



Report Bonn Freshwater Conference 3 -7 December, 2001 for DGIS

Delft, December 2001

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Content

Table of contents	i
Executive Summary	iii
1. Sanitation in key recommendations for action in Bonn	1
<u>WSSCC Round table: Sanitation is not a dirty word</u>	1
2. Governance, Integrated Management and New Partnerships	3
Conclusions of the Ministerial Session	3
Conclusions of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues	3
World Water Development Report	4
3. Recommendations for Action	5
Introduction	6
Action in the Field of Governance	6
Action in the Field of Mobilizing Financial Resources	6
Action in the Field of Capacity Building and Sharing Knowledge	7
Roles	7
4. Ecological sanitation (side event)	8
Concluding messages from the Nanning Conference	8
5. Water Aid (side event)	10
Private Sector Participation	10
6. Prince WA launches GWP Toolbox	11
7. NGO Statement at the Bonn Conference on Freshwater	12
Water is a human right!	12
Water is a common good!	12
WCD recommendations should be adopted!	12
Water is not a tradable good!	12

8. WSSCC Meetings	14
WSSCC preparatory meeting with the Chairman	14
SC meeting Bonn 7 December 2001	14
Report Gouri	14
Funding situation	15
Accommodation and location	15
Sub committees	15
Next meeting	16
<u>Recent activities report</u> Advocacy	16
Communications	16
Thematic activities	16
Regional and national activities	17

Executive Summary

WSSCC and IRC scored well with the joint WSSCC/IRC stand, under a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement. IRC's Community Management posters and the Keep it Working book, Remember Gender posters and a stream of SOK leaflets were displayed on three panels on the stand, together with leaflets for hand out on all three and the IRC leaflet, also elsewhere in the Bundeshaus. Halfway we changed one of the gender panels for the Ecological Sanitation poster from Roland Schertenleib, and added the new WELL (with IRC in) leaflet as handout. The Seventh Video was shown alternatively with the Council's new WASH campaign video. As it was a closed meeting the number of visitors to the stand was limited.

The launch of the WSSCC Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) campaign on the first day went well (full room), with three ministers (Kasrils, South Africa, Meachem, UK and Sall, Benin in the side event, and the first two with Maggie Catley Carlson and Klaus Toepfer as well as at the press conference where the campaign was launched. The push for sanitation made it in the end in the recommended actions from Bonn to Johannesburg: like water, add a target in the UN Millennium Declaration for halving the number of people without safe sanitation by 2015.

In the final press conference German Development Cooperation Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek- Zeul stressed that water is a great contributor to poverty alleviation, improving water and sanitation contributes also to prevent conflicts. The 26 recommendations for actions http://www.water-2001.de/outcome/bonn_recommendations.asp are divided up over three major areas: governance, mobilising financial resources and capacity building. She highlighted four:

- **the sanitation target now added:** halving the number of people without safe sanitation by 2015, (in reviewing the German efforts in the light of the Bonn recommendations sanitation will be one of the fields that could receive more German funding);
- **the growing acceptance among all stakeholders that cost recovery through public private partnerships is needed**, but that water and sanitation provision is a basic needs, in which governments continue to have a responsibility;
- **the increase needed in capacity building**
- **the fight against corruption**, the private sector has proposed a code of conduct.

The minister also announced that Germany offers to support the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue process towards the Johannesburg summit.

Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin said that the Bonn conference results are another good political signal for the environment. Water is a key for economic development and in the fight against poverty. His highlights were: water is a common property, cost recovery and water conservation, joint partnerships.

I assisted the GWA with finalising their recommendations, organising a press conference, a press release <http://www.water-2001.de/media/GWA.doc> and a series of interviews with Gender ambassadors.

From others I heard that Ngoni Mudege of IWSD Zimbabwe in his presentation in the Conference mentioned the SOK coalition work. SDC's Armon Hartmann did the same during a session on Capacity building and Technology Transfer.

I attended the unofficial WSSCC Steering Committee meeting after the conference. This provided some leads for some of the thematic group work with partners in 2002, see under Follow-up. For the first time I have heard private sector leader from SUEZ/ONDEO say that water is one of the common, public goods, that they don't trade in water and that they are looking for public private partnerships. Compared to the 2nd WWF there was a better dialogue between the private sector and opponents.

