



A Daily publication of the Sustainable Development Issues Network (SDIN)
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting

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Friday Meeting schedule

9.00 - 10.00 AM Strategy Session

All meetings in Conference Room C

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Visit the SDIN morning strategy meetings for reports from working groups, information sharing and strategic discussions. SDIN Morning Meetings are open to all NGOs.

Meetings are held in Conference Room C at the United Nations Building.

Articles reflect the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SDIN Network

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JOHN ASHE: HERE'S THE MESSAGE

After a week of negotiations, corridor politics, drafting session and dialoguing, the NGO community rallied behind a number of priority action points to be delivered to the chair for his inclusion in the report covering the IPM. Taking Issue brings you the full text for future reference.



NGO Priority Policy Instruments and Concrete Actions for the IPM CSD-13 to be submitted to the Chair

CONCRETE OUTCOMES

1. Governments' responses to CSD13 must be **concrete sets of specific measurable achievable time-bound commitments** which are coherent at the national level
2. CSD-13 outcomes must include a **UN focal point for coordination, follow-up, monitoring and intergovernmental reporting** on progress on all CSD13 targets
3. The **Millennium Review Summit must keep MDG 7** high on the agenda, and CSD-13 should strongly support this by requesting reporting on actions taken at CSD-13
4. The **FfD 2005 meeting should use the outcomes of the CSD-13** as a basis for action and Finance Ministers must be made aware ahead of time
5. **Gender and sustainable consumption and production** should remain high on the CSD13 agenda

PRIORITY POLICY INSTRUMENTS

The Millennium Development Targets on water sanitation and human settlements will only be achieved through:

1. Public financing, which requires:

- Governments to prioritise these sectors in national plans and associated budgets, and within this to prioritise the needs of the poorest
- Donors to match ODA to MDG requirements, targeted to the poorest countries, and cancelling un-payable debts
- Northern Governments to remove trade distorting subsidies and make trade fair
- IFIs to stop imposing private sector participation and full-cost recovery that prevents access to affordable water as conditionalities in their grants and loans
- Public housing is a public good and government investment to basic housing

needs should not be replaced by private capital investment or “public/private partnerships”

2. Improvements to governance, accountability and participation:

- Donors to agree a timetable to increase donor coordination, working behind an integrated sector-wide approach and country-led planning at national levels
- National governments to disburse resources to the local level in order to match decentralisation of responsibilities for water resource management and delivery of services
- Scale up community owned and managed approaches which are successful at the local level
- Governments to publish budget and expenditure information at national and local levels to facilitate accountability and to support participatory budget management.
- Establish structures that allow local communities, women and other marginalised groups to participate as equal partners
- Enact national laws which protect the human right to housing and

adequate levels of safe, affordable water in national laws and to guarantee minimum levels of water for eco-system flows

- Protect the riparian rights of small-holder farmers and common property rights of communities
- Enact laws and establish regulatory frameworks to ensure that ground water use is monitored stringently, based on sound scientific data
- Develop sound policies on secure tenure providing security and enabling access to services and ensuring rights of women

3. Commit to sanitation and hygiene promotion:

- The methods adopted in Bangladesh (community led sanitation campaign) and Senegal (Ministry for Sanitation and Hygiene) should be learnt from and replicated.
- Set a target for the provision of separate toilets in schools for boys and girls and include hygiene in the curriculum
- Culture and gender sensitive approaches that promote lasting behavioural change

4. Prioritise the participatory development of nationally owned and led IWRM processes and water efficiency plans, taking account of transboundary issues, that identify first step actions that:

Ensures a equitable allocation of water,

- Takes an ecosystem, river basin and water catchment based approach to achieve full scale sustainable water resource management, including ground water use and water catchment protection and restoration
- Integrates sanitation and wastewater
- Evaluates the allocation of water to agricultural production and provide incentives for water use efficiency
- Incorporate the guidelines and principles of the World Commission on Dams
- Implements measures on pollution control

5. Mainstream and support rainwater harvesting, eco-sanitation and other appropriate technologies, that build on local practices and promote self-reliance.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NGOs AT THE CSD?

