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Major Groups Priorities for Action in Water, Sanitation and Human settlements**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation¹ and the decisions of the Eleventh Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development² called for strengthened involvement and enhanced participation of major groups in the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as well as in the implementation of Agenda 21³, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21⁴ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).
2. The Bureau of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) decided to continue to build on the participatory practices of previous sessions of the CSD, and CSD-12 in particular, as well as the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁵.

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** The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

Various entry points will be provided to major groups during both the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting and the CSD-13 itself, including interactive discussions, a dialogue session with Ministers at the high-level Segment, and the possibility to comment throughout the meetings as time permits.

3. The organisation of major groups' input and contributions to CSD-13 has been inspired by practices used in past CSD sessions through a self-selected multi-stakeholder "steering group" composed of organizing partners from network organizations representing the nine major groups⁶: These organizing partners are: the Women Environment and Development Organisation for women; the CSD Youth Caucus for youth and children; the CSD Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, the Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education and the Indigenous Environmental Network for indigenous people; the Sustainable Development Issues Network (through the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Third World Network and the Environment Liaison Centre International) for non-governmental organizations; ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability for local authorities; the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (through the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) for workers and trade unions; the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development for business and industry; the International Council for Science and the World Federation of Engineering Organisations for scientific and technological communities; the International Federation of Agricultural Producers for farmers. These organizing partners facilitated the preparation of the *major groups priorities for action* annexed to the present note.

4. This document builds on the major groups' discussion papers prepared for CSD-12, which provided major groups' overall views on the status of implementation of commitments made related to the three main issues on the agenda, and including reference to cross-sectoral themes, successes and challenges of implementation, and practical contributions⁷. Those papers also provided some case studies and examples of work underway through their own organizations to contribute to the implementation of the JPOI commitments related to water, sanitation and human settlements.
5. For the first time the major groups written inputs are compiled into this one document that outlines each sector's priorities for policy options and possible actions to overcome the constraints and obstacles and meet the challenges identified by CSD-12. While major groups concur on a number of issues, there are both significant differences in what they identify as needs to be filled and possible synergies to adopt.
6. The *major groups priorities for action* paper will provide a basis for major groups' contributions to the discussions on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation. It presents to the Commission various policy opinions and proposed solutions for policy makers' consideration in their deliberations and will serve as a starting point for their participation in the intergovernmental preparatory meeting and in the 13th Session of the CSD.

Annex

Contents:

Major Groups⁸’ Priorities for Action at CSD-13

- I. Women
- II. Children and youth:
- III. Indigenous People
- IV. Non-governmental Organisations
- V. Local Authorities
- VI. Workers and Trade Unions
- VII. Business and Industry
- VIII. Scientific and Technological community
- IX. Farmers

I. Women

Access to water and land: human rights

1. Although the access to safe drinking water and other resources has been recognized as a human right, implementation of this right has failed thus far, thereby negatively impacting women.
2. Create national frameworks (e.g., constitutional, legislative, regulatory) premised on access to water as a basic human right. National and local governments should assume responsibility for implementation.
3. Governments should ensure women's access to and ownership of land, as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). Constitutional and legal barriers that bar women from owning or inheriting land should be eliminated in order to ensure them adequate access to housing and water.
4. Women's rights to land, water and other natural resources should be incorporated into the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
5. Particularly in situations of conflicts and war, women's safe access to water, housing and sanitation should be ensured.

Private sector involvement in the water and sanitation sector

6. Liberalization of water markets is pushing large parts of the population further into poverty and into using unsafe sources of drinking water. Women are badly affected. Policies favouring privatization of public services create a lack of accountability and transparency.
7. Governments should recognize the negative impacts of water privatization on the livelihoods of poor and indigenous women. Therefore, water must be identified by all governments, private sector and all other stakeholders as a public good and human right and not a commodity to be traded on the open market. Water management must be for social needs and environmental sustainability rather than for short-term profit.
8. Governments should ensure safe, accessible and affordable drinking water supply (through, among other means, price regulation), sanitation and housing for all citizens, and financial support for the most disadvantaged groups in society such as single-parent households and households affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
9. Water supply should be explicitly excluded from 'environmental services' of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
10. Private sector involvement in water and sanitation provision should be governed by corporate accountability principles, and should adhere to ILO core labour standards.

Private/public partnerships must be subject to legal constraints and governmental oversight to ensure transparency, accountability, and fair and effective provision of services.

11. The private sector involved in water and sanitation should publicly disclose detailed information on operations, labour practices, and financial data including profit, average cost, capital expenditure and outstanding debts.

Financing

12. Less than 5% of the investments in public/private partnerships come from the private sector (CSD12). The idea that the private sector is the main source of financing to reach the MDGs is erroneous.

13. Establish public/public and NGO/public partnerships. Such partnerships should be formalized and core funding should be made available for women's NGOs to facilitate their meaningful contribution in all critical phases of policy, project design, and implementation.

14. More of the total funds must arrive at the local level to help empower women and other disadvantaged groups. These funds should include longer term financing, and flexible financing for cross-cutting issues.

15. Allocate funds and other resources to women's organizations to identify their own priorities to successfully address women's practical and strategic gender needs. These

organizations should serve as full partners—not just recipients—for water, sanitation and housing initiatives.

16. In order to meet MDG goals, sanitation must have a higher priority on the sustainable development agenda. Eco-sanitation and decentralized sewerage technologies should be enhanced and promoted.

Governance and gender mainstreaming

17. Though gender is a cross-cutting issue, as agreed at CSD11, it remains largely invisible in the documents and deliberations of the UN and other institutions dealing with sustainable development and natural resources management.

18. Equity, equality, transparency and accountability must be ruling principles for national and local governments delivering water and sanitation services, and guaranteeing sustainable livelihoods in human settlements.

19. Governments should advance implementation of all U.N. mandates referring to gender issues, including Agenda 21, Beijing Platform for Action, JPOI and CEDAW.

20. All institutions dealing with human settlements, water and sanitation should ensure that gender is a central factor in their policies, programs and budgets. They should use tools such as: sex-disaggregated data, gender analysis, gender responsive budgeting initiatives, gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems, and gender-sensitive indicators.

21. All public entities that deal with water, sanitation and human settlements should institute gender training and strengthen gender capacity, targeting senior managers, regular staff and personnel in charge of operations and maintenance.

22. Implementation of MDG 7 targets should be linked to the MDGs 1 and 3. Governments should integrate a gender perspective in their country reports on MDG7 performances. CSD should launch a gender strategy for implementing MDGs on water and sanitation.

23. Sanitation and water programs should provide public information on the management of waste of all kinds, including human, household, industrial, and agricultural waste.

