



## What Can CSD 2008 Do For The Water Agenda? Report of World Water Week in Stockholm Side Event Thursday 24 August 2006, 12:15-13:15

### BACKGROUND

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels. The JPOI reaffirmed the CSD as the highest-level commission dealing with sustainable development issues within the UN system. Over the years, the Commission has proved to be an important 'home' for keeping the broad sustainable development agenda under active review, and has been instrumental in launching a number of new initiatives and securing intergovernmental cooperation.<sup>1</sup> At its eleventh session in 2003, the Commission adopted a far reaching multiyear programme of work, including an innovative two-year 'Review and Policy' implementation cycle.

The first implementation cycle (2004/2005) of the new multi-year programme of work focused on the themes of water, sanitation, and human settlements. CSD-13— the policy session of the first cycle—built upon the outcome of CSD-12 and adopted policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation of commitments in water, sanitation, and human settlements. The CSD-13 decision set forth approximately 30 policy options and some 100 practical measures and actions. On the institutional dimensions of the Commission's work, the decision advanced the CSD-11 decision on reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the first cycle. At CSD-13, it was agreed to review and monitor progress on water and sanitation, with reporting in 2008 and 2012:

*The Commission on Sustainable Development decides to devote, in 2008 and 2012, without prejudice to the programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its eleventh session, a separate segment at the end of its review sessions, for a duration to be determined by the Bureau in advance, using one to two days as a benchmark, to monitor and follow up the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation, and their interlinkages, taken at the Commission's thirteenth session;*

In light of this upcoming review in 2008, Stakeholder Forum and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) convened the side event "What Can CSD 2008 do for the Water Agenda?" at World Water Week in Stockholm. The purpose of the meeting was to explore options for establishing an Ad-hoc Global Public Policy Network (GPPN)<sup>2</sup> on Water and Sanitation to prepare for the 2008 CSD Review. An initial proposal (see Annex 1) for the parameters of the GPPN was

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<sup>1</sup> Stakeholder Forum, Strengthening the Johannesburg Implementation Track: Considerations for Enhancing the CSD's Multi-Year Programme of Work, April 2006.

<sup>2</sup>GPPNs fill an organizational deficit/vacuum in the global public space and create global social capital. They create bridges on a global scale between governments and non-state actors, including profit (enterprises) and nonprofit organizations (NGOs), to:

- reflect the changing balance of power among them;
- pull diverse resources together; and
- address issues that no group can resolve by itself in a sustainable fashion

presented and circulated by the meeting convenors. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Viveka Bohn, Environment Ambassador, Sweden.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Johan Kuylenstierna, Project Director, SIWI, explained that water has been a prominent issue on the CSD agenda, and that decisions taken at the CSD can have significant and positive outcomes for the water agenda. He noted, for example, that CSD-6 in 1998 initiated the global freshwater assessment (now the World Water Development Report). He outlined the CSD-13 decision to monitor and follow up the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation in 2008 and 2012. Johan Kuylenstierna underscored the importance of review, particularly as water will not return to the CSD until 2016/2017, when the agenda turns to an overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI. He further noted that unlike other sustainable development issues, water has no institutional home within the UN system.

Manuel Dengo, Chief of Branch for Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), noted that CSD-16 in 2008 has a crowded agenda of complex issues, including agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa. He said that a challenge for Member States will be to adequately address these issues in the relatively short time available. He therefore welcomed the formulation of a Global Public Policy Network to prepare the groundwork for the review at CSD-16 and supported the strong involvement of Major Groups in contributing to such a process. He noted that monitoring of policy decisions is a difficult task that to date has not been given adequate attention. He thanked Stakeholder Forum and SIWI for convening the meeting and for presenting a proposal that could help fill this gap.