By: Veena Ramani, Shiney Varghese, Caron Whitaker

On Thursday March 3, the US delegation held an interactive discussion with Major Group Representatives to discuss the role of the US in CSD 13. Jonathan Margolis, the Head of the Delegation, opened the meeting stating that his personal goal was to ensure interaction and discussion between the US delegation and Civil Society. He reiterated that the US goals for CSD 13 were to identify best practices and policy options, and to implement those practices and policy options through voluntary commitments to meet the MDG goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Margolis and the rest of the delegation answered several questions regarding US efforts to meet the water and sanitation goals. He specifically focused on the US involvement in the

Global Water Partnership and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Margolis and his team stated that one of the important aspects of IWRM is to create a framework where stakeholders can give input on how their water is used. IWRM should be a participatory decision making process that forwards the ‘march of freedom and democracy’ by making institutions responsible to their constituencies.

We applaud the US’s commitment to IWRM and to participatory decision making. But shouldn’t these commitments also be applied to the CSD process? Shouldn’t the CSD meetings also be a chance for constituencies to have their voice heard in governmental decision making? Wasn’t that why major groups were given a voice in CSD?

However, Margolis stated the role of Major Groups at the CSD should be less about directing policy

recommendations and more about on the ground implementation success.

NGOs around the world are moving forward on meeting the water and sanitation goals of the JPOI and MDGs. At CSD 12, during the review year, NGOs gave these examples through interventions, side events, the learning center and the partnership fair. We are proud of these accomplishments and will continue to highlight them.

However CSD 13 is a policy year and we NGOs believe that our main responsibility at this IPM and at April’s main session is to affect policy. We will bring in our on the ground experiences to these discussions as a reference for policy making. To only focus on the implementation aspect of our work limits our effectiveness in this forum and short changes the contributions of NGOs around the world.

VIVE LA FRANCE! The French legalize the precautionary principle

France has always championed human rights issues. Since the great French Revolution, the world has seen France take a lead in rights issues. And France is again in the forefront of championing new rights. Legal right to a safe and healthy environment is now a part of the French constitution. What the Johannesburg Summit left undone, the French Parliament set right.

The 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation left the advocates for ‘the human right to a safe and healthy environment’ with great disappointment as only a weak reference to the ‘possible link between human rights and the environment’ remained in the text.

On March 1st, according to the “Environment Daily”, France gave hope to these advocates by adopting the French citizens’ legal right to a safe and healthy environment. This right is now enshrined in the French constitution, after an environmental charter was

passed by both Houses of Parliament during a joint sitting on Monday 28 March. Environment minister Serge Lepeltier described the vote as a historic step, putting the right to live in a healthy environment on an equal footing with human rights, health and social policy.

The charter includes references to key environmental principles concerning precaution, polluter-pays and prevention. The legislative text explicitly refers

to the precautionary principle, but only implicitly to the other two, obliging every individual to “prevent or at least limit” actions likely to cause environmental damage, and “to contribute to the reparation” of any damage they have caused.

Parliamentarians approved the charter by 531 votes to 23. The adoption of the environmental charter is a historic step for sustainable development. Vive La France!



Zehra Aydin:

- I believe in participation

Former psychologist, classic guitar player and CSD veteran Zehra Aydin is worried that the level of participation is declining in the UN. She urges the NGOs not to loose what they've fought for and achieved in the past.

- I wanna go home and practice my guitar... Zehra Aydin sighs as she sits down. It's around 6 in the afternoon, and she just had a sandwich – breakfast, lunch and dinner for the day. – It's just been one of those crazy days...

It seems she's been in the UN-system forever, but before her international career Zehra Aydin had a short career as a psychologist at a hospital in Turkey, her home country. But the UN was calling, and in 1990 Zehra embarked on her international career. In 1992, she joined the CSD secretariat and stayed there from the first to the eleventh session.

But before we get into the more serious topic of participation, I want a crazy story from one of the many CSDs Zehra has attended. Something that stands out, something a little crazier than usual...