Promoting women's participation and empowerment

24. Women must be involved as full partners in both assessing the impact of services on women and the poor, and in crafting a more pro-active approach that addresses women's needs as defined by women.

25. National and local governments must establish consultation and decision-making processes with stakeholders at all levels of policy and decision-making on water, sanitation and human settlements, involving particularly poor women, indigenous peoples, and other disadvantaged groups.

26. In all CSD activities, a gender balance is a prerequisite. Women must be supported to achieve equal representation (50%) at all levels and in every (inter)governmental process related to human settlements, water and sanitation.

27. Institutional expertise, resources and contacts must support women's grassroots initiatives in relation to water, sanitation, and housing. Solicit and validate the expertise, priorities and solutions of grassroots women's groups. Provide resources, including funding, to these organizations to enrich, expand and consolidate their knowledge and skill base.

28. Study and document the gender aspects of natural disasters and global climate and environmental change processes, involving local women as experts.

II. Children and Youth

Challenges

29. Reviewing the CSD 12 chairs report, the WSSD agreements and the Millennium declaration children and youth identify the following challenges in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements:

30. The governments, the United Nations and Donor agencies should recognize that there is a gap in institutional frameworks that provide funding and technical support to youth and community based groups. This gap exists in the criteria for funding allocations that seems to be

exclusive to most youth organizations at grassroots level, since they often only target well established and well recognized youth organizations.

31. The implementation oriented frameworks solely focus on funding large scale highly technical options instead of low-cost locally applicable, affordable and available technologies and community management approaches that allows to confront community challenges in water, sanitation and human settlements;

32. An integrated approach at all levels is lacking where all three themes are dealt with in a holistic approach with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

33. The continuous skepticism surrounding the empowerment of children and youth and their initiatives;

34. Communication on issues pertaining to water, sanitation and human settlements;

35. The human rights to adequate, affordable water, housing and sanitation are not fully respected.

In order to meet the WSSD agreements and Millennium Development Goals in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements we as children and youth identify the following priorities for action:

36. A participatory approach involving all stakeholders and ensuring good communication and coordination among all actors should be promoted so that development decisions reflect the concerns of all and so as to encourage cooperation between governmental, civil society and private sector activities where:

- a) All the relevant actors are involved in all levels of the project from planning; implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects;
- b) Different interests and responsibilities are acknowledged;
- c) Particular attention is paid to the central role and involvement of children and youth, women and community groups.

37. Children and youth participation should be facilitated and supported through the following methods:

- a) Building awareness and knowledge of children and youth on the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements through:
 - i. The implementation of Basic Education for All linked with poverty elimination and sustainable development strategies;
 - ii. Peer education of indigenous sustainable practices; these indigenous practices should be supported with adequate resources and their intellectual property rights fully respected and maintained;

- iii. Recognizing, embracing, strengthening and funding children and youth peer education through informal and non-formal structures; media and technology should be recognized as one of the crucial methods to support this;
 - iv. Reviewing the education curricula during the decade for education for sustainable development building the themes quality and critical thinking, life skills, water use, hygiene and sanitation into the curricula. This will lead to changing the mindset of children and youth all over the world;
 - v. Capacity building and training for teachers on sustainable development;
 - vi. The creation of jobs for youth in the all levels of the water and sanitation sector; these jobs should preferably be integrated into the water and sanitation sector;
 - vii. Mentorship programmes should be designed to boost the capacity of youth organizations to better coordinate their projects and utilise their funding to the maximum. This will demonstrate the commitment of government and donors not just to throw money at the problem but to constructively support grassroots initiatives.
- b) The establishment of youth councils and its counter parts;
- c) Technical, financial and political support should be given to local children and youth-spearheaded projects based on children and youth's own priorities recognizing that children and youth are a full partner;
- d) The involvement of community groups and the local private sector.

38. Acknowledging the human rights to adequate, affordable water, housing and sanitation.

Recommendation on the water theme

39. Water is a public good and not a commodity to be traded; the regulation, control and management must always remain within the public sector;

40. The UN and its agencies should monitor and regulate water processes to ensure that decisions (especially water privatization) is not prescribed by donors to recipient (poor) countries as conditionality for giving assistance;

41. Creative community water partnerships and traditional community specific water management systems should be studied and documented. Such partnerships should be examined to determine how such systems could be enhanced/ expanded as well as duplicated in other communities. This will ensure that local knowledge and resources are utilized and acknowledged;

42. Enhancing the role of (young) women in decision-making processes should go beyond the mere talk. It should be made mandatory for reports (national, regional and international) to specifically highlight the percentage of (young) women participants and their level of participation;

43. An international body should be created to which organizations, communities and local governments can, monitor, evaluate and report their concerns about activities of the corporations and governments in order to translate the lessons learned in policy.

Recommendations on the sanitation theme

44. The sanitation indicators & targets should be cited and re-affirmed;

45. Access to basic sanitation should become part of the poverty reduction strategy papers;

46. National governments should create an enabling environment that guarantees the participation of children and youth in development and implementation of basic sanitation;

47. National governments should support scaling up the WASH campaign, we as youth are willing to lead this campaign;

48. Region-based and cultural and gender sensitive approaches to basic sanitation should be recognized if existing and developed and implemented if not yet existing;

49. Basic sanitation should be present at every school as it is a pre-condition for education.

Recommendations on the human settlements theme

50. A gender-sensitive approach in the development and implementation of all policies, including housing policies;
51. The adoption of an integrated approach to the provision of water, electricity, sanitation, drainage, human health and solid waste management;
52. Appropriate implementation and monitoring of master plans for major towns where they exist, and preparation and implementation of new ones where they are non-existent or out of date;
53. Improved rural economies through the development of cottage and agro allied industries to create job opportunities for rural dwellers, and thereby stem the tide of rural-urban migration;
54. That at least 75 per cent of rural communities are provided with social amenities to stimulate and sustain self-reliant development to curb rural-urban migration;
55. The encouragement of private sector and community participation in activities relating to urban renewal, housing and infrastructure;
56. The establishment of a national human settlement data bank to provide baseline information that can be used to better plan for sustainable human settlements;
57. Ensuring low-income families access to and ownership of land;

58. There is a great need to upgrade squatter settlements through the provision of basic infrastructure and services. The beneficiary communities must have an active role in this. They must contribute in any way possible, and in fact they must be initiators of development. This will reduce donor dependency syndrome.

III. Indigenous People

Four key points

59. Indigenous peoples' interests on water and customary uses must be recognized by governments by ensuring that indigenous rights are enshrined in national legislation and policy.

60. Improved services for better water management means: improved water governance which ensures effective use of existing resources and the active participation of indigenous peoples and all stakeholders; a substantial increase in financing water infrastructure and targeted financing schemes; and mechanisms for empowerment and capacity building.