1. Sanitation in key recommendations for action in Bonn

The UN Millennium Declaration target on drinking water should be complemented by a corresponding target to halve the proportion of people lacking access to improved sanitation by 2015.

This recommendation for action from the Bonn Freshwater Conference to the Johannesburg Rio + 10 meeting next year points to the positioning of sanitation and hygiene issues in the formal outcome from the Conference.

It appeared in recommendation number 2: **Ensure that water infrastructure and services deliver to poor people:**

*Water is an integral part of sustainable development. Policies for all aspects of water should be clearly linked to policies for poverty reduction and economic growth. Governments should review the priority given to water and **sanitation** and to productive water infrastructure in national and international programmes to tackle poverty.*

Recommendation 8: Protect water quality and ecosystems: *Treatment of waste water must be intensified and made more affordable for municipalities and industry. Investments in **appropriate sanitation facilities** should protect water bodies from pollution and reduce health hazards. Countries should intensify their attention to the management of diffuse (non-point) sources of pollution.*

The full text of the Bonn Freshwater Conference Outcomes can be viewed at: <http://www.water-2001.de/outcome/>

This attention for sanitation is a result of the WSSCC Panel Discussion - Outcome Statement and launch of the WASH campaign in Bonn: On the Road to Johannesburg: Putting Water and Sanitation on the Political Agenda.

WSSCC Round table: Sanitation is not a dirty word

The outcome of the WSSCC Round table event, on 3 December as put out by Eirah Gorre- Daled follows below:

Do you think that you can live and work in safety whilst 6000 people die needlessly each day? End the apathy and inaction!

Environmental sanitation, hygiene promotion and safe water supplies are vital for protecting the environment, improving health and alleviating poverty. Disease, drudgery, loss of human dignity and millions of deaths every year are directly attributable to the lack of these basic services. The poor and powerless, especially women and children, are the main victims of this 'silent emergency' that continues unnoticed in the developing world today.

To ensure a safer world we need:-

- **A target** and local specific plan of action to reduce the number of those who do not have effective and hygienic sanitation to half the present proportion by 2015 and to ensure that all people have these services by 2025, similar to the targets established for water supply in the UN Millennium Declaration of 2000;
- **Clear government responsibility and political will** to ensure that integrated approaches to sanitation and hygiene improvement are mainstreamed into government sector policies and programmes and championed by a single responsible line Ministry. Improvements to water supply infrastructure alone are inadequate to meet the goal of achieving sustainable development and improving health.

- **Ordinary people at the centre** with effective, responsible and democratic local government, enabling communities themselves to plan, direct their own sector policies and mobilize their energy and creativity to be part of the solution.
- **Partnerships** involving all institutions - public and private - through appropriate policy and legislative mechanisms that provide for clearly defined mandates, responsibilities, incentives, pricing mechanisms and enforcement;
- **Restructured sector investments.** Maximum benefits can be achieved by re-allocating a higher proportion of funds to affordable and appropriate projects in rural and low-income urban areas, where needs are greatest.
- **A society informed and aware** of better water and hygiene practices through advocacy, training and capacity building in partnership with media, civic and private sector organizations and using traditional communication channels where applicable.

To solve the global human settlement problem which threatens the well-being and security of rich and poor countries alike we must solve the sanitation and health problem.

The sanitation problem is your problem

The Roundtable panelists included: H.E. Mr. Ronnie Kasrils, Minister for Water and Forestry, South Africa H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, Minister for Mines, Energy and Hydrology, Senegal H.E. Mr. Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, United Kingdom Mr. Nitin Desai, Secretary-General, World Summit for Sustainable Development, United Nations, New York Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, UNEP, Nairobi Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair, Global Water Partnership, Stockholm Mr. Gerard Payen, CEO of ONDEO, Paris Sir Richard Jolly, Chairperson, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva, Switzerland

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2. Governance, Integrated Management and New Partnerships

Below are summaries of this working group report of 5 December, as well as conclusions from the Ministerial conference and Multistakeholder Dialogue.

Infrastructure for the poor

Keynote speaker Gourisankar Ghosh, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, discussed the link between infrastructure development and poverty alleviation, while Kalyan Ray, UNCHS, examined the challenge of providing infrastructure for the urban poor. In the case studies, Mukami Kariuki, World Bank, outlined the role of small-scale water providers in urban Africa, while Oswald Chanda, Water Supply and Sanitation Council, Zambia, shared Zambia's experience with water reforms, and Dennis Mwanza, Water Utility Partnership, presented on water and sanitation reform.

