



## Press Release

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release

### France, Chad and Republic of Congo at World Water Forum add to recent Swiss backing

**Marseille, Thursday 15 March, 2012** – The Governments of France, of the Republic of Congo and of the Republic of Chad announced yesterday pledges totalling about 45 million euros to support the African Development Bank's Rural Water and Sanitation Initiative and the African Water Facility.

This took place at an historic conference on water security organized by the Bank within the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Marseille, France, during which conference participants also committed to strengthen their financing for water security in Africa.

The Government of France announced a pledge of 40 million euros, and the Republic of Chad a pledge of one million dollars to support the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI), which is designed to increase access to water supply and improved sanitation in rural areas. This is in addition to a recent 20 million dollar contribution by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to the Initiative, announced earlier in November 2011.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Congo announced a five million dollar pledge for the African Water Facility (AWF), an Initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water established to mobilize and apply resources to finance water infrastructure and investment facilitating activities in Africa.

*“These pledges are important for ensuring progress in the water sector, as much as political will, which is manifest and strongly reaffirmed at this historic conference today”* said Donald Kaberuka, AfDB President. *“The AfDB stands by all African governments eager to take the leap forward, wholeheartedly committed to helping them to reach their objectives.”*

This was followed by the adoption of the RWSSI and AWF Declaration whereby some 300 participants, including African Water and Finance Ministers, development partners and civil society representatives reconfirmed their overall commitment to mobilize the required resources and make all necessary efforts to improve water resources management as well as to achieve the Millennium Development Goal targets for water supply and sanitation on the continent.

The Declaration culminated the day-long conference hosted by the African Development Bank in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Ministers' Council on Water, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Government of France.

For more information, [www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org) and [www.africanwaterfacility.org](http://www.africanwaterfacility.org)

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