61. Effective development and management of water resources, efficient and equitable provision of water supply and sanitation services are essential for poverty reduction, ecosystem protection and sustainable growth.

62. Indigenous peoples and local communities must be active participants in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Implementation (JPOI) targets, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and planning and implementation of the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plans, the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) initiative and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

Human right to water

63. Governments should acknowledge the basic human right to water that the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC) affirmed in November 2002. Recognition of this right in national policy-making and legislation is critical to bring about fundamental approach to poverty eradication.

64. Human rights and environmental obligations of States must be complied with by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the General Agreement on Trade Services (GATS) and other regional and bilateral trade agreements.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

65. All countries should have IWRM processes completed or near completion by 2005.

66. Governments to recognize within many indigenous cultures, the women are often the caretakers and users of traditional water resource systems requiring the need for mainstreaming gender in IWRM planning, implementation and monitoring.

67. Implement an ecological approach that incorporates Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) principles of water management.

68. Integrate indigenous TEK principles of the sacred nature of water.

Human Settlement

69. Human settlement issues within urban areas and the needs of rural human settlements both deserve equitable attention.

70. Development of action plans on human settlements and implementation of integrated land use planning and IWRM plans must be strengthened to provide security of tenure and legal protection of indigenous peoples lands and territories.

71. Legal protection for indigenous peoples rights in development processes, planning and implementation of accessible water, sanitation, labor, and other infrastructure projects for human settlements are some of the outstanding obstacles that must be addressed.

72. Safeguards must be put in place to protect vulnerable and poor communities impacted by human settlement and involuntary resettlement, those whose well-being is closely linked to biodiversity and natural world integrity.

Water and Sanitation

73. Develop regional and global goals into realistic and measurable local and national targets for improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

74. Adopt strategies that explore alternatives to large-scale private sector systems and technologies by seeking innovations in formal or informal small-scale water system providers, intermediate technologies, indigenous knowledge and community-based approaches.

75. Developing and developed countries with indigenous tribal populations must develop and strengthen clear policies, targets, financing mechanisms and institutional frameworks to improve sanitation services and assure access to safe and adequate water supply to indigenous communities.

76. Water and sanitation services must be demand-responsive and people-oriented which requires the public sector and local government to plan, implement, maintain and own the system. Governments must commit to public sector delivery of water services.

77. In areas of Indigenous communities, mechanisms for the option for Indigenous peoples to control and manage their own water and sanitation systems must be provided.

Governance

78. Developing countries need to take primary responsibility for establishing good water governance and water management plans, and need to ensure that water is integrated into national poverty reduction strategies.

79. Governments must enhance the participation and mutual partnership of indigenous peoples, in all aspects of agricultural water use, development and management of water resources, development of water and sanitation services and to recognize indigenous peoples interests on water use, allocation and customary uses.

80. Governments, private sector, donors, financial institutions, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations must implement policies that require Indigenous people free prior and informed consent and consultation by cultural appropriate means in all decision-making activities and all matters, including partnerships. In many indigenous communities, collective decision-making enhances indigenous peoples' self-development.

Financing and Investments

81. Financial contributions need to be increased from all main sources, such as, national governments, donors, multilateral financing institutions, commercial lenders, private investors, voluntary donations and other sources, and made available to reach countries most in need for water supply and sanitation.

82. National and international capital should be available to local levels, sub-sovereigns and Indigenous peoples to finance small-scale appropriate technology water infrastructures and sanitation services.

83. International and domestic systems of restoration, financing, investments and compensation to be established in partnership with Indigenous peoples to restore the integrity of damaged watersheds and ecosystems.

Privatization and Commodification of Water

84. Water and water services must be kept out of the General Agreement on Trade Services (GATS), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other multi-lateral and regional trade agreements.

85. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), regional banks like the Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank must stop the imposition of water privatisation or 'full cost recovery' as a condition for new loans and renewal of loans of developing countries.

86. Indigenous interests and rights must be respected by international agreements on trade and investment.

Capacity Building

87. Capacity development is a main focus of water policies that needs to be amplified with more action and targets with particular emphasis on building capacities in indigenous and local communities.

88. Capacity building and appropriate technological transfer initiatives must be implemented that recognize indigenous traditional practices of water management which are dynamically regulated systems. Capacity building includes developing education programs on Indigenous TEK of water systems.

89. The importance of cultural diversity of water should be the guiding principles for the development of educational and capacity building initiatives and designing assessment and monitoring methods.

Government and Corporate Accountability

90. Political, technical and legal mechanisms on the national and international level be developed so that the States, private sector and international financial institutions could be held accountable for their actions or inactions that threaten the integrity of water systems.

Cross-Cutting Issues Related to Energy, Climate Change and Mineral Extraction

91. Governments, international financial institutions, bi-lateral donors, and the private sector should cease to promote water mega-projects without reference to international agreements and must always incorporate the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) into water and energy planning processes, including reparations.

92. It is imperative for States to fulfill the mandates of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. Because:

93. Weather changes are causing droughts, forest fires, flooding of lands and coastal areas and small island States, and the loss of snow cover, glaciers and ice conditions within the polar, arctic and mountain regions that comprise the biological integrity of the river systems, water basins and oceans.

94. Governments must call upon the World Bank Group to take the findings of its own World Bank Extractive Industries Review (EIR) very seriously and implement all the recommendations. A failure to implement the EIR recommendations will be regarded as a failure of the World Bank

to act in good faith with indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society, local authorities and all stakeholders. Because:

95. Mining and mineral extractive activities consume vast amounts of water resources, from aquifers, groundwater and surface water systems. Mining activities affect human and ecological health via water contamination from methods of extraction.

IV. Non-Governmental Organizations

96. Agendas and action programmes on water, sanitation and habitat, have been accepted in various international forums. In practice, however NGOs have evidence that in many countries:

- a) Participation is widely accepted but not adequately implemented;
- b) Fragmentation of responsibilities for water and sanitation between government agencies is very problematic;
- c) Community-based management is successful but not promoted;
- d) Prioritisation for the poor rarely occurs;
- e) Impacts on the environment are not considered - IWRM plans are missing;
- f) Insufficient consideration of cultural diversity and gender;
- g) Objectives don't link to local financing structures and capacities.

Thus, NGOs identify the following actions to achieve the goals of CSD13:

97. Governments significantly increase their political and financial commitment to the sector taking a poverty and rights-based approach with defined criteria for implementation.

98. Considering that access to sufficient water for basic human needs and housing are established human rights, incorporate them into national law, backed by specific measurable plans for implementation.