Zehra laughs out loud and becomes a bit thoughtful... The craziness of CSD, there are too many stories to pick from... Which one is more crazy...

- Ok, there was this one time in Bali... I was joking with the guys from Greenpeace saying how I'd never seen their boats before. So the director of Greenpeace said 'come see our boat', and we went down to the beach. All of a sudden he said 'let's just walk over this way', and that's when I realized there was an action going on, and he had just wanted me to see it. There was a boat with this huge styrofoam monster with three heads of the presidents of Australia and USA and... I can't remember the last one. They were three countries that were very against Kyoto. Now the monster



Zehra Aydin

turned out to be completely against the local customs in Bali. Any monster that comes into the shore is considered to be very negative unless it is purified beforehand by religious leaders. So all of a sudden, we were surrounded by local militia and authorities. It took us three hours of negotiation to get out of it without anybody getting arrested.

"I feel that there is a sliding backwards from the openness that was created in the 90ties."

Some local people took pity on us and brought us water, it was so hot there and we were completely dehydrated. We agreed to destroy the monster and the Greenpeace director had to tear the first piece off in a sort of ceremony. And then there was the problem of the flags, the presidents on the monster were holding flags. They had to be handed over somehow so those countries didn't perceive Indonesia as being hostile to them. I volunteered to take them on behalf of the UN and had to devise a ceremony of handover.

Now away from the beaches of Bali and back to the UN, CSD, and the very important issue of participation.

After a year and a half on the Cardoso panel Zehra eventually became deputy director of NGLS - The UN Non Governmental Liaison Service, which is set up to facilitate NGO input into the entire UN system. And a background in CSD has shown Zehra just how well that input can be done, and how important it is. – I do believe in participation. The CSD process proved to me again and again that with participation the outcome is always more meaningful.

- What is the trend for participation though, where is it heading?

- This was something the Cardoso panel also looked at. There is a lot of unevenness in the UN system. Some parts are very open to participation, but for every number of commissions that are open, there are just as many that are not. The access needs to be harmonized through the system, it would make it less confusing for all parties.

And part of the problem according to

Zehra is that the delegates and the NGOs are changing too fast, the history is not there: - When you loose individuals who have the history you loose participation entry points. Nobody remembers that two years ago, you were allowed to speak then. It also depends on content though. HIV/AIDS is a global topic and there is naturally great openness about it. But if the issue has been on the agenda for a while and looses urgency, then you start loosing participation. The human rights area has always been difficult, whereas environmental issues have always been more open.

"The CSD process proved to me again and again that with participation the outcome is always more meaningful."

- Is it getting easier or harder for the NGOs to participate in the ongoing processes in the UN?

- It depends on which aspect you're looking at. If you compare the first CSD to CSD today, there's a lot more openness now. The circulation of documents, the statements, the dialogues, it's all taken for granted at CSD. But again what is so saddening is that because people change, the institutional memory is not there.

- Has the introduction of the nine major groups changed the work of NGLS?

- For NGLS, I don't know. We work primarily with NGOs and recently also with civil society, but that has been a natural evolution and not affected by major groups as such. Our mandate is still the NGOs.

- You said during a morning meeting with the NGO major group that you didn't want the state of participation to return to the way it was in 1989.

THE CARDOSO REPORT

A High level Panel of Eminent Persons headed by former President of Brazil, Mr. F.H.Cardoso was established in 2003 by the UN, to undertake an assessment of relations between the UN and civil society. The aim was to formulate recommendations to the Secretary General for enhancing interaction between the UN and civil society, including parliamentarians by private sector. The report was ready in 2004.

What did you mean by that?

- In the 90ties, many doors and many windows were opened. In 1989 they were not. Participation was limited. Starting early in the 90ties with Rio, all of a sudden a lot of space was opened up for civil society. Part of it was because of a lot of campaigning and lobbying for importance of experts and civil society.

- This September the UN is carrying out a five year review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. It appears that this is going to be a closed session. What do you advice civil society and NGOs to do?

- As a former Cardoso panellist I have an interest in following up on these issues. There is a trend not to follow up this level of participation. My observation may be wrong, but I feel that there is a sliding backwards from the openness that was created in the 90ties. And that would be very sad because there was so much effort that went into creating it.

