



Administrative Committee on Coordination

Advanced unedited version

Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development

Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its twenty-second session

(WMO Headquarters, Geneva, 24-28 September 2001)

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I. Introduction and organisational matters (agenda items 1-4)

1. The Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources (ACC/SWR) held its twenty-second session at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, from 24 to 28 September 2001. The session was opened by Mr. Jarraud, Deputy Secretary-General, WMO. He welcomed the members and expressed appreciation of the work of the ACC/SWR and stressed the importance of inter-agency cooperation. The agenda for the session is contained in annex I, the list of documents in annex II and the list of participants in annex III.
2. Mr. Arthur Askew (WMO) presided over the twenty-second session with the support of Mr. Manuel Dengo (DESA) as Secretary. The Chairman, on behalf of the ACC/SWR members, expressed appreciation to WMO for hosting the twenty-second session. Mr. Omar Touqan, ESCWA, was elected Vice-Chair of the 22nd session of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee also adopted the agenda and proposed organization of work for the session.
3. Elections of Chairman and Vice-chairman for the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Subcommittee were held. Mr. Pradeep Aggarwal, IAEA, was elected Chairman and Mr. Rainer Enderlein, ECE, was elected Vice-chairman.

II. Matters related to the Commission on Sustainable Development

A. Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (agenda item 5)

4. The Secretary informed the meeting on the further preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, 26 August -4 September 2002. Some members expressed concern that the preparations so far had not been visible enough and thus it had been difficult for United Nations agencies to provide substantive and other inputs. The Subcommittee discussed inter-agency preparations for the WSSD and noted that the WWAP/WWDR input to the WSSD will be a main contribution in the water resources area.
5. In connection with the WSSD and its preparatory meetings, some members viewed it as important to provide various side-events to increase the visibility of water resources issues. To be able to make an impact on the outcomes of the WSSD, several members pointed out that it was key to influence political levels as well as mobilising the various agency constituencies. Many members also saw it as important to convey to the WSSD the Millennium Summit water resources objectives to strengthen the political commitment to halve the number of people without adequate access to water supply by 2015 and to stop the unsustainable exploitation of surface and groundwater resources.
6. Many members viewed it as important that the key water resources messages are contained in the main Secretary-General's report to the WSSD. The Subcommittee decided to put together a brief and concise document on future water challenges that should: 1) feed into the main Secretary-General's report to the WSSD; 2) be used by the Subcommittee agencies to

present coherently future water resources challenges to their respective constituencies; and 3) be utilised as an input to the brochure on the International Year of Freshwater 2003. See annex VI.

B. Preparations for the World Water assessment Programme and the World Water Development Report (WWAP/WWDR) (agenda item 6)

The WWAP Secretariat informed the meeting on the status and further preparations for the WWAP/WWDR. The meeting was also apprised on the current status of the work on water indicators, progress with which had so far been slow. A brief presentation was made of the draft chapters of the "Rio +10 papers" as input for further discussions. Several agencies offered their continuing contribution to the various chapters and case studies. Some members noted that isotope hydrology should be included in the report. It was also mentioned that "the road from Dublin to Bonn" should be reflected and reviewed, as well as the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

7. Habitat indicated that urban water resources issues were not visible enough in the draft documents of the WWDR. After discussions on how urban water resources issues could be better reflected, the Subcommittee agreed to add Water for Cities as an eleventh challenge area in the WWDR programme of work. It also requested the WWAP secretariat and Habitat to work out modalities on a bilateral basis of how the Water for Cities challenge should be phased into the WWDR. Habitat offered to provide resources in this regard and it was decided that Habitat should second a person to the WWAP secretariat.

8. As a part of the activities for the International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn, 3-7 December 2001, the Subcommittee agreed to present an issue paper based, inter alia, on the draft policy parts of the WWDR (maximum 25 pages). It should be structured and presented in a manner that attracts political and media attention. A draft of the issue paper will be circulated by the WWAP secretariat to the members before the end of October. The members will be given no more than 10 days to provide comments.

9. The Subcommittee discussed the periodic publication of the WWDR. The members held the view that future editions of WWDR, beyond 2003, could be launched in connection with the World Water Day celebration at future World Water Fora. The Subcommittee agreed to publish the WWDR every third year. The meeting recalled that the first issue of the WWDR will be published in 2003.

10. The meeting agreed that the first issue of the WWDR will be general and not specific for any region. With a view to covering various regions, it was decided that there should be a geographic focus in media events and other WWDR activities in relation to the WSSD (Africa) and the 3rd World Water Forum in 2003 (Asia). It was recalled that WWDR will be a major input to the 3rd World Water Forum.

