

# **Compendium of Actions**

**United Nations Secretary General's  
Advisory Board on  
Water and Sanitation**

**March, 2006**

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# 1. Message by the Board Chair

Evidence of a world water crisis abounds: drought, pollution, falling water tables, withered crops, eroded land, blowing soil and unprecedented flooding. Of the entire world's water, only 2.5% is fresh, and we use more of it every year. The per-person amount of available water is falling drastically in many places. More than two billion people suffer the indignities of being without sanitation facilities, with one billion suffering the health and livelihood effects of not having access to clean water. There are six thousand water related deaths each day, mostly in poor countries. The situation demands immediate and concerted action, but there is no reason to believe that this is impossible.

Water is life, and is important to so many things in life – it is also essential to achieving the nutrition, education, poverty eradication, environment Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The current rate of progress is not sufficient and radical change is necessary.

The UN Secretary-General in 2003 asked me to lead a high level Board and advise him how to advocate, mobilize support, and stimulate actions to achieve the water MDGs. Our wide membership spectrum includes government, finance, administration, academia, labor, NGOs and public and private operators. Discussions have often been difficult as different perspectives and views collided in the course of creating our action proposals. We reached consensus because we believe that the world must now provide better water management and clean water and sanitation services to more people.

We have not created new resolutions or analysis. We have worked from the consensus documents of many meetings and conferences. The Compendium of Actions “Your Action, Our Action” calls for breakthroughs in 6 vital areas: Financing, Capacity Building for Water Operators, Sanitation, Monitoring & Reporting, Integrated Water Resources Management, and Water and Disaster. The Board will now turn to implementation and follow up. “Your Action” are for key players, some of whom we identify precisely. For “Our Action” the Board members, collectively and individually, will work with them to remove bottlenecks to achieving the internationally agreed targets. We begin with an important symbolic request:

- ✓ We call on the United Nations Secretary General to create UN Water prizes to be awarded each year in the Decade for Water, to highlight exceptional progress in the area of Water and in Sanitation.

## **A Water Operators Partnership**

First we must help the operators that deliver water services. Publicly owned and managed water services currently provide more than 90% of piped water supply in the world. The Board recommends a new mechanism, WOPs, a structured programme of cooperation, based on the concept of mutual support among water operators, on a not-for-profit basis; even small managerial change could bring major improvement:

- ✓ The Board proposes a new mechanism for cooperation between water operators;
- ✓ UN Water should coordinate support from among UN agencies to WOPs;
- ✓ The Board will develop an Action Programme, and will

propose institutional arrangements for the WOPs.

## **Financing**

Next, we must ensure financing for water needs. Water and sanitation infrastructure and service equipment are not free. They cost money to build and to operate. We focus on local authorities which must be put into a position to attract more funds for water operators. Governments must develop appropriate financing mechanisms to ensure that the necessary systems can be built and maintained at this vital local level. This will require a mix of tariffs and subsidies. The inequities in the current user fee systems must be changed to make these systems viable and more just.

Availability of finance for water is not the core problem. In most instances, finance will flow to stable, well-managed water and sanitation systems if their environment is favourable and their revenues sufficient. The key is to attract the right type of finance, and to fix under-performing utilities through capacity building. We need national financial frameworks that develop the access of operators to local currency borrowings with affordable interest rates. We need sustainable cost-recovery policies with efficient tariffs and adequate subsidies and cross-subsidies.

The Board calls on National Governments to act now. In order that they may act:

- ✓ Regional capacity building organizations should set up sustained programmes that will lead to the creation of better governance and transparency in water services;
- ✓ Regional Financial Institutions and the World Bank should establish ongoing programmes to expand the knowledge and awareness of local service operators to new funding sources, and vice versa;
- ✓ Financial authorities should set up programmes to develop local financial markets;
- ✓ Donors should channel their water funding in these areas.

## **Sanitation**

The world is not on track for achieving the sanitation goal in each of its three aspects: hygiene promotion, household sanitary arrangements, and sewage treatment. We need more awareness and political will and we need more capacity. While advocacy is key at the global level, regional and sub-regional organizations should undertake concerted campaigns to support the provision of financing, marketing, technology and organizational assistance and guidance.

To raise political will, several steps are proposed over the Decade for Water including:

- ✓ That the year 2008 be designated as “International Year of Sanitation”;
- ✓ The establishment of a UN Sanitation Prize in the context of a UN Water Prize to put a spotlight on people engaged in local sanitation services;
- ✓ UN Regional Commissions are requested to organize Regional High level meetings especially during the “International Year of Sanitation” to review and promote the needed policy and organizational changes;
- ✓ A UN “Global Sanitation Conference” should be organized toward the end of the UN Decade “Water for Life” to take

stock.