- So what can be done?

- Some things are straight forward. Lobbying, campaigning, raising awareness. The people who have been there need to share their knowledge of what was created of precedence, and how and why. This knowledge is out there and needs to be shared. If people don't know how it was before, they are more likely to accept lower levels of participation. The networking needs to be much better and more forceful.

- Then there are a lot of NGOs who have

written very good papers linking for instance peace, development and security. They are very good analysis's, and they are out there in civil society, but nobody knows about it. The dissemination is not there.

- Accountability is also a problem. The availability is too big today. It's difficult to know the difference between a blog and a serious piece. Whose information is correct? Who is serious? It used to be so easy, there would be one or two institutions with experts, and you knew that if you got it from there it would be serious. Now, there are thousands of them and you don't know who is accountable. This is something civil society should work on.

- Is there any hope for the future?

- Oh plenty I think! Working within the area of civil society is one that gives a lot of hope. I think that if I worked in a research department of the UN, like social and economic analysis, I might be more negative. The trends are very bad. But then you hear stories of how a local organization made a difference in a village, you hear what people do with very little resources. Reading these stories gives me inspiration and I don't feel so depressed anymore. They may be small changes, but if these small miracles can happen, then bigger miracles can happen too.

...Ida



The Bali Monster

HITTING THE TARGETS IN AFRICA - THE FRONT LINE VIEW

The following perspectives are critical in progressing development of water supply, sanitation and human settlements in the African continent.

By: Rosemary Rop, East Africa representative for African Civil Society Network on Water (ANEW)

The impact that access to water, sanitation and decent human settlements would make on the quality of lives of women and girls in Africa and its far reaching impact on other important concerns - health, energy, education, agriculture and industry attest that its prioritization on the development agenda of the millennium is well placed. To African civil society groups the issue of entitlement and resources mobilization are a few of the critical starting points.

Entitlement

Entitlement relates to a paradigm that views communities as internally empowered and innately best placed to harness their resources in a sustainable way. Its point of departure is that having done so for generations, local communities are and will continue to be the rightful custodians of their environment. Development in this context begins from the precept that community ownership is so accepted, appreciated, and recognized that roles are reversed as the outsider is politely invited in and gradually empowered to participate in community lives. Those in position would demonstrate this understanding to the extent indigenous knowledge is tapped into to identify, plan and implement development projects. Success indicators includes to whom credit is apportioned at the end; - 'this is ours' or 'this belongs to so and so' referring to an external support agency. The labeling is not as critical as the likelihood that the facility is used, maintained or even replicated - so

bringing community entitlement to the nucleus of sustainable development.

Resource Mobilization

Since independence the government voice that first sounded so confident in its pledge to ensure the provision of basic services for the eradication of ignorance, poverty and disease has gradually reduced in conviction. For some it would appear that loss of esteem has become a self fulfilling prophecy, and action reduced to a chorus of poorly choreographed SOS's. African civil society recognize and accede to the spirit of NEPAD that begins with a recognition of the wealth, rich culture, tradition and resourcefulness of the continent and strive towards a renaissance that champions African heritage, harnesses internal resources, restores its wealth and reawakens a spirit of self determination. For the water and sanitation

sector such romantic nostalgia alone will not be enough but by looking inwards and being faithful stewards of the small amounts that are locally generated, it will be a first step.

Debt Relief

The cost of the bill to realize water and sanitation coverage has been calculated and looks pricey. It is well demonstrated that addressing the skewed financial flows to wealthy 'developed' nations from debt and the unjust world trade environment would unbundle badly needed resources for water, sanitation and growth in general. This irony in ODA is, in the view of African civil society inadmissible as it maintains a structure of dependency and sustainable underdevelopment of the continent.

Accountable Governance

But if the argument stands that solutions must be from home, in the same way must be ownership of problems. Failure to exploit and multiply the vast wealth in the continent is an African failure as well. It is perpetuated by Africa through systems of non consultative, over centralized and unaccountable governance systems that are protected by the self serving ruling governments in power, nervously feathering their nests before eviction through ballot or military coup. A devolved decision making that brings in the interests of marginalized women, indigenous groups, accountable local authorities and local communities in general will be important strategies to realizing accountable governance, essential in the long walk to sustainable development.