99. An integrated sector-wide approach becomes the basis to coordinate across government ministries, bringing together agencies responsible for water, sanitation, environment, health, agriculture and education, including the cross cutting theme “sustainable consumption and production” and involving all stakeholders.

100. IWRM is used for management and planning; providing a model for the long term environmental security of water resources, requiring a long-term political and technical push and to be operationalised locally.

101. Many community groups and NGOs are successfully managing local resources and are willing and able to do more to support actions, communicate impacts, local demands and knowledge. This valuable resource requires promotion and support by governments and access to information and decision making. Stakeholder-led platforms that monitor and discuss policies on water, sanitation, hygiene promotion and habitat have proven successful in many different contexts.

102. Develop culturally and gender sensitive approaches to sanitation; a major cause of poverty through ill-health.

103. Unresolved transboundary and local conflicts over quantity and quality of waters prevent access by people who need it to live. Responsibility for resolution must be addressed urgently at all levels.

The goals of CSD13 can only be delivered by governance structures that allow local communities to participate and provide a basis for equitable allocation of water. Strategic frameworks and delivery plans should include steps aimed at:

104. Ensuring the participation of local communities, farmers, business and NGOs in a multi-stakeholder framework where:

- a) All relevant actors are involved in planning, implementation, monitoring of projects/policies as equal partners from the outset;
- b) Different interests and responsibilities are acknowledged;
- c) Particular attention is paid to the involvement of community groups, women and children

105. Strengthening institutional capacities aimed at:

- a) Changing the mindset;
- b) Optimising the use of the knowledge of local communities and institutions;

c) Education and social marketing campaigns on sanitation, hygiene and wise use of water.

106. Setting up dialogues, networks and mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, aimed at sharing experiences, determine the lessons learned and translating them into policy.

107. Monitoring and reporting on progress, distinguishing between impacts according to different gender, ethnicity and cultures.

108. Infrastructure development is required, with the environmental and social sustainability principles respected, including:

- a) Recognition and implementation of existing safeguard policies for large scale infrastructure, such as the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams, as due diligence, by governments and financiers;
- b) Use full cost-benefit analysis to assess various options before implementation;
- c) Upscale the use of 'soft' engineering techniques for water resource management and work within natural systems.

109. Mobilising resources for long-term investment in the sectors requires actions at all levels, but heed the needs and desires of local stakeholders, don't make them pay for a service they can't afford or need.

110. Developed country governments to reverse declining levels of ODA to the sector and focus on countries most in need. Coordinate multilateral and bilateral programmes working on the same target group, and/or region.

111. Set up tariff structures for water use, but this must not prevent poor people's access to affordable services. Include methods for valuing their contributions "in kind" towards operation and maintenance. Water and related services must never be traded as a commodity.

112. Private sector participation is not the solution to the financial gap and must never be imposed as a condition of grants or loans. Water is a public good, therefore regulation of and control over water must always remain with the public sector.

113. Systemise the collection of accurate data for consolidation into national budgeting and planning, prioritising then needs of the poorest.

114. Build on the successful pilot cases of innovative mechanisms for paying for ecosystems services.

115. Increasing access to sanitation and hygiene promotion is problematic but there are many good examples to be adopted, such as:

- a) City-wide sanitation strategies with adapted solutions for whole population;
- b) social marketing and educational programs of hand-washing & hygiene;

- c) scaling up of the grass-roots led total sanitation campaign begun in South Asia and by WASH;
- d) supplying people with technology choices that accord to their needs and demands, including decentralised systems, eco-sanitation and dry toilets, and send information to help them choose.

116. Reform of out-dated laws in a participatory process is urgently needed, together with capacity building and training for all actors to comply with and monitor legislation, also:

- a) Legislate for IWRM and water efficiency strategies that conserve watersheds and guarantee equitable sharing of water between users, underpinned by an effective environmental regulatory framework;
- b) Provide land tenure for poor people in urban slums in particular improving the legal recognition of women's rights;
- c) Provide a legal framework for local municipalities and civil society groups to safeguard their rights, quality standards and affordability when third parties are involved in provision of water or housing;
- d) Undertake reforms to separate out the powers of water service providers and regulators which should always remain in public control;
- e) Recognise small-scale private sector water suppliers, within an environment where all service providers are regulated. New service providers can't be promoted without a resourced regulatory framework being in place;

- f) Regulate to prevent infill of water bodies from urban sprawl and depletion of the water table from mega-cities;
- g) UNEP and UN-HABITAT cooperate to provide capacity building and guidelines on urban management.

V. Local Authorities

117. Water, sanitation and human settlements are focal areas of Local Government action. In Johannesburg governments agreed to “*enhance the role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit and in strengthening the continuing support for Local Agenda 21 programmes and associated initiatives and partnerships*”. The policy recommendations of CSD-13 should further support these commitments.

Challenges for Local Government

118. Water and Sanitation

- a) Poor or non-existent local water governance;
- b) Lack of water and sanitation management tools;
- c) Poor access to finance for water and sanitation infrastructure and for capacity building;
- d) Poor understanding of the interlinkages of water and sanitation with gender issues, health, education, poverty and economy.

119. Human Settlements

- a) Rapid urbanization due to rural – urban migration;
- b) Unplanned ‘informal’ settlements;
- c) Poor planning regulation and building standards;
- d) Increasing homelessness, decline in investment in social housing;
- e) Regulatory gaps in land reform, housing, planning and building policies.

120. Local Government needs identified in the CSD-12 Chair’s report:

- a) Further decentralization of services and devolution of decision-making;
- b) Further involvement of local communities, especially women, in planning and policy making;
- c) Capacity building for local water governance to strengthen analysis and management of solutions;
- d) Understanding of partnerships as an effective implementation tool but not as a substitute for government leadership and action;
- e) Further mobilization of local finance and other resources (technical, human, etc.).

Strategies and Programs

121. Recommendations:

- a) Local to national links - to ensure a coherent approach, national poverty reduction and sustainable development plans should better reflect local priorities, e.g., through supporting local strategies and sub-national processes;
- b) Strengthening of the Local Government level - capacity building programs for local decision-makers and municipal staff are needed to support local strategic approaches, including through national Local Government associations and networks of municipalities.

Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Policies - a framework for decentralisation and subsidiarity

122. *“Decentralised governance for development (DGD) is a key area of democratic governance which is crucial to attaining human development and the MDGs”* (UNDP 2004). Principles of “Good Urban Governance” are *sustainability, subsidiarity, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship, and security* (UN-Habitat). These principles should be further supported by member states.

123. Recommendations:

- a) Decentralization of both regulatory powers (ability to enforce local guidelines, policies, and create revenue through taxation and fees) and resources (finance, technical, management and governance capacity);
- b) Involvement of the local level in national planning strategies and reporting;

- c) Land reforms to provide secure tenure, especially for the poorest.

