

WSSCC Fourth Global Forum - Manila Action Programme (MAP)

Recommendations of the Programme Committee

On the basis of plenary discussions and the reports of the Regional Sessions, the Programme Committee makes the following recommendations for the Manila Action Programme, which should be the basis of the Council's Global and Regional activities until the next Global Forum. The recommendations take account of the supporting capacity of the Secretariat, the commonality of issues identified by the Regional Sessions, and the recommendations made in the reports of the ongoing working groups, networks and task forces.

1. Regional Chapters and Focal Points

The Council Secretariat will provide support in terms of staff time and mobilization of resources for the establishment of Regional Chapters or Focal Points identified in the reports from the Regional Sessions, where such support is requested. Support is not expected to be needed for any subregional nodes, as these are most likely to be existing sector institutions. Though the Secretariat will not directly finance the regional activities, the Regional Groups will be given a Council mandate to undertake activities in support of the priority issues identified in their Regional Session Reports. In its regular dialogue with ESAs, the Secretariat will also keep them informed about ongoing and proposed regional activities. In addition, the five Global Working Groups described below will schedule their meetings in such a way that regional issues can be addressed cost effectively, adding the Council's authority to the work of the Regional Groups from the start.

2. Global Working Groups

The Secretariat will also provide staff time and help to mobilize resources for five Global Working Groups. These Groups will help to coordinate and oversee the activities of corresponding regional groups, holding appropriate meetings in the regions to match the priorities of the relevant regional groups. The five topic areas will be:

1. **Environmental Sanitation**
2. **Community Management and Partnerships with Civil Society**
3. **Institutional Issues**
4. **Human Resources Development**
5. **Water Demand Management and Conservation**

In each case, the Working Group's terms of reference will include requirements to address and report on the cross-cutting issues of **Gender, Advocacy, Communications and Documentation**. As a basic principle of all Council activities, **country-level collaboration** will be encouraged in all activities. In the case of the Environmental Sanitation Group, the ToR will also encompass support for the **Global Sanitation Initiative**.

3. Networks

Four existing networks will continue to operate with a Council mandate. The networks function without direct Council support and are responsible for identifying their own funding sources. The four networks are:

1. **GARNET**
2. **Gender**
3. **Operation & Maintenance**
4. **Services for the Urban Poor**

4. Task Forces

A Council Task Force is a small group formed to carry out a predefined task in a specified period of time. It requires logistical and financial support from the Council and will normally also involve a Council Steering Committee. Two such Task Forces are proposed:

1. **The Evaluation Team**
2. **A Vision 21 Team, charged with developing a long-term vision and short/medium-term goals for the sector**

In addition, the Council is seeking to mandate responsibility for a further four Task Forces to agencies able to undertake the following tasks on its behalf:

1. **Develop advocacy and guidelines on application of the 20:20 principle and the establishment of WSS as a prime component of basic social services**
2. **Development of improved indicators and monitoring methodologies in relation to the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)**
3. **Drafting of guidelines and model plans for disaster preparedness in small island developing states**
4. **Completion of the work begun on Emergency Measures in WSS.**

5. The Workload of the Secretariat

In addition to providing support to the five Global Working Groups, five Regional Chapters/Focal Points and two Task Forces, the Secretariat will develop and implement an Advocacy and Communication Strategy on the basis of the presentation made to the plenary and reflecting the views expressed by Forum participants. The strategy will include:

- 1. Preparation of flyers, reports, press releases and leaflets on the Council and its activities and support for Global and Regional Groups in reporting, publicising and disseminating their work.**
- 2. Establishment of regular communication channels, including seeking cooperation from partner agencies to provide E-Mail gateways in developing countries**
- 3. Further development of the INTERWATER concept and the Council's Home Page in conjunction with IRC and WEDC**
- 4. Advocacy for the sector and the Council by the Chairperson and Executive Secretary and development of advocacy materials for use by all members**
- 5. Liaison with the GWP, WWC and other relevant initiatives**

6. Scope of Global Working Group activities

The five Global Working Groups will help to address most of the priority issues identified either by the Regional Sessions or in the plenary discussions. The table indicates the specific concerns that each new Working Group will need to include in its terms of reference.