They recommended, inter alia: adopting a rights-based approach to basic service provision; identifying innovative financial mechanisms; providing enabling environments for small-scale service providers; taking a flexible approach to reform; providing good information; and adapting regulation to local conditions.

During discussion, the UK presented proposals brought forth during the ministerial session of: halving by 2015 the number of people without access to sanitation, as well as the number of river basins without strategies; preparing national water resource plans by 2005 or 2007; and reviewing the priority given to water and sanitation by national and international programmes.

Discussion focused on: clarification of targets and indicators; purpose, monitoring and assessment of targets; proposed timeframes and potential obstacles to their attainment; approaches to interfacing between government and the private sector, local authorities and users; development of capacity at the lowest levels; distinction between privatization and private sector involvement; benefits of using a holistic approach; and the possibility of crafting universal recommendations.

Conclusions of the Ministerial Session

Habibollah Bitaraf, Minister of Energy, Iran, reported that the Ministers had reached consensus on the Recommendations for Action and presented their adopted Declaration, which concludes that equitable access to water is a pre-requisite for tackling poverty, but must be founded on good governance and incentives and prioritize basic human and ecosystem needs.

They discussed finances and urged: incorporating water access issues in national accounting and in World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and affirmed the selection of 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. Noting disappointment in achieving the water goals laid out in agenda 21, the Ministers urged the Conference to discuss new water targets and to ensure adequate financing.

Conclusions of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues

Presenting the report on the MSDs, Facilitator Hales noted: a healthy and lively exchange of views; an optimism about potential for progress; a recognition of the magnitude of the task ahead; and rhetoric unmatched by action. He identified emerging concerns, inter alia, creating strong partnerships and enabling environments, addressing the inadequacy of financing, and managing privatization.

World Water Development Report

Gordon Young, Coordinator of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), described this collective effort of 23 UN agencies and conventions. He said the WWAP is a long-term project, whose main product is the World Water Development Report, published tri-annually. Targeted at decision-makers, the Report will be released at the Third World Water Forum in 2003. Young also presented a policy paper providing case studies and examining policy progress since Rio.

3. Recommendations for Action

The plenary session on 6 December discussed the Recommendations for Action at length. Below is a detailed account as reported by the Sustaniaboe Digests of IISD.

Co-chair Schipulle reported that the RFA had been updated to reflect input from all previous sessions. He said this session was an opportunity to discuss the main concepts and clarify, strengthen or de-emphasize concerns and issues. Presenting the Recommendations, Facilitator Catley-Carlson outlined the participatory process that resulted in the Draft. She urged delegates not to negotiate text, as the aim was to communicate the Conference deliberations to the outside world.

Delegates conducted a paragraph-by-paragraph reading of the document using a non-chronological thematic approach that concluded with the introduction.

Entitled "Water – A Key to Sustainable Development," the RFA serves as the conference's contribution to the WSSD and addresses recent international decisions related to water, seeking to close the implementation gap and provide an opportunity to manage water resources sustainably. The RFA is prioritized under four sections: governance; mobilizing financial resources; capacity building and sharing knowledge; and roles. In the introduction the RFA provides an overview of the conference.

The first section addresses:

- securing equitable access to water for all people;
- ensuring that water infrastructure and services deliver to the poor;
- promoting gender equality;
- allocating water among competing demands;
- sharing benefits from international waters;
- ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from large projects;
- improving water management through trade in goods;
- protecting water quality and ecosystems;
- coping with variability and climate change;
- encouraging more efficient service provision;
- managing water at the lowest appropriate level; and
- combating corruption effectively.

The second section on mobilizing financial resources addresses:

- ensuring significant increase in funding levels for water;
- strengthening public funding capabilities;
- designing water tariffs to sustain operations and investment;
- making water attractive for private investment; and
- increasing development assistance to water.

The third section on capacity building and technology transfer addresses:

- education and training on water wisdom;
- research and information management on problem solving;
- enhancing the effectiveness of water institutions more effective; and
- sharing knowledge and innovative technologies.

The fourth section describes roles for governments, local communities, NGOs, the private sector and the international community

Introduction

In this section: Switzerland, opposed by NGOs, contested the reference to "water is a human right," stating it was untrue, but the language was retained. Concerns emerged regarding an apparent focus on empowering the poor, rather than on guaranteeing access to water for the poor. There was also a proposal to refer to past conferences.