Finance - enhanced local autonomy

124. Improving access to finance for targeted service provision requires increased financial autonomy of sub-national and local authorities. This is at the core of decentralization and subsidiarity. Financial autonomy can enable greater efficiency by reflecting local priorities better, and accountability through establishing closer relationships between service providers and recipients

125. Fiscal decentralization should be a core component of poverty reduction programs. To improve mechanisms for mobilizing local fiscal resources and local spending, local financial administrators must be trained in revenue generation and accountability. Such activities require additional resources from governments and external donors.

126. Recommendations:

- a) Development of tools and mechanisms (e.g., pooling of Local Government regionally to access funds jointly) to increase finance of local infrastructure (water, sanitation, housing, etc.);
- b) Access to finance locally and local revenue creation (e.g., capacity to raise taxes and fees);

- c) Sustainable consumption and production – national policies should be enacted and networks of municipalities encouraged to purchase goods and services (e.g., transport, shelter, water and sanitation delivery) that meet sustainability criteria.

Capacity building

127. Elected Local Government officials and municipal staff require capacity building in a number of areas to enable sustainable development locally. Support is needed through national Local Government associations, municipal networks and cooperation between cities, in addition to national and donor support.

128. Recommendations:

- a) Instituting good local water governance with human rights, sustainability and pro-poor orientation as the basis of any capacity building;
- b) Introduction of local government decision-making and management skills – enabling local politicians and officials to be effective managers of water, sanitation and human settlements in the short to long term;
- c) Targeted capacity building is needed for key local practitioners e.g., planners, environmental health officers, sanitation and waste service providers, financial administrators;

- d) Building skills for participatory approaches (civic dialogues, negotiation, conflict management, consensus building) to support active community involvement in local planning, decision-making and service delivery ;
- e) Information for decision-making – strengthening local capacity for data collection and analysis to enhance monitoring, reporting and decision making, also providing better information for national governments.

Recommended actions

129. Water and sanitation

- a) Good local water governance is key;
- b) Water financing – develop mechanisms to increase finance of local water and sanitation infrastructure. A thorough assessment of the recommendations made by the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure is urgently needed;
- c) Decentralization and Local Government engagement with other stakeholders has a direct impact on water governance. Building on lessons learned from Local Agenda 21 (LA21) participatory processes helps to address issues of gender and other inequalities;
- d) Capacity building of Local Government leaders is crucial to fully understand the implications of various options for service delivery, including privatization and partnerships;
- e) Affordable service provision – housing programs that help low-income households afford better provision of water and sanitation are essential;

- f) Tenure – inhabitants of informal settlements must be provided with tenure, allowing utilities to extend provision for piped water and sewer connections.

130. Human Settlements

- a) Informal and illegal settlements require basic services. Service delivery to these areas should therefore be a commitment by all stakeholders, including all levels of government;
- b) National housing standards need to be re-examined in regard to sustainability. National support is required to ensure that standards are applied;
- c) Local involvement is needed in national, multilateral and bilateral schemes to make housing affordable for all.

131. General actions

- a) Urban - rural links – national strategies need to foster dialogue and cooperation between urban and rural jurisdictions, and encourage greater regional coherence;
- b) Inter-municipal cooperation – governments and international agencies should encourage networking, technical exchanges and study visits which support local learning and capacity building for sustainable development. National, regional and international urban sustainability programs require additional support. More targeted information sharing is needed, enabling cities to learn from each other;
- c) Local action needs to be encouraged by governments and international agencies.

Workers and Trade Unions

132. The Workers and Trade Union Major Group ask country delegates to ensure that the following recommendations are reflected in text negotiated at CSD2005, as they grow out of outcomes contained in the Final Report of CSD2004:

133. **Outcome #1: Collaborative Initiatives to Strengthen Political Will and Coherency** in approaches to sustainable development by engaging trade unions and other civil society groups to raise political consciousness and engagement. Support the *Cardoso Report on UN Relations with Civil Society*.

134. CSD2004 Chairperson Brende noted a lack of political will and coherency at national and international levels, and Ministers agreed that more political commitment and strengthened governance are required at all levels to meet targets.

135. More information and engagement tools in civil society will provide political direction and support to politicians who support change, as well as an electorate more willing to make life-style changes and sacrifices.

136. **Outcome #2: Tools & Strategies to Support Democratic and Participatory Governance and Action** through the development of social indicators, country profiling and reporting within the framework of adopted country plans and strategies.

137. CSD 2004 recognised that strong institutions and good governance with participation of civil society are key to mobilizing investment, proper use of scarce government resources and service delivery to the poor, and cited a lack of complete, coherent information as a major obstacle to implementation of sustainable development.

138. At CSD 2005, Trade Unions will circulate initial results of a collaborative effort with other Groups to employ common indicators as the basis for country-by-country sustainable development profiles. (See CSD12 Profiles <http://www.tuac.org/statemen/communiq/kit-Count-profile.pdf>).

139. **Outcome #3: Access to Water, Sanitation and Habitation as Fundamental Human Rights.** CSD 2004 noted concerns by major groups that water is a fundamental right, not an economic good, requiring significant financial and human resources, as well as regulatory frameworks and public sector provision. It noted a lack of leadership by governments in the debate over privatization of water resource management and called for a clear distinction between water for basic human needs and water for economic uses as a basis for socially-balanced pricing in national plans and implementation strategies.

140. **Outcome #4: Partnerships that Support Public Ownership and Regulation.** UN partnerships must abide by UN principles and not pose as substitutes of vital human services. Promote more research on public/private partnerships (PPP's).

141. At CSD 2004, Major Groups asked that all UN-approved partnerships contribute to sustainable development, particularly in the social dimension. Principles in *UN General Assembly Resolution 58/129* call for joint decision-making, information-sharing and implementation, implying worker participation in workplace partnerships. Concern was expressed that some PPP's may belittle more than substitutes for government ownership or regulation of vital human services, and required more research on successes and failures of these experiments, as compared to public sector models.

142. The role of corporations must be clearly distinguished from those of government, and concrete measures adopted to evaluate and report in company performance in areas of social and environmental responsibility.

143. **Outcome #5: Worker and Trade Union Rights.** These are integral human rights, and encourage member states to ratify and implement applicable ILO Conventions.

144. Trade unions allow workers to defend their interests and take part in action for sustainable development in workplace and community. Not only are good industrial relations recognized in the *WSSD Declaration*; all member countries are bound by the *ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* -1998 (see: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.INDEXPAGE>). Failure to address widespread denial of trade union and worker rights indicates disconnections between Ministries that uphold the ILO principles and those Ministries that attend the CSD, with related incoherency in governance structures and policy implementation.