7. Issues omitted from MAP

A few issues raised in plenary have been omitted from the Manila Action Programme, either because of lack of resources, or because it was felt that there was a need for more detailed proposals before the suggestions could be assessed. Omitted issues include: *A proposed Middle-East North Africa Regional Group* (this may be reconsidered at the mid-Term Review, if strong interest is mobilized); *Mobilization of financial resources* (mentioned by only one participant); *Governance*.

Scope of Work of Global Working Groups

	<i>Environmental Sanitation</i>	<i>Community Management and Partnerships with Civil Society</i>	<i>Institutional Issues</i>	<i>Human Resources Development</i>	<i>Water Demand Management and Conservation</i>
Africa	Household sanitation School sanitation	Institutional case studies related to Africa	Institutional reform Decentralization	Community management training	Water scarcity
Asia	Urban & rural promotion coverage goals household waste peri-urban sewage disposal technologies Urban poor	Supporting people's efforts User ownership Gender issue	Strengthening management Alternatives to privatization Code of conduct	Capacity building for decentralization	
Latin America	Management and treatment of wastewater	Basic sanitation CM - research	Institutional reform Unaccounted-for water	Management training and materials	Efficient and rational use of water
CEE&NIS	Environmental degradation and public health		Decentralization, privatization Legal framework Planning capacity Water management framework	HRD Improve communication and information skills	Water scarcity Rational use of domestic water and pollution control
SIDS			Unaccounted-for water Cost recovery	Retention of trained staff	Scarcity Integrated WRM
Issues from plenary	Global Sanitation Initiative School education Hygiene education	NGO Forum [Fund raising] Traditional WRM			
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, Advocacy, Communications				

INTRODUCTION

The African Working Group of the Collaborative Council started by identifying thirteen issues to be tackled between now and the next Collaborative Council meeting. After prioritising them four issues were considered and given in some brief details below. The issues include:

- ☛ Institutional arrangements
- ☛ Community Management
- ☛ Sanitation
- ☛ Collaboration and Communication.

A. Identification of Priority Issues

Institutional Arrangements

Most water supply and sanitation institutions are under extreme pressure to meet the demands of consumers. The institutions are generally weak with inadequate financial resources and enjoy little autonomy from political interference. Most of them face high staff turnover due to poor conditions of service. There is a general lack of clarity of roles of different actors. This is in most cases exacerbated by inadequate policies to address water supply and sanitation issues. Hence the need for:

- Institutional reforms
- Clarification of roles for the different actors i.e. Water utilities, community and private sector.
- Compilation of experiences in Africa and develop the options.
- Raising of awareness on institutional options.

Important institutional issues include:

- Tariffs are sometimes not commensurate with the cost of providing the service.
- Low payment for the service
- Lack of sustainability approaches.
- Delegation of responsibilities to local level

Generally the broader political, economic and social reforms which are emphasising on opening up the sectors to other players create the necessity for reforms. Governments are changing their roles from being providers of services using Centralised systems to being facilitators and enablers for other actors to be involved.

Community Management

Provision of sustainable services to the urban poor and rural areas has to involve the communities. Community managed projects are becoming the dominant concept in water supply and sanitation development. This approach helps to assure ownership of the projects which should be demand driven rather than supply driven. Some of the important matters that need consideration include;

- Capacity building through training in participatory methods.
- Empowering communities through the decentralisation approaches
- Strategy development to turn political interference into political support for community based actions.
- Involvement of the private sector for management of rural water supply and sanitation.

Sanitation

Sanitation should be viewed in its wider context of protection of the environment and reduction of health risks. Sanitation should therefore include excreta disposal, protection of water sources, hygiene education and not limited to human excreta disposal.

There is therefore a need to improve the services, especially for the poor and most vulnerable. In order to see remarkable improvement in sanitation issues emphasis should be placed on school sanitation and hygiene education. Other activities need to be undertaken include:

- Greater advocacy and awareness raising of sanitation issues.
- Attention to urban slums (high density areas of the cities) as well as peri-urban areas.
- Attitude and behavioral change.
- Better understanding of management of health risks.
- Development by Governments of national sanitation policies and strategies.
- Making sanitation a requisite in all Water Supply and Sanitation implementation.