Action in The Field of Governance

Discussion on these actions generated lengthy debate on sharing benefits from international waters. Agreement was reached that given the limited mandate of this Conference and the need to promote international cooperation, a geographically-based definition should be followed, and reference to both "transboundary" and "international" watercourse avoided. The concept of cooperation instead of benefit sharing was retained.

Concerns were raised regarding, inter alia:

- the imminent 2005 target to prepare water resource management plans;
- the lack of reference to the primary role of states as water providers;
- the reference to men and women having equal involvement and voice in managing water resources; the unattainable 2015 target to improve sanitation; and
- a proposal for farmers in water-scarce regions to grow crops with low water requirements.

New proposals included:

- linking sectoral themes to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;
- reflecting the growing urban dimension;
- referring to "all" water uses;
- including the polluter pays principle;
- linking water to health issues;
- addressing payments for adaptation costs;
- minimizing flood damage and managing risks from climate change.
- joint responsibility for corruption;
- codes of practice covering all relevant stakeholders;
- roles for IFIs' and bilateral agencies in addressing corruption; and
- special recognition of developing countries that lack private water companies.

Proposals were also made to delete the reference to the precautionary principle and amend "commercially viable" to efficient, effective and accountable water provisions.

Action in the Field of Mobilizing Financial Resources

Delegates addressed investment needs for water infrastructure, debating reduction of harmful subsidies and recovery of costs through tariffs, but contention arose over implications for irrigation, and over promotion of cost recovery while ensuring access for the poor. FARMERS called for subsidies to increase water productivity, while UZBEKISTAN urged attention to water associations in transition economies.

On conditions for attracting private sector investment, participants debated the apparent bias toward 'partnerships,' while some noted that such conditions would benefit both public and private investment. Participants urged capacity building for regulators and service providers.

Delegates diverged over the 0.7 percent of GNP development assistance target and over prioritization of aid for water. DENMARK called for an end to donor and IFI conditions mandating privatization, and consensus emerged that donors should target aid to mobilize other financial sources.

Action in the Field of Capacity Building and Sharing Knowledge

In focusing education and training, suggestions were made to include references to: traditional media; the media role in hygiene and sanitation; and the role of workers and trade unions. Regarding research and information management, delegates added a provision for data sharing, and replaced "international targets" with the "Millennium Assessment goals." The World Water Assessment Programme requested that it take "a," and not "the," lead in developing indicators. Contention arose over the term "international river basins," with many countries preferring "transboundary waters," the language of Agenda 21.

Differences emerged on moving to the governance section the paragraph on making water institutions more effective. Amendments to this paragraph include incorporating ethical perspectives, and removing language on "changing policies and laws" and on specifying the mandate of water institutions. The provision on competitive pay was deemed too prescriptive and deleted. Debate surrounded the action on knowledge sharing and innovative technologies, as delegates sought clarification of the types and recipients of technologies. References to: cooperation of donor agencies and industry, and to the dissemination of technologies based on market processes, were also removed.

Roles

Participants also deliberated on actions and roles of people and organizations in relation to these three themes. Regarding government's role, controversy centered on questions of sovereignty, public participation and information. Text on compliance with international principles was rendered less prescriptive, and agreement emerged that NGOs and communities need additional capacity to carry out their roles. FARMERS expressed their interest in taking on responsibility, noting they consume 70 percent of freshwater but are not assigned a role in the recommendations. On the private sector role, discussion focused on the compatibility between profit, environmental and ethical concerns. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY noted general acceptance of these responsibilities compatible with economic viability, and urged a code-of-conduct for all stakeholders, not solely companies. On the role of the international community, participants limited recommendations to those in the Ministerial Declaration, which urges coordination of water issues within the UN system.

Co-Chair Schipulle closed the session, informing participants that the drafting team would submit an updated RFA for consideration on Friday, 7 December.

4. Ecological sanitation

Below is a summary of the side event on Ecological sanitation in the form of the concluding messages from the Nanning Conference of November 2001, which were presented by Ingvar Anderson. GTZ and SIDA stressed that they will step up their work on ecological sanitation and invited others to join. The meeting learned that in Sweden where the biggest promotion for ecological sanitation has taken place for quite a long while already there is still a lot of resistance from the bureaucracy. So far only a few thousand ecological systems have been installed in holiday houses in Sweden. In regular houses it is still forbidden to install such systems.