CELEBRATING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE UN

2005 will be a big year of celebration in San Francisco - for the UN's 60th anniversary and for the environment.

By: Ms. Jette Winckler Jensen, UNA-SF

2005 is a big UN year in the city of San Francisco. First of all, a year long celebration will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. A weekend in June will mark the founding of the UN after World War II at the 1945 charter convention in San Francisco. 50-75 former heads-of-state from all around the world will attend the major event under the theme of "Enhancing the Vital Role of the United Nations".

Celebrating the Environment:

Secondly, San Francisco has been selected host city for World Environment Day (WED) 2005 - an important day on the international environmental calendar. The day is celebrated simultaneously around the world each year on June 5, to create awareness about environmental issues. The theme for World Environment Day 2005 is "Green Cities: Where the Future Lives", a

fitting theme as the 21st century will mark the time in human history when the majority of the world's population will live in urban areas. Secretary General Kofi Anan welcomed the selection of San Francisco last summer: "It is most fitting that San Francisco, birth place of the United Nations and one of the world's most dynamic urban areas, will be the host city for the global celebration of WED 2005." This year marks the first time ever that the UN has selected a city in North America to host the WED.

Special Events on Specific Themes:

From June 1 through 5, San Francisco's WED festivities will include special events focusing on urban environmental issues— from symposia and seminars to various community events such as an environmental film festival, arts programming, experimental educational activities, eco-tours, concerts, and other events. Each day of the 5-day event will focus on a

specific theme: Urban Power (energy, renewables and energy conservation), Cities on the Move (transportation), Redesigning Metropolis (waste diversion and the build environment), Pure Elements (food, water and air) and Flower Power (open space, biodiversity and greening the urban environment). The outcome will be collected in a document called "The San Francisco Urban Environmental Accords."

Urban Environmental

Improvement: Representatives and mayors from the world's largest cities will share ideas, experiences, and best practices to establish goals for urban environmental improvement. They will identify the tools needed to achieve these goals and compile concrete commitments, goals and targets into a document called the San Francisco Urban Environmental Accords. And finally, the United Nations Association of San Francisco is planning to host a symposium on the Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability: Integrating and implementing Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

For more information, input to or participation in the UNA-SF symposia, please contact Ms. Jette Winckler Jensen, UNA-SF at email: jette.winckler@ecolocity.com



CANCEL THE DEBT!

As the Chair of Monday's afternoon session summed up the statements of the nine major groups, it seemed he had forgotten a repeated issue: Cancelling of debts.

By: David Redhouse, Policy Officer, Financing the Sector, WaterAid

Shortfalls in water finance are exacerbated by demands for debt repayments. Where aid has to be used to service debt, as little as 10% of total aid inflows may remain available for MDG-related expenditures. Poor countries would be able to increase domestic spending on basic water and sanitation services if their onerous debt burdens were lifted.

One NGO, WaterAid, has assessed that as little as 4% of the funds used to service national debts would, if devoted to water MDGs instead, get those targets back on track.

Where debt relief is available under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, the additional resources available for poverty reduction can assist the water sector. In Zambia in 2001, Kwacha 18bn, or 51% of the total Kw35bn water budget, came from debt relief.

The Poverty Eradication Action Plan of Uganda made water and sanitation one of its priorities. As a result, total investments in the sector rose between 1997 and 2002 from over US\$3 million to US\$31 million (or from 0.5% to 2.5% of the national budget over the same period). This level of investments increased national access to water services from 39.4% in 1996 to 51% in 2003, or over 2 million newly served.

Uganda, too, increased its national water spending fivefold after receiving debt relief, and in Ghana HIPC is being publicly credited with improvements to water and sanitation systems.