Collaboration and Communication

Recognising the differences in Africa on areas of approach, culture and language, collaboration and communication are vital vehicles for breaking down the differences in order to improve coverage and quality of water supply and sanitation in the region. This area covers various aspects of country level/regional/global and intra/inter sectoral collaboration and communication which are very much needed.

Other issues identified

The following issues were also identified and considered important which should still be addressed before the next Collaborative Council meeting. However the working group could not discuss these.

- i). Gender issues
- ii). Inadequate policies
- iii). Raising of the Water Supply and Sanitation Political profile
- iv). Operation and Maintenance
- v). Financing
- vi). Sector investment
- vii). Lack of information on situation in individual countries
- viii). Lack of capacity
- ix). Emergency preparedness (limited water resources)

B. Proposed Actions and Support requirements

1. Actions which can be taken by individuals

Collaboration and Communication

- Prepare advocacy materials
- Disseminate the materials
- Be motivators in setting up and proper running of the CLC
- Peer net working

2. Agency/Country-level actions

Institutional arrangements

- Clarify and define functions and roles of the different actors in the sector
- Establish a forum for wide participation on institutional matters (consensus building).
- Government agencies should promote and empower the forum with the assistance of External support Agencies.

Country level activities for Community management issues

- Develop systems which will ensure smooth transition to the Communities to manage
- A programme capacity building for decentralised management including mobilisation of information should be put in place in each country.
- Local resources should be mobilised to help with the community management issues
- There should be fiscal incentives for rural entrepreneurship.
- Legal framework and codes of conduct should be developed for community management.
- Consultation framework for NGO/Govt./Private Sector should also be developed.

Collaboration and communication

- Advocacy to promote awareness and support for Water Supply and sanitation in all the stake holders.
- Encourage country level collaboration in member states.
- Communication both in country and within the region through the use of internet e.t.c.
- Sharing of expertise i.e. peer networking, national and regional fora.
- Improvement of documentation skills and cataloguing of available documents.

Some specific activities may be undertaken as follows:

- ☞ Set up country level collaboration mechanisms
- ☞ Communication between related sectors
- ☞ Creation of fora for interaction of stakeholders

3. Regional Activities

Institutional arrangements

- Compile and share case studies and recommendations of the Collaborative Council relevant for Africa
- Compile key experiences on institutional reform
- Develop an information unit (Observatoire Institutionale) on water utilities and community management related to institutional reforms.
- Advocate and provide information on institutional options at political levels.

Community Management

- Regional workshops on decentralisation and community management issues should be held (Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone)
- Case studies and exchange of experiences through workshops leading to synthesis of good practices. Such institutions as the Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Groups of the UNDP/World Bank and UNICEF could be utilised for such activities.

Collaboration and Communication

- Capacity building in documentation and communication skills
- creation of modalities for dissemination of available information and documents

Activities for Sanitation

- Promote and hold workshops and seminars on sanitation. This should be done at Country and Regional levels.
- There is need to recognise and adapt the recently developed tool kits on sanitation promotion. The tool kits should be implemented at Country and Regional levels. In this respect, there is need to establish task forces, pilot projects. ESAs like WHO and UNICEF could take the lead. However, the existing networks in Africa and the Water Utility Partnership should play a big role.
- Good experiences in Sanitation should be identified, developed, documented and shared for use in the region.
- There is need to establish an information/communication network. Again, it is necessary to take advantage of networks/initiatives which have already been put in place. Networks on regional level should take the lead.
- There is need for advocacy for sanitation on a global level. In this case support should be given to the Council Chairman to request for such declaration.
- Sanitation should be made the main issue in the 1998 Africa Consultative forum. Support from the Collaborative Council, ESAs in the region and other initiatives is expected.