Concluding messages from the Nanning Conference

In today's world, 2.4 billion people either have no organised system of sanitation, or have access only to a noxious and unhygienic facility. The toll on human dignity, health and the environment of this sanitary crisis is devastating, with the burden falling most heavily on women and children. At the same time, conventional sewerage systems do not offer adequate or sustainable solutions. Despite growing awareness of these problems, progress towards improving the level and quality of service coverage, and freedom from dependence on scarce freshwater as a waste transport medium, has been negligible in recent decades.

This situation calls for a radical overhaul of policies and practices associated with water, sanitation and waste management worldwide. Towards this end, a set of principles to guide future environmental sanitation policies and practice was articulated at a recent meeting in Bellagio, Italy. These principles have subsequently been widely endorsed by international bodies, including the global Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and external support agencies.

In essence, these principles are as follows:

- The purpose of environmental sanitation is to promote human dignity, health and environmental security
- Both providers and consumers of services should participate in decision-making
- Human excreta and wastes should be perceived as potential resources
- Sanitation issues should be dealt with as close as possible to the source of waste generation.

On 5-8 November 2001, participants from 30 countries met in Nanning, China at the First International Conference on Ecological Sanitation to share recent experiences and research findings in the application of sanitation approaches based on ecological principles. The Conference was organised and hosted by the Jiu San Society, with the support of the Government of Guangxi Autonomous Region and associated ministries, institutes and associations. It was funded by the Government of Sweden and UNICEF, with additional cooperation from UNDP, GTZ, and the UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP).

Ecological sanitation is a term used to describe a sanitation approach which respects ecological integrity, conserves and protects freshwater, promotes healthy living, and recycles nutrients from human excreta for agricultural production. Its 'closed loop' thinking is fully compatible with the principles articulated at Bellagio, and falls within the framework of the new approach to environmental sanitation.

Experiments in ecological sanitation are now taking place in many settings, including on a very small scale in industrialised countries. In developing countries, a number of pilot projects have been carried out in diverse physical and cultural contexts. The largest programme is in China, where results are

particularly encouraging. In its different forms, ecological sanitation has begun to demonstrate that it can be widely acceptable and effective at scale.

The Conference reviewed the results of a number of recent studies on technical and scientific issues. These are starting to provide a strong scientific foundation for the implementation of the ecological sanitation approach and are building confidence for its future large-scale application.

The Nanning Conference recommended:

- Further research, especially into health aspects; economics and financing; institutional implications; the use of the nutrient products in agriculture; market development; and behaviours, attitudes, and practices concerning the use of ecological sanitation facilities by men, women and children.
- More widespread extension of pilot studies and research into urban and peri-urban areas.
- Awareness-building of ecological sanitation principles and 'closed loop' thinking at all levels of society and with all stakeholders, including young people and school children.
- Wider implementation of ecological sanitation in both developing and industrialized country settings.
- The systematic incorporation of ecological principles into conventional water and waste management systems and national sanitation policies.
- Forging of stronger links between proponents of ecological sanitation and partners in agriculture, energy, health, urban planning, water resources, and environmental security.

To implement these recommendations financial resources, technical support and endorsement will be needed from government at all administrative levels, external support agencies, professional bodies, NGOs and the private sector. To generate this support, strong political will is required.

Participants recognised that this Conference had brought ecological sanitation to a new threshold of credibility and launched it into mainstream thinking. For this achievement, much credit is due to Swedish International Development Assistance (Sida), which has played a leading role in investing in this pioneering work.

5. Water Aid side event

On 6 December WaterAid organised a side event on Private Sector Participation that I could only partly attend.

Private Sector Participation

Mobilising private resources to deliver water and sanitation in the poorest countries has become a strategy that more donors are pushing and governments are adopting. But will it deliver sustainable and affordable services to the poor? Will it undermine not only public sector capacity, but also the establishment of strong community structures that ensure sustainability? In the first place, how interested is the international private sector in investing in the poorest areas? Are there alternatives to private sector delivery that 'captures' the efficiencies it brings?

The attached framework document maps out the different arguments and positions on private sector participation (PSP) in water and sanitation. It examines the different theoretical issues that have emerged from the PSP debate, and has been prepared for collaborators and case study writers on the "Research, Learning and Advocacy Project on Private Sector Participation (PSP) in Water and Sanitation" (referred to from hereon as "PSP Research").