Capacity building must proceed in parallel, here regional institutions have a special role:

- ✓ UN Regional Commissions in collaboration with initiatives and campaigns such as WASH and Ecosan are requested to organize Sanitation Workshops to define the subregional capacity needs, and programmes to meet them;
- ✓ IFIs and UN organizations are asked to organize an ongoing programme of regional or sub-regional workshops (on issues linked to technology, financing, and community organization) with stakeholder involvement including health professionals and scientists.

The Board will work with donors, related institutions and governments to increase the priority accorded to sanitation.

### **Monitoring & Reporting**

Monitoring is essential to assess and understand the real impact of investment by both national governments and the international community towards meeting water targets. National governments need targets, monitoring and reporting systems to manage their own programs efficiently. As the custodian of the Goals, the UN is responsible for providing both the methodologies and reliable data necessary for measuring global progress towards the goals. The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) needs greater attention. UN Water should be adequately funded so that it can play a leading role in the ongoing efforts to obtain a clear picture of progress or lack of it in water issues:

- ✓ The Secretary General is requested to work with UN Agency Heads to increase the priority accorded to the JMP in resource allocations;
- ✓ UN Water should take a highly visible role to coordinate the various monitoring and reporting systems at the global level;
- ✓ National governments are requested to support efforts to improve monitoring tools and to measure and report the number of people obtaining access to water/sanitation by access category in their country;
- ✓ Donors are requested to measure their own contributions to these achievements in terms of service goals;
- ✓ OECD is requested to develop better knowledge of all water expenditures in coordination with multilateral financial institutions.

The Board will collaborate with the international community and financial institutions to support the UN and others in implementing the proposed enhancements and changes.

### **Integrated Water Resource Management**

The Board recognizes progress towards fulfillment of national IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans. The Board proposes these be submitted by all member states and that a database be created by the UN for sharing lessons learned with the world:

- ✓ The Secretary General is requested to invite all UN Member states to report on the status of their IWRM and Water Efficiency plans and the actions taken for their implementation to the water review session of the CSD 16 in 2008;
- ✓ UN Water and interested donors are requested to support transboundary organizations and promote cooperation between them;

- ✓ The UN DESA is invited to create a database which will allow 'lessons learned' to be harvested from the compendium of plans and strategies;
- ✓ UN Regional Commissions, with Regional Banks, are requested to strengthen capacity building at all levels for IWRM implementation.

The Board will start dialogues with the Secretary General, with the UN, and as needed, with Governments, to make this happen.

### **Water and Disaster**

Water is life. Water is also a threat to life. To combat both man-made and natural disasters we must focus more intensely on proven techniques of prediction and prevention to reduce significantly the number of victims from these events, and to focus international attention on these efforts:

- ✓ The Board requests UNISDR with interested countries to harvest the knowledge and experience available to predict, prevent, prepare for and help with water related disasters to inform national plans, and/or IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans at national and local level;
- ✓ The Board urges experts to work out an instrument that could create global awareness and commitment and to define and establish the rationale for an internationally recognizable target focused on the reduction of the loss of life and livelihood;
- ✓ National and local governments should ensure immediate provision for safe drinking water and sanitation during and after disasters.

The Board will collaborate with the relevant players for defining such a target and then for achieving progress toward its adoption by the international community.

### **It is time for action...**

The Board acknowledges that promising actions have been taken by many: the work of the World Bank and RDBs to extend financing to the local level; new initiatives to strengthen transboundary cooperation, especially in Africa; the work begun in our host country Mexico a few years back to reinvigorate aid spending; reform measures in many countries, and the launching of an innovative, gender-embedded Rural Water and Sanitation Initiative by the African Development Bank, to name but a few. All of these actions and many others deserve support and emulation.

We salute the action of the Secretary General and the support of several Governments for their support to our work. We will take Our Actions. We ask you to take Your Actions. Water action will not only save and enhance lives; it is essential if we want to protect all life and our home, our fragile planet.

Ryutaro Hashimoto

Chair

United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation

## 2. Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) improving public utility performance

Cooperation between water operators, or Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) can be useful mechanisms for providing support for capacity building of public water operators. Given the preponderance of public sector undertakings, it is envisaged that most operating partnerships will be between public operators. However, we do not exclude private sector operators, NGOs or those who can contribute to the performance of public water undertakings on a not-for-profit basis<sup>1</sup>. The Board has identified several actions to be taken by the Board, UN, international organizations, governments and other stakeholders in order to promote WOPs.