AFRICA WORKING GROUP - INSTITUTIONAL SET UP

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Foster collaboration and coordination among countries with the aim of improving access to water supply and sanitation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- 1) Take an active role in the formulation of the regional agenda
- 2) Promote and facilitate collaboration with regional and sub-regional agencies dealing with Water Supply and Sanitation
- 3) Coordinate and facilitate collaboration with the Collaborative Council.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

1. Establish a Secretariat

- This should comprise of 1 or 2 professional staff
- Establish a board/core group
- Tie the core group meetings with those of the Collaborative Council meetings

2. However during the transition (until the Secretariat is established)

- Form a task force drawing its membership from:
 - Existing core group (3)
 - Francophone (1)
 - Lusophone (2)
 - North Africa (Magreb Africa) (2)
 - Civil Society (2)
 - ESAs active in Africa (3)
- The activities for the task force should include the following:
- Propose a Board to oversee the Secretariat
- Mobilise resources for establishment of the secretariat for an initial period of 3 years.
- Ensure participation of the Africa Working Group in the global working groups on the four issues which have been prioritised and even organise regional meetings on the same issues.
- Plan for the 1998 Africa Consultative forum
- Finalise and present the draft of OAU resolution.

SUPPORT REQUIRED

1.0 Collaborative Council

1. Advise and support on establishment of Secretariat
2. Regular exchange of information on key topics through Council Global working Groups and Web page/discussion groups
3. Leaflets, information packs, case studies for translation/documentation
4. Contact with other global partnerships/initiatives in the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector

2.0 ESAs

1. Financial support and Technical Assistance for establishment of secretariat
2. Office space, support, and financial management services.
3. Support for holding of the African Consultation Forum for 1998
4. Support for three other sub-regional workshops.

ASIA REGIONAL SESSION REPORT

Identification of Priority Issues:

1. **Strengthening Management**

Priority issues under management include concerns for the demand-driven approaches, sustainability of completed projects, operation and maintenance, water pricing and unaccounted for water. Dwindling water supply, water quality, the protection and rehabilitation of groundwater and surface water resource, management of shared aquifers and demand management must also be addressed.

2. **Community Management and Supporting People's Efforts**

Concern and focus were high on the participation of civil societies and the need to provide more support to people's efforts. Progressively, community should own assets created for efficient management of the systems. Women should be given increasing roles in decision-making and management of WATSAN activities.

3. **Sanitation**

There should be more efforts to promote urban and rural sanitation through IEC activities, increase sanitation coverage, improve solid waste management at the household level and sewage disposal systems and other appropriate sanitation technologies, particularly in peri-urban areas.

4. **Institutional Reforms and Options**

Alternative institutional options should be explored including private sector participation. A code of conduct must be developed to depoliticize the provision of WATSAN services. Donors may adopt a more flexible approach, responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries. Legal and policy options, including financial practices should be developed to facilitate such development.

5. **Services for the Urban Poor and Small Towns**

Priority should be given to the integration of water supply, sanitation and hygiene education in the context of growing urbanization. Sustainable systems must be developed to serve the urban poor, specially in secondary towns (peri-urban areas).

6. **Capacity Building**

Capacity building was identified as a key issue in preparing for decentralized management of WATSAN services. Mere financial devolution is not enough. HRD programs must be strengthened and expanded to develop more skilled professionals, particularly in the process of decentralization.

Note: Advocacy and communications and gender should be integral components of each task or activity.

Proposed Actions and Support Requirements:

1. *Actions which can be taken by individuals*

- a. Act as "ambassador" of the council
- b. Activate institutions towards country/regional goals
- c. Influence professional groups and decision- and policy-makers.
- d. Share experience and knowledge
- e. Provide feedback to the WSSCC
- f. Individuals to set example
- g. Promote innovative implementation approaches

1. *Agency/Country-level actions*

- a. Evolve suitable policy/suitable legislation and strategies for implementation of action plans in the water and sanitation sectors, ultimately aimed at bringing about sectoral reforms.
- b. Generate the much-required political will/Advocacy
- c. Institute appropriate monitoring and evaluation machineries
- d. Organize research, and provision of information, and preparation of data (standardized)
- e. Formation of focal points for regional coordination:
Philippines: Pirid, PTF
Indonesia - Interagency Planning Bureau
Cambodia - MOH
Laos - MOH
India - RGNDWM
India - Sulabh
Sri Lanka - NGO involvement
- f. Ensure greater transparency in rules and regulations of funding agencies
- g. Support sanitation initiatives
- h. Support poor people's efforts and accept them
- i. Advocate sharing of responsibilities
- j. Improve partnership between government and people
- k. Harness and build on existing resources
- l. Evolve efficient institutional management
- m. Encourage community management, gender, capacity-building
- n. Involve ESAs, donors, government, NGOs, PS in activities

