

REFORM PAPERS



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PRIMARY REPORT

12TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Headquarters, New York, 14 – 30 April 2004

PURPOSE

14-16 April: Preparatory meeting for the International Meeting on the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (please see: <http://www.sidsnet.org/>).

19-30 April: To undertake a frank and honest review of the obstacles, challenges and constraints as well as the successes, lessons learned and recommendations for improvement in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements (please see: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>).

OVERVIEW

CSD-12 was the first substantive session of the Commission under its new multi-year work programme since the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It was a non-negotiating session with the objective of facilitating interactive discussion between governments, stakeholders, agencies and international organisations in the evaluation of implementation. The session was composed of a number of different elements all of which are reported on in brief below.

REVIEW SESSION

Reports were provided from seven *intercessional events* held in preparation for CSD-12. These included:

- International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of the Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Y.htm>
- The International Water Forum;
- Workshop on Governance for WSSD Implementation in Countries in Transition http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/Istanbul_report.doc
- International Conference 'Water for the Poorest';
- International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/settori_azione/pia/att/forum_svs_eng.asp

Reports were provided from each of the five *Regional Implementation Forums* as detailed below.

- Economic Commission for Africa: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/panafcon_rimreport_wsh.pdf
- Economic Commission for Europe: <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2004/ece/ac.25/ece.ac.25.2004.3.e.pdf>

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/BangkokRimReport.pdf>

- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/WestAsiaRimReport.pdf>

WATER

Key Issues:

- Drinking water supply and decentralisation of services;
- Partnerships and Private Sector Involvement;
- Integrated Water Resource Management;
- Water as a social and/or economic good;
- Balancing Competing Uses;
- Water Resources Management Units;
- Policies, Laws and Institutions;
- Financing Water Sector Needs;
- Capacity Building;
- Technology Transfer;
- Gender Mainstreaming.

Constraints and Obstacles:

- Inadequate policy frameworks and lack of reforms;
- Inadequate governance including fragmented institutional structure;
- Inadequate and declining financing – in particular ODA and private sector investment;
- Inappropriate and inefficient resource allocation;
- Limited technical capacities and access to technology;
- Low levels of community involvement and empowerment;
- Lack of access to reliable data;
- Conflict between the need for short-term solutions and the use of long-term processes;
- Revenue loss due to water wastage from poor operation and maintenance of water infrastructure;
- Weak enforcement of demand management measures;
- Limited public awareness of water management needs.

Lessons Learned:

- Sanitation should be integrated elements of PRSPs and national development plans;
- Recognise shared responsibility in achieving water and sanitation targets, but that government must create appropriate implementation frameworks and illustrate strong political leadership;
- Partnerships do not relinquish governments from their responsibilities, should be used for sharing technical knowledge, technology transfer and managerial skills and attracting new resources;
- Ensure simultaneous and mutually supportive action in technical, financial and institutional areas;
- A “learning by doing” approach assists countries identify their own priorities;
- Setting of strong regulatory frameworks for corporate responsibility in private sector participation;
- IWRM with strong stakeholder participation is a useful concept.

Recommendations:

- Improve international cooperation for strengthening information systems and capacity provision;
- Strengthen databases and develop performance related indicators;
- Promote water demand management through the use of well established technologies;

Continuing Challenges:

- Finance and innovative resource mobilization approaches and budgetary support
- Institutional Capacity Building;
- Focus on service delivery;

- Effective local governance and empowerment including active participation of major groups;
- Effective use of local and traditional knowledge;
- Enhancing the role of women;
- Increase the use and transfer of science and technology;

SANITATION

Key Issues:

- Integrated approach including to water, sanitation and human settlements;
- IWRM and efficiency plans at national and local levels;
- Critical issue for women;
- Significant health related benefits result from improved sanitation provisions;
- Inter-linkages between water supply, sanitation and health require a holistic approach;
- Substantial new and additional resources required to meet 2015 sanitation target;
- Political commitment and will, as well as learning and sharing of experience required to meet target;
- Peri-urban and rural areas require different strategies;
- Allocation of ODA needs to be addressed.

