

February 18-20, 2008 – Durban, South Africa

The eThekweni Declaration

made at the AfricaSan conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, 2008 during the International Year of Sanitation

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for sanitation and hygiene from 32 African countries, together with senior civil servants, local government officials, professionals from sector institutions, academia, civil society, development partners, and the private sector under the auspices of the African Ministers' Council on Water and Sanitation (AMCOW), and the other co-hosts of AfricaSan at the Second African Conference on Hygiene and Sanitation in Durban, South Africa, February 18-20, 2008:

- *Recognizing* that approximately 589 million people¹, more than 60% of Africa's population currently do not have access to safe sanitation;
- *Mindful* that an estimated 1 million Africans die every year from sanitation, hygiene and drinking water-related diseases, and that improving sanitation reduces disease burden and improves household and national economic development;
- *Welcoming* the International Year of Sanitation, 2008 which seeks to boost the importance of sanitation and draw attention to the fact that sanitation is critical to economic development and poverty reduction;
- *Noting* that the associated human, social, health, environmental and infrastructural costs of inadequate sanitation are a major economic burden on African economies; that an investment in sanitation positively impacts related development targets;
- *Recognizing* that sustainable access to sanitation is one of the Millennium Development Goal targets, and that many governments have set their own goals for both sanitation and hygiene;
- *Recognizing* that AMCOW has committed itself to lead Africa towards achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs;

Do hereby pledge ourselves to the following "eThekweni commitments on sanitation":

1. **To bring the messages, outcomes and commitments made at AfricaSan 2008 to the attention of the African Union at its 2008 Heads of State and Government Summit to raise the profile of sanitation and hygiene on the continent;**


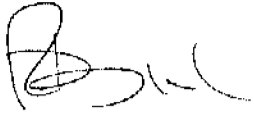

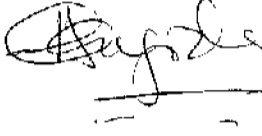


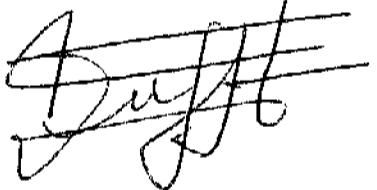
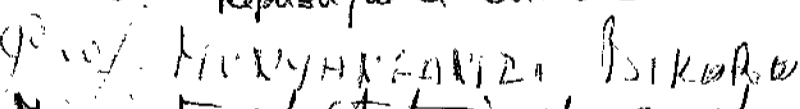
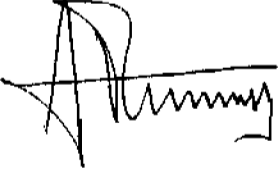

¹ Source: WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, 2008

2. To **support the leadership of AMCOW** to track the implementation of the eThekweni Declaration and prepare a detailed report on progress in mid 2010, when AMCOW will provisionally host a follow up AfricaSan event;
3. To **establish, review, update and adopt national sanitation and hygiene policies** within 12 months of AfricaSan 2008; **establish one national plan** for accelerating progress to meet national sanitation goals and the MDGs by 2015, and **take the necessary steps** to ensure national sanitation programs are on track to meet these goals;
4. To **increase the profile of sanitation and hygiene** in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and other relevant strategy related processes;
5. To **ensure that one, principal, accountable institution takes clear leadership** of the national sanitation portfolio; **establish one coordinating body** with specific responsibility for sanitation and hygiene, involving all stakeholders, including but not limited to those responsible for finance, health, water, education, gender, and local government;
6. To **establish specific public sector budget allocations** for sanitation and hygiene programs. Our aspiration is that these allocations should be a minimum of 0.5% of GDP for sanitation and hygiene;
7. To **use effective and sustainable approaches**, such as household and community led initiatives, marketing for behaviour change, educational programs, and caring for the environment, which make a specific impact upon the poor, women, children, youth and the unserved;
8. To **develop and implement sanitation information, monitoring systems and tools** to track progress at local and national levels and to work with global and regional bodies to produce a regular regional report on Africa's sanitation status, the first of which to be published by mid-2010;
9. To **recognize the gender and youth aspects** of sanitation and hygiene, and involve women in all decision making levels so that policy, strategy and practice reflect gender sensitive approaches to sanitation and hygiene;
10. To **build and strengthen capacity** for sanitation and hygiene implementation, including research and development, and support knowledge exchange and partnership development;
11. To **give special attention** to countries or areas which are emerging from conflict or natural disasters;

