

NGO Intervention (2nd half) pm 1st March 2005

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and ecosystems

We welcome the intervention by Switzerland. Protecting and valuing ecosystems and ensuring fair distribution amongst different user groups is fundamental to water security and human livelihoods. Whilst many 'natural resources', such as water, are the 'basis for development', they are also part of the complex web that supports life on Earth in its entirety. IWRM provides a participatory and integrated framework to ensure the long-term environmental security necessary for truly sustainable development and the provision of water and sanitation required to meet the MDG targets.

CSD-13 needs to reaffirm the IWRM and water efficiency plans (WEP) targets, with:

- (i) Clear processes and support agreed to help countries that have been unable to meet the target to meet it and implement plans;
- (ii) Clear processes for continued reporting on achievement of this target after CSD-13; and
- (iii) Agreement on a mechanism for monitoring implementation of IWRM-WEP plans, with clear indicators.

Policy recommendations for CSD-13 include:

- That national governments create an enabling environment for IWRM through the creation of specific legislation and appropriate institutional processes that: (i) reconcile and address hydrological boundaries with political ones and local needs (i.e. address river basins, catchments and local communities) with transboundary cooperation where necessary, and (ii) ensure cross-sectoral and stakeholder coordination to deliver IWRM-WEP
- Policy outcomes that adopt a functional ecosystem perspective on water resources including total ecosystem valuation in public and private decision making. Including as the basis of incentive schemes for catchment and ecosystem conservation.
- Inland wetlands have been estimated to provide services worth US\$ 2-5 trillion but over half of the worlds wetlands have been destroyed or heavily altered in the past 100 years (Ramsar 2004). CSD-13 needs to reaffirm the CSD-6 recommendation providing support for implementation of the Ramsar Convention and further encourage co-operation between the Convention and others working towards IWRM-WEP, such as the Global Water Partnership.

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