

## What needs to happen in the next two years? (continued)

### Build on the International Year of Sanitation

The 2008 International Year of Sanitation generated open dialogue and increased political will. Now, we must capitalize on the commitments made and enthusiasm engendered last year to increase service delivery.

#### During 2009 and 2010, we will:

- Explore with relevant international organizations a campaign to help them to make real the Regional Sanitation Conference Ministerial Declarations<sup>1</sup> and to hold countries and institutions to the commitments they made. We will make particular efforts to support the Africa Summit Declaration and Road Map.
- Advocate for the forgotten elements of sanitation — waste water treatment and water reuse — particularly in urban and peri-urban areas. We will ask UN-Water, with others, to set up a Sanitation-2 task force to coordinate waste water and water reuse issues.



### Increase financing for water and sanitation

Financing for water and sanitation must, of course, be increased. It must also be delivered more effectively, within frameworks that allow for leveraging while strengthening local markets. Finance and Water Ministers in all regions are vital to creating such favorable investment conditions.

#### During 2009 and 2010, we will:

- Urge national governments to give local utilities better access to lenders and markets by setting more ambitious financial strategies for their water sectors and helping them to develop sustainable cost recovery based on predictable public budgets allocations and affordable user-fees.
- Continue urging donor governments and multilateral development banks to fulfill their commitments for

<sup>1</sup> EASAN: Declaration of the First East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, Beppu, Dec. 1st, 2008, Africasan + 5: eThek-wini Declaration, Feb. 20th, 2008, Latinosan 2007: Declaracion de Cali, November 2007, Caribsan 2008: Kingston Declaration, April 2008.

financing for water and sanitation, and especially to pursue guarantee mechanisms that will leverage non-aid financing flows.

### Managing water resources

Because water is inseparable from issues of climate change, food and energy, water resources must be sustainably managed across many sectors. And because water ignores boundaries often it also must be jointly managed by states.

#### During 2009 and 2010, we will:

- Help mainstream climate adaptation in water resource management planning and sustainable development, and will actively encourage
  - the Secretary-General to ask countries to update and implement their Integrated Water Resources Management Plans by taking into account climate change and variability
  - the agenda setters for the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP-15) and relevant UN debates to ensure that climate change adaptation measures do not forget the water sector, and that adaptation measures include water management
- Urge signatory states to seek ratification of the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

### Monitor to know where we progress — and don't

More ambitious and effective monitoring is needed both to track implementation of current national and global water policies and to prepare new ones. Long before 2015, better water and sanitation bookkeeping must be in place to provide a solid, well-informed basis for defining the next targets.

#### During 2009 and 2010, we will:

- Work with international organizations and meet with national governments to advocate with governments to strengthen their knowledge of access in their countries by reconciling national water and sanitation datasets.
- Continue urging expansion of the JMP programme to include additional indicators and through complementary monitoring initiatives such as GLAAS.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The Joint Monitoring Programme reports on the status of water-supply and sanitation and is led by WHO and UNICEF. The Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) is a UN-Water pilot initiative led by WHO.

### Avert the damage caused by water-related disasters for sustainable development

We can prevent needless loss of lives and livelihoods from water-related disasters with global awareness and commitment to implement proven prediction and prevention techniques.

#### During 2009 and 2010, we will:

- Support the High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters to find effective channels to promote the Water and Disasters Action Plan in the United Nations, and with relevant stakeholders such as River Basin Associations and groupings of Delta States.
- Concentrate on international networks, events and donors that can encourage national governments to mobilize systems to forecast, inform, alert and evacuate.



#### Secretariat of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB)

c/o Division for Sustainable Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
2 UN Plaza DC2-2136  
New York NY 10017  
U.S.A.

Phone: +1 212 963 8590

FAX: +1 212 963 4340

E-mail: [secretariat@unsgab.org](mailto:secretariat@unsgab.org)

Website: [www.unsgab.org](http://www.unsgab.org)

For more detailed information regarding our actions for 2009 and 2010, as well as a full list of our members, please visit our website.



United Nations  
Secretary-General's  
Advisory Board on

# Water and Sanitation

Photos courtesy: UN Photo and UNICEF



## Who are we?

UNSGAB (the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation) is a group of twenty-one eminent people all committed to solving the world's water and sanitation crisis. Our Chair is His Royal Highness, Prince of Orange, Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and our Honorary President is His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan. We have distilled hundreds of largely unfulfilled water resolutions and declarations into a succinct, concrete agenda for action to meet the Millennium Development Goal targets to halve by 2015 the number of people without safe water and basic sanitation. This Hashimoto Action Plan is our central mandate, on which we advise the Secretary-General. We engage with the world's major water and development actors to advocate, inspire and coordinate action in six key areas.



