

WOPs Working Group

Report of the meeting at 10th UNSGAB meeting (Tokyo, 26 May 2008)

Participants: Olivia la O'Castillo, Judith Rees, Gerard Payen, Roy Torkelson, Bert Diphorn, Faraj Al-Awar, Kenzo Hiroki, Leanne Burney, Antonio Miranda (WG chair) afterwards together with Sanitation WG.

1st Part: WOPs implementation

- UN-Habitat's recently hired manager for Global WOPs Alliance (GWOPs), Mr. Faraj Al-Awar, has made a presentation regarding the state-of-the-art on WOPs, both globally and regionally (see attachment). In general, the results have been satisfactory – GWOPs office is being structured, and regional WOPs are advancing.
- UNSGAB and UN-Habitat will organize a joint session during the Stockholm Water Week (Aug. 2008).
- UN-Habitat is organizing a meeting during the World Water Congress (Vienna, Sept. 2008), on which the GWOPA Steering committee will have their first meeting.
- UNSGAB was invited to join that committee. The WG understood that UNSGAB should accept the invitation under the category of observer. WG Chair was indicated to represent UNSGAB. A rotation of WG members in this position may be effective.
- Concerns were raised on the need for stimulating the regional WOPs to multistakeholder approach, in order to ensure that all the existing networks may join the efforts for an effective and comprehensive exchange of knowledge.
- On fund raising, UN-Habitat has given a relatively comfortable perspective on that. However, efforts must be made to ensure that donors keep their interest.

2nd Part: Financing Capacity-Building

(During UNSGAB discussions in the monitoring session, concerns were raised regarding the difficulties for convincing donors to use source investment money for capacity building, in order to make their sustainable along the time. As it happened within a sanitation discussion, both WGs got together in order to discuss it.)

- There was a commitment for stimulating regional WOPs in regard to promote the Sanitation theme to the top of their agenda.
- For capacity-building promotion, envisaging sustainable investments, it was identified that the word “sustainability” might be clearly defined for the purpose of UNSGAB capacity-building concerns. WOPs WG Chair and GWOPA manager will

present a proposal for that to the Sanitation and WOPs WGs.

- Afterwards, a workshop together with other key stakeholders may be important, in order to raise awareness and find solutions for financing capacity-building for sustainability. Revolving funds with subsidies may be one alternative.