1. *Regional Activities*

- a. Sharing of experience
- b. Synthesis of experience
- c. Evolve data base, monitoring and evaluation
- d. Training (exchange)

- e. Technology (exchange)
- f. Networking between national institutions in the region
- g. Advocacy towards political will
- h. Creation of focal point in each country (Approtech Asia for EastAsia/Nepal for South Asia)
- i. Facilitating exchange through informal systems
- j. Constitute Task Forces or working groups for WSS activities
- k. Standardize data
- l. Ensure greater transparency in rules and regulations of funding agencies
- m. Support for sanitation initiative (UNICEF has offered to be focal point)
- n. Advocate partnerships (especially poor people as equal partners)
- o. Promote good practices
- p. Promote step by step approach

Support Required from Others:

1. Support from WSCC Working groups
2. Donor support for meetings and activities including "interim focal points"
3. Support from ITNs, UNICEF, UNDP/WB Program and other ESAs, Approtech Asia to initiate formation of regional councils

Vision Statement

Improve the quality of life through empowered communities and institutions working together towards accelerated sanitation services and access to safe water systems that are equitable, effectively used and environmentally as well as economically sustainable.

Advocacy Priorities

1. Institutional reforms and options
2. Strengthening Management
3. Sanitation
4. Community management and supporting people's efforts
5. Capacity building

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL SESSION REPORT

The Work Plan of the Regional Chapter drawn up during a meeting in Quito identified four priority issues which especially concern service providers, namely: Potable Water Rehabilitation and Sanitation Systems; Institutional Modernization of the Sector, Residual Water Treatment; Standardization and Certification. The group agreed on the issues addressed in Quito and discussed the water supply sector in rural areas, small municipalities and peri-urban areas with special emphasis on community-based companies and public participation.

The priorities, activities and groups pertaining to the different issues were identified.

The group also took up fundamental cross-cutting activities such as training and the exchange of information in which the Collaborative Council will play a relevant role, making use of national, regional and international experiences.

WORKING GROUP NO. 1

STANDARDIZATION AND CERTIFICATION

In-charge: **HIDROVEN - Venezuela**. In collaboration with CAPRE, ANDESPA and COPANT

Priorities:

- Lay out standards and systems of validation and actual certification.

Activities:

- Ongoing ratification of policies
- Coordination among concerned parties (authorities, manufacturers and users)
- Dissemination of policies and observations on their implementation

Relation with Global Working Groups

- Operation and Maintenance

WORKING GROUP NO. 2

POTABLE WATER REHABILITATION AND SANITATION SYSTEMS

In-charge: **SANAA - Honduras** - in collaboration with CAPRE

Priorities:

1. Establish guidelines and mechanisms in designing rehabilitation programs
2. Control unaccounted water
3. Improve water quality

Activities:

- Develop a methodology to rehabilitate supply and sanitation systems. Test these systems and adapt them based on a field case.
- Salvage and adapt strategies and materials in the region and from the O&M Group of the Collaborative Council
- Promote and disseminate suitable methodologies and materials.
- Human resource training and development.

Relations with Global Working Groups

- Operation and Maintenance
- GARNET

WORKING GROUP NO. 3

RESIDUAL WATER TREATMENT

In-charge: **National Water Commission** (Comision Nacional del Agua) – Mexico – in coordination with ACODAL, Colombia.

Priorities:

1. Options for alternative low-cost treatment of residual water.
2. Options for good administrative, commercial and financial systems management.

Activities:

- Evaluation of existing successful or unsuccessful systems
- Preparation of a pilot program for experimental purposes.
- Institutional and managerial analysis of operators.
- Preparation of manuals on systems management.

Relations with Global Working Groups

- Promotion of Sanitation
- Institutional and Managerial Options
- Operation and Maintenance

WORKING GROUP NO. 4

INSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION OF THE SECTOR

In-charge : **Vice-Minister of Basic Services: National Basic Sanitation Office of Bolivia** (Direccion Nacional de Saneamiento Basico de Bolivia). In collaboration with ANDESPA, CAPRE and SEPURB (Brazil).

Priorities:

- Reinforcing institutions for the effective administration of services.