### Target:

- To strengthen local services through WOPs and make sure WOPs are recognized as an important means of achieving internationally agreed targets.

### Your Action

- UNSG to give strong support to the WOPs plan, including giving specific encouragement to national governments to aid its implementation, by:
  - Messages to the IFIs for support;
  - Directions to UN agencies and departments for support, as appropriate, including from regional offices;
  - Message to relevant meetings relative to the MDGs;
  - Messages to media, etc.;
- UN Water to coordinate support from among UN agencies;
- UNDESA in cooperation with appropriate bodies to develop a database and internet interface for the operation of WOPs matching mechanisms. This Internet mechanism will be field tested before its use is broadened to cover other regions;
- Public utilities with experience of twinning and WOPs to be contacted and encouraged to comment on the project, share experiences, help to strengthen the proposals and to participate in their implementation;
- National water ministries to encourage public utilities to participate, and National finance ministries to make funds available for suitable trials;
- Professional water associations to contribute to building the internet-based matching mechanism and to make their relational networks available to water operators willing to establish WOPs;
- Relevant IFIs to be encouraged to support the WOPs implementation, including the provision of financial

and technical support.

### Our Action

- The Board to advocate the use of WOPs and demonstrate their potential importance and benefits; to conceptualize the basic mechanisms for WOPs operations, and help in the start-up processes through the following activities:
  - Appealing to and urging relevant organizations to participate until the partnership activities attain their own momentum;
  - Raising awareness through media presence;
  - Networking amongst institutions and individuals at high level (introduction of the persons concerned or the parties concerned to WOPs, and setting occasions for WOPs dialogue);
  - Advising on developing WOP mechanisms and promoting actions on WOPs.
- The Board to give visibility to the WOPs concept at the WWF, and in its advice to the UNSG;
- The Board Secretariat to develop, in cooperation with relevant public utilities associations, a prototype of a database and internet interface for the operation of the WOPs matching mechanisms;
- The Board to initiate discussions with IFIs aimed at strengthening the WOPs model and gaining the commitment of such institutions to the partnership arrangements;
- The Board to review annually the outcomes of WOPs and make an assessment of their contribution.

<sup>1</sup> Not-for-profit means recuperation of salaries, travel and subsistence expenses.

## 3. Financing

Financing is one of the major challenges in achieving internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation. The Board takes no position on utility ownership, notes that over 90% of water operations are publicly owned and affirms that it is imperative that the operational capability and financial viability of water operators be assured. Three key areas have been identified for actions by the Board: the National policy setting level; the financial and donor community; and the actors involved in facilitating the decentralization of water and sanitation services to the district and municipal

levels.

## (1) National Government Water Sector Financial Action

### Target Area One:

- National governments should set specific water and sanitation goals and specific financial targets for their expenditure on water and sanitation;
- Governments must define the financial framework and financial revenue and expenditure assumptions for their policies to increase access to water and sanitation, including where relevant, reference to PRSPs;
- Governments should accept their responsibility to facilitate the access of local communities to the financing they need;
- National policies should accept that most additional funding will have to come from water users and taxpayers. The inequities in the current user-fee systems must be changed to make these systems viable and more just. Though full cost recovery may not be an objective, tariff policies must provide for sustainable cost recovery. It must be specific about the expected level of public subsidy, including provision for cross subsidy arrangements and subsidies targeted directly for the poorest.

### Your Action:

- National Governments, including those endeavouring to achieve internationally agreed targets on water and sanitation, will not succeed in attracting needed financing to their water operators – especially to the overwhelming majority publicly owned - unless they create national policy covering the following crucial aspects;
- Governments must have in their planning the proper priority for water financing, including their reflection within PRSPs where countries have these. In addition there must be:
  - Policies of sustainable cost recovery of water service charges;
  - An efficient tariff systems for water services with cross subsidies to poor people where needed;
  - A policy framework which encourages plans for the improvement of water service providers;
  - A stated policy on fiscal decentralization and tax

system improvements : understood arrangements whereby water and sanitation operators retain revenues;

- Policies addressing corruption in the water sector;
- Improving capital markets, addressing low saving rates, capital flight, and failing banking systems, as relevant to water financing schemes;
- Improving absorptive capacity of financial flows and making sure that it will be reflected on water and sanitation sector.

