

CSD NGO Consortium

Chair's IPM Summary

CSD-13: The Need for Action-Oriented Results at CSD-13

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) was held from 28 February to 4 March 2005 in New York. The primary outcome of the IPM was the CSD-13 Chair's non-negotiated summary of discussions during the meeting. This brief reviews that summary and provides recommendations on the way forward.

The following priority issues should be addressed in the negotiated outcomes of CSD-13:

1. **Reaffirmation of the WSSD targets of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency Plans (WEP) with: (i) clear processes and support agreed to help countries that have been unable to meet the target; (ii) clear processes for continued reporting on achievement of this target; and (iii) agreement on a mechanism for monitoring implementation of IWRM-WEP plans.**
2. **Donors agree to give 70% of water and sanitation ODA to the least developed and low-income countries by 2008.**
3. **Agreement on a timetable for donor coordination with developing country water and sanitation plans and for progress to be reported to the UN.**
4. **Doubling of the spending of donors and developing countries from US\$14bn to US\$30bn per year in order to meet the water and sanitation target, with special priority given to Africa and to sanitation.**
5. **The strengthening of water sectors through sector wide approaches (SWAs). Specifically, 50% of African countries should have established SWAs by 2008.**

Process-related Issues at the IPM

The CSD's Multi-year Programme of Work, adopted at CSD-11, states: "[i]n the policy year, the Commission will convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting for one week in New York in February/March to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the **constraints and obstacles** in the process of implementation identified during the review year".

Last year's CSD-12 Summary identified areas for which policy recommendations are needed, outlining progress made, constraints and obstacles, lessons learned, and

continuing challenges. Discussions at the IPM, however, did not pick up where CSD-12 left off and were not sufficiently focused on policy solutions to the specific obstacles and constraints identified at CSD-12. It is essential that participants at CSD-13 negotiate specific policy solutions focusing on the constraints and obstacles identified during the review year and move the discussions on from review to specific policy recommendations.

Key Attributes of the Chair's IPM Summary

The Chair's IPM Summary reviews a full array of issues that were raised during the meeting. However, the Summary provides little direction on what form the negotiated outcomes of CSD-13 will take. Although supposedly concentrating on actions in the outcomes, the IPM Summary still concentrates very much on the "what" rather than the "who" and "how", and certainly not the "when".

There are several further weak points in the Summary:

- it gives little direction on the shape of the negotiated outcomes of CSD-13 and it represents little, if any, progress from the CSD-12 Summary in the direction of providing clear policy solutions
- it does not stress the need to take account of ecosystem considerations in integrated water resource management (IWRM), but rather it decouples ecosystems from IWRM by placing them in separate sections
- it is generally not helpful on the substance of IWRM and it implies that every government has the right to decide what is meant by IWRM in its own national context
- it does not provide tools to facilitate on-the-ground implementation
- it provides no mechanisms for attaching ownership of responsibilities to implementation action
- it provides little guidance on follow-up mechanisms and the options for an international arrangement on water and provides few options for an effective monitoring or reporting mechanism

While the outcome may be disappointing in terms of action-oriented outputs, the Chair's Summary does keep many key issues on the table for CSD-13. The challenge now for governments is to ensure that priority implementation issues as identified at CSD-12 are provided with effective policy recommendations at CSD-13.

Outcomes of CSD-13

Negotiated Outcomes

Policies developed at CSD-13 must be included in the negotiated text and result in the ownership by States of specific implementation activities and in commitments to take them forward. They should not fall within the meeting's non-negotiated outcomes summarizing discussions. Key issues to be addressed are IWRM, Official Development Assistance (ODA) to least developed countries (LDCs), donor coordination, increased funding, and sector-wide approaches (SWAps). Along with these, CSD follow-up must also be prioritised in the negotiated outcomes.

Tables of Commitments

It is necessary that States take ownership of the commitments that they make at CSD-13. As a non-negotiated outcome, States should agree to country-specific time-bound Tables of Commitments, which set out national responsibilities and activities that each State will undertake with specific partner countries and stakeholders. There should be a table for each country, which sets out the name of the country, its own specific commitments with regard to the policy recommendations, and the related commitments of other partners. These commitments should include descriptions of activities to be completed, deadlines and contact information of those responsible.

Such tables would act as tools for donor coordination, aid alignment and sequencing, as well as facilitate national-level outcomes. Progress in meeting the commitments set out in the tables must be monitored and reviewed by the follow-up mechanism to CSD-13 to facilitate success.

Inputs to the Millennium Review

Water and sanitation are linked to each of the MDGs, yet discussions relating to many of the Goals do not adequately take into consideration the importance of water and sanitation measures in tackling poverty, education, gender inequality, child mortality, poor maternal health, malaria, environmental degradation and other issues. MDG-7 (ensuring environmental sustainability) lacks strong quantifiable indicators. Water and sanitation tools, particularly IWRM, must be better integrated in Millennium review discussions.

UN General Assembly Resolution 58/291 calls on the Millennium Review to examine the outcomes and commitments of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields on the basis of a report submitted by the Secretary-General. That report, released in March, stresses the importance of investing in resource management, including IWRM; of enacting broad policy reforms at the national level; and underlines the importance of ensuring environmental sustainability.

The outcomes of CSD-13 must address the recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report and, in line with MDG Target 9, urge the better integration of water and sanitation measures throughout development policy. They must also advocate stronger, more quantifiable indicators under MDG-7 and, in line with the Millennium Project's recommendations, support the adoption of water and sanitation 'quick wins' and focus on environmental sustainability in poverty reduction strategies (PRSs).

Follow-up to CSD-13

The idea of an 'enhanced' UN Water with a revised and strengthened mandate appears to be gaining support as a follow-up mechanism to CSD-13; however, the particulars of how UN Water would be 'enhanced' are uncertain. It is essential that the follow-up mechanism is UN-based, transparent, participatory and accountable and that it features monitoring, reporting, and policy review and adjustment functions. It should also provide space for the eventual development of a legally binding international instrument on water in the future.

Regional reporting through appropriate fora (e.g. Regional Economic Commissions, NEPAD etc.) could usefully support an agreed international process and provide many benefits such as enhanced catchment-level cooperation, peer review and information exchange.

Any solution to the issue of CSD-13 follow-up must be provided with the funding, capacity and expertise to ensure that the mechanism can properly monitor and report progress and it must be linked to the CSD for the review of policy implementation. To ensure its existence, concrete decisions on the establishment of a follow-up mechanism must be made at CSD-13. This aspect will set a precedent for future CSD cycles of work and must provide effective and practical results.

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