Activities:

- Exchange of observations and information (RED)
- Regional system of management training and research (CIDIAT, Venezuela)
- Promotion and Dissemination: Seminars, bulletins and brochures. A seminar is set to take place in Bolivia in February 1998.

Relations with Global Working Groups

- GARNET
- Institutional and Management Options
- Documentation and dissemination
- Interwater
- Human Resource Training and Development

WORKING GROUP NO. 5

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND RELATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In-charge: **CINARA**, in collaboration with **CAPRE, ANDESAPA, Ciudad**.

Priorities:

1. Strengthen community management in rural areas, small municipalities and peri-urban areas.
2. Basic sanitation in accordance with the global environmental sanitation initiative.
3. Efficient and proper use of water.
4. Improve the quality of water for human consumption.

Activities:

- Development of management training programs; technology, monitoring of water quality, etc (CINARA, CAPRE, ANDESAPA, Ciudad, Colombian Water and Sanitation Administration).
- Preparation of gender-oriented training tools. (Colombian Water and Sanitation Administration)
- Creation or promotion of community-based companies. (CAPRE, Dominican Republic and Colombia).
- Development and promotion of community-based financing models (Ciudad).
- Selection and translation of materials by the Sanitation Promotion Group (CINARA).
- Promotion of environmental sanitation at the highest political level.

Relations with Global Working Groups

- Promotion of Sanitation
- Services for Peri-Urban areas
- Community Management

Proposal to create a Latin American chapter of the WSSCC:

In accordance with the resolutions made at the meeting in Quito, Ecuador, the regional group agreed on the need to set up a regional chapter of the WSSCC in Latin America. This would serve as the liaison between the Council and the regional working groups, and monitor operation plans of the working groups. At the same time, it should identify needed technical and financial support. The regional group also approved the request of CAPRE, Andesapa and WSSCC to use the UNICEF Regional Office as headquarters of the regional secretariat.

The support of the WSSCC would be needed to realize this plan, and to source funds to finance operations of the secretariat and the working groups.

CEEC and NIS Background

Main Common Problems:

- growing water scarcity;
- high level of water pollution;
- huge existing water infrastructure which will require rehabilitation, maintenance, modernization;
- transfer from centralized planned economy to market economy.

Common Task

To find the correct way during the transition period

- setting the goals and targets towards a sustainable integrated water management strategy;
- correcting market and administrative failures;
- selection of specific water policy instruments for implementing programs;
- institutional strengthening;
- increased participation by stakeholders in both decision making and operation.

A. Identification of Priority Issues

1. The "Group 29" networking is to continue

- by means of meetings, workshops, newsletters, data exchange and electronic network (internet, e-mail);

2. Participation in the Council's Working Groups

Recognizing Group 29's special features, the Group has five different task forces which help prepare its contributions to Council activities. In order to reflect this, the participation shall be prepared by five different Group 29 task forces:

- 2.1. decentralization, privatization and community management
- 2.2. changing the legal framework
- 2.3. environmental degradation and public health
- 2.4. financial resources and planning capacity and development of human resources
- 2.5. information and communication

B. Proposed Actions and Support requirements

1. Actions which can be taken by individuals

- Raise the topic areas of the Group 29 task forces in the WSS.CC
- Distribute findings of the task forces and the Council's working groups among local municipalities, specific agencies, etc.
- Contribute personal findings and materials through Group 29 newsletters.
- Involve colleagues and other sectors professionals in the ongoing networking.
- Cooperation in case studies, the Group 29 task forces and the Council's working groups.

2. Agency/Country-level actions

- Monitoring the transition process, especially in the context of the Group 29 task forces: decentralization, privatization and community management, changing the legal framework, environmental degradation and public health);

- Complete the ongoing survey on water supply and sanitation (country issue papers);

- Identification of case studies for:

* demand management (task force 2, 3)

* restructuring water organizations on the base of decentralization and privatization with proper government responsibilities (task forces 1, 2, 4).

3. Regional Activities

(1) Installation of a permanent secretariat in Vienna;

(2) Creation of 3 key nodes for three country groups

- CEEC's in Vienna
- Russia, Ukraine, Belarus in Kiev
- Central Asia and Mongolia in Tashkent

(3) Preparation and holding of regional meetings and workshops:

- one per each task force and
- one per each country group within a 2 year periods.