### Our Action

- The Board will conduct policy discussion with IMF/IBRD to assess the priority given to water and sanitation in the national budgets and in PRSPs;
- The Secretariat will monitor and the Board will publicize the status of Governments' financial planning in the water sector.

## (2) The financial and donor communities

### Target area two:

- Bilateral donors and IFIs should allocate ODA primarily for institution building, for project preparation for infrastructure projects, and for measures specifically designed to increase the capacity of developing countries' water operators to attract financial resources, and to draw down on existing commitments;
- Bilateral donors, IFIs and technical assistance providers should accord a very high priority to capacity improvements which will allow local communities and water operators to tap into capital markets including pension funds;
- IFIs should accept a major role in enabling water operators to make their operations more efficient, more transparent, and more financially viable via local financial markets, taxes, and contributions by users. They should take on the role of providing advice to sub-sovereigns on how to access to internal and external funding;
- Bilateral donors and IFIs should review their ODA practices to assess to the extent to which they accommodate:
  - Priority to funding for countries not on track for achieving the MDGs;
  - Grant for technical assistance and maintenance and services;
  - Funding designed to leverage non ODA sources toward the water sector;
  - To assess and report their own contribution to achieving MDGs.

### Your Action

- OECD to set up a Task Team on Water and Sanitation

under DAC to convene member governments to re-examine OECD Water Development Assistance Policy Guidelines to address, inter alia, the points above;

- OECD DAC to convene a special session on water and sanitation at high level such as Water and Development Ministerial Meeting in 2007 to adopt the Guidelines;
- Relevant Governments to request an update and review at an early occasion of the Evian Summit Plan of Action's specific proposals on Water Financing, with further action as appropriate.

### **Our Action**

- The Board to organize a dialogue with OECD in conjunction with the 6th Board meeting in Paris in July, 2006; including the appropriate follow up to the Evian Summit Plan of Actions;
- The Board will conduct follow-up dialogues with individual OECD members as well as IFIs and bilateral donors in July through December, 2006;
- The Board Chair will discuss these proposals with Heads of IFIs over the next 18 months.

### **(3) Financial Mechanisms for local services improvement.**

#### **Target area three:**

- Local governments must take the full responsibility for boosting their own performance, and for ensuring transparency, benchmarking, and other measures which will increase their attractiveness to financial sources;
- National governments must set up arrangements that allow for local governments and local water operators to get easier and cheaper access to local and – where appropriate, international capital markets;
- National Governments should facilitate, with the assistance of IBRD and RDBs, the access to borrowing for local municipalities, especially focusing on:
  - developing local financial markets;
  - advising local governments about the tools and appropriate ways to get funds;
  - securing currency risks;
  - developing loans to sub-sovereigns with long-term maturities and affordable interest rates;
  - identifying or creating pooling mechanisms allowing local governments to get better credit ratings;
  - securing ability of municipalities to reimburse loans; and
  - providing with transparency and good legal environment.
- Within countries, regional and Local Development Banks or specialized financial institutions be assigned invitations/mandates to develop a role as intermediaries for channeling external and central government funds to water operators, including community and NGO groups that have improved performance;
- Regional and Local Development Banks and specialized financial institutions to develop a role as provider of technical assistance to local municipalities in order to create enabling environment for lending (donor governments be asked to assist via OECD exercise);
- UN Development Coordinators to associate their programmes with the actions above by collecting appropriate and focused information and convene meetings;
- National and local governments to explore innovative, job creating labour intensive approaches to reduce cost, especially concerning sanitation.

#### **Your Action**

- IFIs and RDBs to assess their own capability for the above roles/actions; including discussion with Governing Bodies, where relevant. They should take direct action to link with associations of Mayors and Municipalities, including UCLG and other bodies;
- RDBs to conduct Technical Assistance studies on the above points, including the operation of rating agencies preferably beginning in 2006 where these are not in hand;
- UN, through its Resident Coordinators and with help of the relevant IFI/RDB, to organize sustained capacity building programmes on a national and regional basis to improve the managerial capacity of water operators;
- The Secretariat to consult the WFP and others to advise whether their experience concerning innovative

low cost labour intensive approaches (e.g. Sanitation for work) could have applicability to water supply and sewer projects.

- Relevant sources to provide data on local development agencies and pooling mechanisms, if any, that allow municipalities to borrow money at cheaper rates;
- IFI and RDBs with relevant regional UN offices to convene special meetings with Planning/Finance and responsible Ministers to discuss the above points in 2006/2007 on a regional and subregional basis;
- RDBs (such as AsDB), in collaboration with UNDP, to organize series of sub-regional workshops and technical assistance for Mayors, Governors, Utility Managers on Regulation and Standards required by providers of capital to improve their ability to attract local capital sources;

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) to convene a workshop among finance providers on the experience with partial guarantees, including currency risk guarantees.

