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Global WASH Forum

Dakar, Senegal



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Global WASH Forum Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all – Solutions and actions; local and national
Forum mondial WASH Eau, assainissement et hygiène pour tous – Solutions et actions; locales et nationales
Foro Mundial WASH Agua, saneamiento e higiene para todos — Soluciones y acciones; locales y nacionales

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PRESS RELEASE

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GLOBAL WASH FORUM ENDS WITH STEPPED-UP ACTION PLANS TO MEET MILLENNIUM GOALS ON WATER AND SANITATION

AFRICAN MINISTERS AND WOMEN LEADERS FOR WASH INITIATIVES LAUNCHED

Dakar, 4 December, 2004: The landmark Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all (WASH) Forum meeting in Dakar ended yesterday, reiterating the unswerving commitment to water, sanitation and hygiene as human rights, people-centred, gender-focused approaches and drawing up practical action plans to attain the global targets on water and sanitation.

The Dakar Statement adopted by acclamation by 500 participants, spells out 16 practical actions that are already being done at the household, local and national levels that need scaling up to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water and sanitation by 2015. The statement asserts that “the MDGs must form the basis both for national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers processes and WASH roadmaps towards the MDGs and calls for international support through aid, trade reform and cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world’s poorest countries.”

A key outcome of the five-day Forum that began here on 29 November is a roadmap which will lead the way forward from Dakar to the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in April 2005, the “International Decade “ Water for Life’ 2005-2015”, the UN review of the MDG progress in September 2005 and the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City in 2006. Developed as a tool to assess if a country is on track and moving in the right direction to achieve the MDGs, the roadmap is based on the best practices that have emerged from the Forum and the regional consultations preceding it.

As a practical step in translating political will into action the Global WASH Forum launched two major initiatives: an ***African Ministerial Initiative on WASH (AMIWASH) and Women Leaders for WASH***. Announced by the Hon. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of State for Water of Uganda and Chair of the African Council of Ministers on Water (AMCOW), AMIWASH was endorsed by the fifth session of AMCOW in Entebbe on 6 November 2004. Both these initiatives will help advance advocacy and create strong political will for translating commitment into action on the ground to meet the MDGs and build on existing efforts such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and AMCOW itself. The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) will provide the platform and support to these efforts in collaboration with its partners including the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank (WSP) Africa.

Led by key Ministers from the South, the ***Women Leaders for WASH*** initiative will also include other WASH champions from the North and South from governments, NGOs, the private sector and media networks, among others.

CSD-13 Chair Hon. John Ashe told Forum participants: "I am confident that AMIWASH will prove to be an effective initiative that will assist African countries in achieving MDGs and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets through coalition building among African actors and continuing advocacy under the WASH campaign. CSD-13 will provide a timely opportunity for mobilizing global support for AMIWASH." "I foresee an increasingly greater role of the WSSCC in assisting African and other developing countries in meeting these challenges, especially in addressing gaps in capacity building through coalition building and networking of African experts and professionals," he added.

On behalf of the European Union Presidency, the Ambassador for Sustainable Development of The Netherlands, Mr. Ton Boon von Ochsée, informed the Forum on the progress made by the European Water Initiative (EUWI) that was launched during the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. In 2004, the EU established a special Water Facility to promote access to clean water and sanitation for people in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Considered a major breakthrough in financing and designed to have a catalytic effect in generating additional funding, the EUWI is expected to provide up to 500 million Euros in its first phase, and will be innovative and responsive to demand, according to Ambassador von Ochsée.

In his closing statement at the Forum, the President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Dr. Abdoulaye Wade, informed delegates that for the first time since his country's independence, Senegal has placed sanitation and hygiene on top of its agenda, given that these issues were vital to the economic and social development of the country. At the same time, he has set up a new Ministry of Sustainable Development to complement the new Ministry of Prevention, Public Hygiene and Sanitation, headed by the Hon. Lamine Ba.» For his part, Minister Ba said that his Ministry «was in the process of developing a strategy for achieving the MDGs and a new sectoral approach that would include urban and rural policies aimed at improving coordination of international aid assistance within a medium-term framework. «The Government's main objectives for 2015 are to achieve a 95% access to safe water in urban areas and 85% in rural areas; provide 80% access to urban sanitation and 50% to the rural population, » he said. « The estimated cost of this programme is US\$ 700 million for the period 2006-2015 of which 350 million is earmarked for sanitation," said Minister Ba.

The Global Forum meeting was followed by an African Ministers meeting to give greater focus to initiatives in Africa for meeting the MDGs. The Forum also endorsed the proposal for an annual **Sanitation and Hygiene Week** to be observed worldwide from 15 March and ending on World Water Day on 22 March.

Co-chaired by WSSCC Chair, Sir Richard Jolly and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Anna K. Tibaijuka , the five-day Dakar Global WASH Forum featured 20 main sessions and

about 50 parallel events covering a whole range of topics of WASH-related topics. Practical demonstrations of low-cost technological options were also on display.

The Forum was organized by the Geneva-based multi-stakeholder organization, the WSSCC, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Senegal. Amongst those who attended the Forum were representatives of governments, NGOs, private sector, academic and training institutions, UN agencies, womens' groups and grassroots organizations. In addition to H.E. the President of Senegal, Dr. Aboulaye Wade, the Prime Minister of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Macky Sall and Vice-President and Minister of Water Development of Malawi, H.E. Cassim Chilumpha, other Ministers who attended were: the Chair of CSD-13, Hon. John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Jose Botelho de Vasconcelos of Angola, Hon. Kamarou Fassassi of Benin, Hon. José Barragán of Bolivia, Hon. Carmen Arevalo-Correa of Colombia, Hon. Shiferaw Jarso of Ethiopia, Hon. Khaketla Momphono of Lesotho, Hon. S. Mohamed Ould Taleb Amar of Mauritania, Hon. Prakash Man Singh of Nepal, Hon. Olav Kjørven of Norway, Hon. Miguel Palomino de Gala of Peru, Hon. Buyelwa Sonjica of South Africa, Hon. Kamal Ali Mohamed of Sudan, Hon. Issifou Okoulou-Kantchati of Togo, Uganda's Water Minister and AMCOW Chair, Hon. Maria Mutagamba, Hon. Suryakanta Mishra, West Bengal, India and the Hon. Lamine Ba, whose Ministry provided support to the Forum, assisted by a multi-sectoral Liaison Committee.

For more information, check www.wsscc.org/dakar, or contact:

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