11. In its discussions on future funding strategies for the WWDR/WWAP, the Subcommittee decided to approach donors in a united way under the WWAP umbrella. As part of a funding strategy, UNU offered to compile UN agency contributions to WWAP that have been provided

so far. It was also agreed that the WWAP Secretariat should continue to explore possible sources of funding for this programme.

12. The Subcommittee recognized the high level of inter-agency cooperation that had been attained through the WWAP/WWDR process. The membership emphasised the importance of further developing the identity of WWAP/WWDR as a UN system wide activity. One manner would be for WWAP/WWDR to have an independent web-address. The Subcommittee commended the WWAP Secretariat for the work done so far.

13. The meeting recommended that close cooperation be established between WWAP/WWDR and GIWA. It was recognized that GIWA could contribute with case studies to the WWAP/WWDR, in accordance with the WWAP/WWDR methodology.

III. Conclusions reached and summary discussions of other matters

A. Groundwater assessment and management (agenda item 8f)

14. Several documents were provided as background papers for this agenda item and they were the basis for extensive discussions. The members deliberated on groundwater problems and possible management solutions. It was seen as important to identify and close groundwater management gaps. Groundwater institutions and overall governance structures were seen as important components to include and deal with in terms of improving groundwater management. Lack of adequate groundwater data was cited by many as a particular problem. In this respect, many members maintained that transboundary aquifers and their sound management would require adequate and comprehensive data. Many members noted that there are currently very weak international institutions engaged in shared groundwater resources. Some members pointed out the importance of taking a holistic integrated approach to groundwater and also include surface water. Some members also recommended a focus on shallow groundwater in rural and urban areas. The members noted the continued need to involve technical experts in the work of the Subcommittee. They also stressed the importance of getting key groundwater management messages across to a broader audience.

15. The Subcommittee agreed to continue work on a document based on the report prepared by FAO, UNESCO and UNDESA, with the purpose of publicising it and making it available on agency web-sites. The Subcommittee was of the view that the report should contain strategic issues and priority areas for action. Information on agency programmes should not appear in the body of the report. In case it is needed, agency programmes could be summarised in an annex to the report.

16. After extensive deliberations on the needs to strengthen strategic inter-agency collaboration on groundwater management, the Subcommittee decided to set up an inter-agency working group on groundwater management led by FAO, UNESCO, IAEA, UNEP and UNDESA. The other members of the group should consist of those agencies providing comments on the report or in other ways demonstrating an interest to contribute. It was decided

that this group should coordinate and link its work with WWAP/WWDR. The group should report back on its progress to the twenty-third session of the Subcommittee. See annex V for the terms of reference for the Inter-agency Working Group on Groundwater Management.

B. Activities related to preventing the use of arsenic contaminated groundwater
(agenda item 9a)

17. The Subcommittee was apprised of the outcomes of the IAEA/World Bank (Dhaka Office) and IAEA/WHO collaborative efforts in Bangladesh on characterizing deep aquifer hydrology and on the assessment of the quality of arsenic analytical data. These efforts were initiated in response to the decisions taken at the 19th session of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee appreciated the work done by the agencies involved and recommended that such collaborations should be sustained and strengthened to the extent possible.

18. The Subcommittee was briefed on the outcomes of the ESCAP/UNICEF/WHO expert group meeting on Geology and Health: Solving the Arsenic Crisis in Asia and the Pacific Region. The report of the meeting and its recommendations were thoroughly discussed and appreciated by the membership.

19. The Subcommittee recommended that a centre for collection and exchange of information be set up with relevant stakeholders and that ESCAP could initially host a regional centre within a global context. It was agreed that ESCAP and WHO, in discussions with UNICEF and IAEA, should follow up on this item.

20. WHO briefed the meeting on its work on the system-wide synthesis report on arsenic in drinking water. Progress in the preparation of this had previously been reported to the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Subcommittee. Under the coordination of WHO, UNICEF, UNIDO, IAEA and the World Bank have participated actively in developing the report. The draft text had been disseminated for comments through various media. The draft text of the synthesis report is available at the WHO web-site: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/Arsenic/ArsenicUNReptoc.htm. The deadline for comments is end 2001. Arrangements are in place to proceed with final publication of the report. It was agreed that the foreword to the report should be signed at the highest possible level, giving recognition to those agencies that had taken an active part in its production. The Secretary of the Subcommittee was requested to explore possibilities that the report be signed by the United Nations Secretary-General. If this was not possible, the Director General of WHO should be asked to sign on behalf of all agencies concerned.

C. Regional activities (agenda item 8a)

21. A half-day seminar was devoted to discussions on the ECE experience: Developing and implementing legal water resources instruments and their potential application in various regions. Two papers prepared by ECE were placed before the Subcommittee. ECE apprised the meeting on the making and principles of the 1992 ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The Convention entered into force 1996. As of August 2001, 33 countries and the European Community are parties to the Convention.

ECE also apprised the membership on the upcoming Second International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe, Miedzydroje, Poland, 21-24 April 2002.

22. The Convention is intended to strengthen local, national and regional measures to protect and use transboundary surface and groundwater in an ecologically sound way. The precautionary principle and the polluter-pays principle have been recognised as important tools to implement the prevention, control and reduction of water pollution. In the ensuing discussions, the membership discussed how to make use of ECE experiences. Many members acknowledged that ECE has got a different role and mandate as compared to other regional commissions. Some members noted that there is a specific political setting in Europe as compared to other regions and specific problems may require tailor-made solutions rather than copying from readily available experiences. The membership appreciated ECE's long-term commitment and work in the area of shared water resources.

23. UNIDO advised that they were working on a Mekong River concept paper to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The members were invited to provide inputs to this.

D. Water supply and sanitation (agenda items 8c and 9b)

24. As part of a special session on Approaches to sanitation and re-use, various sanitation approaches were debated. The Subcommittee regretted that WSSCC and UNICEF were not able to participate in this session. WHO apprised the meeting on the links between health and sanitation, environment and sanitation and food and agriculture and sanitation. It was noted that these issues could be addressed in various ways, such as ecological sanitation, wastewater re-use and alternative institutional ways of providing sanitation services.

25. Some members noted that many developing countries have neither the financial capacity nor the required water resources to develop more conventional water-borne large-scale sanitation systems. In this regard, low cost sanitation systems constitute an alternative way of providing services. The membership pointed out that social dimensions are often lacking in sanitation studies. More efforts should be put into how people are coping with inadequate sanitation. The livelihood approach, linked to poverty, was seen as useful to studying social dimensions and impacts. It was noted that increased knowledge on social dimensions and impacts could unlock more funding for the sanitation sector. In this regard, it was seen as important to sensitise and increase national resources in particular, as well as mobilising increased donor support.

26. UNEP apprised the meeting on the first inter-governmental review meeting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities that will take place in Montreal, Canada, 26-30 November 2001. This meeting will discuss a strategic plan on municipal waste data, prepared by the GPA office in collaboration with WHO, Habitat and the WSSCC. A document on this topic has been drafted, as guidance to the implementation of the Action Plan, containing key principles and checklists. These key principles will be further discussed at a number of meetings under the

UNEP Regional Seas Programme. The Subcommittee members were invited to provide comments on the Action Plan, in particular the key principles.

27. The Subcommittee expressed concern that sanitation has a very low priority for political decision-makers. The members noted that it would be useful to make practical demonstrations on the use of waste and drainage water technologies at the field-level to sensitise decision-makers on sanitation issues. In this regard, it was noted that the issue of the use of waste and drainage water should be strongly linked to health issues.

28. The Subcommittee recommended that a UN system-wide initiative be undertaken at the field level to demonstrate available water technologies on the use of waste and drainage water. This can be a useful tool for promoting the use of waste and drainage water technologies. WHO noted that they were engaged in initial discussions concerning the development of a general comment on the right to water and supportive materials as an input to the International Year of Freshwater 2003. The meeting supported this action and WHO offered to follow up on this and inform and involve the Subcommittee membership.

29. As a follow-up to the discussions, the Subcommittee agreed that the issue of the use of waste and drainage water needs to be given more attention. It decided to explore the possibilities of formulating a common position on approaches to the use of waste and drainage water. The Subcommittee welcomed the WHO initiative as the focal point to review and compile existing guidelines and other work in this field prepared by different UN agencies and bodies.

30. WHO apprised the meeting on the Sanitation Connection, which is an inter-net based information clearing-house: www.sanicon.net. It is a partnership led by UNEP/GPA, WHO, IWA, WB/WSP and WSSCC, with contributions from numerous additional agencies and organisation within or outside the United Nations system.

31. As an outcome of its discussions on water supply and sanitation, the Subcommittee recognised the very low level of water resources development, access to sanitation and potable water, and acreage of irrigated agriculture in Africa. The particular situation in Africa, as expressed in the Africa Water Vision 2025, is that most investments in the social sector are almost totally dependent on external grants and loans. The need for sustainable financing for implementing integrated water resources management strategies is widely recognised as one of the main constraints in achieving the targets of the African Water Vision 2025. The Subcommittee noted that the evolution of the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative and consequent ongoing Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP) at national level, presents a unique opportunity for achieving sustainable financing of water resources development in Africa. The necessity of sensitising policy-makers at the highest level to place integrated water resources management implementation as a high priority in the PRSP process was recognised.

32. The Subcommittee decided to endorse the initiative of the regional water coordinating bodies, in particular the Inter-Agency Group on Water in Africa (IGWA) to develop tailor-made advocacy tools and activities, in coordination with other initiatives, such as the UNSIA, to raise the priority level of water in the PRSP process.

E. Other issues related to Water supply and sanitation (agenda item 9c)

33. In the light of the heightened threat of terrorism following from the events of 11 September 2001, which includes a threat to water supply systems, the Subcommittee discussed what role the UN system may play in this regard.

34. Several participants brought up the need of addressing water-related emergency situations, such as the failure of man-made water control structures due to accidental or deliberate acts. It was agreed that while contingency plans to deal with those situations exist in and between some countries, a large number of Member States have still not developed comprehensive approaches to mitigate the water-related consequences of man-made disasters.

35. Responses to these phenomena could be envisaged on two different time scales. Firstly, response strategies are needed for specific reaction immediately after the disaster occurs, such as in the case of a dam break, accidental pollution of highly toxic agents or a nuclear power plant accident. Secondly, there is also a need to develop more general long-term response strategies and policies. These include, *inter alia*, the establishment of vulnerability assessment programmes, as well as the launching of appropriate training and educational programmes. The meeting decided to consider at its next session whether there is a need for an inter-agency programme on the integrated management of water-related consequences of man-made disasters. It was agreed that a half-day session should be devoted to discussions on man-made disasters at the next session of the Subcommittee.

36. The purpose is to establish inter-agency cooperation in this regard and also invite other relevant United Nations bodies to cooperate, for example DPKO, OCHA, UNHCR and DPA.

37. The Subcommittee recognised that there may be future urgency in the matter of man-made disasters. If the membership identifies a need for urgent coordinated action in this matter, they were requested to contact the Subcommittee Chairman and Secretary.

38. It was also agreed to investigate the ways in which the Subcommittee could make a technical contribution to those bodies of the United Nations system that are responsible for tackling this delicate problem.

39. The Subcommittee took note of the ongoing preparation of a guidance report on environmental health in emergencies and disasters, coordinated by WHO in cooperation with UNHCR, ICRC and ISDR.

F. International Year of Freshwater 2003 (agenda item 8g)

40. Resolution A/RES/55/196 invited the Subcommittee to serve as the coordinating entity of the International Year of Freshwater (IYFW) 2003. The Secretary apprised the meeting on the status of preparations for the IYFW 2003 as contained in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/189). The Report describes potential activities, initiatives and networking at the international, national and local levels and provides examples of fund-raising activities that could

be undertaken at international and national levels. It also explores issues that would require greater attention during the Year and proposes further steps to be taken in preparation for it.

41. Many members viewed the Year as an opportunity to following up the WSSD. The membership also recommended that various activities related to the publication of the WWDR be the main media event of the Year. Many members also expressed the view that the Year should provide an opportunity to initiate processes that advance issues of sustainable water resource development and management far beyond 2003. The Year should follow a participatory approach and involve the whole range of relevant stakeholders.

42. DESA and UNESCO indicated their readiness to coordinate the programme of activities for the Year on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee accepted with appreciation UNESCO's offer to provide the coordinating secretariat for this. The Subcommittee agreed that its Chairperson will also chair an organising committee for IYFW composed of United Nations agencies, the 3rd World Water Forum Secretariat and other interested partners. The Subcommittee also approved the logo for the International Year of Freshwater, as presented by the Secretary.

G. World Water Day (agenda item 8b)

43. WHO informed the meeting on the various activities that had been undertaken as part of World Water Day 2001: Water and Health. The main objectives of the Day were to; increase awareness on water and health issues, particularly among the general public and interest groups; push water-related health issues higher up on the global development agenda; re-position understanding of the role of WHO regarding water and health; and promote partnerships. Follow-ups extended throughout the year. The Subcommittee recognised the accomplishments of the World Water Day 2001 and thanked WHO in its capacity as the lead-agency for the Day.

44. IAEA briefed the meeting on the preparations for World Water Day 2002: Water and Development. It urged all members of the Subcommittee to actively participate and provide inputs to the Day. FAO offered to provide inputs to the web-site that IAEA was developing for the Day. Many other agencies expressed great interest and willingness to contribute to the World Water Day 2002. Some members pointed out that IAEA should explore how the Day could be linked to other events during 2002. WHO shared its experience and recommended that a lot of effort should be put into developing the web-site so that it would have an impact beyond the World Water Day 2002.

45. During the discussions, several members of the Subcommittee raised concern with respect to the narrow definition of sustainable development currently being used by some entities. These narrow definitions often refer only to the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The Subcommittee noted with concern that even within the UN system this unfortunate practice sometimes prevails and causes confusion. In its further preparations for the World Water Day 2002, IAEA was requested to stress that sustainable development integrates economic, social and environmental issues. In this regard, the members were requested to make contributions that cover various aspects of sustainable development.

46. At the Subcommittee's 21st session it had been agreed that the theme for the 2003 World Water Day would be: Water and Disasters. In light of the many water activities during 2003, such as the launching of WWDR, IYFW and the 3rd WWF, the Subcommittee decided to broaden the theme for the World Water Day 2003. The membership agreed to change the theme to: Water for the Future. The Subcommittee also agreed that strong links should be developed between the 2003 World Water Day events, IYFW, WWDR and the 3rd WWF. UNEP offered to investigate the possibility of its being the lead-agency for the 2003 World Water Day.

47. The Subcommittee decided to make Water and Disasters the theme of the World Water Day 2004, with ISDR and WMO as lead-agencies.

H. Review of the ACC subsidiary machinery (agenda item 8i)

48. The Subcommittee recalled its mandates from the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Subcommittee is currently the task manager for Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 on Freshwater. As requested by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Subcommittee is overseeing and coordinating the World Water Development Report and the World Water Assessment Programme. A comprehensive draft version of the first edition of the World Water Development Report will be presented to the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002. The first edition of the report will be published 2003 in conjunction with the International Year of Freshwater and the 3rd World Water Forum. The Subcommittee has also been requested by the General Assembly to serve as the coordinating entity for the International Year of Freshwater. In addition, follow-up to the Millennium Summit and the up-coming World Summit on Sustainable Development are important activities that lay ahead for the Subcommittee. With these and other activities as part of its functions, the Subcommittee membership expressed concern about any weakening of the coordinating role and status of the Subcommittee.

49. In view of the ongoing review process of the ACC's structure and subsidiary bodies, the Subcommittee stressed the need for a continued well-recognized and formal interagency coordination mechanism in the field of water resources linked to the ACC. The Subcommittee reiterated its unique mandate and extensive membership. The chair was invited to approach the UNDESA USG for clarification of the future of the ACC Subcommittee.

I. Other initiatives for joint action and recurrent issues (agenda items 8d, 8e, 8h, 8j)

50. The members addressed some of the challenges related to gender and water resources issues. The meeting was reminded of the decisions taken at its twenty-first session in this regard. At this session the members concluded that it would be particularly important to include gender dimensions in the WWDR/WWAP. It was also decided to include the gender dimension in all its discussions and activities.

51. The Subcommittee membership was informed of the decisions of the second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural resources for Development (CENRD) and took note of the ECOSOC decisions in this regard.

52. The meeting was apprised on various agency water resources management training and capacity building initiatives, such as Cap-Net, IW: Learn, the Virtual Water Learning Centre and WET. The Subcommittee recommended increased coordination efforts between various agency training and capacity building initiatives, with a view to enhancing synergy.

53. The meeting was informed of the current and future work of the World Commission on Dams (WCD), including the Dam Development Programme (DDP) that includes UNEP as a collaborator. The Subcommittee viewed it as important to support the follow-up process to the report of the WCD, particularly in reaching out to countries as an early entry point for future activities. Some members saw it as useful to hold more technical workshops as a part of the DDP and as follow-up to the WCD report.

J. Other matters (agenda item 10)

54. GEMS/Water is considered by the members of the Subcommittee as an important activity in water quality and all efforts should be made for its continuation. It was agreed to request UNEP to inform the Subcommittee on the decisions to be made in relation to GEMS/Water.

55. The membership was invited to provide contributions to the costed GPA Programme of Work 2002-2006. Each member agency was invited to advise UNEP of which of its ongoing and planned programme elements may be considered as contributing to the achievement of the GPA objectives in a spirit of UN system-wide cooperation.

56. In order to make the work of the Subcommittee more effective, the members were reminded of the agreement that any item tallied at its sessions should be introduced on the basis of short and concise background documents containing special proposals for action.

K. Date and place of the twenty-third session of the Subcommittee and provisional agenda for the twenty-third session (agenda item 11)

57. The members of the Subcommittee took note of UNESCO's invitation to host the twenty-third session of the Subcommittee. It was agreed that the next session should consist of three days sometime during the week 7-11 October 2002. It was recommended that the twenty-third session be held in Delft, The Netherlands, in conjunction with the UNESCO organised international conference: From Conflict to Cooperation - Challenges and Opportunities in Water Resources Management, 9-11 October 2002, IHE, Delft, The Netherlands. The Subcommittee also adopted the provisional agenda for its twenty-third session, as contained in annex IV.

IV. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its twenty-second session (agenda item 12)

58. The Subcommittee adopted the report of its twenty-second session. At the close of the meeting, the Vice Chairman, on behalf of the Subcommittee, expressed appreciation to WMO for having hosted the meeting and thanked the staff of WMO for their support and hospitality.

Annex I

Revised provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Election of Vice chairman for the twenty-second session.
4. Election of Chairman and Vice chairman for the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions.
5. Matters related to the Commission on Sustainable Development:
 - a. Briefing on the outcome of CSD-9 and the first preparatory meeting of CSD-10;
 - b. Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002.
6. World Water Development Report and World Water Assessment Programme:
 - a. WWDR work plan and progress;
 - b. Case studies;
 - c. WWAP work plan.
7. Collaboration with organizations and activities outside the UN system
8. Initiatives for joint action and recurrent issues:
 - a. Regional activities;
 - b. Public information with particular reference to the World Water Day;
 - c. Water quality and waste water initiatives;
 - d. Gender and water resources management;
 - e. Decisions regarding the CENRD report;
 - f. Groundwater management;
 - g. International Year of Freshwater 2003;
 - h. Water resources training and capacity building;
 - i. The review and restructuring of the ACC subsidiary machinery.
 - j. The Report of the World Commission on Dams and its follow up
9. Water Supply and sanitation:
 - a. Follow-up to activities related to the reduction of arsenic in drinking water;
 - b. Environmental sanitation and reuse initiatives;
 - c. Other issues related to water supply and sanitation.
10. Other matters
11. Provisional agenda, date and place for the twenty-third session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources.

12. Adoption of the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its twenty-second session.

Annex II

List of documentation

Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its twenty-first session (ACC/2000/18).

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/RES/55/196)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/56/189)

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Organizational session, 30 April – 2 May 2001 (A/56/19).

Report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development, Water: A key resource for sustainable development, 2001 (E/CN.17/2001/PC/17).

The ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources: Comments on the restructuring of the ACC subsidiary machinery, internal document circulated among ACC/SWR members.

Report of the IAMSD, 22-23 March 2001, New York. (ACC/2001/1).

Discussion papers:

IAEA/UNESCO planning group on Joint international isotopes in hydrology programme (JIHP), Concept paper, 6-8 April 2000, UNESCO, Paris.

Joint paper prepared by FAO, UNDESA and UNESCO with contributions from Marcus Moench (ISET) and IAH, Groundwater management: The distribution and dynamics of environmental and socio-economic factors and the search for practical management practices, Final draft 6 Sept. 2001.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Transboundary Aquifer systems, Discussion paper, 2001.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), International agreements: A platform for hydrological cooperation in Europe, Discussion paper, 2001.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), The ECE water convention: A powerful tool to prevent conflicts over transboundary waters, Discussion paper, 2001.

Annex III

List of participants

<i>Chairman:</i> Mr Arthur Askew	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i> Mr Omar Touqan	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
<i>Secretary:</i> Mr Manuel Dengo	Division for Sustainable Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

Mr Manuel Dengo	Division for Sustainable Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Mr Håkan Tropp	Division for Sustainable Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Ms Henrike Peichert	Division for Sustainable Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Mr Stephen Donkor	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Mr Rainer Enderlein	Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Mr W.P. Cofino	Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Mr David Jezeph	Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Mr Omar Touqan	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Mr Kalyan Ray	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)
Mr John Alexander Harding	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Mr Ingvar Andersson	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Mr Dik Tromp	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr Ralph Daley

United Nations University (UNU)

Specialized Agencies and related organizations

Mr Jacob Burke

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr Reto Florin

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr Pradeep Aggarwal

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Ms Joanne Ford

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Mr Andras Szöllösi-Nagy

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr Edward Clarence-Smith

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr Jamie Bartram

World Health Organization (WHO)

Mr Arthur Askew

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

UN system observers:

Mr Eduard Kudryavtsev

UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

Mr A. Nour

UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

Observers:

Ms Jennifer Francis

Gender and Water Alliance (GW Alliance)

Ms Dagmara Berbalk

Germany - International Conference on Freshwater

Mr John Rodda

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

Mr Elroy Bos,

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Mr Delmar Blasco

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

Mr Jeremy Bird, Director

World Commission on Dams Secretariat (WCD)

Mr Gordon Young

World Water Assessment Programme and World Water Development Report (WWAP/WWDR)

Mr François Guerquin,

Mr Toshio Okazumi

World Water Council (**WWC**)

3rd World Water Forum Secretariat (**3WWF**)

Provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Matters related to the Commission on Sustainable Development:
 - a) Briefing on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002;
 - b) Follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002.
4. World Water Development Report and World Water Assessment Programme:
 - a) WWDR work plan and progress;
 - b) Case studies;
 - c) WWAP work plan.
5. Collaboration with organizations and activities outside the UN system
6. Initiatives for joint action and recurrent issues:
 - a) Regional activities;
 - b) Public information with particular reference to the World Water Day;
 - c) Water quality and waste water initiatives;
 - d) Groundwater management;
 - e) International Year of Freshwater 2003;
 - f) The review and restructuring of the ACC subsidiary machinery;
 - g) Preparations for the 3rd World Water Forum 2003.
7. Water Supply and sanitation:
 - a) Follow-up to activities related to the reduction of arsenic in drinking water;
 - b) Environmental sanitation and reuse initiatives;
 - c) Other issues related to water supply and sanitation.
8. Other matters
9. Provisional agenda, date and place for the twenty-third session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources.
10. Adoption of the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on its twenty-third session.

Annex V

Terms of reference for the Inter-agency Working Group on Groundwater Management:

Introduction

The results of a brief UN agency overview of current groundwater issues, including governance, suggest two broad avenues for future work. The first involves the development of a detailed research programme to gather groundwater data directly from governments and other sources within key countries in order to develop a better – though still limited – picture of groundwater use and conditions. The second avenue for work focuses on the development of adaptive responses to water problems and policy approaches that reflect and respond to uncertainty, change and the absence of real understanding of systems and their interactions. In addition to the above two broad areas, the analysis in the report suggests a variety of key points of leverage for technical assistance organisations to assist in developing effective responses to emerging groundwater problems.

An inter-agency working group on groundwater management would allow the concerned UN agencies to focus efforts along these two courses to prepare a coherent technical message and develop mutually reinforcing and normative and operational programmes. Such an inter-agency group could be responsible for gathering the UN agency thinking (including that of their official partners in the CGIAR group and with international NGOs) and contributions in the areas outlined in the report. It is therefore proposed that a core group of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, together with key expert groups, for example IAH, develop a clear message on groundwater management for wide dissemination. This would be based on past and current experience with implementing groundwater management, including the specific problems of compiling the appropriate groundwater information for specific management purposes.

Targets:

1. International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn, 3-7 December 2001
2. World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 26 August - 4 September 2002
3. World Water Development Report and World Water Assessment Programme
4. The 3rd World Water Forum, March 2003

Proposed outputs:

- An authoritative UN system paper of no more than 30 pages to be published in an authoritative journal
- Summary input for ministerial statements e.g. the Bonn Conference
- A groundwater web portal to perpetuate the message
- Subsequent thematic reports as inputs to the WWDR and WWAP

Programme of work:

1. Prepare a revised draft of the existing paper in time for the International Conference on Freshwater (comments to FAO by 10 October 2001)
2. Prepare executive summary to feed into ministerial statement (20 October 2001)

3. Prepare a web portal – marketing the initiative hosted under the WWAP
4. Prepare thematic reports on specific themes, as required

Composition of the inter-agency/UN system group

FAO, UNDESA, IAEA and UNESCO are acting as lead agencies. Other agencies and GEMS/Water are welcome to participate.

Administration

FAO, UNDESA and UNESCO will support the activities of the group through their regular programme budgets and act as co-ordinators in cooperation. FAO offered to act as the post-box and clearing-house for the jointly produced documents. UNESCO will facilitate the interaction with IAH and the WWAP and also coordinate the scientific contributions. The bulk of the substantive work will need to be done through e-mail exchanges and opportunities to convene meetings at international events will be taken.

Annex VI

The Global Water Challenges

If the water resources management problems that are so evident in the world today cannot be resolved, then sustainable development will not be feasible. The world is facing water resources challenges of massive proportions. The use and competition for water have intensified in the last fifty years to the point where water shortages, water quality degradation and aquatic ecosystem destruction are seriously affecting economic growth and development and human and ecosystem health. This continues to raise fundamental issues of equitable and efficient allocation of water quantity and quality both within and between countries. Emerging water crises are complex and multifaceted. A number of inter-linked water governance challenges must be met, if sustainable water resources development and management is to be achieved.

