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CSD NGO Consortium

Follow-up and Delivery of Outcomes

CSD-13: Specific Responsibilities and a new International Arrangement on Water and Sanitation

CSD-13 can boost the performance of the water sector to the levels required to reach international commitments on water and sanitation but only if:

- states take responsibility for specific coordinated actions at national levels to ensure that the outcomes of CSD-13 are implemented in a timely, transparent and coherent manner.
- accountable, transparent, and participatory UN-based international arrangements are established for coordination, follow-up, monitoring and reporting on progress with water and sanitation.

- agree to periodic reporting on progress made firstly to their own populations and also as part of international UN-based monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to monitor how progress on specific issues is progressing and to recommend new means to address emerging issues and barriers as they arise
- ensure that the outcomes of CSD-13 are used as bases for discussions at the 2005 June Financing for Development meeting and the September Millennium Declaration review summit
- support full civil society participation in the Millennium Declaration review process

Specific Responsibilities

There is an urgent need to ensure that the outcomes of CSD-13 translate into action on the ground.

At CSD-12, constraints and obstacles to the implementation of internationally agreed water, sanitation and human settlements commitments were identified. As Chair John Ashe has stated, *"the task of CSD-13 will be to map out a framework of policy options and actions to tackle these constraints and obstacles."* What is needed are arrangements – at national, regional and international levels - by which activities among states are coordinated and synergies are developed so that they can work together, rather than independently, to deliver sets of actions that are specific to the context of each country and enable real progress on water, sanitation and human settlements targets.

We urge states at CSD-13 to:

- agree to take on specific responsibilities to address the barriers and obstacles identified at CSD-12
- coordinate actions to tackle each country's set of obstacles and barriers identified at CSD-12

National Water Governance

A wide range of issues underpins the inadequacies in the drinking water and sanitation performance of many national water sectors. The demand for national governments to get to grips with these issues will only be stimulated when there is transparency regarding water needs, budgets, expenditure and results. People must have this information available to them in a timely and accessible manner.

International Water Governance

Discussions have highlighted several governance-related deficiencies in the implementation of international commitments regarding water, sanitation and human settlements issues. There is a need for:

- balanced integration of sustainable development concerns into international water and sanitation policy making and implementation activities
- co-ordination and integration among international processes and institutions
- democratization of international policy making and implementation arising from a lack of access to and effective participation in international

policy-making fora by vulnerable peoples and developing country governments

- better application and enforcement of internationally agreed commitments

CSD-13 provides an opportunity for states to ensure that its outcomes take effect through a new international arrangement on water and sanitation which addresses these issues through a centralised UN mechanism for policy integration, coordination, monitoring and reporting, and which enhances stakeholder participation and the application and enforcement of internationally agreed commitments.

The arrangement must be participatory, transparent and effective, with well-defined objectives, goals and mechanisms. It must also have an authoritative decision-making capability. Such an arrangement should focus on implementation issues and should not be dominated by policy-making or become the source of exhaustive, yet unimplemented, proposals for action.

On a procedural basis, a new international arrangement on water and sanitation must aim to:

- **coordinate and develop synergies between existing implementation mechanisms and among donors**
- **monitor implementation of internationally agreed water and sanitation commitments through periodic reporting by all implementation actors, working effectively with appropriate regional fora and institutions.**
- **provide specific recommendations for means for improved implementation at the national, regional and international levels**

The international arrangement on water must also ensure that key substantive issues do not fall between the gaps. These include the need for mechanisms that:

- **provide Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) processes and Water Efficiency Plans (WEP) with strong support, reporting, and monitoring tools**

- **facilitate donors in providing water and sanitation ODA to the least developed and low-income countries**
- **encourage the full valuation of ecosystems and the use of this information in land and water resource planning and management**
- **improve donor harmonisation with developing country water and sanitation plans**
- **increase donor spending to meet the MDG water and sanitation targets**
- **strengthen the water sector through integrated sector-wide approaches (SWAs)**

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