assembly.
14. **WE COMMEND:**
1. the leadership of both the AMCOW President, H.E. Cheikh Tidiane Dièye and the Commissioner AUC-DARBE, H E Moses Vilakati; and,
 2. **acknowledge** the pivotal role of the AMCOW Vice-Presidents – Hon Jumaa Aweso, MP; H E Nizar Baraka; Hon Anxious J Masuka, MP; H E José Juan Ndong Tom Mekina; and Hon Eng Prof Joseph T Utsev – in steering the consultations that shaped the AWVP63.
15. The Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy is our collective compass and our solemn commitment to future generations. We depart Dakar with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose, ready to champion this Vision across the continent and on the global stage.

Done on this 29th Day of September 2025, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal