



**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**



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FINAL FINAL

DECLARATION OF DAKAR : WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Giving the populations better access to water will contribute to economic development, to eradicate poverty and to fight against ecological imbalances. These priority objectives can only be achieved by changing current ways of consumption or use and by better managing water resources.

The participants in the general assemblies of ANBO and INBO-T, held in Dakar from 3 to 6 November 2004:

- aware that introducing new forms of governance, as recommended in Dublin, Rio, Paris, the Hague, Johannesburg and Kyoto, is becoming urgent,
- concerned with the strengthening of cooperation between the States through Basin Organizations for achieving the « Millennium Development Goals ».
- convinced that concerted management at the level of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers is necessary to ensure peace, sustainable development, poverty eradication and ecological balances,
- aware of the severity of the situation of water resources over the world and particularly in Africa,
- convinced that harmonizing policies and legislations and that implementing regional programs of common interest are necessary to improve Basin management,

- convinced that having a federator framework for the African Basin Organizations is necessary to facilitate bi- and multilateral Initiatives in their fields of competence,

thanked His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, current President of the Conference of the Heads of State of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River for his support to INBO, INBO-T and ANBO by personally participating in Dakar Assembly,

were pleased by the progress that has already been made in these fields since a few years,

made cooperation a prerequisite to the development of a necessary new approach at the level of the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers in African countries, which are facing problems in the management of their water resources and plagues, such as poverty, droughts or floods,

recommended to Governments, basin organizations and partners in development:

- to support a process of integrated water resources management in each country and in their respective river basins;
- to prepare, with dialogue and transparency, basin master or management plans for defining the objectives to be achieved in the medium and long term,
- to implement the priority actions needed in the sectors of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, thus contributing to development and to the eradication of poverty;
- to organize integrated and harmonized observation, monitoring and information systems in each basin, that are reliable, representative and easily accessible,
- to develop regional cooperation institutions for facilitating the harmonization of water policies and legislations and for preparing and implementing action programs in the water sector;
- to strengthen the capacities of basin organizations for them to better manage their respective basins, within the framework of the Water component of NEPAD and of « AMCOW », in particular, and enable them to have access to various financing sources;
- to improve the education of the populations and to facilitate changes in their behaviour regarding water consumption and water resource management,
- to increase, as being the key to a successful approach in Africa, the participation of the users, especially women and poorest populations, in the management of their own water resources,

- to promote the African Network of Basin Organizations, to be a federator and framework for permanent dialogue, exchange of field experiences and dissemination of good practices,
- to support the implementation of the three-year action plan of ANBO, especially in the fields of sharing African know-how, of access to the information and the continuing training and up-grading of managers of African basins.

MADE AND DISCUSSED IN DAKAR ON 5 NOVEMBER 2004.