

## **10th UNSGAB session**

**Tokyo, Japan, May 2008**

### **Working Group on Sanitation**

- I. Sanitation issues at UNSGAB 10.
- II. Future tasks in Sanitation area.

There were many items related to Sanitation during the Tokyo meeting, and a good deal of discussion, including in the Sanitation WG which met briefly on its own, and also with the WOPS WB to discuss the need for sustainability in Sanitation systems.

The following reports on the UNSGAB Session as a whole, including the WG, and suggests an agenda for the next 6 months and for the next session of the WG.

- I. Sanitation-related issues discussed during UNSGAB 10.
  - a. International Year of Sanitation –
    - a.) Updated list of IY events, IYS Blog Clips and Press Coverage report were included in Documents kit.
    - b.) Documents on IYS were considered briefly in Plenary discussion on Sanitation.
    - c.) Committee expressed the wish to see the two “how to” booklets prepared for IYS (Follow up Item 1)
    - d.) Committee will review end of Year report of IYS (Follow up item 2)
    - e.) Steduto will distribute the document on “global annual assessment on water and sanitation” (GLAAS) by autumn this year. (Follow up item 3)
  - b. Need for urgent action to promote sustainability of existing urban sanitation systems.
    - a.) Plenary meeting on first day strongly underlined needs in this area.

- b.) Joint Sanitation/WOPS working group met afternoon Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. (see minutes below)
  - c.) Sanitation WG underlined needs in rural areas. Need for urgent action to increase knowledge of possibilities in rural areas.
  - d.) Japan was encouraged to include rural areas.
  - e.) Japan cooperation was encouraged to extend current maintenance and sustainability and training programmes in this area.
  - f.) Possibility of technology session attached to next UNSGAB was raised.
  - g.) Possible sanitation technology day attached to next Board Meeting in Middle East .
  - h.) Committee should keep under review rural (follow up item 4)
- c. Possible UNSGAB independent messages on Sanitation
- a.) Committee wished to explore the need/scope of UNSGAB messages on Sanitation – to whom we would send them? (Engineering Societies were suggested) Content? Method of producing these? Dow and Odada to follow up. (Follow up item 5)
- d. “Sanitation” content of African Summit Document
- a.) Report was given in Plenary.
  - b.) Africa WG did liaison with those planning Summit meeting.
  - c.) References to Sanitation have been re-inserted, some advocacy work done.
  - d.) Strong support for E
  - e.) Committee will review result (Follow up item 6)
- e. Follow up on Regional Sanitation Conferences.
- a.) Nina’s overview of the extent to which UNSGAB goals were met in Regional Sanitation meetings – received with thanks by committee.

- b.) It was noted by Committee that there is one more Regional meeting (in South Asia , in September?)
  - c.) It was noted in Plenary that SIWI conference will be given review of the Regional Conferences to date, and that report will be made to Istanbul World Water Forum 2009.
  - d.) Committee expressed wish to look at Regional Meeting reports and synthesis, when these are available, if possible at next meeting. (Follow up item 7)
- f. Follow up on Beppu Conference Sanitation.
- a.) Japanese Ministries will initiate follow up in next few months.
- g. Follow up with Religious leaders
- a.) WG members have made initial contacts only.
- h. Follow up on Parliamentarians meeting
- a.) Change of topic in South Africa meeting noted.
  - b.) Committee suggested further outreach might be done with Parliamentarians.
  - c.) African Parliamentary Union was suggested for approach re discussing a sanitation programme.
  - d.) UNSGAB should pursue this, possibly in collaboration with Giacomelli (follow up item 8)
- i. Stockholm Water Week.
- a.) Documents on SIWI water week were included in the document kit.
  - b.) Plenary reviewed briefly the various SIWI sessions.
  - c.) UN Water and UNSGAB will both list each other as co-sponsors of their sessions to avoid any misunderstanding.
  - d.) Form and content of the “UNSGAB” session were reviewed: Frontiers of Sanitation.

e). informal invitation extended to “Johkasu” group (Japanese onsite treatment system) re. participation in Stockholm meeting.

