

VII. RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES: THE WAY FORWARD

35. Ministers identified a number of challenges that need to be addressed in the course of the policy year in an effective follow-up of CSD-12 consistent with the programme of work adopted at CSD-11 with a view to strengthening implementation to meet the agreed goals and targets in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, including:

(a) Mobilizing resources from all sources – international, regional, national and local, public and private – to meet the MDGs and JPOI goals and targets;

(b) Including water, sanitation and human settlements in NSDSs and PRSPs, and ensuring that NSSD and PRSP processes are inclusive and nationally driven and that their implementation is monitored;

(c) Strengthening governance at all levels to ensure proper and efficient use of scarce resources;

(d) Improving inter-agency cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination among international organizations in accordance with their mandates and JPOI, as well cross-sectoral cooperation and donor coordination at the national level contributing to JPOI implementation;

(e) Enhancing the role of partnerships in mobilizing new and additional resources, and encouraging those that effectively contribute to meeting national needs;

(f) Building capacity for water management, sanitation and human settlements planning and development in developing countries, with financial and technical assistance from developed countries and international organizations. Capacity building at the local level is particularly important in view of the trend toward decentralization of service provision;

(g) Increasing the transfer of appropriate technologies and scientific and technical cooperation;

(h) Disseminating knowledge and experience, particularly on low-cost and locally adapted approaches and technologies, and scaling up successful experiences;

(i) Strengthening monitoring, assessment and reporting mechanisms to improve decision making and to enable measurement of progress toward targets, while recognizing the need to reduce the reporting burden;

(j) Addressing the special needs of Africa, SIDS and land-locked developing countries;

(k) Enhancing the roles and status of women, as participants and agents of change, and mainstreaming gender in planning, decision making and management;

(l) Accelerating implementation of commitments to develop IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005, addressing economic development, poverty reduction, environmental protection and sustainable consumption and production, including water efficiency in agriculture;

(m) Increasing recognition of the importance of sanitation and hygiene to health, poverty reduction and other aspects of sustainable development, as a basis for mobilizing public and private resources;

(n) Addressing the major challenges to urban planning and land-use management posed by rapid urbanization, and ensuring the effective participation of local authorities and communities, including the poor, in these processes;

(o) Improving the conditions in informal settlements, including through linking them to the broader urban and national economies, creating employment opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship among the poor, in particular for women.