

Emerging Issues and Future Challenges for the International Water and Sanitation Agenda

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Water and Climate Change

Governments should:

- Develop Adaptation Plans of Action to incorporate sustainable water management, national and transboundary contingency plans, climate proofing and new infrastructure where necessary.
- Incorporate assessment of climate change impacts in National Water Policy and/or Management Plans (including IWRM plans)
- Scale up investment to build resilience to climate variability and change.

Water and Climate Change

Governments should:

- Increase support to and enhance relationships with metrological institutions to gain state-level and basin level data and statistics
- Strengthen international cooperation on the sharing of hydrological data, in accordance with WMO Resolution 25
- Provide training on climate change risk assessment to all water management practitioners

Water and Climate Change

Governments should further:

- Earmark funds for the development of institutions for disaster risk management
- Commit funds to a global Water and Climate Change Impact Assessment Conference
- Prioritise climate change adaptation in national financial strategies and
- Reassert as donors their commitments to financing for climate change adaptation according to the Kyoto Protocol

Right to Access to Water and Sanitation

Governments should:

- Incorporate right to access to safe drinking water and sanitation into national law
- Take note of CESCR General Comment 15 and the recommendations outlined in the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Support the work of Independent Expert on HRs obligations for drinking water and sanitation

Right to Access to Water and Sanitation

- CSD should call upon the international community to develop more robust indicators and guidelines as what the right to access to sanitation entails
- The relationship between human rights obligations relating to water for agriculture and industrial processes as well as the concept of “environmental rights” should be further discussed and investigated

Virtual Water

- Inventor of the Virtual Water Concept Prof. John Anthony Allan from King's College London to receive the 2008 Stockholm Water Prize
- measures how water is embedded in the production and trade of food and consumer products
- a cup of coffee takes 140 liters of water to grow, produce, package and ship the beans
- has major impacts on global trade policy and research, especially in water-scarce regions

Virtual Water

Governments should:

- Develop recommendations for a standardized methodology for assessing water footprints and virtual water use
- Identify means to develop an online resource providing detailed information on agreed standards, available tools, information and research
- Support Capacity-building to provide information and training on standards for assessing water footprints and virtual water, and the implications of this for virtual water trading

Virtual Water

CSD could call governments to:

- Agree to set up a global working group to conduct further research and report to the CSD in 2012
- Identify means for setting up an intergovernmental framework negotiating process which would be informed by the latest research to make binding international agreements on virtual water trading, and allocate responsibility for its administration and scrutiny accordingly

Transboundary Waters

Governments should:

- Recognise cooperation between watercourse states as necessary to foster peace, stability and sustainable development
- Recognize challenge of freshwater governance in international watercourses
- Evaluate the role of the UN Watercourses Convention role in adding value to their existing watercourse agreements and arrangements

Transboundary Waters

Governments should:

- Adopt new or revised watercourse agreements or arrangements, taking into account the UN Watercourses Convention, and establish joint water bodies, as appropriate
- Strengthen ongoing discussions on transboundary water issues, seeking to set up basin-wide dialogues and watercourse agreements
- Promote and engage in the adoption of regional water frameworks

Transboundary Waters

Governments should:

- Emphasise participatory processes of dialogue
- Develop joint financing schemes
- Set up national or cross-border research and monitoring projects and plans and share hydrological and other relevant information, in accordance with WMO Resolution 25 on Free and Open Exchange of Data