



**RESEAU AFRICAIN DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN  
AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS  
RED AFRICANA DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**



**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN  
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS  
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**

## **DECLARATION OF JOHANNESBURG: WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY**

Giving the populations better access to water will contribute to economic development, to eradicate poverty and to fight against ecological imbalances. These priority objectives can only be achieved by changing current ways of consumption or use and by better managing water resources.

The participants in the general assemblies of African Network Basin Organization (ANBO) and (International Network Basin Organization (INBO-T), held in Johannesburg in South Africa from 4 to 6 March 2007:

- aware that introducing new forms of governance in water resource management, as recommended in Dublin (1992), Rio (1992), Paris (1998), the Hague (2000), Kyoto (2003), Mexico (2006) and in the Syrte declaration on water and agriculture of the African Union extraordinary summit (2004), is becoming urgent,
- concerned with the strengthening of cooperation between the States through Basin Organizations for achieving the « Millennium Development Goals »,
- convinced that concerted management at the level of Transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers is necessary to ensure peace, sustainable development, poverty eradication and ecological balances,
- aware of the severity of the situation of water resources over the world and particularly in Africa, in particular because the climate change,
- convinced that harmonizing policies and legislations and that implementing regional programs of common interest are necessary to improve Basin management,

- grateful for the existence of ANBO as a federator framework for the African Basin Organizations is necessary to facilitate bi- and multilateral initiatives in their fields of competence,

thanked Her Excellency the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry of South Africa for her support to ANBO and INBO-T, for accepting to host the present meetings,

were pleased by the progress that has already been made in these fields since a few years and ANBO and INBO-T General Assemblies of Dakar (Senegal) in 2004,

made cooperation a prerequisite to the development of a necessary new approach at the level of the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers in African countries, which are facing problems in the management of their water resources and plagues, such as poverty, droughts or floods,

recommended to African Governments, basin organizations and partners in development :

- to support a process of integrated water resources management in each African country and in their respective river basins,
- to create new river and aquifers basin organizations where they do not still exist,
- to strengthen the capacities of basin organizations for them to better manage their respective basins, within the framework of the Water component of NEPAD, and in close relationship with AMCOW, in particular, and enable them to have access to various financing sources,
- to prepare, with dialogue and transparency, basin master or management plans for defining the objectives to be achieved in the medium and long term,
- to implement the priority actions and integrated infrastructures needed in the sectors of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, thus contributing to development , to the eradication of poverty, to protection of water resources and of the environments,
- to organize integrated and harmonized observation, monitoring and information systems in each basin, that are reliable, representative and easily accessible,

- to develop regional cooperation institutions for facilitating the harmonization of water policies and legislations and for preparing and implementing action programs in the water sector,
- to improve the education of the populations and to facilitate changes in their behaviour regarding water consumption and water resource management,
- to increase, as being the key to a successful approach in Africa, the participation of the users, especially women and poorest populations, in the management of their own water resources,
- to promote the African Network of Basin Organizations, to be a federator and framework for permanent dialogue, exchange of field experiences and dissemination of good practices,
- to support the implementation of the two-year action plan of ANBO, especially in the fields of sharing African know-how, of access to the information and the continuing training and up-grading of managers of African basins,
- to contribute to capacity building of the ANBO Technical Secretariat with regard to the new partnership with AMCOW.

At the end of their works, participants addressed their sincere thanks to South Africa government and expressed their deep and deferent gratitude to President Thabo Mbeki for all the facilities and commodities held since their arrival in Johannesburg.

The participants have thanked the Commission of the African Union for its efforts to strengthen the river and lake basin organizations.

**MADE IN JOHANNESBURG ON 6 MARCH 2007**

**For the General Assembly**

**The President**