

2 September 2002

**Launch of the
African-European Union
Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs
and Sanitation**

Johannesburg Declaration

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Johannesburg, South Africa

We, on behalf of Africa and the European Union

Having regard to,

the Abuja Declaration of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), in Abuja Nigeria, April 2002,

the related objectives and commitments made in the framework of NEPAD,

the recent commitments made by Africa,

the message of the AFRICASAN Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa in July 2002, to leaders on water, sanitation and hygiene,

the Bonn Recommendations for Action and the Bonn Ministerial Declaration of the International Conference on Freshwater, held in Bonn, Germany in December 2001,

the Resolutions of the Council of the European Union (EU) on the EU Water Initiative and on Water Management in Developing Countries;

Acting on the basis of the Plan of Implementation agreed during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD),

and

- recognising that water resources, good-quality water-related ecosystems, water supply and sanitation are vital for food security, health and well-being and can make a significant contribution to sustainable development, poverty reduction and economic growth,**
- stressing that improving water policy and water governance means progress on all three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental,**
- emphasising that good water governance includes measures to create enabling environments, appropriate institutions and management instruments, participatory approaches and effective provisions to combat corruption. This is vital if the private sector, civil society and other actors are to play a valid and important role in the provision of water services,**
- underlining that water resources management needs to be addressed at all levels. It should be based on river, lake or groundwater basins and be pro poor and gender sensitive,**
- accentuating the importance of international collaboration in the management of transboundary water resources,**

- **highlighting that joint benefits from shared water resources promote economic development and act as a catalyst for peace and security,**
- **stressing that financial and human resources need to be increased to solve the water crisis,**
- **emphasising that a balance between human water needs and those of the environment can contribute to the goal of halting or reversing the loss of environmental resources by 2015 and to the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity,**
- **welcoming this new strategic long term partnership between governments and relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, with firm commitments to targets and action programmes;**

Are firmly committed to contributing:

- **to halving the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and are lacking access to improved sanitation by the year 2015,**
- **to developing integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans in all countries by the year 2005, including, where applicable, coordination in transboundary water resources,**
- **to ensuring that the action programmes to achieve these targets balance human water needs with those of the environment;**

Have reached agreement on a new strategic partnership on water affairs and sanitation to make an important joint contribution to solving the water crisis in Africa and to the Plan of Implementation agreed at the WSSD, through:

- creating a joint platform for improved co-ordination and communication on water-related development assistance in order to increase transparency, streamline existing and future development activities and ensure more effective official development assistance,**
- developing joint action programmes to improve water governance and to achieve the above targets on water supply, sanitation and water resources management,**
- supporting the establishment and strengthening of river and lake basin organisations and of appropriate regional legal frameworks,**
- increasing the transfer of knowledge and know-how and improving the knowledge base through institutional capacity building and targeted research programmes,**
- encouraging the development of innovative financing mechanisms and developing a set of principles on user and private sector finance to maximise public funds, minimise risk and attract private sector investment and involvement,**

- **developing financially sustainable strategies that work towards sector wide approaches and budget support mechanisms, and that include the implementation of policies on cost recovery which are sensitive to the needs of the poor,**
- **designing the concrete components of the strategic partnership and the action programmes by the time of the 3rd World Water Forum 2003 in Kyoto based on our joint working document "Water for Life".**

On the basis of this new strategic partnership, and recalling its commitments made in Monterrey, the EU is ready to increase and deliver resources over the following years, in response to countries prioritising water and sanitation in national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies where they exist.

Done at Johannesburg, South Africa, this second day of September 2002

On behalf of Africa

T.M. MBEKI

President of

the Republic of South Africa

On behalf of Africa

Chief Olusegun OBASANJO

President of

the Federal Republic of Nigeria

For the European Union

Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN

President of the European Council

For the European Union

Romano PRODI

President of the European Commission