#### **Our Action**

- The Board to approach IFI/RDBs and Planning/ Finance ministers to prepare the ground for the special meetings, the series of sub-regional workshops and

technical assistance;

- Board Chair and members to facilitate the meetings by joining discussion and/or providing with inputs;
- The Board to follow-up the meeting outcomes with high level dialogues with countries and institutions;
- The Board to make public both significant achievements in financing issues and the progress status of countries in achieving the points in the targets.

## **4. Sanitation**

As sanitation is lagging behind in achieving the MDG and JPOI, there is urgent need to gearing up political awareness and concerted actions towards “placing sanitation on track”. Two key target areas have been identified for actions of the Board, UN, international organizations, governments and other stakeholders.

#### **Target 1:**

- Raising awareness on urgent need to pay greater attention to sanitation in each of its three aspects: hygiene promotion, household sanitary arrangements, and sewage arrangements;
- Promoting accelerated actions for achieving the sanitation MDG and JPOI;
- Developing and applying the capacity of regional and subregional organizations to undertake concerted campaigns to support countries with the provision of financing, marketing, technology and organizational assistance and guidance.

#### **Your Action**

- UN to establish an “International Year of Sanitation” in conjunction with Member countries and related international organizations;
- UN to establish a “Sanitation Prize” in the framework of the “United Nations Water Prize”;
- UN to review critically the database on the MDG sanitation target including the update of the definition of “improved sanitation” in ways that continuity of data/indicators is maintained while they represent a clearer picture of improvement;
- With the view of moving the primary responsibility for the provision of assistance to the regional level:
  - The relevant RDB in consultation with UN regional commissions, the relevant UN sectoral organizations, and UN Resident Coordinators, and in collaboration with existing initiatives and campaigns such as WASH and Ecosan, should design a program of capacity strengthening at regional or sub-regional workshops with involvement of stakeholders including health professionals and scientists;
  - The UN regional commissions should organize regional high level meetings especially in the “International Year of Sanitation” to review and promote the needed policy and organizational changes;
  - The result of the Regional workshops will be

followed up by a “Global Sanitation Conference” organized by UN, toward the end of the UN Water Decade;

- Special focus should be given to strengthening the profile of sustainable reuse-oriented sanitation in international debates and promoting its integration into relevant sector policies, such as health and agriculture.

#### **Our Action**

- The Board to recommend to UNSG on establishing of an “International Year of Sanitation”, and a “Sanitation Prize”, the UN Regional involvement in Regional Conferences and a “Global Sanitation Conference”;
- The Board to appeal to heads of state and international organizations on establishing an “International Year of Sanitation”, support for the regional work, and a “Global Sanitation Conference”;
- The Board to appeal to key persons related to the second Water Decade, 2005-15 (“Water for Life”);
- The Board to appeal to regional and international organizations to go into action for achieving the sanitation MDG in collaboration with existing initiatives and campaigns such as WASH and Ecosan. Each Member will take responsibility for a specific region and specific organizations to make approaches.

**Target 2:**

National governments formulate clear-cut strategic sanitation policies and plans tailored to their economic, social and environmental situations.

**Your Action**

- Donors and national governments to make the distinction between Sanitation and Water Supply in the reports and policies of donors and governments, while maintaining policy integrity among water sub-sectors such as Water Supply and Sanitation under holistic concept of, e.g., Integrated Water Resources Management;
- National governments to evaluate their policies and plans on sanitation, especially in light of achieving the MDG and JPOI;
- IFI, RDB and bilateral donors to facilitate/conduct studies on appropriate options/models for strategic sanitation policies and plans of countries including promotion of micro-credit to support household acquisition of sanitation, starting from specific countries;
- Give funding for sanitation, especially for capacity development, a higher priority in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, both in country assistance strategies and in water sector funding mechanisms (water facilities, etc.);
- Resources of UN Agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, and FAO to be mobilized in order to join in the Regional Campaigns to give stronger support to the household and local communities based actions on sanitation;
- UN Agencies such as UNEP and UNESCO to collaborate in the organization of regional workshops in priority regions in order to identify and share regionally/locally appropriate sanitation policy models and technical solutions with focus on small scale eco-sanitation, reed beds, and urine separation

technologies;

- Academic/scientific community to accelerate, and UN Agencies to support, R & D and technological innovation in sanitation so that communities can adopt more efficient, environmentally friendly measures tailored to local conditions.