Felix Dodds, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum, explained that the international community has a shared interest in ensuring that the review of water and sanitation in 2008 is addressed in a creative and positive way that yields concrete outcomes. He said that while CSD-16 is 20 months away, the task at hand is considerable. He suggested that establishing a GPPN to map out and prepare the review could help to ensure its success. The role of the GPPN would be to engage the major stakeholders, including governments and intergovernmental bodies who have been involved in the CSD process on water and sanitation. He outlined several possible tasks for the GPPN, including: an evaluation of the CSD-12 and CSD-13 decisions to identify potential gaps missed in addressing CSD-12 Chairs text; a review of CSD-13 and action taken and not taken since 2005; a review of the partnerships in the CSD database to see present status and gaps; to quantify the impact of present partnerships; to identify potential new initiatives with a focus on regions or sub regions areas; and to identify potential work for CSD 2008 on water and agriculture, identifying obstacles and challenges. He said that the GPPN could have a number of outputs, including: a report identifying gaps addressing CSD-12 decision; a report on implementation of CSD 2005 decision; a report on present state of partnerships; a report on possible new initiatives at the regional or sub regional level; a roadmap to CSD 2008 for water and sanitation; and a report on obstacles and challenges for water and agriculture.

Amb. Viveka Bohn opened the floor for discussion, asking participants to comment on whether the proposal addressed the concerns of the water community about the review.

## **DISCUSSION**

Gérard Payen, member of K. Annan's Advisory Board and of AquaFed, expressed strong disappointment, which he believed he shares with many other people, with the political outcomes of CSD-13 and the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum at country governments' level. He emphasised the necessity for governments at CSD-16 to carefully review their progress towards their main collective goals, i.e. National Water plans and the achievement of the water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They need to decide how to cope with delays and shortfalls in meeting the objectives. If other water issues are debated during CSD-16, these

should not divert the governments from reviewing their CSD-13 commitments towards delivering access to drinking water & sanitation.

Johan Kuylenstierna asked whether the GPPN could be seen as a mechanism contributing to stronger outcomes than those from CSD-13 and Mexico. Danielle Gaillard-Picher responded by saying that such a process could be useful, but questioned whether governments themselves are prepared to make stronger commitments, noting the role of global politics in influencing outcomes of intergovernmental processes.

Åsa Elfström, Church of Sweden/Ecumenical Water Network of the World Council of Churches, asked whether the GPPN will strive to include members not directly working on water issues and, if so, how big it would be. Felix Dodds clarified that the GPPN should be an open process and involved as many people who want the review to be a success.

Torkil Jønch-Clausen reminded participants of the IWRM 2005 target, which has now passed but is yet to be achieved. He emphasised that targets should not be allowed to pass without being realised, and that a road map for implementation is necessary. He drew attention to MDG target 9, "integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources," noting that this target should become a focus of the water agenda along side target 10, "halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water." He explained that target 9 provides a stepping stone to realising the contribution of water to the achievement of the MDGs. He noted that the CSD struggles to involve Ministries other than the Environment Ministries and that if the preparatory process for CSD-16 could engage other sectors, it could be extremely beneficial.

Amb. Viveka Bohn said that at CSD-16 we can expect to have Agriculture Ministers present, noting that this will provide an opportunity to integrate the water agenda in other sectors,

Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, Blue Planet Run, said that it is an excellent idea to mobilize and generate a preparatory process for CSD-16. She highlighted the importance of engagement at the country level to ensure greater impact and positive outcomes for countries. She also noted that this process could demonstrate to the broader activist community what the CSD is able to achieve and highlight the importance of water and sanitation on the international agenda.

Eva Haden, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), suggested that rather than creating a new network, perhaps it is preferable for one organisation to take the lead and others could sign up to the process. Felix Dodds clarified that this is the aim of the proposal. It is envisioned that the GPPN would be a network of existing networks, with Stakeholder Forum and SIWI playing a coordination role (even if the name GPPN is new which might lead to confusion in terms of a "new" network). The work of the GPPN would be done by experts within the network.

Marina van Koten, Women for Water Partnership, emphasised the importance of incorporating water into the current 'Energy Cycle' of the CSD, and supported the GPPN's potential contribution to this. Given that the cycle is already underway, she asked how the GPPN could make such a contribution. Johan Kuylenstierna suggested that one approach would be to show the commitment of the water community to the issue of energy, noting that the way to influence the formal process is through Member States.

Manuel Dengo said that one potential obstacle is the format of the CSD, explaining that the CSD has already had its review session, and from the point of view of the CSD Secretariat, new inputs must be presented by governments. He also noted that in fact, the GPPN does not have 20 months to prepare for the CSD review in 2008, as suggested. In fact, the Secretary General's reports will be prepared by December 2007, and it will be important that the reports reflect these issues.