Specific challenges

1. Meeting Basic Needs:

Over 2.4 billion people have no access to basic sanitation and over 2 billion people in 50 countries face water shortages. Contaminated water causes over 80% of all disease in the developing world, leading to millions of deaths. It is essential to provide access to safe and sufficient water supply and sanitation in urban and rural areas, essential for human health, food production and well-being, and to empower people, especially women, through a participatory process of water management.

2. Securing the Food Supply:

The global population is likely to grow by more than three billion by 2050, with 95 per cent of this increase in developing countries. This will place significant pressures on food production and thus water consumption in many regions, particularly in developing countries that are already water scarce and lack food security. With agriculture utilising well over two thirds of the world's water supplies, changes in farming and irrigation practices will be required to ensure the sustainable use of this resource. Maintaining adequate food production with a growing global population will require increasing the productivity of water.

3. Protecting Ecosystems:

Degradation of aquatic ecosystems and water quality is severe, widespread and growing. To ensure ecosystem integrity, water management must be sustainable and human behaviour must be supportive of nature, not disruptive. Integrated management and development of water resources requires the coordinated management of water, land and related resources, recognising the importance of both water quality and quantity. Basin-wide water resource management recognises ecosystems as the providers of essential services for human well being and economic development. A river basin management approach necessarily incorporates biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of other resources, such as land, mountains, forests and wetlands.

4. Sharing Water Resources:

Many watershed boundaries do not reflect socio-political boundaries. Nearly two thirds of the world's major rivers are shared by several states and over 300 rivers cross-national boundaries. Water should be a factor of dialogue among countries. Differing geographical availability of water, along with rising water demands and increasing threats to food security, is forcing ever more countries to look beyond their borders for reliable water supply. International cooperation on shared water resources is critical, especially in water scarce regions where the upstream and downstream impacts of consumption and pollution are magnified. Shared river basin and aquifer systems continue to present opportunities for cooperation and joint water resources development within, as well as between, countries. The application of integrated water resources management principles across shared water resources systems makes a good case for efficient and equitable water allocation and harmonisation of water governance systems.

5. Managing risks:

Hydrometeorological hazards are involved in some 70 percent of all natural disasters with droughts and floods affecting more people than all other hazards combined, by an order of magnitude. Society should expand its capacity to reduce the effects of floods and droughts through better risk management and water management, and through better integration of organizations that deal with disasters and water management.

Managing man-made and natural disaster risks requires that more emphasis be given to instituting measures in advance of hazard events that reduce losses or that increase readiness to react appropriately. Managing disasters by managing emergencies, without addressing the root causes, simply perpetuates the cycle of hazard events, damages and losses.

6. Valuing water resources and services:

Water has social, economic and environmental values and should therefore be managed so as to realise the most acceptable and sustainable combination of those values. The challenge involves sharing increasingly scarce water amongst the numerous sectors that demand water. It also involves equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion. The pricing of water services to reflect their cost of provision and the signalling of this value to users will be key in promoting demand management.

7. Governing Water Wisely

The establishment of appropriate institutional frameworks is essential for the promotion and implementation of integrated water resources management. Enhancing water governance institutions will be key in meeting basic human needs in potable water supply and sanitation, securing water for agricultural and industrial production and maintaining ecosystem integrity and services. In this regard, it is important to strengthen the enabling role of governments to enact and enforce water legislation and strengthen local water management and service capacities. Water governance institutions should define the most effective balance of administrative

measures and economic incentives to guide water users, including that polluters pay for the damage they cause. Innovative forms of partnerships between local and international private firms, cooperative societies, and governmental and non-governmental organizations can contribute to improving efficient and equitable water resources delivery to end-users.

8. Ensuring the Knowledge Base

Human and institutional capacity building is a major component in managing of water resources for future generations. The participation of people and communities, particularly those who are directly dependent on water for their livelihood and well-being, is important for effective and equitable water management.

Freshwater is highly variable in time and space. Its quantity, quality and sectoral allocation and use need to be coherently and continuously monitored and managed. The collection of hydrological, meteorological, hydrogeological, ecological and socio-economic information for water resources assessment and monitoring is essential for informed decision-making. Our knowledge of the basic processes governing the availability and quality of freshwater is far from complete, particularly in the face of the new challenges posed by climate change. Powerful analytical tools have been developed for studying both the natural and man-made aspects of water resource systems. These cannot be fully used, however, because of a lack of basic data resulting from the continual decline in national support for efforts to collect and distribute the necessary information.