**Our action**

- The Board to promote, through dialogue with donors and other appropriate institutions, studies and survey on options for plans and strategies tailored to countries' economic, social and environmental situations;
- The Board to conduct dialogue with RDBs, regional organizations, donors and governments in order to realize the concentrated program of Regional Actions and ultimately the UN Global sanitation meeting;
- The Board to call on the academic/scientific community for accelerated research on alternative models and technologies to improve sanitation such as eco-sanitation, the vacuum car and treatment plant system, and urine separation from sewage;
- The Board to appeal for higher prioritization of sanitation in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, both in country assistance strategies and in water sector funding mechanisms (water facilities etc.);
- The Board to conduct high-level dialogue with UN Agencies to materialize their actions stated above.
- The Board Secretariat to ensure linkage of each of "Your Action" and "Our Action" by, inter alia, reporting progress of actions and facilitating communication among players.

## 5. Monitoring and Reporting

Achieving the goals of water policies requires adequate monitoring tools. Assessing progress toward targets and reporting the results is vital for managing action by all stakeholders.

The drinking water and sanitation MDGs necessitate further support for the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program as detailed in Target area 1. Action at the national level requires appropriate measuring and reporting tools as detailed in Target area 2. Water data at local, national and global levels relating to water resources, water services and water economics are produced by many institutions; therefore Target area 3 is about better integrating existing monitoring mechanisms and enhancing their effectiveness. At the global level, there is also the need to improve reporting on IWRM plans as is detailed elsewhere and referred to in Target area 4.

**Target area one: Monitoring progress of access to water and sanitation at the global level**

UN should place much higher priority on strengthening the Joint Monitoring Program which is vital to achieving accurate monitoring on progress toward internationally agreed targets on water supply and sanitation.

**Your Action**

- Recognizing the importance of the JMP in achieving MDGs and JPOI on water and sanitation, WHO and

UNICEF to urgently increase their own financial and human resources to strengthen the JMP unit;

- Donors to strengthen the support for JMP activities

- which are directly linked to improving the output of JMP;
- WHO and UNICEF to organize workshops to improve the accuracy and methodologies employed in the current system;
- UN Water to support the JMP by ensuring access to its members' networks and expertise, especially at field level.

### Our Action

- The Board, by letters and dialogue, to strongly urge

- Director Generals of WHO and UNICEF to implement the points above;
- The Board to discuss with UNSG an increased provision of resources to JMP;
- The Board to request donors to increase their support for the JMP in concrete manners according to findings of the workshops;
- The Board to review the progress made to improve the JMP and publicize the findings.

### Target area two: National Governments: Water Supply and Sanitation

- Concerted efforts should be made by national governments, and supported as necessary by UN and donors, to monitor the delivery of services in the water and sanitation sector.
- In order to improve the delivery of water supply and sanitation services, more resources should be allocated to monitoring.

### Your Action

- National governments are urged to give higher priority to monitoring the performance of the water and sanitation sector;
- National governments are urged to measure and report on an annual basis the number of people obtaining access to water/sanitation by access category in their countries;
- For those countries with PRSPs, National governments are urged to incorporate in their PRSPs a target for the number of people who will be provided with access to water services in a specific timeframe;
- OECD is urged to consider creating a water domain on their website;
- Donors to report on:
  - the number of people who have been provided with access to water and sanitation through capital projects sponsored by them;
  - and concrete measures to support Integrated Water

- Resources Management in their partner countries;
- UNDESA to create a database on National Water Policies, IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans, and the inclusion of water in PRSPs.

### Our Action

- The Board to take up the above issues on monitoring in their high level dialogue with national governments and regional governmental bodies;
- The Board to communicate with the media to help ensure that monitoring problems are understood by the public and support is gained for efforts to solve the problems;
- The Board to request that all monitoring mechanisms are improved by including information about service conditions; in particular, improvements in the JMP are required.

### Target area three: Integrating and enhancing Monitoring and reporting Efforts

- At the global level, there needs to be an effort to harmonize existing monitoring and reporting activities in the water sector in order to increase their effectiveness.
- At the national level, monitoring tools should be developed and strengthened to facilitate action by governments and other stakeholders and to bring about consistency with global mechanisms.
- At the global level, there needs to be better knowledge of all expenditures in the water sector.

