



BAMAKO DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF WATER RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRIES SHARING THE IULLEMEDEN AQUIFER SYSTEM (MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA)

Consultative Mechanism for the joint management of the water resources of the Iullemeden Aquifer System

We, the Ministers in charge of water resources of the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Niger and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the countries sharing the Iullemeden Aquifer System (IAS), having met on 20 June 2009, in Bamako, Mali, to establish a consultative mechanism for the sustainable and joint management of the IAS's water resources,

- *Recognising* the importance of the water resources of the IAS for poverty alleviation and socio-economic development in our countries;
- *Acknowledging* the common set of rights and duties shared by our countries in the management of the IAS water resources ;
- *Appreciating* the achievements accomplished by our countries in improving the knowledge of the IAS in a context marked by the impacts of climate variability and climate change, and determined to pursue and broaden cooperation to include other relevant countries;
- *Convinced* that a joint endeavour is required if the risks threatening the IAS resources are to be prevented and/or mitigated in a manner which ensures optimal water resources management;
- *Convinced* that cooperation in the management of the IAS resources allows an improvement in the manner our countries' water resources are managed with a view to achieving sustainable development;
- *Mindful* of the growing demand for freshwater and the need to protect and use in a rational manner the IAS water with the aim of achieving sustainable development;

- *Noting* the issues pertaining to the vulnerability of the IAS resources to pollution and the impacts of climate change;
- *Considering* the UN Resolution 63/124, dated 11 December 2008, pertaining to the “Law of Transboundary Aquifers” which calls upon the concerned countries to seek appropriate bilateral and regional accords to ensure the proper management of transboundary aquifers;
- *Recalling* the conclusions of the regional workshops which our national representatives attended on 19-20 October 2006 in Rome and on 23-26 June 2008 in Tunis in order to discuss the establishment of a regional cooperation framework for the IAS basin;
- *Determined* to improve the knowledge of IAS and to strengthen regional cooperation among the concerned States while promoting the sustainable and rational use of the IAS water resources for the benefit of current and future generations;

Reaffirm our resolve and commitment to cooperation within a regional framework covering the IAS basin with a view to ensure, in a concerted manner, the development , utilisation, conservation, management and protection of the IAS water resources ;

Hereby agree on the establishment by virtue of a Memorandum of Understanding and its corresponding road map— of a regional and autonomous consultative mechanism covering the IAS basin: **“the consultative mechanism for the sustainable management of the Iullemeden Aquifer System”**

We commit ourselves to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the establishment of the Consultative Mechanism for the management of the IAS.

Recognize the efforts of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) and the other technical and financial partners in facilitating the consultation process, further request their support in establishing the Consultative Mechanism of the Iullemeden Aquifer System.

Done at Bamako, Mali, on June 20th, 2009, in one original in French and in English, both texts being equally valid and authentic;

In witness whereof, have signed the present Declaration,

For the Republic of Mali

For the Republic of Niger

**For the Federal Republic
of Nigeria**

Mamadou Diarra
Minister of Energy and Water

Aminou Tassiou
Minister of Hydraulics

Sayyedi Abba Ruma
Minister of Agriculture and
Water resources