The water sector may also be directly affected by the issue of unpayable debts. The Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) has enormous debts relating to foreign currency loans. The loans were made to the Ghana Government but on-lent to the GWCL. Owing to the collapse in the local currency, the Cedi, the size of

these debts has hugely increased and has in effect made GWCL bankrupt for the last few years. Annual Reports and Accounts for 2001, 2002 and 2003 were not published.

NGOs at the CSD-13 Preparatory Meeting therefore support the calls of the sub-Group on Debt of the NGO Working Group on Financing for Development. These calls will be presented in full to the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Sovereign Debt for Sustained Development from 7-8 March 2005 in New York. The calls include:

- 100% debt cancellation for the poorest countries
- Resources thus freed up to be invested in essential services
- The funding for debt cancellation to be independent from and additional to donors' target to provide ODA worth 0.7% of their GNP
- Debt sustainability analyses to be based on the Monterrey Consensus and the MDGs and to ensure that countries ability to fulfil their populations' basic human rights is not impaired
- Debt cancellation not to be used to control debtors' economic policy space
- An independent authority such as an international arbitration committee, to make all decisions on the claims of the parties.



Ignoring the right to water

At least half of the Major Groups have stressed the importance of the explicit recognition for the right to water during the Major Group session Monday afternoon. Yet the chair failed to capture this in his end summary of the session. Somehow the governments seemed reluctant to take note of this.

The resistance of governments to explicitly recognizing this right seems to be based on the fear that governments will not be able to protect the right to water for their citizens.

Explicit reference

However, there is a strong argument that speaks for the recognition of the right to water as explicit reference to the right to water has been made in two of the six core international human rights treaties: the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); and also in one of the regional human rights instruments: the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990).

Concrete interpretation

Furthermore, in March 2003, the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which has the task of interpreting treaties, conventions, protocols, etc made a 'general comment (15)' that recognized the fact that under the Convention on the Rights of the Child the right to safe and affordable water clearly exists in

international law and that states have an obligation to the progressive realization of this right. This means that states have to move into the direction of having systems in place for their citizens.

Actual Enforcement

Also, in countries such as South Africa where the right to water is enshrined in their national constitutions, courts have actually supported and enforced an explicit right to water, ruling in favor of communities when their right has been infringed. Other countries such as Argentina have enforced the right by interpreting the right to water into the right to health, based on the argument that the right to health can only be

guaranteed through access to water.

According to Danielle Morley of the Freshwater Action Network, what we need from this CSD are concrete actions and recommendations by national governments to include the right to water in their national legislations. This right will provide a framework for safeguarding the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups to water, provided of course that there is access to justice.

More information: please visit www.righttowater.org.uk

...kk



Danielle Morley of the Freshwater Action Network

MAKING IT HAPPEN

CLOSING STATEMENT BY NGOs' MAJOR GROUP

CSD-13: INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING

Chair,

The NGOs Major Group is pleased to address the Commission. Participation is key not simply to CSD but also to the process of implementation itself. We look forward to contributing also on future occasions. We urge the Commission and all states to ensure the letter and spirit of the Cardoso Panel recommendations on UN-Civil Society Relationships are respected. States cannot simultaneously rely on NGOs to be major service deliverers but exclude them from decision-making processes such as the Millennium Declaration "plus 5" summit in September.

We also call for the issue of gender in water to be properly respected. Women suffer most from lack of water and sanitation and their involvement increases the sustainability of supply systems. CSD-13 must give full attention to "Women & Water".

This week we have considered policy options in three areas:

- 1 On **water** important approaches have been identified such as participatory development of nationally owned and led IWRM processes, taking into account transboundary issues and ecosystems, and the use of

appropriate traditional technologies. Measures like rainwater harvesting can significantly improve sustainability, not least by reducing costs.

- 2 **Sanitation** discussions have highlighted vital actions such as funding separate school toilets for girls. We must not forget that the majority of the 100+ million children out of school are girls. Every 10% increase in female literacy reduces infant mortality by 10% while adding 0.3 percentage points to economic growth rates
- 3 Questions relating to **human settlements** have demonstrated that, at root, all the issues facing the Commission concern human rights, not least to shelter. Security of tenure can put an end to forced evictions.