The paper compiles and arranges the issues that may be able to provide case investigators of the PSP research with leads to references. It starts with some key definitions and general comments on the nature of the debate on PSP, then provides a broad sketch of the history behind the debate. From thereon, it briefly examines the actual arguments that have been made, identifying in the process a number of key players in the debate. It then ventures briefly into the area of rights and water. It concludes by showing where Water Aid stands at the moment in this debate - and the options and directions it is currently considering.

The initial results of research carried out since May 2001 are to be posted here. The research has been carried out in seven countries with desk research into a further six countries. As the case studies are completed the results will be posted on WaterAid's web site: <http://www.wateraid.org.uk>.

Cases presented were:

- Private sector participation in the rural water supply and sanitation provision in Ghana
- Private sector participation in the rural water supply and sanitation provision in Uganda
- Small scale private sector participation in Niassa Province, Mozambique
- South Africa's experience in the privatisation of its water and sanitation services.
- The England and Wales Water Industry Privatisation - A Case Study
- Washington DC's "Continuous Internal Improvement" Alternative - An Initial Inquiry on PSP in Water and Sanitation in the United States

This is still work in progress. The reports are draft form and should therefore not be cited or quoted. All comments are welcome. Final publication are expected by the end of March 2002. For any queries please send an email to Eric Gutierrez

6. Prince WA launches GWP Toolbox

Below is the press release of the launch of the GWP Toolbox during the GWP event.

An information management system, the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) ToolBox, was launched by the Crown Prince of the Netherlands in Bonn during the international conference on freshwater. "It is the only interactive database of its kind that provides a knowledge exchange mechanism on integrated water resources management," said the Prince. "Most other systems address specific water sectors and techniques."

Released by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the IWRM ToolBox contains information on the political, institutional, and practical management processes that are needed for good water resources management. "The value of the IWRM ToolBox to water professionals," the Prince said, "is that they can enter their own information and experience into the system thereby providing feedback on how, in reality, the current policies support the water management practices they use. In this way," he added, "it is possible for policy makers to find out how effective their water policies are in given situations, and what policies need to be adapted to help practitioners better manage our water."

Among the many complexities of addressing integrated water resources management, GWP recognizes that there is an urgent need for more information on water and water management. "We need more information on stocks and flows of water, on quality, groundwater, in ecosystems and, most importantly, on water management procedures taken in the context of river basins as a whole," said Margaret Catley-Carlson, the Chairperson of the GWP.

"The GWP recognizes that a huge volume of knowledge and experience already exists on IWRM and it is vital to share this information and make it publicly available," Catley-Carlson added, "and it must be processed in a way that it is accurate and presented in an understandable format. This is one function of the IWRM ToolBox."

But even when water professionals have access to this information, political will is needed to make the changes happen as difficult decisions and complex tradeoffs will have to be made. The role of governments may have to change. They may need to move away from traditional ways and instead, devolve responsibilities to the most appropriate levels. "Governments must put in place a technically and scientifically informed, participatory process of decision making at all levels — from community to river basin level," Catley-Carlson said. "This will encourage people to put integrated water resources management into practice, and motivate the private sector."

But, this process will not happen automatically as there is a communication gap between those who build policies and those who implement them. New mechanisms are needed to bridge this gap. "This is the second function of the ToolBox," said Catley-Carlson, "so if the ToolBox is developed and maintained correctly, it will become a vital aid to the successful implementation of sustainable water resources management."

7. *NGO Statement at the Bonn Conference on Freshwater*

At the end of the conference the NGO group produced a statement about the outcome of the conference that was handed out to the press.

Delegates and observers representing Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the Bonn Conference on Freshwater, 3-7 December 2001, state the following:

We welcome the initiative to invite NGOs and other Major Groups to participate in Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues and in Working Group and Plenary discussions. This procedure should be adopted in discussions on water management on all levels.

We also welcome the statement by Minister Wieczorek-Zeul that the German government is prepared to support a multi-stakeholder review of private sector participation in the water sector.

We are pleased to note that some of our concerns are reflected in the main outcome documents of the conference; the Bonn Ministerial Declaration, and the Recommendations for Action. In particular we welcome the inclusion of a statement in the Recommendations that private sector participation in water supply should not be imposed on developing countries as a conditionality for funding.

