

WATER CO-OPERATION UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH OPENS UP FOR NEW POSSIBILITIES AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS

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History of the World Water Day

- ▣ The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

UN Agenda 21

- ▣ The UN General Assembly designated 22 March of each year as the World Day for Water by adopting a resolution. This World Day for Water was to be observed starting in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21.

Celebration in Norway

- ▣ Norway has a long tradition of celebrating the World Water Day together with water professionals, administrators, policy makers and the leaders of the next generation – school children
- ▣

Water for Life Decade 2005– 2015

- ▣ AN INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION

- ▣ The “Water for Life” Decade aims to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments related to water and water-related issues by 2015, emphasizing especially on the involvement of women in these efforts.



World Water Day: Focus in 2011:

- ▣ World Water Day, this year call for attention on the impact of urbanization, industrialization
- ▣ and uncertainties caused by climate change,
- ▣ conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems.

FAO Estimates

- ▣ The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that within the next 15 years, 1.8 billion people will be living in regions with acute water scarcity, and that two-thirds of the world's population could be facing shortages. Thus the theme of this years World Water Day is timely

Focus on European Situation

- ▣ Yes, the challenges are enormous in Asia, Africa and Latin America – and the keynote speaker today - Dr Parkingsen from International Water Association will focus on these important problems. But let us not forget about the Europe. Let me address the challenges which Europe faces, and area where I have been especially engaged in:



ACCESS TO WATER A HUMAN RIGHT

- ▣ There is nothing so important in our daily life than access to safe and clean water. Water is a basic need for everyone.
- ▣ Access to clean water a vital human right.
- ▣ The UN Millennium Goals No 7 set the target to reduce by 2015 by half the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

The Situation in Europe

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- Most European countries enjoy universal access to enough good, safe water to satisfy their needs. However, nearly 140 million people – 16% of Europe's population, in Caucasus, Central Asia, Ukraine, Moldova, Balkan States and even some of the new EU Member States, and – still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply or having adequate sanitation system.

Trend of Urbanisation

- ▣ Today, half of the planet's population lives in urban areas and the world's cities and towns are growing at an unprecedented rate. According to the United Nations (World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision), the urban areas of the world are expected to absorb all the population growth expected over the next four decades.
- ▣ Trying economic times –challenges for the poor in rural areas

UNECE/WHO PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

- ▣ Signed in 1999 and entered into force in August 2005. 24 countries have ratified this instrument.

The first legally binding international agreement, adopted specifically to ensure an adequate supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone, by linking water management and health issues.

Protocol on Water and Health

Four pillars for an effective implementation of the Protocol

1. Setting clear targets and measurable indicators of progress
2. Establishment and strengthening surveillance systems
3. Measure and report on progress and ensure compliance
4. Mutual assistance and international support between Parties

Project Facilitation Mechanism

- ▣ At the First Meeting of Parties in January 2008 the Parties decided to establish a body which is called the Project Facilitation Mechanism (PFM) to help mainstream international support for national action.

A response to the reach out obligations that follows of the Article 11 and 14 of the Protocol . Norway has led this body for three years

Project Co- Operation

- ▣ Moldova – Switzerland
- ▣ Ukraine – Norway
- ▣ Armenia – Finland
- ▣ Georgia - Germany
- ▣ Tajikistan, Montenegro, Kyrgyz Republic and Russia

EXTENSIVE CO-OPERATION NEEDED

- ▣ It goes without saying that such cooperation can sometime be demanding and will certainly require clear decisions on sharing of labour and financial obligations between the authorities and organisations involved.

Extensive coordination needed

- ▣ Competence transfer is the key-word

INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▣ The Project Facilitation Mechanism limit itself to render assistance to develop target plans for improving the clean water supply.
- ▣ There are either competence or resources for the Mechanism to engage itself in improvements of infrastructure.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ▣ Financial support a prerequisite for success of the follow up of target setting
- ▣ Both the projects in Ukraine and in Moldova have revealed specific identified areas for improvement in the infrastructure.
- ▣ This is something that goes beyond the capacity and the mandate of the Protocol of Water and Health and should be addressed by for example the EBRD, NDEP and other international financial instruments

DONOR SUPPORT

- ▣ With eight countries requesting assistance for setting targets and target dates certainly implies that new donor partners are desperately needed
- ▣ A prerequisite for follow up financing follow up investments in infrastructure

Increased Co-operation with International Finance Institutions

- ▣ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- ▣ Private enterprise, financial sector
- ▣ Norwegian initiative to establish a Water Fund

EBRD - WATER FUND

Knowing that plans and targets will not provide clean water in the tub for the households, Norway is very pleased with the cooperation with the EBRD and the willingness of the Bank to cooperate in establishing a special Water Fund for ODA-countries.

Donor Co-Operation Needed

- ▣ WE ARE INVITING DONORS,
PARTICULARLY THE EU COMMISSION
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS TO AN ENHANCED
DONOR CO-OPERATION

- ▣ NEW MODELS OF CO-OPERATION TO
CREATE SYNERGY EFFECTS NEEDED TO
HELP UNSERVED POPULATIONS

EU invited to co-operate

- ▣ Currently the financing of the PFM relies mainly on non-European Union (EU) countries and individual EU countries.
- ▣ When implementing projects on target setting it is a overriding goal to use the work being done under the EU initiated National Policy Dialogues

CHALLENGES PREVAIL

- ▣ Coordinated actions are the most effective way to quickly transfer legal language on commitments into concrete actions.
- ▣ Challenges still prevail and we are far from legal language to concrete actions. The global economic situation further stress the need for targeted and coordinated actions in meeting the challenge to overcome the lack of access to financial means.

Advantages for Donors and Recipients

FOR DONORS

- ▣ Project consistency
- ▣ Long-term projects
- ▣ Projects beyond funding capacity of individual donor
- ▣ Good budget control and oversight
- ▣ Ownership, control and monitoring
- ▣ Guarantees quality of project proposals

FOR RECIPIENTS

- ▣ Single entry point for donor assistance
- ▣ Ownership
- ▣ Technical and scientific support
- ▣ Local expertise used
- ▣ Assistance in formulation
- ▣ Integration in national strategic development plans

Recommendations

- ▣ Use Protocol to meet environment and health commitments, tackle inequalities, and promote policy and technical dialogue
- ▣ Initiate a targeted cooperation between Partners of the Barents Cooperation to join forces in North West Russia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyz Republic
- ▣ Strengthen implementation and create sustainable and predictable financing

New possibilities, new partnerships in
water co-operation

Recommendations

Use Protocol for improved surveillance and response to improved water supply and for climate change adaptation

Take advantage of Project Facilitation Mechanism

Co-ordinate donor actions

Conclusions

- ▣ **New possibilities are opening up**
- ▣ **Better cooperation and harmonization**
- ▣ **Improved consistency**
- ▣ **Improved control, review and assessment**

THANK YOU

New possibilities, new partnerships in
water cooperation