## II. Future Tasks in Sanitation area

### **Follow up action:**

Committee expressed wish to see the two “how to” booklets prepared for IYS

- 1) Committee will review end of Year report of IYS
- 2) Steduto will distribute the document on “global annual assessment on water and sanitation” (GLAAS) by autumn this year
- 3) Committee should keep under review sanitation in existing rural area
- 4) Committee wished to explore the need/scope of UNSGAB messages on Sanitation – to whom we would send them? (Engineering Societies were suggested) Content? Method of producing these? Dow and Odada to follow up.
- 5) Committee will review result of AU summit
- 6) Committee expressed wish to look at Regional Meeting reports and synthesis, when these are available, if possible at next meeting.
- 7) UNSGAB should pursue sanitation and AfPU, IPU, possibly in collaboration with Giacomelli

### **Additional suggestions by WG chair:**

- 1) The IYS only is half-way. The review of the progress on the IYS should be outcome-oriented, in terms of what has changed on the ground. Here, we would need a comparison between the work programme of DESA/UN-Water and what they report back. Secondly, it would be good to take a look into what the donor community is doing or thinking about. May we go here via OECD (?) and SusanA?
- 2) Sustaining IYS momentum beyond 2008: We should think about possibilities to create a link to: a) report of the UNSG - find out when this is due. b) next CSD session - possible: new recommendations on watsan, Chair: NL c) World Water Forum - has it on the agenda

### **Members of the Working Group:**

- 1) CATLEY-CARLSON, Margaret (WG chair)
- 2) ABU-ZEID, Mahmoud
- 3) DOW, Jocelyn
- 4) EID, Uschi
- 5) MIRANDA, Antonio
- 6) ODADA, Eric
- 7) UZUNOV, Yordan

## **Brief account of joint meeting of Working Group and Water Operator Working Group (WOPs).**

Maggie recalls that the task of the Sanitation Working Group was to

- 1) raise awareness
- 2) get more tools/materials on sanitation published
- 3) developing capacities in the regions

Whereas the WG has done well on points 1-2, capacity-building still lacks support.

### Purpose of this joint meeting:

Exchange views of how UNSGAB's convening power can be used to support awareness-raising, improve capacities, etc.

Diphorn points out to take into account the specific context of urban areas, such as slums. Utilities have a role to play here. The WOP alliance could put sanitation higher on the agenda. UNSGAB could promote the role of WOPs and raise the issue e.g. sanitation.

Al-Awar suggests that regional associations start implementing policies to enhance sewage/ waste water management.

Diphorn mentions UN-Habitat's flagship report, which will report on the topic of solid waste. This report will be launched at the World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009.

Miranda asks how WOPs can help raising the topic of sanitation and how to ensure sustainable sanitation? How to transform existing financial resources for water and sanitation into capacity development for sanitation? WOPs were designed as a multi-stakeholder approach.

Stetudo supports Miranda's pledge for more capacity development accompanying infrastructure projects.

Torkelson suggests to make one bill for water and sanitation consumption. Good water management is decisive for obtaining credits.

Miranda pledges for a "sustainable conditionality" for all future infrastructure projects supported by the World Bank and other financing institutions. He also points out that

partnerships among operators are often limited due to laws so that some WOPs are limited.

Eid mentions that she has enquired through an official enquiry how much the German government (BMZ) is currently spending on sanitation. Once the information will be available, she will share this information with UNSGAB.

Maggie asks whether UNSGAB should discuss its definition of “sustainability”. Diphorn and Miranda suggest coordinating a proposal on how to include sanitation within the WG WOP.

Participants:

1. Margaret Catley-Carlson
2. Pascale Steduto
3. Eric Odada
4. Yordan Uzunov
5. Abu-Zeid
6. Jocelyn Dow
7. Roy Torkelson
8. Koen Overkamp (Secreteriat)
9. Bert Diphorn (Habitat)
10. Faraj Al-Awar (Habitat)
11. May Trotz (staff Jocelyn Dow)
12. Nina Odenwaelder (staff Uschi Eid)
13. Mijako Nierenkoether (gtz)