



Photo: Earth Negotiations Bulletin, IISD

On the last day of CSD-13, during the the High Level Segment on "Turning Political Commitments Into Action," Ms. Sunita Narain (left) of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said that the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize for CSE recognised the water issue today required a different management paradigm. She said success would be achieved through the involvement of local people in the management of their water resources, noting communities' ownership of water is the only way to achieve sanitation targets. She highlighted how water requires a different approach in order to turn commitments into action.

Greater Water and Sanitation Funding Called for at UN Meeting

SIWI Says: Do Not Forget Water For Food!

Increased resources, including official development assistance, targeted towards water and sanitation, together with mobilization of more financial and other resources to promote sustainable human settlements development, were among the actions called for by governments at the conclusion of the April 2005 meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

"Governments have the primary role in promoting improved access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, sustainable and secure tenure, and adequate shelter, particularly for the poor. More and better targeted financing for the poorest countries is critical if they are to fulfil this responsibility," said Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Commission's Thirteenth Session (CSD-13).

Held April 11–22 in New York, CSD-13 was the first policy-setting session of the Commission since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. The aim of the meeting was to decide on policies and practical measures to accelerate progress towards achieving the

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets and commitments on water, sanitation and human settlements.

SIWI Active

SIWI was active at the meeting and presented a number of new reports (see sidebar). "We had high expectations, and not all of them were met," said Anders Berntell, SIWI Executive Director, "but the sanitation agenda was advanced more in comparison to earlier CSD meetings, water quality was higher on the agenda, the importance of agriculture's water use was clearer and concepts such as 'environmental flows' received greater acceptance."

Investments in water can be an engine for accelerated economic growth, sustainable development, improved health and reduced poverty. Those were the main messages of a report released at CSD by SIWI and developed jointly with the World Health Organization on behalf of the Governments of Norway and Sweden.

In another report, SIWI, together with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), World Conservation Union (IUCN) and International Water

Management Institute (IWMI), warns that unless steps are taken to improve the way water is managed, twice the world's current water consumption may be needed by 2050 to feed a global population of some 9 billion. The organisations emphasised that a fundamental question cannot be forgotten: where is the water needed to grow the food to feed future generations properly?

Funding is Key

The targets under discussion at CSD-13 included: halving by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, developing by 2005 integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, and significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. These are also included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

At the meeting, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the UN Millennium Project, was among those who called for donor countries to meet the target of 0.7% of gross national product for official development assistance. "Without the financial resources, the poorest of the poor are dying," said Mr. Sachs via vid-



In reiterating the findings of the SIWI-produced report "Let It Reign," Ms. Carin Jämtin, Sweden's Minister for Development Cooperation, said today's water management methods were not sufficient to provide for global food security in the future. She said a new approach which improves water productivity, among other measures, is needed.

eo link. The European Union, in addressing the meeting, informed that seven European Union countries have committed themselves to achieving the 0.7% target by 2015, which would bring the number of countries that would have reached the target to a total of 12.

Safe Drinking Water

To accelerate progress in providing access to safe drinking water, the CSD recommended instituting economic incentives to encourage the participation of small-scale water service providers; implementing affordable water tariffs to contribute to the financial sustainability of water services; and targeting subsidies for the poor, including connection costs. The CSD also calls for better water man-

agement, including more efficient irrigation and wider use of rain water harvesting technologies, especially in the agricultural sector; implementing irrigation projects with a focus on the poor, particularly in Africa; and training farmers and water users associations in efficient water use.

Sanitation

On sanitation, the CSD called for establishing an institutional home for sanitation, and giving it priority in national development plans and budgets, targeting investments to areas of greatest need and greatest impact, such as schools, work places and health centres and assessing the health impacts of the lack of sanitation at the commu-

nity level. The CSD also called for financial and technical assistance to national and local authorities in deploying effective and environmentally-sound sewerage systems and for wastewater treatment and reuse.

Human Settlements

For human settlements, the CSD recommended that governments, with assistance from the international community, design pro-poor policies with a focus on tenure security and access to affordable serviced land in order to improve access of the poor, in particular slum dwellers, to decent and affordable housing and basic services. The CSD also recommended giving particular attention to the equal rights of women to own and inherit land and other property and to access credit markets; incorporating employment and enterprise development policies into national planning and slum prevention and upgrading programmes, and providing education and vocational training to women and youth to improve their access to decent jobs. Governments were also encouraged to promote public-public and public-private partnerships for financing and developing infrastructure and affordable housing.

More than 100 Government Ministers participating in CSD-13, carrying a broad range of portfolios including trade, development, planning, health, environment, housing, water and sanitation, participated in the meeting.

The Commission's decisions will also be a contribution to the UN General Assembly's High-Level Plenary Meeting to be held in September this year, to spur progress on the Millennium Development Goals and seek agreement on ways to revitalize international mechanisms for global security and human rights.

SIWI's CSD-13 Toolbox

Visit www.siwi.org to download the following documents produced by SIWI and distributed at CSD-13. For a hard copies, send your request to siwi@siwi.org.

Let It Reign: The New Water Paradigm for Global Food Security

This report highlights key facts, conditions and trends regarding water aspects of food production, consumption and ecological sustainability. It presents policy recommendations within governance, capacity building/awareness raising and financing to improve water productivity and increase the possibility to produce the food needed, improve diets, and raise consumer awareness in an equitable and ecologically sustainable manner.

Making Water a Part of Economic Development:

The Economic Benefits of Improved Water Management and Services

This report articulates the close link between water and the economy and makes the case that investing in water management and services is essential to eradicate poverty and is a necessary condition for enabling sustained economic growth.

Driving Development by Investing in Water and Sanitation

This summary of Making Water a Part of Economic Development shows through five concise arguments how improved water supply, sanitation and water resources management can better livelihoods and generate multiple returns.

Securing Sanitation: The Compelling Case to Address the Crisis

Sanitation and the means to practice hygienic behaviours yield direct benefits in terms of health, education and economic productivity. This report lays out the economic case for investing in sanitation.

Key Recommendations from Health, Dignity, and Development

This brochure neatly summarises the Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation's, bold yet practical actions needed to increase access to water and sanitation. Implementing the recommendations found in this brochure and the full Task Force Report, "Health, Dignity and Development: What Will It Take?", will allow all countries to meet the MDG water and sanitation targets.