



Africa Water

A newsletter of UN-Water/Africa in support of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

Africa's road to the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico

Hundreds of water stakeholders from Africa will join thousands more from countries all over the world at the fourth World Water Forum which opens in Mexico City from March 16-22, 2006.

For dozens of technical experts involved in the preparatory work, Mexico is a culmination of months of arduous work and deliberations. Africa's preparation kicked off last year.

In September 2005, the first technical preparatory meeting was held in Tunis and attended by 66 participants, including technical advisers to African water ministers, NGOs, CBOs, Water Basin Organizations, UN Agencies, and bilateral

donors.

The meeting recommended as follows:

- African Development Bank (ADB) would prepare the Africa Regional Report;

- Five core themes were selected for the regional sessions - transboundary water resources management; water supply and sanitation; financing mechanisms and instruments; water for growth and development and agricultural water use management;

- Two sessions should be organized to cover the presentation of the various regional reports and discussions on them. The Forum was requested to consider two more sessions to cover ground

water issues and shared aquifer management.

- ADB Task Force was to prepare an input to the ministerial declaration. It was agreed that Africa would be represented at the Forum's Fair. UN-Water/Africa was to prepare a proposal on the participation.

- The World Water Council, UN-Habitat, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and the African Development Bank offered to make financial contributions.

A second preparatory meeting was held in December 2005 in Windhoek, Namibia. It was attended by 42 participants.

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African Water Development Report to debut in Mexico



At last, the long awaited definitive report on water resources issues in Africa will debut in Mexico, according to the report's

coordinators.

The report is a joint publication of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the constituent agencies/organizations which form UN-Water/Africa.

Organized around the eleven themes of the Africa Water Vision 2025, the report covers 25 African countries, an improvement on the interim version which was released in 2003 during the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAF-CON). That version, available at www.uneca.org/awich, covered 15 African countries.

The AWDR is an in-depth and African-owned report linked

DateKEEPER

March 17, 2006:

11.00-13.00. Session on **Water for Growth and Development in Africa** at Banamex Centre.

March 18, 2006:

11.00-13.00. Session on Management of African Transboundary Basins. **"63 transboundary rivers in Africa"** At the Banamex Center.

March 19, 2006:

9.00 am - to 10 am. Presentation of the Africa Regional Reports, Three major reports to be launched: **Water Resources Development in Africa: Challenges, Responses and Prospects, African Water Development Report** and the **African Ministers Declaration**.

March 20, 2006:

8:30 to 10:30 am. **Session for Multi-Stakeholder Response to the Regional Reports.**

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Let our meetings yield concrete results, AMCOW President tells Water Experts

The President of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and Uganda's Minister of Water Resources, Maria Mutagamba, said there was a huge difference between the worlds of people who attend water meetings and those who are faced with the consequences of water shortage.

In an opening address read on her behalf by Baguma Isoke, Minister of State for Land, Water Resources and Environment, to the technical advisory committee of AMCOW which met in February 2006 in Entebbe, Uganda, she said: "Dare we ask ourselves at the end of our meeting: How many kilometers of water pipe have been laid as a result of our discussions this week? How many reservoirs will be built? How many lives will be saved through provision of adequate water and sanitation as a result of our discussions here this

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Africa: The road to Mexico

The meeting was informed that WWF4 had accepted six of nine proposed regional sessions:

Water for Growth and Development to be convened by ECA; *Financing Mechanisms and Instruments* to be convened by the African Development Bank; *Water Supply and Sanitation for all* to be convened by the African Development Bank; *Investment in Agricultural Water Use Management* to be convened by IWMI Africa; *Transboundary Water Resources Management* to be convened by ANBO and *Regional Report and Multi-Stakeholder Response Session* to be convened by the African Development Bank. An African minister will chair every session.

week?," the minister asked about 25 technical people whose job is to advise African water ministers.

"What I wish to suggest, given your solid track record, is that you begin to focus not only on the issues at hand that you must deliberate on in order to advise ministers, but that you also make some space to begin thinking about how you can work more effectively as a technical body," she said.

Fresh ministerial declaration expected in Mexico

African ministers of water who will attend the fourth World Water Forum will issue a declaration which outlines the strategic directions for the development of water resources in Africa. Some of the key messages of the declaration are to:

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AWDR debuts at WWF4

methodologically to the African World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and intended to be linked to the World Water Development Report.

The objectives of AWDR are to provide a lasting and durable mechanism to monitor progress made in implementing the Africa Water Vision; provide African decision-makers with an authoritative basis for managing Africa's water resources; and serve as an integrative programme for the strengthening of UN-Water/Africa.

- Develop and promote water resources through support for infrastructure projects such as storage dams, water harvesting, irrigation and hydropower structures

- Strengthen the global partnership with a common framework of action to achieve the MDGs in Africa

- Promote integrated water resources management principles, including frameworks for sharing transboundary water.

WWF4 Facts

The African Pavilion: is 72 square metres and located at Stands 22 & 24. All African organizations are invited to propose exhibits to Agebremariam@uneca.org by 11th March and bring the exhibits to Mexico

African Participation: Twenty-five local actions and the African Regional Report will be presented by Africa in Mexico. There will be 25 presenters, 39 panelists, 8 chairpersons, 8 speakers and 32 session conveners.

Registration: Africans who registered before February 15 received a 50 per cent discount, a savings of \$300. For other regions, discount is 20 per cent.

Ethiopian Airlines: Is the official sponsor of the African delegation to the World Water Forum. A regular supporter of UN-Water/Africa, the airline has offered 15 per cent discount on all delegates' tickets up to Washington DC.

Africa Water is an information service of UN-Water/Africa in support of the African Ministers' Council on Water. It is produced by the UN-Water/AfDB Communication Team for WWF4. For more information, please contact Yinka Adeyemi at yadeyemi@uneca.org