Constraints and Obstacles:

- Political commitment;
- Inadequate financial resources;
- Cultural and Social Considerations;
- Decentralisation of Services and devolution of decision making, monitoring and reporting;
- Capacity development including non traditional stakeholders;
- Lack of data and information for decision making;
- Lack of public awareness to drive demand and use;
- SIDS experience particular obstacles including wastewater discharges into surface waters and marine environment;
- Specific technology research and financial requirements;

Lessons Learned:

- Need for heightened political Commitment ;
- Need to identify characteristics of best practice;
- New and additional finance and appropriate use of subsidies;
- Education and Awareness is fundamental;
- Low cost technology and technology transfer is required;
- Private sector and markets need to be considered as financing mechanism;
- Partnerships are essential particularly in urban areas;

Continuous Challenges:

- Political Commitment to sanitation through the inclusion inclusion of sanitation into PRSP's,
- Mobilising Financial Resources;
- Decentralisation of Services;
- Capacity Building in technology needs and regulation enforcement;
- Scaling up of best-practice programmes;
- Improved Information provision and monitoring;
- Partnerships including development of a code of conduct for public-private partnerships;
- Employment Opportunities.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Key Issues:

- Rapid urbanisation has changed the pattern of human settlement;
- Change in the relationship between rural and urban areas;
- Proliferation of urban slums and urban poverty;
- Target of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers only addressed the 'tip of the iceberg';

- Slum up-grading programmes most effective at the community level;

Human Settlements cont....

- Slum inhabitants face eviction and relocation to other slums following up-grading;
- Resettlement of slum dwellers should not be away from the city/transport/employment;
- Effective institutions are a prerequisite to success in post-conflict or natural disaster areas;
- Activities of poor should be integrated into recovery and reconstruction processes;
- Role of private sector is in; building, developing and financing housing programmes;
- Role of public sector is in creating an enabling institutional environment;
- Disproportionate emphasis is placed on private partner in public-private partnerships;

Constraints and Obstacles:

- Financing including: inadequate availability of resources; dept burdens; lack of technology;
- Health including: HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases;
- Insecurity of land tenure and limited access of the poor to land and high land price;
- Policy coherence required between water, sanitation and human settlements;
- Decentralisation of implementation and decision making processes;
- Gender Mainstreaming essential;
- MDG 7 needs to be given higher priority;

Lessons Learned:

- Innovative micro-finance and credit schemes are extremely effective;
- New approached to strategy development and planning required;
- Community engagement essential to slum up-grading and housing provision;
- Rural Urban Migration can be mitigated through coupling of slum up-grading with rural sustainable development programmes;
- Disaster and Conflict areas require special attention;

Continuing Challenges

- Political Commitment giving greater priority to human settlements;
- Housing and tenure security;
- Land use and urban planning;
- Enterprise and Employment Promotion;
- Finance and investment including macro and micro finance and credit;
- Technology development transfer, and availability;
- Capacity building and stakeholder participation – especially those at the local level.

KEY ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

- The bridge between review and policy sessions;
- Integration of environment and development priorities;
- Inter-linkages and coherence in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the MDG and WSSD targets and commitments;
- Role, structure, timing and outcomes of the Regional Implementation Forums;
- Interagency coordination – in the immediate term with regards to the 5 year review of the MDG;
- Streamlining and coordination of strategies (PRSPs, NSDSs, IWRMS)
- Partnerships – contribution to implementation, accountability and financing;
- Introduction and adoption of new concepts – an ecosystem approach, eco-sanitation;
- Inclusion of water, sanitation and environment in PRSPs;
- Strengthening and reform of International Environmental Governance;
- Ongoing monitoring and review of thematic cluster of issues following their implementation cycle.