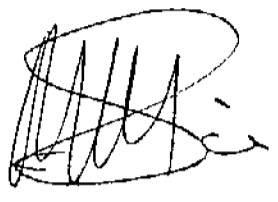
We further call on:

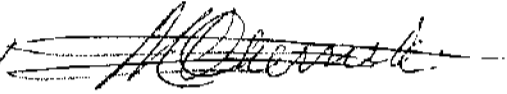
1. *Development banks, external support agencies and the private sector* to increase their support to our efforts, provide financial and technical assistance for sanitation and hygiene promotion and improve aid co-ordination in Africa.
2. The *African Union* to support AfricaSan 2008 and its follow up process, to recognize this Declaration and to provide leadership as well as practical support in operationalizing these commitments;
3. *Regional and national actors* to make use of the opportunities provided by the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008 to scale up efforts in sanitation and hygiene.

And in recognition of this we make this declaration on the 20th of February, 2008:

1.  Asfaw Dingamo
MINISTER, MOWR, Ethiopia
2.  Nshurur Richard
Minister of State for Health - Uganda
3. Professor Najoua MILADI
Minister of Public Health - Tunisia 
4. Dr. Asha O. KIGOTA
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL WELFARE
TANZANIA 
5. ~~Dr.~~ Tabita Botros Shokar
Federal Minister of Health
SUDAN 
6. Mohamed Peunne O. Selmane
Ambassador of Mauritania to RSA 
7. OUFFOUE Honore
Assistant du Ministre de la Construction
de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat,
charge de l'Attainement, Chef de delegation
Republique de Cote d'Ivoire 
8.  Muryhezi Biko
Minister of State in charge of
water and Sanitation / RWANDA 
9. NIS Petrus Haringuz
Deputy Min of Health & S
Namibia 


⑩ Mr. Feudo Pedro Zacarias
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING
MOZAMBIQUE (accompany)


⑪ Hon. Mohammed Sidik M.A. M.P.
MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND
WATER DEVELOPMENTS
MALAWI 

⑫ Hon. Martin Othman Okerruk
MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
GOSS - JUBA - SUDAN 

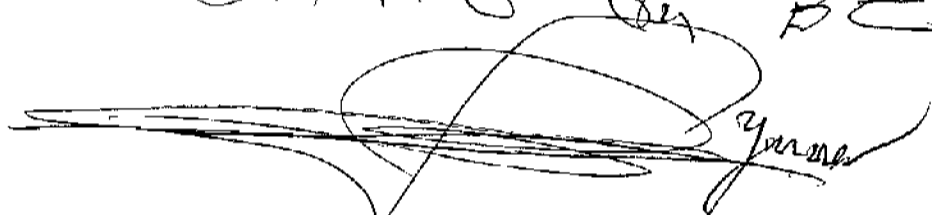
13. Hon. MURYES J. KIYONG'A EGM MP
MINISTER FOR WATER & IRRIGATION (accompany)


14. Dr. Olivia Lomoro Damira
For the Minister of Health (Dr. Joseph Wejang)
Government of Southern Sudan
JUBA

15. ISSOUFOU ISSAKA For the Minister
of Hydraulic, Republic of Niger 

6 HON. ALHADI AHMED YIRIMEA ANWUSU
DEPUTY MINISTER
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT - GHANA


17. MOUSSA YAROU

DIRECTEUR DE CABINET du MINISTRE
DE LA SANTE du BENIN


18 Philip Yon-Jambi - Minister of Cooperatives &
Rural Development, Government
of Southern Sudan.


19 TCHATAI Clobert
Ministre du Développement
Urbain et de l'Habitat

