

EU contribution

Water, 02/03/2005 4iv1 conference room 3

1. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation programmes

- A proper follow up of CSD 13 should ensure implementation and monitoring of the CSD 13 themes of water, sanitation and human settlements between CSD 13 and the overall review in 2016. The EU believes that monitoring, reporting and assessment mechanisms at the national, regional and global level should be strengthened, in order to keep track of progress in meeting the targets and the delivery on JpoI commitments.
- As such, CSD 13 should adopt necessary mechanisms to ensure the follow-up and monitoring, based, as far as possible, on existing processes and initiatives. Also, a better understanding of the respective scopes of intervention of global water fora, organisations, and coordination bodies is needed.
- At the national and regional level, countries should be supported to develop their monitoring capacity and reporting processes in order to improve reliable data collection, crucial for implementation. Capacity building focussing on local authorities in this respect is essential.
- The CSD secretariat will have to continue its role in providing a comprehensive overview and stocktaking of implementation of all CSD13 issues, their interlinkages as well as cross-sectoral issues as part of the Secretary General's report to the review year of respective implementation cycles. These efforts should be aligned with the monitoring of the MDGs.
- At global level, the roles of UN WATER, including the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and the World Water Assessment Programme, should be strengthened with a view to enabling them to carry out comprehensive reporting and monitoring, also bearing in mind the mandate of the UN Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. The reports from UN WATER should provide the basis for intergovernmental consultations and stocktaking. For Human Settlements, the leading role of UN HABITAT needs to be recognized.

2. Securing finances for water-related investments

- Countries should prioritize and include water as an integral part of their National Strategies for Sustainable Development and of PRSPs.
- Strengthening sector efficiency is similarly important. Sector Investment Programmes and financing strategies for water need to be developed as part of national action plans, with a view to meeting the MDGs and JPoI objectives. To be able to deliver, such programmes need to be reflected in PRS's and national budgets.
- The economic, social and environmental impacts of inadequate provision of clean drinking water, sanitation and affordable housing are highly significant but remain to be quantified. Consequently, these costs of inaction in terms of loss of lives, bad health, reduced productivity or clean up costs of water pollution are rarely properly internalised. The cost for providing adequate services may actually be low in comparison with the poor already pay directly for health services or indirectly in terms of missed working hours or lost education opportunities resulting from inadequate services. The economic impacts of inaction need to be quantified and highlighted and explicitly expressed in national development policies, in order to ensure a higher priority of these basics, in particular sanitation in national and local development planning.
- Domestic funding should be stimulated i.a. by basing funding upon Sector Investment Programmes and financing strategies for water, by ensuring 'sustainable cost recovery' through e.g. appropriate tariff structures, by fostering the development of local private operators and entrepreneurs as well as by setting up revolving funds, local capital markets or micro-credit mechanisms for domestic investments. Cost recovery systems and user charges should not, however, be a barrier to poor peoples' access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
- Implementation of the Monterrey consensus, taking due account of HIPC issue, remains crucial both for increasing and improving efficiency of donor funding. Improving donor co-ordination through a lead country approach should be promoted where appropriate. Increasing catalytic and leverage effect of ODA through existing and innovative funding mechanisms and simplifying ODA allocation should be considered.
- Public and private investments and access to local capital markets should be encouraged by developing enabling environment for investments. Developing and making accessible credit guarantees and risk mitigation mechanisms and developing mechanisms such as blended finance options, investment planning, transparent procurement processes and best practice networks, to encourage private sector engagement and investment are also needed. The stimulation of investment should also be focused on the areas of greater need and in particular Africa. Partnerships combining public and private funding with a view to achieving the MDGs and JPoI objectives should be encouraged.