

CSD-13: INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING

Parallel Water Session: 3-6pm 2 March 2005

INTERVENTIONS BY NGOs' MAJOR GROUP

Topic A: Monitoring & Evaluation

Madam Chair,

NGOs support the emphasis by the honourable delegate from Norway that monitoring needs to be more sophisticated if it is to capture people's access to services and not simply the construction of infrastructure. For sanitation in particular the use not just the existence of facilities must be reported from household surveys.

We also endorse the honourable delegate from Kenya's call for a common set of indicators and the emphasis of the honourable delegate from UN-HABITAT that sanitation in school should be one such indicator.

The functionality of water systems needs to be monitored as does the equity of their distribution. Waterpoint mapping processes using GPS technologies are being used in Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

This information is critical for planning and efficient allocation of resources to ensure the necessary rehabilitation of broken-down systems and for the poorest presently unserved people to benefit from the new funds which are available rather than services being improved for the few who already have access.

Monitoring needs to be regular to ensure a proper sense of urgency. NGOs make use of the data provided by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme but note that until recently it was collected only every 10 years and even the biannual data now collected arrive only after a further two years.

Finally on monitoring it is important that Governments publish data and at sub-national levels to facilitate accountability and participation in planning processes. Local NGOs need to work with this material and ensure citizens can hold their local and national Governments to account.

Topic B: Securing finance for water investments

Thank you Madam Chair,

On financing, interventions by the NGOs Major Group in previous sessions have emphasised the need for increased and better-targeted ODA and for developing countries' unpayable debts to be cancelled.

Trade is a further critical part of the picture. We understand that the UN has estimated that \$700 billion is lost annually by developing countries because of unfair trade rules and damaging northern subsidies. The December World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting must deliver a genuine "development round" agreement as envisaged at Doha. With action on trade and debt,

developing countries will be better able to meet their own responsibilities in financing the water and sanitation services which are the rights of their citizens.

Financing strategies must be realistic. "One size will not fit all" as the Secretary General's report emphasises. This is particularly true in respect of international private finance. Just as northern countries sometimes needed to provide public finance, in particular for rural supplies, so the limitations of private finance in southern countries must be acknowledged at this stage of the development of both their water infrastructure and their capital markets. For example, the World Bank reported that Africa received just 0.001% of global private finance for water between 1990 and 1997. We must ensure that we do not go down blind alleys – we note that even though the then UN Secretary General called in his 1990 report on the 1980s UN Decade of Water Supply and Sanitation for annual spending of \$28 billion on the sector, we are still 25 years later stuck at around half of that figure.

So as we have already mentioned we need more and better-targeted ODA: at present ODA worth \$446 per person unserved with safe water goes to middle-income countries while just \$16 are received for each such person in the poorest countries. We agree with you Madam Chair that ODA is not a "magic wand" but it is central to Millennium Development Goal 8 and so to the credibility of developed countries' commitment to a genuine partnership for achieving the MDGs. We also note that ODA is presently worth only one-third of the 0.7% of Gross National Income which donors have promised to provide and that the role of grant-financing for the poorest countries is emphasised by both the Secretary General's report and the analysis of Professor Jeffrey Sachs in the UN's *Investing in Development* report.

We also need to target finance on sanitation – both ODA and national resources. There should be a separate budget line for sanitation especially to support demand creation and hygiene education. NGOs have found that sanitation facilities can be especially suitable for household investments.¹

Lastly on tariffs, NGOs agree that financing for water and sanitation systems must be secure. But we do not agree that this must always be by full cost recovery from users alone, especially where this would prevent access by the poorest. Subsidies for service connections or cross-subsidies as in rising block tariffs must be available financing instruments. We also note again that cost recovery is easier where appropriate traditional technologies are employed rather than expensive complex systems imported because of prejudice against domestic technologies or because of conditions donors have tied to their aid.

Thank you.

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¹ This paragraph was inadvertently omitted from the oral intervention.