145. **Outcome #6: Decent Employment.** Encourage effective employment strategies as key to poverty, access and other problems encountered by the world today and provide leadership in the ‘jobs vs. environment’ debate.

146. CSD 2004 recognised the disproportionate effect that unsustainable patterns in water, sanitation and human settlement have on the poor, women and other vulnerable groups, and confirmed that Decent Employment is a key to access and other poverty solutions in these areas. It called for a clear alignment of national strategies to Millennium Development Goals through policy and action plans linking employment and poverty alleviation, with attention to the role communities and major groups could play.

147. CSD 2005 negotiated text must also support ‘just transition’ to protect the livelihood of workers in the course of change and win their support and their communities for sustainable development goals.

148. **Outcome #7: Workplace Focus to Change Production & Consumption Patterns.** Call for employer/trade union cooperation in joint workplaces assessment and action programmes as well as for supportive trade and investment frameworks.

149. CSD2004 linked unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in water, sanitation and human settlement to such cross-cutting issues as poverty eradication. CSD2005 must reinforce this focus and encourage countries to implement workplace strategies that

promote worker and trade union participation (see Outcome #5) for joint approaches to saving water, eliminating wastes and securing proper housing for communities. Make it standard practice for sourcing companies to require that suppliers and subcontractors in their supply chains respect these standards.

150. **Outcome #8: Occupational and Public Health Links** with attention to links between HIV/AIDS, economic opportunity and access to services in a strong public sector. Support the 28 April International Commemoration Day for Dead & Injured Workers.

151. CSD 2004 drew attention to connections between HIV/AIDS, economic opportunity and access to services in communities, as well as the urgency of addressing such 'tenure' issues as inheritance rights of women.

152. To recognize the plight of over 2.2 million workers who die due to unsustainable workplaces every year and the 160 million more suffer from work related diseases, CSD 2005 text should reinforce the WSSD link between occupational health and safety with public health analyses and programmes that build on links between workplace, public health and the environment.

153. **Outcome #9: More Inter-Agency & Inter-Governmental Cooperation.** Provide a clear mandate to multilateral institutions and instruments that focus on the social dimension. Continue efforts to redefine trade rules, investment frameworks and economic instruments to support sustainable development.

154. CSD 2004 reaffirmed the importance of inter-agency work, including IFI's, to achieve progress in water, sanitation and human settlement, under coordination of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. CSD2005 text must build on CSD2004 by encouraging investment frameworks that support national action and public sector provision by such bodies as the EU, OECD, ILO, UNEP and WHO.

VII. Business and Industry

Introduction – business action for water and sustainability

155. Business shares the concerns about the scale of the challenge of meeting the goals and targets for water, sanitation and human settlements agreed to in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration.

156. Business recognises, however, that to achieve the necessary rate of progress requires engagement of all sectors of society. Business can only operate effectively in a strong and stable legal, regulatory and economic context.

157. This document identifies priorities for action that will enable the business community to contribute more effectively through the following:

- a) Responsibilities for action;

- b) Unlocking finance;
- c) Catchment management and planning;
- d) Infrastructure and technology;
- e) Effective partnership building.

Responsibilities for action

158. Global targets for water; sanitation and human settlements must be broken down into country targets so that national governments and their partners can improve measurement, management and reporting of progress.

159. Governments and donor agencies should encourage an understanding of how water and sanitation contribute to economic development and improved health and education with an aim of raising the profile of water and sanitation priorities in national Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSPs).

160. A focus on improving hygiene education and developing appropriate sanitation facilities should be encouraged, as these steps will bring significant health benefits on a local level.

161. Land tenure issues need to be tackled to enable provision of improved water and sanitation services to those who most need it.

162. Devolution of water responsibilities to local authorities requires capacity building focused on contract negotiation and sustainable economic management. Government agencies and regulators need better training to oversee operator performance, irrespective of whether the operator is public, private or from the informal sector.

163. Businesses providing water services should encourage effective economic, quality and environmental regulation and conform to its requirements.

164. Water users require capacity building to engage in stakeholder consultations and to improve community water management. Particular emphasis should be given to the involvement on women, who are often responsible for domestic water management.

Unlocking finance

165. With the following enabling conditions in place, business recognizes the role of private sector financing alongside public sources of investment.

166. Governments and donor agencies should emphasize that access to financial resources goes hand in hand with good governance, by creating environments favorable to private investment, reducing risk through combating corruption and by providing credit support through grants, loans and/or guarantees.

167. Appropriate models for tariffs and taxes should be developed, including local community inputs regarding how they value water across different options for use. Civil society organizations should promote community engagement in this process. All models should allow government to protect the public interest and ensure that investors and service providers are fairly compensated for the services they provide.

168. Government and donor agencies should support innovative partnerships between local governments, the local and international private sector and local and international NGOs, allowing ODA to be used to initiate these shared risk models.

169. Donor agencies should streamline the process of releasing ODA marked for water and sanitation.

Catchment management and planning

170. States should implement IWRM programmes and promote harmonised data capture and management systems. States may require capacity building to manage the linkages between IWRM legislation, planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

171. Businesses should contribute to IWRM by taking a responsible approach to their impact on water throughout the life cycle of their products and processes. They should share their understanding of these impacts and how they can best be managed with local decision-makers.

Major water users should develop water management plans, with the input of appropriate stakeholders.

172. The potential implications of a changing climate should be taken into account by governments, business and civil society as they develop their action plans.

173. Governments, business and civil society should view water as a cyclical rather than a linear process, encouraging greater focus on the re-use of waste water.

174. Irrigation practices that use water inefficiently may need to be changed to allow other uses for the water, such as municipal supplies or protecting ecosystems.

175. The further development of full cost accounting should be encouraged, to understand the economic benefits derived from ecosystem services and to ensure that environmental costs and benefits of different water uses are fully accounted for.

176. Water treatment and sanitation facilities require significant energy inputs and should be planned in the context of utilizing or developing appropriate local energy sources, including the renewable electricity generation potential of the facilities themselves.

177. Water resources development and management should be planned for a hydrological unit such as a drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin. Transboundary cooperation should be actively encouraged.

178. States should ensure that catchment management plans prevent ecosystems being exploited beyond their natural capacities to recover.

179. Catchment management plans should consider the needs of all stakeholders (domestic, agricultural, industrial, urban and rural) and involve them in planning and decision making processes. Education and awareness raising should be encouraged to enable effective participation of stakeholders.

180. In both the developed and developing world, governments, business and civil society should work together to develop and implement education programmes to bring about a shift to more efficient water use in the domestic, agricultural and industrial sectors.