However, we find that several important points, although brought forward by the NGO community several times during the conference, are absent in the outcome documents:

Water is a human right!

Governments should ensure that everyone has a lifeline supply of 50 litres per day of safe water. We note that relevant UN Conventions, particularly regarding the Rights of the Child, specifically refers to the right (of the child) to water. This principle should be applied throughout the UN system and to all humans.

Water is a common good!

The character of water as a vital resource requires that it be managed as a common good carrying social, cultural, spiritual, as well as economic values. The problem of over consumption should be adequately addressed, and such non-sustainable patterns of water use strongly discouraged, by bodies discussing or making decisions on water management.

WCD recommendations should be adopted!

Governments and international agencies should adopt and implement the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams.

Water is not a tradable good!

With all its associated values, water resources and water service delivery should be kept out of international agreements on trade. Access to adequate water, notably for those living in poverty, cannot be jeopardised.

We strongly urge the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to take place in Johannesburg, 2002, to take up all the issues mentioned above, and include them in its recommendations to the world's nations on actions for sustainable and equitable development.

Bonn, 7 December 2001

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8. WSSCC Meetings

Below are three short reports about the various WSSCC meetings I attended. The preparatory meeting with the chair and members before the conference, the report of the informal Steering Committee meeting after the conference, and a report on recent activities.

WSSCC preparatory meeting with the Chairman

Richard Jolly stressed that the WSS sector investment requirement to provide people with basic sanitation and water facilities is US\$ 9 billion, the US\$ 180 billion annually is mainly for urban and irrigation water.

South African Water Minister Ronnie Kasrils ("I was dynamised by Gouri's visit") shared his conviction that the Council's WASH approach is the right one. He shared his experiences on "sanitation is not a dirty word" by telling a story from Kwa Zulu Natal, 40 km out of Durban. He visited there a cholera-affected area where the Govt had put in water connected to a 200 litre water tank outside the hut or the household and sanitation through a double-pit VIP latrine. With ministers and mayors there and heavy media presence a 60-year old lady led the group to her VIP latrine that was painted in the bright colours of the South African flag. He dreaded the idea of having to inaugurate the latrine. Instead, the lady opened the door, and the whole group of visitors spontaneously bursted out in singing the national anthem. The lady then sat her self on the toilet and looked around as if she was sitting on a throne. It was clear here: sanitation is not a dirty word. The Minister committed himself to totally support the Council to get sanitation on the agenda in the Joburg Earth Summit.

Gouri explained some recent Council activities:

- The People's Report on Sanitation and Hygiene, will be written by Peter Adamson in April May, to be ready in time for the African Summit one month before the Earth Summit.
- The WASH campaign (key message + soap, provided by Unilever). He stressed that the sanitation issue to be pushed by Council members at the Bonn conference has to be linked to the issue of not polluting the water environment. Think in terms of the economic costs of lack of sanitation. The 1991 cholera outbreak in Peru and related costs of US\$ 1 billion to the Peruvian economy can be quoted. More research on the economic costs will be done in the next couple of months. On 17th December there is a meeting at IDS on the next steps and who is doing what for the People's Report.

SC meeting Bonn 7 December 2001

Report Gouri

The Council team did great job, sanitation goal halving those without access to basic sanitation by 2015 made it in the final Bonn recommendations, the launch of the WASH campaign went beyond imagination. We achieved great publicity with three ministers and Maggie Catley Carlson washing their hands at the end of the press conference, where the campaign was officially launched.

Len Abrahams was commissioned by the Council to be "the eyes and ears" for the Council in Bonn and sound out reactions from the Bonn participants about the Council's name and fame, and future directions. He reported that the Council is firmly seen by participants as THE organization dealing with water, sanitation and hygiene.