Amb. Viveka Bohn questioned whether the Secretariat could also provide an opportunity to account for new issues in the cycle. She called on UN DESA to be bold and raise the issue. She further suggested that perhaps the GPPN's water and energy work could be fast tracked, in order to ensure an input is prepared. She highlighted the important linkages between water and the issues on the table at the Energy Cycle, namely industrial development, access to energy, and climate change.

Johan Kuylenstierna asked Manuel Dengo whether it would be possible to have a formal report focusing on water and agriculture presented at the CSD. Manuel Dengo responded that the Secretariat is not yet aware what types of reports it will be asked to write, but that in those reports, the issue of water will need to be clearly reflected. Marcia Brewster, UN DESA, suggested that the Major Group papers could also provide an inroad for bringing water to the agenda within the discussions of agriculture.

Jack Moss, AquaFed, said that a great effort had been made by the WBCSD water team to ensure that the business and industry representation at CSD 14 take account of water issues and the common links between water and energy, but that this was unsuccessful. He said this was because of a lack of communication and understanding between the water and energy communities. He asked whether the GPPN would be able to produce a paper on the five fundamental issues on water and energy, to be used as a lobbying and advocacy tool. Felix Dodds responded that this would be an achievable task that could potentially be completed by drawing on the expertise of the network. Jack Moss noted that it is probably strategically preferable for the GPPN to focus on a limited number of achievable deliverables.

Gunilla Björklund, GeWa Consulting, noted that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) offers a potential mechanism for funding, as international waters are increasingly becoming a focus on the GEF agenda, as will be demonstrated at the upcoming Third GEF Assembly.

Amélie Blondeau, Ministère des Relations Internationales du Quebec, asked how the network would engage levels of government other than the national. She noted that in Canada, agriculture is a provincial issue, and that the prioritization of agriculture within many provincial governments is often different from that of the national government. Felix Dodds responded by noting that networks of regional and local authorities exist, such as NRG4SD—The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development and ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, and that the network would aim to work with them.

Aaron Salzberg, US Department of State, noted that targeted discussions with policy makers can make a big difference to ensuring issues are on the agenda. He asked whether World Water Week in Stockholm could provide a mechanism to feed into the work of network and preparatory process. In response, Johan Kuylenstierna agreed that the GPPN must build on existing networks and structures. Felix Dodds said that the GPPN should aim to have work prepared for the World Water Week next year, and that the meeting should be seen as part of the preparatory process which could potentially include a Ministerial element.

Amb. Viveka Bohn noted that the network would have to find a platform to discuss its outcomes and results. She asked participants to comment on whether they support the GPPN proposal, noting that if the proposal is supported as the way forward, the network can then address the preparation of a roadmap.

Aaron Salzberg highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement. He said that it can be challenging to expand the minds of senior policy makers within the UN environment, and that stakeholders must identify other opportunities, such as World Water Week in Stockholm. He stressed the importance of background materials that are short and concise.

Margaret Pageler, ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, said that ICLEI is currently collaborating with the Clinton Climate Initiative, and that one of the issues this work is focussing on

is reducing energy use associated with wastewater. She offered that perhaps the initiative will be producing a background paper which could be used as a position paper for the GPPN.

Jack Moss also noted that Major Groups submitted a collective position paper at CSD-13. He suggested that perhaps the GPPN could review this paper and use it as platform to for supporting discussions with relevant policy makers. Felix Dodds questioned whether the paper would be appropriate, as the papers were quite general in nature.

Felix Dodds concluded that based on the insightful comments of participants, Stakeholder Forum and SIWI would revise the proposal and produce a roadmap on how the GPPN could move forward. This will be circulated for comment and for organisations to state their interest to become part of the GPPN.

## **ANNEX 1: DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK**

International Ad-hoc Global Public Policy Network on Water and Sanitation to prepare for water and sanitation at CSD 2008

### **Introduction**

The first cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) addressed water and sanitation. The first year reviewing the obstacles and challenges, the second year in light of addressing this produced policy recommendations. In 2008 the CSD will review progress and address any new obstacles identified.