Infrastructure and technology

181. Governments, business and civil society should work in partnership to lever business resources to transfer knowledge and skills and to share technologies and co-operate to accelerate their dissemination. Partners should assist business to build local capacity to improve community water and sanitation facilities. Business will innovate to create adaptable, affordable and effective solutions, such as desalination and rainwater harvesting.

182. Wherever safe piped water supplies are unavailable, point-of-use water treatment and safe storage should be implemented immediately. Such solutions should not be seen as a

substitute for appropriate infrastructure that can provide substantial economic benefits and reliability of supply.

183. Multinational businesses should help build the capacity of local industry, including small water service providers, so that they can undertake operational, maintenance and renewal works, improving sustainable economic management through avoiding dependence on imported skills.

Effective partnership building

184. Public versus private delivery of services is not the issue. The provision of water and sanitation services is generally recognised as a public service, whether operated by the public or private sectors. Governments, donors and civil society should ensure that they support solutions that are both efficient and acceptable to the local community.

185. New management models based on clearly defined partnerships should be encouraged. These may include different combinations of local and international NGOs, businesses, public sector operators and local water sellers; fountain or well operators.

186. Much of the success of a partnership lies in a common commitment to understanding the challenge faced, building trust and solving problems together. Training on how to ensure successful partnerships should be encouraged for all participants.

Conclusion

187. It is vital that governments and all major groups recognise the enormous and very diverse contribution that business will make to the development of new and sustainable models for meeting the world's needs for water, sanitation and human settlement. They should actively seek the widest possible engagement from the business sector. The business sector is committed to positive engagement with all stakeholders to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

VIII. Scientific and Technological Communities

Need for better harnessing of science and technology

188. CSD-12 concluded that much better harnessing of science and technology will be an indispensable condition for meeting the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the recommendations in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) related to water, sanitation and human settlements.

189. Investments in science and technology continue to be inadequate, especially in developing countries where funding for research and development is often less than 0.5 percent of annual GDP. Investments in the natural, social, engineering and health science domains geared towards sustainable development are among the highest yielding investments that a nation can make.

190. The S&T community is committed to implementing necessary changes in the conduct of science and technology and to developing strong partnerships with other stakeholders in sustainable development. These changes include: making scientific research more policy relevant, integrating the environmental, social and economic pillars, following broad-based participatory approaches in defining a research agenda, and addressing a variety of geographic scales from local to global.

191. Based on the CSD-12 results, the Scientific and Technological Community, covering all science and technology domains, recommends the following:

Strengthening capacity to monitor freshwater and to develop integrated indicator sets

192. Given the widespread lack of reliable and easily accessible data on water resources, all countries to review and, in most cases, strengthen water related national data collection/ long-term monitoring networks, including data on water quality, needs, demands and supplies, and real-time data for flood and drought forecasting;

193. Strengthen the freshwater related components of existing global environmental observing systems and make these systems fully operational, including through enhanced support to the Integrated Global Observing Strategy and the newly launched Global Earth Observation System of Systems;

194. Undertake national and regional participatory integrated assessments on water, sanitation and human settlements issues; identify “hot spot” regions that are particularly vulnerable;

195. Review, develop further and apply respective integrated indicator sets for measuring trends of key indicators, and progress on goals and targets.

Building enhanced national and regional S&T capacity, with particular attention to developing countries

To achieve this goal the following is needed:

196. All countries to review and, in most cases, to increase significantly investments in research and development (R &D), including human and institutional S&T capacity building in the natural, social, engineering and health science domains, geared towards solving water, sanitation and human settlements problems;

197. There is a major need to bridge the North – South gap in scientific and technological capacity; developed countries and international organizations should support respective measures in those developing countries that lack this capacity;

198. Encourage reorientation of existing specialised training and retraining curricula to ensure skilled professionals, highly knowledgeable on how to advance towards sustainable development

goals in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements; provide enhanced support to such improved training facilities everywhere but in particular in developing countries;

199. Ensure high-priority attention to water, sanitation, and human settlements across formal and informal education in general at all levels, including in activities of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

200. Pay particular attention to education and training for women;

201. Review, develop further and apply more appropriate technologies (as outlined in document E/CN.17/2004/10.Add.3), with particular attention to developing countries and low-cost technologies. Enhanced North – South and South – South transfer of technologies should be supported.

Improving scientific knowledge and knowledge sharing

202. All countries to increase support to interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research involving the natural, social, engineering and health science domains, focused on sustainability issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements, with particular attention to research addressing the local context, and the interlinked socio-economic and bio-physical systems;

203. Enhance relevant international scientific cooperation activities, including support for established interdisciplinary programmes in this field, e.g., through the newly launched Global Water System Project;

204. Develop improved knowledge for adaptive management strategies and water governance regimes that reduce the vulnerability and increase the adaptive capacity of water systems at different scales;

205. Support activities aimed at improved knowledge sharing, e.g., through expanded networking and strengthening scientific and technological clearing house functions, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries;

206. Support efforts by the engineering community to enhance knowledge and local adaptation of clean and, whenever appropriate, traditional technologies. In many instances, traditional, culturally adapted, low-cost technologies offer viable solutions;

207. Support a strong and sound science and technology base for a ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, as called for in the JPOI, and with due attention to water, sanitation and human settlements.

Making scientists, engineers, educators and decision-makers better partners in addressing sustainable development issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements

208. The S&T community is committed to developing strong partnerships with other stakeholders concerned. Partnerships are required at local, national, regional and global levels with governments, the private sector, and all other major groups of civil society. Governments should support such partnerships and in general a better interaction of scientists, engineers and educators with decision makers and civil society groups;
209. Expand and strengthen innovative scientific and technological advisory instruments and processes at local, national, regional and global levels, including a screening of the scientific validity and robustness of different policy options;
210. Enhance specifically linkages between scientists, engineers and farmers to improve water management in agriculture, in particular by using an ecosystems approach;
211. Encourage the private sector to contribute to integrated water resource management by analysing how their own activities impact on water throughout the life cycle of their products and processes, and to share their knowledge widely in the scientific and technological community, as well as with decision makers at all levels;
212. Support partnerships to blend traditional and scientific knowledge related to water, sanitation and human settlements, in collaboration with the Indigenous People, Farmers, and Business & Industry Major Groups;

213. Support activities aimed at improved science education and communication for sustainable development and at accelerating the process of moving from knowledge and technology generation to their practical applications.

214. All of these issues have been extensively addressed in the CSD-12 Dialogue Paper by the Scientific and Technological Community (UN document E/CN.17/2004/10.Add.3) entitled “Harnessing Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements” which is available on the CSD website in the six UN conference languages.

