

## IWRM WORKING GROUP

- The Working Group considered progress in relation to the HAP. (Appendix 1)
- It concluded that the actions specified under Objective 1 had been completed.
- Less progress had been made against Objective 2 concerning transboundary waters.
  - UN Water reported that it had now established a taskforce and were beginning dialogue with relevant organizations, financial institutions and bilateral donors to consider how best to support transboundary organizations and to ensure a more consistent approach to waste project development in transboundary situations.
  - With respect to the call on national governments to ratify the UN Convention on the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, the Working Group endorsed Uschi Eid's proposal to write to the presidents of national parliaments. Eric Odada would help to prepare a carefully crafted letter pointing out the advantages of convention ratification.\
- The Status Report on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Plans presented to CSD 16 makes it clear that much still has to be done to implement IWRM plans and embed these into development planning processes. UNSGAB needs to consider its potential role and actions to facilitate implementation.
  - UN Water noted the need to maintain the momentum for plan preparation and implementation and was proposing that countries should be asked to report progress again in 2012. UNSGAB's help in implementing the recommendations of the Status Report was welcomed. (Appendix 2)
  - The Working Group supported UN Water's more systematic and longer term monitoring of IWRM plan implementation. The roadmap approach was considered helpful.
  - It was suggested that UNSGAB should
    - advise the Secretary General that there was a need for funding to carry out monitoring activities
    - support the development of linkages between the Bonn Centre (UN-Water programme on Capacity

- Development) and the 8 IWRM centres around the world to increase IWRM implementation capacity.
- The Working Group considered future potential UNSGAB actions.
    - to encourage countries to take a more dynamic approach to IWRM planning, reviewing them regularly
    - to stress the role of an IWRM approach in meeting emerging crises (food, disasters) and in adapting to climate change
    - to incorporate climate change adaptation into the IWRM planning process.
    - to improve the capacity of countries to adapt to climate change.
  - IWRM issues cut across working groups. For example, there is a need to integrate the IWRM approach into disaster management and the financing working group may wish to consider the financial issues in transboundary situations.

#### ANNEX 1

#### FROM HAP

#### **IWRM Objective 1**

All national governments report on the status of the IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans and the concrete actions taken for their implementation.

National governments to report before CSD-16 on formulating and implementing IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans. Reports should include preparedness for water-related disasters. UN DESA to create a database on national IWRM plans so that governments can register their IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans as the follow-up of decisions made at CSD-13;

Secretary-General in 2006 to send a call letter for reporting of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans to all countries, inviting them to report on their efforts and results;

Secretary-General to request Resident Coordinators to report governments' formulation and implementation of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans according to an unified format;

UN Regional Commissions or RGBs to convene workshops to enable nations to exchange information on IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans and to cooperate with nations in preparing the plans.

#### **Our Action**

Recommend the above actions to the Secretary-General;

- Conduct a high-level dialogue with regional government organizations to promote governments' formulation and implementation of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans;
- Urge UNDP, UNDESA and other UN agencies to implement actions stated above and report on their actions to the Secretary-General;
- Publicize the formulating and implementing of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans based on the registered information in the database and the reports for UN Resident Coordinators;
- Highlight cases where national governments are making good progress with IWRM process and are employing inclusive approaches giving stakeholders a role in the process.

#### **IWRM Objective 2**

- Apply IWRM principles in transboundary situations and strengthen transboundary organizations.

#### **Your Action**

- UN-Water to convene a workshop with relevant UN organizations, financial institutions, and interested donors to assess how to better support transboundary organizations and promote cooperation between them;
- IFIs, RDBs, and bilateral donors to assess jointly the funding mechanisms, including pooling, for implementing transboundary water projects under the concept of IWRM;
- IFIs, RDBs, and OECD to review the check-list used to evaluate and implement major and international water projects to ensure a common approach and an IWRM lens;
- National governments to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (adopted by the UN General Assembly in resolution 51/229 of 21 May 1997) and then apply IWRM to international river basins.

#### **Our Action**

- Conduct a dialogue with IFIs, RDBs, and OECD about developing tools and mechanisms to promote IWRM, such as pooling funds for trans-boundary water projects and IWRM project evaluation and implementation check sheets;

- Communicate to national governments at high-level to urge them to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses;
- Conduct a dialogue with the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment about the importance of ratifying the UN Convention of the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Water courses.

## ANNEX 2

### **Status Report on Integrated Water Resources**

### **Management and Water Efficiency Plans**

### **Prepared for the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2008**

#### **Recommendations:**

The survey indicates that more emphasis is needed in the following areas:

- Countries, particularly those that are lagging behind, need to prioritise the development of IWRM and water efficiency measures, with the help of supporting agencies;
- Countries need to prioritise the implementation of policies and plans once they have been developed;
- Countries should establish roadmaps and financing strategies for the implementation of their plans with External Support Agencies (including the UN, donors and NGOs) providing support to countries, based on demand;
- Experiences in implementing IWRM should be evaluated, monitored and shared through global coordination mechanisms. This will require more work on indicators and follow-up processes that do not add an undue reporting burden on countries.
- The UN World Water Assessment Programme and its associated World Water Development Reports should continue to provide an up-to-date global overview of progress on implementing the IWRM approach.