Transboundary water management and regional integration in Africa

Mexico, 18 March 2006

Draft recommendations
Participants strongly appeal to all African countries, to AM-COW, to African Basin Agencies and to partners in development:

To support and backstop the IWRM process both at the level of shared basins and at the level of countries considered individually.

• To support the setting up of new transboundary Basin Agencies;

• To strengthen capacity building at the level of existing Basin Agencies, namely in the framework of NEPAD and AM-COW water components, of the European Union water facility and to facilitate their access to financial resources;
• To organize at the level of each basin integrated, reliable and harmonized systems for observation and monitoring purposes as well as for the exchange of informations based on transparency and user-friendly access

• To organize, at continent level, a system for the monitoring of transboundary water resources based on systems set up at the level of the various basins;
To elaborate and implement in a concerted and transparent way Master schemes or Basin management plans designed to set the objectives to be achieved in the medium and long terms; these schemes shall be accompanied by concrete multi-annual action programmes and dynamic systems for the follow-up of their implementation.

To improve the systems of education, information and awareness raising for the benefit of populations and to foster the evolution of behaviours vis-à-vis water resources use and management;
• As the key to a successful approach in Africa, to further involve users, especially women and the poorest populations, in the management of their own water resources;

• To backstop the African Network of Basin Organizations which, under AMCOW and in its capacity as a federating agency and frame of permanent consultation, exchange of field experience, monitoring and dissemination of good practices;

• To think over the opportunity to elaborate an International “African Charter of waters”