

## **Draft Concept Note: Water Policy Dialogue Forum (06.12.06)**

### **Aims**

To make an effective joint (Africa – EU) contribution to the achievement of the water and sanitation MDG target 10 and to sustainable water resources management in Africa. The Water Policy Dialogue Forum will:

- facilitate strategic water sector dialogue between Europe and Africa
- provide a forum for the European Commission, EU member states and AMCOW to report on their water sector activities in order to increase mutual accountability and
- contribute to more coherence in the water sector in line with the Paris Declaration.

### **Scope**

Water supply and sanitation, water resources management, transboundary water cooperation.

### **Mandate**

- Monitoring progress against African, EU member states' and EU COM commitments in the water sector
- Enhancing transparency among the EU on volumes, results (e.g. number of people who gained access), partners, priorities, pipelines and future strategies and identifying funding gaps
- Improving information flow between European and African partners
- Harmonising support for African initiatives such as AMCOW's African Water Facility and AfDB's RWSSI and for institutions such as AMCOW, ANBO etc.
- Start-up donor coordination in supporting national governments in countries with weak donor coordination and weak national institutions, e.g. in post-conflict countries.

### **Proposed dialogue topics**

- Progress regarding MDG target 10 in African countries (based on data from the Joint Monitoring Programme)
- National strategies on water supply, sanitation and water resources management, (discussion to be based on status overview of African Countries, elaborated jointly with the Water and Sanitation Programme/WSP)
- Mapping EU water sector activities in African countries and river basins: volumes, results, partners, priorities, pipeline and future strategies; identifying funding gaps and overlaps; agreeing on necessary joint actions
- Financing water supply and sanitation

- Implementing the Paris Declaration: experiences, lessons learned; sharing experiences with programme-based approaches in the water sector for making EU aid delivery more effective
- Sanitation gap: what is needed for accelerating progress?
- Tbc, see also draft work plan for the African Component

## Dialogue Participants

EU Member States, EU Commission, AMCOW, civil society organisations, private sector representatives (participation of both European and African stakeholders should be made possible according to dialogue topic). Involvement of non-EU and private actors will depend on dialogue topic.

## Working Modus

1. **High-level dialogue:** meeting annually, with ministerial participation envisaged every 2-3 years
2. **Working level:** the Africa Working Group meeting twice a year; preparing high level meetings and further in-depth discussion.

## Chairing and Management

- The Water Policy Dialogue Forum (high level and working level) will be **co-chaired** by AMCOW and the EU Member States' chair of the Troika (in 2007 France, Germany and United Kingdom will form the Troika; France is acting co-chair). The EU COM will actively support the EU Member States' co-chair of the African Working Group
- **Management responsibility** for the Water Policy Dialogue Forum should remain with the EU member states' co-chair supported by the EU COM. The EU Member states' co-chair and its support structure will be responsible for all logistics; together with AMCOW it will invite to the meetings, contract consultancies, provide documentation of outcomes etc.
- **Detailed terms of reference**, defining the respective roles of the Commission, the EUWI Secretariat and the Troika, will be developed in order to clarify respective responsibilities.

## Funding

- Participation of EU member states, EU COM, EU based organisations/stakeholders in meetings will be funded by their own resources
- Participation of AMCOW members will be financed by their own resources (e.g Water Facility grants)
- Participation of other African stakeholders (e.g. CSOs/NGOs) will be funded by EDF resources (initially provided by the ACP-EU Water Facility) and co-financing from EU member states
- Activities beyond the ACP mandate to be financed from the EU COM Budget (thematic budget line).