IX. Farmers

Access to and Management of Freshwater Resources in Agriculture

An Alarming Situation

215. Agriculture is being called upon to double production capacity over the next 25 years, from essentially the same resource base, to feed an additional 1.5 billion people by 2025.

216. Agriculture already uses 70 per cent of freshwater resources, so farmers will have to use the best practices available to produce "more crop per drop".

217. Appropriate water and food strategies must be country, regional and local specific.

218. More particularly, they have to take into account the specific needs of the different user communities and find appropriate means to balance them off without putting any of them on the fringe of decision-making processes.

Main Causes of Water Shortage

219. Inefficient use of the water resource is often a consequence of:

- a) Weak infrastructure;
- b) Lack of a good functioning water authority with the right competencies;
- c) Poor maintenance of irrigation systems;
- d) Lack of incentives for efficient use of fresh water;
- e) Lacking drainage infrastructure or poor maintained drainage systems;
- f) Unsuitable crops which cause inefficiencies.

220. National and International water management schemes are often lacking.

221. Countries are not willing to reach agreements in the cross Border Rivers and aquifers.

222. Farmers and their organisations often lack participation and access to decision making pertaining to water issues they are not trusted enough or they do not have enough capacity to get involved actively.

Water for Agriculture as a Priority on National and Global Agendas

223. Water is necessary for food production, for health, and for the livelihoods of Millions of farm families. It is a public concern. Water is not a tradable good. Increased priority is needed for water for agriculture both at the national, regional and international levels.

224. Water security should be recognised as a key to poverty alleviation. Particular attention should be given to farmers and the rural population because they are the first victims of water problems in terms of quantity and quality.

225. IFAP calls on national governments to give priority to investment in water for agriculture and rural development as well as for the protection of the water resource in their national budgets. They must set clear priorities concerning water use.

226. While the quality of water is a prerequisite for sustainable development, its protection has to be shared by all stakeholders. Establishing voluntary agreements between local/regional authorities or water stations and the farmers, are important in this regard.

227. IFAP calls for appropriate mechanisms for technology transfer and locally-friendly, low-cost technology and make them available for farmers. National and international political commitment is essential to translate this into action and to ensure sustainability and equity of distribution of water resources.

228. IFAP urges relevant international organisations to include not only gender balance and indigenous peoples' rights, but also a requirement to engage with local farmers' organisations as partners in all stages of development projects.

229. IFAP favours water management strategies that put emphasis on stewardship programs for farmers who adapt their water management practices to meet environmental requirements.

230. IFAP urges the creation of a UN Convention on Water and Poverty including funding mechanisms.

231. IFAP recognises the need to create an international mechanism to discuss, regulate and arbitrate over the usages, abstraction of water, especially in regional shared basins.

232. IFAP calls for an integrated approach on the way to deal with water issues. National and regional water resource policies should be linked with other international agreements and processes related to environment, development, finance and trade.

Governance and Regulation

233. National governments are the guardians of the water resources. The principles of conservation, management and the use of water must be regulated by law. This includes access to water for everyone.

234. Farmers including women farmers need secure water supply rights and transparent legal frameworks taking into account local socio- economic, cultural and hydrological contexts.

235. National governments have different responsibilities:

- a) Set up a general framework with clear water policies and schemes through the establishment of a water code and a National Water Institution;
- b) Take stock of the actual availability and use of the water resource and identify best water use practices;
- c) Develop risk management tools for farmers;
- d) Set up clear priorities for the different uses of water resource.

236. While the private sector has a role in water delivery, it will not be cost-effective to do it in remote rural areas. This should be a government responsibility.

Towards an Integrated Water Management Approach

237. International basins cover 45% of the land surface of the Earth, 40% of the world's population and 80% of the global river flow. Promotion of international river basin cooperation through decentralised targeted action for each river basin with full recognition of all uses and users and consultation of all stakeholders is needed. This would avoid tensions between competing users and help increase efficiency of the water use.

238. The management of water should go beyond technical and economic aspects by including social aspects. Education and raising awareness help change basic attitudes to water.

239. Women farmers and young farmers need to be involved at all levels of decision making because they are responsible for the major part of food production in many developing countries.

240. Farmers' organisations need support –in particular public support- to build their capacities and gain the skills so that they are able to play their full role in water management and prioritisation through user groups or other consultation frameworks. Farmers should be members of water associations.

241. Linking water management policies with agricultural policies is essential. The creation of special national budget lines for the participation of farmers' organisations is needed.

Developing Partnerships as a Follow up to the WSSD and Millennium Development Goals

242. Developing public/private partnerships for water access doesn't mean total privatisation of the water resource. They should finance the working and maintenance of distribution networks.

243. Strengthening of water research and extension services through partnerships between researchers and farmers using appropriate technologies. Scientists must benefit from farmers'

traditional and indigenous knowledge, by involving them in the formulation of research projects to match their real needs.

244. There is a need for cooperation between donor agencies and the industry for transfer and adaptation of best technologies.

Using All Sources of Funding

245. IFAP calls for the mobilisation of all sources of funding and an increase of development assistance as a complement to domestic sources of funding.

246. IFAP calls for the achievement of the 0.7% target of GDP for ODA.

247. IFAP calls for an increased coordination of donors and international financial institutions to avoid resource duplication.

248. IFAP favours the creation of national international solidarity funds to support sustainable water management initiatives where farmers' organisations are systematically associated.

Notes

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29).

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁵ The multi-stakeholder participation in CSD sessions became a standard part of the official work programme of the Commission at its sixth session through the launch of the dialogue segment in response to a decision taken by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (June 1997) that the Commission should strengthen its interaction with representatives of major groups, *inter alia*, through greater and better use of focused dialogue sessions (resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 133 (e)). The dialogue segments launched in 1998 have since been recognized as a unique participatory model for effectively engaging major groups and Governments in a genuine dialogue on specific sustainable development issues.

⁶ Section 3 of Agenda 21 defines major groups as comprising women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

⁷ The Major groups' discussion papers for CSD-12 are contained in documents E/CN.17/2004/10, E/CN.17/2004/10/Add.1 through 9 and available on the Internet at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/csd_12/mgdiscussionpapers.htm.

⁸ This compilation has been prepared respectively by the Women Environment and Development Organisation for women; the CSD Youth Caucus for youth and children; the CSD Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, the Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education and the Indigenous Environmental Network for indigenous people; the Sustainable Development Issues Network (through the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Third World Network and the Environment Liaison Centre International) for non-governmental organizations; ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability for local authorities; the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (through the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) for workers and trade unions; the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development for business and industry; the International Council for Science and the World Federation of Engineering Organisations for scientific and technological communities; the International Federation of Agricultural Producers for farmers