### Your Action

- UN-Water is requested to take a leading role in creating a platform in order to coordinate global agencies, compile and share consistent data on water at the global level. UN Water as a first step should organize a workshop to share information on global monitoring initiatives;
- Each and every national Government should support all efforts in their country to improve monitoring tools

- with regard to water and sanitation so that they better meet:
  - the goals of their water policies;
  - the needs of the various stakeholders including local governments and civil society.
- UNICEF and WHO, the owners of the Joint Monitoring Program for drinking water and sanitation, should provide support to governments to enhance national monitoring systems and make sure they are

- consistent with global mechanisms;
- OECD is requested to develop better knowledge of all water expenditures including public and private infrastructure investment, operation and maintenance, and household expenditures in coordination with Multilateral Financial Institutions.
- regarding global water data;
- The Board will review with WHO-UNICEF the progress made in developing national monitoring mechanisms for water supply and sanitation;
- The Board will discuss with OECD its program to develop economic data for the water sector.

### **Our Action**

- The Board will review with UN Water progress

#### **Target area four: Water Resource Management**

- The Secretary General should call for reports from all countries on the status of Integrated Water Resource Plans.
- Disaster preparedness for water events should be included in these reports.
- A database on IWRM and Water Efficiency Plan should be created.

**Your Action and Our Action** (See Target area 1 of the Chapter “6. IWRM”)

## **6. Integrated Water Resources Management**

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is an internationally acknowledged approach that moves away from traditional isolated sectoral decision making. The IWRM approach should be used for making improvements in water resources management to support accelerated development, and to find solutions to major water problems and challenges including MDGs. IWRM must in the first instance bring together those involved in taking decisions on water management up to the highest level. IWRM must relate to real issues and physical water asset management. As Water resources are already facing serious risks related to climate change and variability, pollution, population growth, competition over water, IWRM has to be urgently practiced at every level.

Three target areas have been identified for actions of key players and the Board.

#### **Target 1:**

All national governments report on the status of the IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans and the concrete actions taken for their implementation.

#### **Your Action**

- National Governments to report not only on the formulation but also on the implementation of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans at CSD16 in 2008. Disaster preparedness for water related events should be included in these reports;
- UNDESA to create a database on national IWRM plans so that governments can register their IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans as the follow-up of decisions made at CSD13;
- UNSG to send out in 2006 a call letter for reporting of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans to all countries, inviting them to report on their efforts and results in order, inter alia, to establish a monitoring track;
- UNSG to request country coordinators to report governments’ formulation and implementation of IWRM plans according to an unified format;
- UN regional commissions and/or regional banks to convene workshops to enable nations to exchange information on IWRM plans and to cooperate with nations in preparing the plans.

#### **Our Action**

- The Board to recommend the above actions to UNSG;
- The Board to conduct a high level dialogue with regional government organizations to promote governments’ formulation and implementation of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans;
- The Board to urge UNDP, UNDESA and other related UN agencies to implement actions stated above and report on their actions to UNSG;
- The Board to publicize formulation and implementation of country IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans based on the registered information in the database and the reports for UN country coordinators;
- The Board to highlight cases where national governments are making good progress with IWRM process and are employing inclusive approaches giving stakeholders a role in the process.

**Target 2:**

- The principals of IWRM are applied in transboundary situations.

**Your Action**

- UN Water to convene a workshop / roundtable with relevant UN organizations, financial institutions and interested donors to assess how better to support transboundary organizations and promote cooperation between them;
- IFIs, RDBs, and bilateral donors to assess jointly the funding mechanisms, including pooling, for the implementation of transboundary water projects under the concept of IWRM;
- IFIs, RDBs, and OECD to review the check-list used for evaluating and implementing major and international water projects to ensure a common approach and an IWRM lens;
- National governments to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses adopted by the UN General Assembly in resolution 51/229 of 21 May

1997 in order to apply IWRM concept for the management of international river basins.

**Our Action**

- The Board to conduct a dialogue with IFIs, RDBs, and OECD for developing tools and mechanisms for promotion of IWRM such as pooling funds for trans-boundary water projects and IWRM project evaluation/implementation check sheet;
- The Board to communicate at high level national governments to urge ratification of the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses;
- The Board to approach and conduct a dialogue with the international legislators' organization to make known the importance of ratification of the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

## 7. Water and Disaster

Water is life. Water is also a threat to life. Water-related disasters have increased in magnitude and frequency in the past decade and have had lead to the loss of life and livelihood and have had other negative short and long term social and economic impacts. Most natural phenomena that cause water-related disasters can be predicted. There is an urgent need for more action to prevent, prepare for and manage water-related disasters. These actions should include the knowledge, experience and capacity that exists within local and traditional communities and organizations. Targets and mechanisms are also needed to complement initiatives such as Hyogo Framework of Actions.

