

**Ministerial Communiqué on the Pan African  
Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water  
12 December 2003 in Addis Ababa**

The PANAFRICAN Conference on Implementation and Partnership on Water was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 8-12 December 2003. In addition there were parallel sessions dedicated to the review of Africa's regional implementation of Agenda 21, the Habitat Agenda and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (J.P.O.I) in preparation for the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to be held in New-York in April 2004.

The Conference was held under the auspices of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which also held its 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003, in Addis Abba.

### **Objective**

The objective of PANAFCON was to appraise the performance of the water sector in Africa at the national, sub-regional and regional levels and to develop a programme for action towards addressing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), the WSSD targets on water and sanitation and the HABITAT Agenda. The meeting also sought to build and consolidate partnerships.

### **Organization of the Conference**

The Conference was organized in segments, which included plenary, ministerial sessions, parallel thematic working groups and multi-stakeholder forums, complemented by exhibitions on water, sanitation and human settlement themes.

The Conference received goodwill messages from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, His Excellency Meles Zenawi, His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, His Excellency Borge Brende, Norway's Environment Minister and Chairman CSD-12, as well as the heads of various UN agencies.

### **Highlights**

Key recommendations emerging from the following thematic sessions were presented and discussed in Plenary. :-

- Meeting basic needs water, sanitation and human settlements
- Water for food security
- Protecting ecosystems and livelihoods
- Managing risks : water and climate
- Financing water infrastructure

- Integrated Water Resource Management/Shared water resources
- Valuing and allocating water
- Ensuring water wisdom
- Governing water wisely
- Managing rapid urbanization
- Financing slum upgrading programmes and projects
- Decentralization and strengthening the role of local authorities
- Africa's contribution to CSD-12 on the cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements.

The outcomes of the sessions were reviewed and endorsed by the Ministers. Having reviewed the status of implementation, the Ministers endorsed the portfolio of programmes and projects, noting that these were subject to refinement and completion. In addition, the portfolio was discussed with various partners for support and funding. In this regard, the following partnership initiatives were launched:-

- African Water Facility
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative
- Africa/EU Water Initiative
- Phase II of the Water for African Cities
- G8 Action Plan on Water for Africa

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to taking concrete action to meet Africa's challenges on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements with a view to achieving sustainable development. They underscored the pivotal role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework for achieving this objective.

Recognizing the importance of partnerships, the Ministers called for enhancement and strengthening of partnerships within Africa, between Africa and the international community, and with other stakeholders.

Cognizant of the critical need for additional resources, the Ministers underscored the need for the mobilization of adequate resources both internally and externally for the execution of programmes and projects on water, sanitation and human settlements.

## **Way Forward**

The Ministers resolved to give priority attention to water, sanitation, and human settlements as the entry point for the set of actions required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the goals and targets of WSSD, as well as the Habitat Agenda.

The Ministers endorsed the outcome of the African Regional Implementation Forum for presentation as Africa' contribution to the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12), which will take place in New York in April 2004.

The Ministers agreed to present the recommendations of the Pan African Implementation Conference on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements to the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union in February 2004, in Tripoli, Libya.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their hospitality, as well as to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme, the UN Habitat and other sponsors for organizing the Conference.