Our discussions have revealed some key contexts:

- 1 On **finance** there is big money and there is little money. International private finance presently plays a tiny

role in the poorest countries. That will not change any time soon. Public finance is the only serious source of the necessary funds. But developing countries can only meet their own responsibilities in that regard when there are reforms for their overall fiscal position: unpayable debts must be cancelled and trade must be fair. Aid must be increased (after 35 years we are still only one-third of the way to the 0.7% target), coordinated, targeted, and its inefficiencies removed. Aid should not be tied to donor goods and services, and wasteful multiple planning and reporting procedures should be ended. We welcome the calls for a system of lead donors which have been made here, not least by the EU – we look forward to that at last being at the heart of their Water Initiative. We are also pleased with the news from the OECD High Level Forum in Paris that donors will be aligning behind country-led plans of the kind which underpin Sector Wide Approaches.

- 2 For **monitoring** we need better measures which capture access to and use of services and not simply the existence, functioning or not, of infrastructure. Assistance is required particularly for the more technical monitoring of water resources and water quality. We need to monitor consistently and

“The poorest of our fellow human beings have been without their water and sanitation rights for long enough, we should not keep them waiting any more.”

regularly. Monitoring must be with a purpose, to facilitate people's participation in planning and to drive up the performance of the sector. But transparency needs to be the hallmark right across the development sector, whether it is the use of water funds or presidential appointments in IFIs.

Chair, a closing statement should look forward. What can the world's poorest people – the 1.1 billion people spending hours each day looking for safe water or the 2.6 billion facing the indignities and insecurities of inadequate sanitation – expect from us and the expenditure which our meeting this week represents? There is no use in our drawing up a menu of policy options if everyone then decides they would prefer to eat elsewhere.

NGOs therefore believe that there are **three things which must happen**. First is to create a **sense of urgency**. It is five years since the Millennium Declaration was adopted. We are one third of the way to 2015. And yet spending on water is still stuck at half the global level targeted here in this building in 1990. It is impossible not to contrast this with the resourcing and speed of other projects undertaken by richer nations. The international response to the tsunami was excellent, but as we all know the failings of the water and sanitation sector are a "silent tsunami" in which 300,000 people lose their lives every 10 days. We believe therefore that following CSD-13 there must be initial actions, not at least at the forthcoming Financing for Development high-level dialogue, which can be reported in September. Bluntly, if we

“The failings of the water and sanitation sector are a “silent tsunami” in which 300,000 people lose their lives every 10 days.”

are to reach the MDG water targets, every month - indeed every day - counts. Daily some 300,000 people must gain access to safe water and nearly 400,000 must get basic sanitation. If the world's nations, including those who are most powerful cannot move forward in six months then the MDGs offer only false hope to the poorest on the planet.

Secondly reporting must be improved. Upward reporting to international bodies is required but equally critical are **downward reporting systems**. Information must reach the people whom the MDGs are supposed to benefit. National governments must make the details of their spending and performance transparent so that citizens are empowered – assisted by NGOs as necessary - to hold government to account. We have seen for example Ministry plans published in the press in Uganda and heard of Nigerian utilities participating in radio phone-ins.

“There is no use in our drawing up a menu of policy options if everyone then decides they would prefer to eat elsewhere.”

This openness needs to be the norm, not the exception.

Third the actions to which States commit must add up to coherent packages in the context of each country. It will be little use if say, Ethiopia, the United States or Germany each pursue their favourite initiatives without coordination. They each need to prioritise those steps which together will synergise most progress most rapidly in Ethiopia. Spectacular results can be achieved when we pull together. Smallpox eradication for example was pursued with mutually reinforcing measures such as provision of donor funds and national reductions in the bureaucracy of budget approval and disbursement. As the Secretary General's report says, "one size will not fit all". We call therefore for CSD-13 to result in **country-specific tables of commitments** with each player active in the country concerned making their contribution in line with country-led sector plans. These must then be supported by transparent, accountable and participatory UN-based international monitoring and reporting arrangements.

