



The AMCOW President
Honourable Ministers
The Executive Secretary - AMCOW,
AMCOW TAC,
AMCOW Partners
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 4TH AFRICA WATER WEEK MAY 18 2012 CAIRO, EGYPT

We, the ANEW members and all the members of Civil Society Community working on water and sanitation in Africa gathered here at the African Water Week in Cairo 13th to 18th May 2012, wish to congratulate AMCOW upon ten years of existence. AMCOW and its institutions have greatly improved coordination of sector activities in Africa as evidenced from improved participation and involvement of various key players in the sector.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of AMCOW, Governments of Africa and the international community in addressing water and sanitation challenges on the continent. These include successful fundraising for the sector through Africa Water Facility and other key funding for the sector in Africa, the successful AfricaSAN3 meeting in Kigali, Rwanda 2011 which focused on sanitation, the preparation for and the outcomes of the Africa sessions and Africa Day at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, France, and the governments that took part in the recent High Level Meeting (HLM) in Washington DC in April 2012. There is visible impact arising from these initiatives. We greatly appreciate the space given to civil society, both at the regional, sub-regional and national level to effectively participate, influence and work more closely with Governments, development partners and other stakeholders to achieve water and sanitation targets.

We recognise the commitments of our governments to increasing access to water by 5% and access to adequate sanitation by 7% towards the realisation of the right to water and sanitation by 2015. We appreciate individual countries who continue to invest significant financial resources in fulfilling their obligation to provide their citizens with water and sanitation services. Civil society further appreciates those countries that have started putting policy frameworks and programs in place to ensure the realization of right to water and sanitation. However, right to water and sanitation is still an area that has not attracted adequate attention in many countries, due to reservations about what it actually means and the implications that are bound to arise from it.

The AMCOW's tenth anniversary is a time to consolidate the achievements so far realized and we call upon our Governments to ensure that all existing agreed plans and commitments are duly harmonised and implemented. Greater attention and support should be given to vulnerable and marginalised groups to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation services.

Civil society has been actively involved in the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and the preparatory process for the High Level Meeting held in Washington DC. We welcome the outcomes and commitments and commit ourselves to monitor and report on progress made by each country. We also wish to recommend that AMCOW, together with the Africa WASH Ambassador and the Chair of the SWA, consider hosting an African High Level Meeting in 2013 to monitor progress and ensure participation of more finance ministers and heads of state.

Finally, we emphasize that Civil Society is making significant contributions to the sector and reaffirm our resolve to work with governments and other stakeholders. We have the potential to do much more with increased human, financial and technical support from AMCOW and other partners. The national CSO WASH networks could work more closely with AMCOW TACs, government departments and other actors. Your strategic support would enable CSOs to more effectively contribute to service provision and resources management; and promote good governance and accountability in the sector. We call on our partners in Africa to work with us and support us to realise our potential to realise the human rights to water and sanitation for all.

LEO ATAKPU
CHAIRMAN ANEW