(4) Preparation of recommendations for legal, institutional and financial framework of water management of countries in transition (task force 1, 2)

(5) Preparation of recommendations for the rational usage of domestic waters and decrease of pollution (groups 2, 3, 4, 5)

(6) Training (groups 4 and 5)

(7) Improvement of communication and information skills (group 5)

4. Support required from others

- Sponsorship for networking and participation in meetings.
- Sponsorship for preparation of case-studies.
- Equipment and software for internet communications.
- Financial assistance to group 29 for dissemination of information packs.

5. Suggestions for a regional “vision” for the sector

- “Democratization of Decision-Making in Water Supply and Sanitation”

6. Priorities for sector advocacy

- Increase involvement of stakeholder participation, with balance and on equal basis.

Report from Small Island States Regional Sessions

A. Identification of Priority Issues

1. Vulnerability of islands to disasters

WSS systems in Small Island developing states are vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters. It is important that countries and regions put in place disaster management plans and response systems to cope with the disasters.

2. Human resources Development- Capacity Retention

SIDS have poor capacity largely due to poor capacity retention. There is a need to encourage the development of the enabling environment that would allow trained personnel be retained in their countries or regions.

3. Holistic view of ecosystems

SIDS have a unitary ecosystem. WSS facilities should be an integral part of the development of the ecosystem. There is a need for an integrated approach to managing the ecosystem an example of which is integrated water resources management.

4. Weak Regional Collaboration

Linkages on WSS issues between SIDS are weak. The support mechanisms for the linkages are also weak. There is a strong need to improve the linkages through the establishment of a SIDS chapter of the WSSCC. This chapter to be meaningful must necessarily have region nodes in island clusters.

5. Demand management

Many SIDS have reached the 'limit' of their fresh water resources. Supply augmentation and desalination are expensive options resulting in the cost of 'new water' being very high. All of the SIDS have high unaccounted for water and this is exacerbated by the small size.

6. Advocacy and Communication

WSS issues in SIDS affect several sectors of the society viz health, economy, agriculture etc. It is important that decision-makers, water users and the community at large are sensitised to this linkage.

B. Proposed Actions and Support requirements

1. Actions which can be taken by individuals

- Encourage public awareness campaigns and promotion of the sector
- Inform national agencies of the work of the Council
- Distribute tools, guidelines etc developed by the Council
- Carry out gender analysis of all projects in the planning stages and implement projects with gender concerns
- Assist with the human resources development of nationals
- Provide information on the state of unaccounted for water and on revenue water
- Use public education and media to disseminate information on demand management strategies
- Promote efficient water use.

2. Agency/Country- level actions

- Produce vulnerability profiles/indexes of each island country
- Develop disaster response plans for the sector
- Build the capacity of nationals through training
- Carry out policy and institutional reform
- Demonstrate the "value added" by the WSS sector to health, tourism and agriculture as well as the overall economy.
- Promote and encourage retrofitting and other new technologies, which reduce consumption.
- Document successful demand management experiences
- Develop best management practices for demand management and conservation
- Use economic studies to demonstrate the case for demand management
- Communicate international and regional events in the sector the highest possible level
- Brief UN representatives about WSS issues eg the CSD meeting

3. Regional activities

- In each region identify a focal point for disaster response in the sector
- Develop a core group of professionals/ centres that can respond to needs on a regional basis
- Establish/support regional networks that help in reducing the impact of lack of capacity.
- Develop a database of demand management strategies and experiences

4. Support required from others

From the Council Secretariat

- Help with the dissemination of information on the group activities as well as of the other working groups Council
- Help with establishment of the SIDS chapter
- Assistance with the promotion of the SIDS' case
- Dissemination of the tools, guidelines etc produced by the Council to SIDS
- Assist with networking for data collation, case studies and exchange of experience
- Help with the promotion of water reuse/recycling

From the External support agencies

- Support for the establishment of a regional chapter as well as for the regional nodes
- Assistance with studies on vulnerability profile of the WSS sectors of islands
- Development of tools /guideline for capacity retention
- Help with the exchange of experiences between professionals in the chapter
- Provide support to regional networks
- Provide training to nationals on the sector
- Help with the development of national HRD plans

5. Suggestions for a regional "vision" for the sector

6. Priorities for sector advocacy