The Secretary-General with the chair of UNSGAB.

## What we have achieved?

We are a catalyst—we succeed when others act on the Hashimoto Action Plan. When they do, we are encouraged, but we know that we play just a part. We thank all those who have joined with us and acknowledge upfront the essential contributions of those who decided change was imperative—and acted.



### Achievements

Galvanized the UN to declare 2008 the International Year of Sanitation to tackle the sanitation stigma — the refusal to talk frankly about the suffering caused by unsafe disposal of human excreta and to stimulate increased action on critical sanitation issues

Created a new focus on improving performance of public water operators

Embarked on a campaign to increase the amount and effectiveness of water financing by prioritizing national budgets, local utilities financing, and the leveraging capacity of official development aid

Engaged in high-level advocacy to increase global attention for integrated water resources management

Led a campaign to improve monitoring and reporting on access to water and sanitation through additional data, more coherent national data and better global co-ordination

Created a High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters to turn existing resolutions on water-related disasters into a shared global plan

### Some results . . .

- Four regional sanitation conferences brought Ministers responsible for sanitation together for the first time
- East-Asian and Pacific states committed to achieving universal access to basic sanitation by 2025
- Many governments identified responsible Sanitation Ministers — some with budgets
- The Sharm el Sheikh African Union Summit in 2008 gave unprecedented recognition to sanitation challenges along with a Road Map and specific tasks
- National and international media covered the formerly taboo subjects raising consciousness globally
- New organizations, networks and coalitions got busy — a new Global Sanitation Fund is now supported
- More detailed global information on open defecation is available

- UN-Habitat launched a Global Water Operator Partnership (WOP) Alliance. Its steering committee has a majority representation of public utilities, along with donors, professional associations, civil society, private operators and labour
- Development banks convened utilities and signed on to new support
- Operators and regulators from 20 Latin American countries agreed to strengthening mechanisms with the Inter-American Development Bank
- The Asian Development Bank established the Waterlinks platform for WOPs across Asia
- The International Water Association and regional partners are developing a new efficiency rating system for water and sanitation operators
- Unions and labour organizations were brought into the picture
- Individual, regional and global WOPs arrangements were supported by bilateral and multilateral donors

- African Heads of State resolved to significantly increase financing for water supply and sanitation and set a specific target of 0.5% of GDP for sanitation
- Agreements with four regional development banks have boosted resolve to lend for water — and in some cases, new lending programs were created
- New OECD study on water financing and ultimate financial sources commanded international attention
- The G8 agreed to revisit the 2003 Evian Action Plan
- Several southern utilities achieved financial and managerial excellence
- On-going work with the World Bank on access of utilities to financial markets

- 104 countries shared Integrated Water Resources Management Plans at the 16<sup>th</sup> Commission on Sustainable Development in 2008
- Increased attention to strengthening river basin organizations and to the need for ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses

- Senegal, Madagascar and several other countries have agreed to reconcile national datasets
- Global data issuers agreed on a joint vision during Stockholm Water Week, 2008
- An UNSGAB paper “Monitoring and Reporting” increased understanding of available global data
- A proposal is under consideration to enlarge the UN Joint Monitoring Programme's mission

- Panel led by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea
- A far reaching Water and Disasters Action Plan will be tabled at the fifth World Water Forum, 2009 to decrease death and destruction by improving prevention and prediction

## What needs to happen in the next two years?

Progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goal targets has been made, but it has been uneven. More attention and impetus are urgently needed. Currently, 900 million people do not have improved access to drinking water, and 2.5 billion lack improved access to safe sanitation. At this rate, for example, Africa will not meet its drinking water target until 2038. At the same time, we must begin to think beyond 2015 when we will need an effective policy framework for setting forth new goals to carry forward this vital work.

For both of these challenges, the next two years — 2009 and 2010 — are pivotal, and for each of the Hashimoto Action Plan's six areas, we will focus on two key actions.

### Strengthening Public Utilities

Successful water operators create value and improve their communities' health and economic well-being. Where national policy supports healthy domestic capital markets, well-performing utilities can borrow money to grow and improve. Their growth and expansion will increase access for those now unserved and thus help reach the MDGs, while also increasing resilience to climate variability.

*During 2009 and 2010, we will:*

- Meet with Ministers, and advocate for purposeful sessions of Ministers and senior officials to build local utilities' capacity to develop credible operations and viable billing systems, so they can reach unserved people.
- Request global and regional financial institutions to develop — and encourage donors to support — specific programmes with Finance and Planning Ministries and encourage programmes which link utilities to capital markets.