### **Purpose**

The role of the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) will be to engage the major stakeholders, including governments and intergovernmental bodies who have been involved in the CSD process on water and sanitation. This GPPN will then over the next fifteen months work to ensure a successful review of water and sanitation at CSD 2008.

### **Approach**

To review progress at delivering the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation The Working Group will focus on reviewing both the normative and the non normative issues around the water and sanitation cycle.

### **Objectives**

The GPPN could focus on:

- An evaluation of the CSD-12 and CSD-13 decisions to identify potential gaps missed in addressing CSD-12 Chairs text;
- A review of CSD-13 and action taken and not taken since 2005;
- A review of the partnerships in the CSD database to see present status and gaps;
- To quantify the impact of present partnerships;
- To identify potential new initiatives with a focus on regions or sub regions areas
- To identify potential work for CSD 2008 on water and agriculture, identifying obstacles and challenges

### **Outputs**

- A report identifying gaps addressing CSD-12 decision
- A report on implementation of CSD 2005 decision
- A report on present state of partnerships
- A report on possible new initiatives at the regional or sub regional level
- A roadmap to CSD 2008 for water and sanitation
- A report on obstacles and challenges for water and agriculture

### **Outcomes**

- A clearer understanding of how to ensure a successful review of water and sanitation in 2008

### **Proposed Secretariat**

SIWI and Stakeholder Forum

## **ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Ambassador Viveka Bohn, Environment Ambassador, Sweden  
Johan Kuylenstierna, Stockholm International Water Institute  
Manuel Dengo, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)  
Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum  
G rard Payen, AquaFed  
John Michael Moss, AquaFed  
Xavier Maitre Robert, AquaFed  
Dianne Dillon-Ridgley, Blue Planet Run  
Ken Caplan, BPD Water and Sanitation  
Babatope Babalobi, Bread for Life / Waterwatch  
 sa Katarina Elfstr m, Church of Sweden, International Unit  
Michael van der Valk, CrossVision  
Peregrine Swann, UK Department for International Development, Policy Division  
Torkil J nch-Clausen, DHI Water and Environment  
Henrik Larsen, DHI Water and Environment, Water Management  
Martin Walshe, European Commission, DG Development  
Thomas Stratenwerth, Federal Ministry for Environment, Water Management, Germany  
Robert Martin, Fondation Scientifique de Lyon  
Dianne Derhak, Fondation Scientifique de Lyon, BioVision  
Ujjwal Pradhan, Ford Foundation  
Ceridwen Johnson, Freshwater Action Network  
Gunilla Bj rklund, GeWa Consulting  
Am lie Blondeau, Government of Qu bec, International Organisations  
Barbara Anton, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability  
Margaret Pageler, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability  
Peter Letitre, IGRAC / TNO  
Claire Warmenbol, IUCN Communications  
Katharine Cross, IUCN, Water Programme  
Francis Odhiambo, Loughborough University  
Mathieu Pinkers, Ministry Agriculture, Nature, Foodquality, International Cooperation, The Netherlands  
Jan M ller Hansen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Technical Advisory Services  
Saul Levin, Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa  
Yuanhua Li, Ministry of Water Resources, Dept. of Rural Water Management, China  
John Erik Scanlon, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Australia  
Jenipher Namuyangu, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda

Gunnar H. Isaksen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development

Semund Haukland, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Environmental Unit

Peter van der Linde, NWP

Peter Bridgewater, Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Jennifer Peer, Stakeholder Forum

Saskia Walzel, Stakeholder Forum

Staffan Telland, Stockholm Model UN – SMUN

Hanna Rådeberg, Swedish Ecodemics

Rajendra Singh, Tarun Bharat Sangh

Laura Webster, Tearfund UK, Advocacy Group

Muhammad Aslam Chaudhry, UN-DESA

Marcia Brewster, UN-DESA

Falk Schmidt, University Bonn, IHDP

Aaron Salzberg, US Department of State

Laura Hucks, WaterAid

Stephen Turner, WaterAid, PPED

Mihedo Vasilescu, WECF

Robert Pool, WHO

Jami Bartram, WHO, Public Health and Environment

Rita Assogna, Women for Water / BPW International

Marina van Koten, Women for Water / NVR

Eva Haden, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Danielle Gaillard-Picher, World Water Council

Anna Forslund, WWF World Wide Fund for Nature