**Target area 1:**

- International community is called on to establish a clear-cut target that will be based on a unified political will at the global level and that articulates the direction for global actions towards reduction of life and livelihood loss caused by water-related disasters.

**Your Action**

- A High Level Working Group should be organized by UN agencies, lead by UNISDR in collaboration with interested countries, in order to develop such a target and define the rationale of the target from the political, scientific, social and economic standpoint.
- The Working Group will lead in the organization of :
  - a multi-stakeholder workshop, including experts, international relief organizations, national level disaster preparedness groups and other relevant organizations including NGOs in the development of the criteria and modalities necessary for such a target
  - workshops to be held at the local and community levels to share experience, traditional knowledge and local actions in response to water- related disasters;
  - an International Conference will be organized in

order to, inter alia, affirm political will and to develop future strategic actions towards the reduction of water related disasters, including the adoption of the target;

- UN member states to adopt the target and discuss further actions.

**Our Action**

- The Board will support the initiatives above and communicate through a series of dialogues and other actions with key institutions and other stakeholders in order to ensure that the above actions are met;
- The Board will call for action towards the achievement of a target once it is established;
- The Board will engage in international awareness raising activities for the operationalizing of the proposed target.

**Target area 2:**

- The immediate provision of adequate safe water and sanitation during and after disasters.

**Your Action**

- UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will coordinate the actions towards the following activities;
- National and local governments to include provision of adequate safe drinking water and sanitation as one of the key early action responses in their disaster response management plans;
- International communities and national governments to ensure linkage between disaster managers and water management professionals to be ensured at local, national and international levels by, inter alia;
- Maintain and monitor data on water and sanitation that can be utilized in the assessment and relief of affected areas after disasters; recognizing the important role of local authorities, civil society and international relief organizations in such an activity;
- WOPs to include disaster related cooperation mechanisms among water operators in the disaster relief and recovery activities to improve the provision of emergency water and sanitation;
- National and local governments should develop policies and practices to ensure that water and

sanitation capacities are less vulnerable and more resilient to hazards and to do so in concert with national and regional disaster preparedness organization.

**Our Action**

- The Board will conduct high level dialogues with governments and regional governmental bodies on water and sanitation to improve the provision of adequate services in disaster relief and recovery;
- The Board will advocate for and encourage awareness raising actions on the above recommendations in water and sanitation with respect to disasters;
- The Board will work to encourage all owners of data to work towards the establishment of a monitoring coordination mechanism to facilitate the proactive sharing of their data with disaster relief personnel and volunteers before after and during disasters;
- The Board will work for the engagement of WOPs participants in disaster preparedness and relief activities.

## 8. UN Water Prize

**1. Title of the prize**

United Nations Water Prize for Sustainable Development - for the attainment of the MDGs through water and sanitation

**2. Objectives**

The Prize aims to promote the actions for attaining water-related MDGs at the local level by adding values to such actions and to stimulate awareness on the significance of achieving water-related MDGs for sustainable development of the world.

**3. Targeted area**

“Water Supply” and “Sanitation”

**4. Granter of the prize**

United Nations Secretary General

**5. Winner and Award**

- The prize is annual and there are only two Grand Prizes/year, one for water supply and the other for sanitation;
- Plaques will be awarded by the United Nations Secretary General on every March 22, the World Water Day.

**6. Deadline & Announcement**

- Application for the next year’s prize opens on the World Water Day;

- Deadline for application will be the end of September;
- Publication will be made at the major international conferences on water/sustainable development, e.g., CSDs, Stockholm Water Symposium, and World Water Forums.

**7. Qualified Applicants**

Local governments who have conducted the concrete activities for achieving the water-related MDGs.

**8. Nomination/application Procedure**

- Self-nomination by the head of local government;
- Reference letters from at least 1 person/ organization should be attached to the application form.

**9. Evaluation criteria**

The criteria should be elaborated by the Prize Committee every year for each prize. However, the following points should be universally applied to each prize as common values.

- Multi stakeholder participation
- Visible results of the activities, preferably quantitative ones
- Applicability to the efforts in other local governments

**10. Organization**

- a) Prize Committee

- 5 members of the prize committee will be nominated by the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation and be appointed by the UN Secretary General.
  - The tenure of the committee members will be 3 years.
- b) Secretariat
    - Secretariat for International Decade "Water for Life" (DESA should act as secretariat until the Decade Secretariat is established)