

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE
INTER-MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN AMCOW AND
AMCOST ON ESTABLISHING AFRICAN NETWORK OF
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN WATER SCIENCES AND
TECHNOLOGY**

**Adopted on 22th November 2006
Cairo, Egypt**

PREAMBLE

WE, the Ministers responsible for science and technology and water, meeting at the Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Establishing an African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development in the framework of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on 22 November 2006 in Cairo, Egypt;

Recall the commitments by African leaders to “ensure sustainable access to safe and adequate clean water supply and sanitation, especially for the poor” and “[to] plan and manage water resources to become a basis for national and regional cooperation and development”

Call to mind the World Summit on Sustainable Development WSSD Plan of Implementation which recognizes the role of science and technology in meeting water goals. In paragraph 27 it commits governments to “[i]mprove water resource management and scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research, and for this purpose encourage and promote knowledge-sharing and provide capacity-building and the transfer of technology, as mutually agreed, including remote-sensing and satellite technologies,

Support the implementation of the water sciences and technology flagship programme as articulated in Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;

Guided by the deliberations and recommendations of the NEPAD Task Team on water sciences and technology;

WE HEREBY:

Commit ourselves to establish an African Network of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development

Adopt criteria and guidelines proposed in the NEPAD document on “Establishing an African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development: Criteria and Guidelines”. We ask NEPAD Secretariat and the NEPAD Task Team on Water Sciences to revise the document taking into account our comments and decisions.

Call upon NEPAD and AMCOW Secretariats to prepare and submit to AMCOST and AMCOW Ministers a comprehensive document with specific proposals or recommendations on the governance mechanism for the African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development.

Call upon NEPAD and AMCOW Secretariats to submit to AMCOST and AMCOW Ministers a comprehensive proposal on financing the African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development.

Encourage AMCOST Ministers to allocate a percentage of funding in the proposed African Science and Innovation Facility to the African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development

Encourage AMCOW Ministers to explore the possibility of establishing a special fund in the African Water Facility for supporting the African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology Development

We ask the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology to report on progress of establishment of the African Network of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology at the next meetings of AMCOST and AMCOW.

We, express our gratitude to the South Africa Water Research Commission, NEPAD Office of Science and Technology, NEPAD Task Team on Water Sciences, French Institute of Research for Development (IRD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their commitment and support to the initiative to establish an African Network of Excellence in Water Sciences and Technology.

EXPRESS our profound gratitude to H.E. Hossni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government and the People of Egypt for their warm hospitality we received at this meeting.