

Wednesday, 13th April.

Afternoon Session on Interlinkages between Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements and on those issues with other cross cutting issues

### **Trade Unions Submission**

Chair,

Public Sector provision of vital services in water, sanitation and human settlements is based on the principle that access is a fundamental right, the basis of a dignified, productive life and social inclusion. Water, for example, has been recognized as a fundamental right not an economic good, requiring significant financial and human resources.

We want the CSD to recognize Local Authorities, as primary providers and suppliers of these services, are in the best position to coordinate broad stakeholder involvement in planning, design and delivery at the community level.

Where they encounter financial difficulties, commercialization and privatization cannot become a knee-jerk solution. In too many cases, local governments are given an unfunded mandate - the responsibility, but not the financial means - to provide these services. Adequate support, along with alternative financial strategies are needed if they are to continue to provide their quality services.

We want to see included in the final output of this CSD, the fact that workplaces and community action by workers and trade unions, with employers and governments, furthermore, can significantly improve management and delivery of quality services in water, sanitation and human settlements.

They can also make a significant contribution to the creation of quality jobs, as well as to skills transfer and job design.

We ask CSD13 to support locally planned infrastructure projects that deliver high employment returns, develop local skills and ensure sustainability of projects through better public participation in decision making.

Finally, we ask CSD13 to support workers and Trade Unions role on the change of patterns of consumption and production into more sustainable ones.

Thank you