Funding situation

- Receipt of funds from DGIS, SDC, NORAD, SIDA in relation to Long Term Plan and Budget
- Submission of funding proposal to CIDA in relation to People's Report (verbal indication of successful application)
- Submission of funding proposal to World Bank-Netherlands Water Partnership
- Submission of funding proposal to UNEP for continuation of activities in relation to wastewater management
- Possible support from FINNIDA for 2001

Accommodation and location

On 13 December Gouri Ghosh will meet with WHO to discuss the accommodation situation. Situation is not looking good, Gro Brundland has told GG that WSS is not a priority for WHO, and has asked why don't you go to UNEP? Jamie Bartram is of great help, but has to fight for WATSAN in WHO as well. The contracts GG on 1/1/02 and Darren on 15/12/01 are expiring. WHO is not interested in the Trust Fund option through UNOPS. GG is now juggling with other options:

- UNEP, GG had first meet with Toepfer, who is greatly interested, but no official reply received yet;
- UN DESA, Nitin Desai interested, but does not want to strain relations with WHO, Imprest account as a project is possible. WSSCC has a line in a UN General Assembly resolution (GWP and WWC don't).

GG is trying to arrange short-term contracts for Darren and him self. GG received green light to go ahead as things develop. He'll report to SC soon after 13 December. If separation from WHO is needed, support staff may have to be carried on the CC pay role for 6 - 12 months.

Armon Hartman reported that his boss has written a letter to the Swiss government asking them to give the CC space in the Environment House (same complex).

Sub committees

Accommodation committee: will meet early next year.

Selection of new chair committee (Jon Lane, Barbare Evans and GG): some names are floating: Richard is pushing hard to bring Maggy Catley Carlsson back. There are obvious disadvantages. Bill Cosgrove (retiring from WWC, Watsan man, sincere professional, good leader, good name and reputation)

Ronnie Kasrills, good name, great speaker, but may be complicated if he changes jobs, e.g. if he becomes Minister of Defence.

GG suggested to try to keep Richard Jolly on until the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, for handover at the next CC Global Forum in 1993. Comments and other suggestion are welcome.

Next meeting

Richard has suggested to link the next meeting in South Africa (Johannesburg) with the African Sanitation meeting in Durban, 24 – 26 July 2002. SC members are requested to block out the week from 20 – 26 July

Report on recent activities

Darren Saywell provided a digest of recent activities since last updated (28 September)

Advocacy

- Draft WASH campaign plan
- Recruitment of WASH campaign manager, Laurent Favre
- Completion and printing of initial WASH campaign materials, including 5000 soaps donated by UNILEVER (without any demand in return)
- Release of several media features in relation to: a) Rainwater Harvesting Conference; b) IWA / GWP /WSSCC joint event on Water Policy in CEENIS states; c) Launch of South African Chapter; d) Op-Ed article by Richard Jolly; e) Plans for Bonn Freshwater Conference

Communications

- Continuation of tailored member's briefings by e-mail (23 circulated to date)
- Re-design of website completed in November
- Introduction of WSSCC discussion space on Virtual Water Forum (strategy for managing space completed). The Rainwater harvesting group and EHP have both agreed to lead an output oriented discussion for one month. IRC, WaterAid and others can do the same.
- Finalisation of concept note on 'People's Report' and planning for research workshop to identify material and plan work schedule for project (17.12.01 at IDS in the UK)

Thematic activities

- Completion of concept notes for environmental sanitation and hygiene promotion themes. Commencement of implementation of these strategies in December
- Concept note for Institutional Management Options (Maarten Blokland IHE) completed and ready for implementation in December
- Meeting of Monitoring network planned for 14 December, with view to finalising WSSCC approach
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with ISW on Community Management theme, and activities underway. CC will be next week at IRC scaling up meeting Community management; will try to bring these two initiatives together for CC Vision 21 implementation.
- The four proposals to the CEO panel (advocacy, capacity building, and action research) did not pass. Eirah heard good feedback this week, UNILEVER is interested. Work with companies directly may be better. The Procter & Gamble people did not show up for a meeting this week.

Regional and national activities

- Completion of IAP strategy in Africa and planning visit made by Hans van Damme to trigger this process resulted in a good set of recommendations for action.
- This week gone through country action plans and administrative arrangements
- Advocacy support guide (internal) for WASH campaign is underway.
- Finalisation of regional plans for CEENIS received, and catalytic funding approved
- Finalisation of regional plans for Latin America received and catalytic funding to be approved in December
- Preparation of regional plans for MENA finalised in Bonn, with a view to launching strategy, WASH campaign in January 2002
- Continued support to South Asia and South East Asian regional strategies, and catalytic funding approved and provided

Armon Hartmann observed that existing partners such as NETWAS and SOK, and WSP Africa under Piers Cross can also be used to help on advocacy. WaterAid will help in Tanzania and Ghana, Mozambique is another must.



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