To conclude, CSD-13 must be the event which at last sparks a sense of urgency about delivery of the water targets, it needs to prompt the provision of accurate water sector expenditure and performance information to citizens in each country, and, it needs to secure from all players, coherent country-specific sets of actions. The poorest of our fellow human beings have been without their water and sanitation rights for long enough, we should not keep them waiting any more.

ONWARDS FELLOW NGOs TO CSD 13...

Five days later and with almost 20 interventions by the NGO community during the IPM, the NGOs are ready to come to CSD in April to show their sustained commitment to improving the situation on water, sanitation and human settlements. As the IPM offered many entry points, NGOs rose to the occasion and proposed policy solutions.

In the final analysis, NGOs stressed that it is not enough simply to

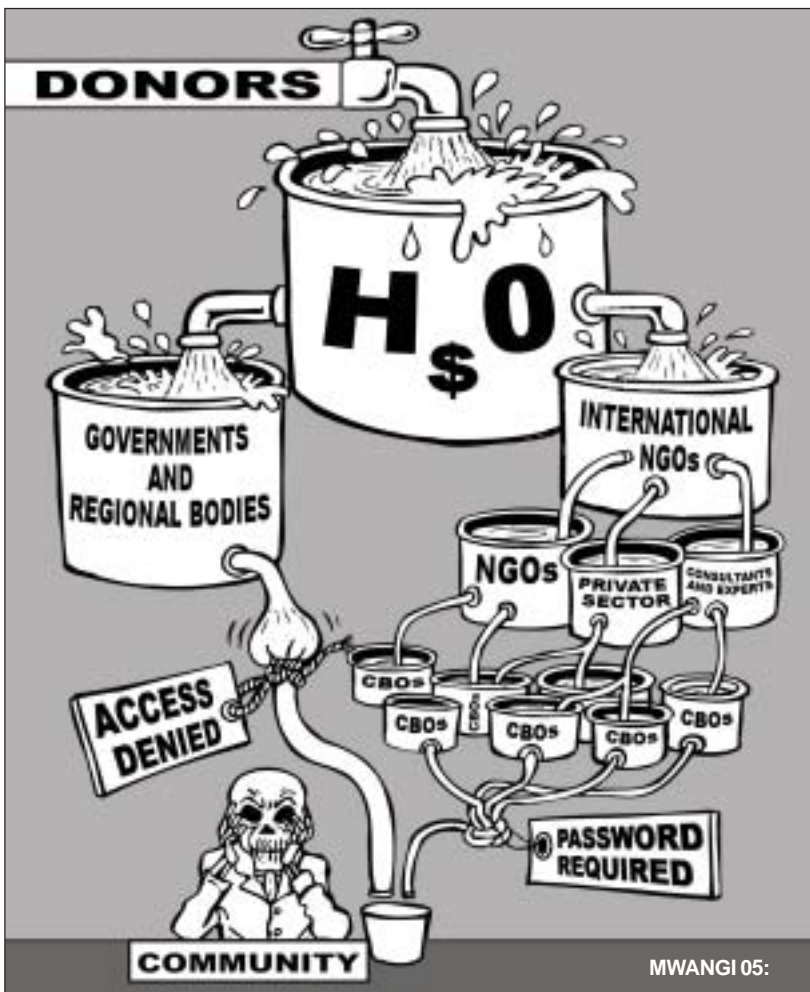
identify policy solutions, they need to be acted upon. In particular, reforms are required to the aid trade and debt components of the international finance system and gaps in water and sanitation monitoring systems must be plugged.

If the CSD really is to represent an improvement in the prospects of the poorest people on our planet, three things must happen: First, a sense of urgency must be created. Second, reporting must be improved, especially by governments to their citizens. And

lastly, CSD-13 must result in country specific tables of commitments.

NGOs will be back in just over a month with renewed energy to check that this is really happening with water, sanitation and human settlements. As was dramatically emphasised during the first NGO statement on Monday: "It would be an utter shame if something so "utterly affordable" is left unfulfilled in our lifetimes."

...jgs



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Providing for a level playing field, under equal circumstances, taking into account participatory, transparent and accountable measures,
WE WILL SEE YOU AT CSD 13