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“Monitoring and evaluation: a booster to achieve the Millennium and Johannesburg goals on water and sanitation”

MINUTES OF THE SIDE EVENT

New York, 20 April 2005



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Summary

Context and goals of the side event

France has promoted the idea of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism on water and sanitation on many occasions during international meetings. At the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in 2003 this proposal was notably voiced by President Chirac. France decided to organise a side event on this issue at CSD13 in New York on the 20th of April 2005 in order to re-open a debate on concrete and innovative proposals aimed at strengthening the existing observation systems. The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN-DESA), the World Water Council (WWC) and the International Secretariat for Water decided to co-sponsor this side event.

Summary of the contributions

The debate focused on three issues: 1/ Monitoring and evaluation: what for? ; 2/Donors' and stakeholders' expectations: how can shared views be built? ; 3/National, regional and global levels: who does what?

The discussions emphasized the need for monitoring and evaluation at local, national and regional levels so as to have better knowledge of the situation, of the results of actions and to be able to adopt appropriate management policies and, if need be, to correct them. Indicators are therefore necessary as well as feed-back from global and regional levels to the local and national levels.

Monitoring and evaluation have also to be carried out at the global level in order to follow up the implementation of commitments adopted by the international community on access to water, sanitation and water resources management and to communicate on these issues. They are also required to justify donors' actions, reinforce the confidence of beneficiary partners and users and allow quicker and more reliable disbursements from donors.

Monitoring and evaluation at different levels will only be really effective if all stakeholders agree on the problems to be solved, the targets to achieve, the service delivery standards to adopt and the measurements methods and indicators to use. Panelists insisted on the fact that the monitoring and evaluation process is not a control and that it should rely on a participatory approach.

As regards the role of everyone in the implementation of a global monitoring and evaluation mechanism, Denmark referred to the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) as the international monitoring and evaluation mechanism to strengthen and the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) as the reporting mechanism to support. France emphasized its commitment to support the JMP through technical and financial contributions. It will also support the secretariat of the UN Water and the Secretary General's Advisory Board on water and sanitation, currently hosted at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

Mrs Mutagamba, chairperson of AMCOW, declared that the African Ministers' Council on Water had committed itself to implementing a regional observation mechanism in Africa in collaboration with NEPAD and the African Development Bank. Its aim is to help countries and local communities. France recalled its support to the establishment of this regional mechanism for which it suggests notably mobilising the African Water Facility.

Résumé

Contexte et objectifs de l'événement parallèle

Le thème de l'observatoire mondial de l'eau a été porté à maintes reprises par la France dans les instances internationales et notamment par le Président Chirac lors du troisième Forum mondial de l'eau à Kyoto en 2003. Afin de relancer le débat sur des propositions concrètes et innovantes visant à renforcer les systèmes de suivi et d'évaluation déjà en place, la France a organisé un événement parallèle lors de la 13^{ème} session de la Commission du Développement Durable, le 20 avril à New York. La Présidence luxembourgeoise du Conseil de l'Union européenne, le Conseil des Ministres africains chargés de l'eau (AMCOW), l'Italie, le Japon, le Royaume Uni, le Danemark, la Banque africaine de développement (BAfD), la Direction des affaires économiques et sociales des Nations Unies (UN-DAES), le Conseil mondial de l'eau (CME) et le secrétariat international de l'eau ont souhaité co-parrainer cet événement.

Résumé des interventions

Le débat était ciblé sur trois thèmes : 1/Le suivi et l'évaluation : dans quels buts? ; 2/Les attentes des donateurs et des acteurs : comment construire des objectifs communs? ; 3. Niveaux national, régional, mondial : qui fait quoi?

Il ressort des débats que le suivi et l'évaluation aux niveaux local, national et régional sont indispensables pour mieux appréhender la situation actuelle, les résultats des mesures engagées, ce afin d'adopter des politiques de gestion adaptées ou, le cas échéant, de les rectifier. Des indicateurs sont ainsi nécessaires, de même qu'un retour d'informations des niveaux mondial et régional vers les échelons national et local.

Le suivi et l'évaluation doivent également être menés au niveau mondial afin de suivre la mise en œuvre des engagements adoptés par la communauté internationale sur l'accès à l'eau, l'assainissement et les ressources en eau et pour communiquer sur ce thème. Ils sont également essentiels pour justifier les actions des donateurs, renforcer la confiance des partenaires bénéficiaires et des usagers et permettre un décaissement plus rapide et plus fiable de la part des bailleurs de fonds.

Le suivi et l'évaluation aux différents niveaux ne pourront réellement être efficaces que si les différents acteurs s'accordent sur les problèmes à résoudre, les objectifs à atteindre, les normes de service à retenir et les méthodes de mesure et indicateurs à adopter. Les panélistes ont convenu que le processus de suivi et d'évaluation n'est pas synonyme de contrôle et qu'il doit s'appuyer sur une démarche participative.

Sur le rôle de chacun dans la mise en place d'un mécanisme global de suivi et d'évaluation, le Danemark a mis en avant le « Joint Monitoring Programme » (JMP) comme mécanisme de suivi et d'évaluation international à renforcer et le Programme d'évaluation des ressources en eau (WWAP) comme dispositif de communication à appuyer. La France a d'ailleurs souligné son engagement dans le renforcement du JMP par des apports techniques et financiers. Elle soutiendra également le secrétariat de UN Water et du Conseil consultatif auprès du Secrétariat général des Nations Unies pour l'eau et l'assainissement actuellement hébergé par la Direction des affaires économiques et sociales des Nations Unies (UN-DAES).

Mme Mutagamba, Présidente de l'AMCOW, a déclaré que le Conseil des Ministres africains chargés de l'eau s'était engagé, en collaboration avec le NEPAD et la Banque africaine de développement, dans la mise en place d'un mécanisme d'observation régional africain, au service des pays et des collectivités locales. La France a rappelé son soutien à l'établissement de ce mécanisme régional, pour lequel elle propose notamment de mobiliser la Facilité africaine de l'eau.

Panelists

Round table

- *Mrs Maria Mutagamba (Chairperson of AMCOW and Minister of State for water, Uganda)*
- *Mr Philibert Afrika (Director of Operations’ Policy and Review Department, African Development Bank)*
- *Mr Manuel Dengo (Chief, Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch, UN-DESA)*
- *Mr Lóic Fauchon (President of the World Water Council)*
- *Mr Benjamin Fournier Espinosa (Secretary for water, State of Mexico)*
- *Mr Niels Ipsen (Director of the Danish Hydraulic Institute, UNEP Collaborating Centre on water and environment)*
- *Mr Masaki Konishi (Ambassador in charge of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)*
- *Mr Serge Lepeltier (Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development, France)*
- *Mr Tamsir N’Diaye (Director of the Environment Observatory, Senegal River Organisation)*
- *Mr Mario Quagliotti (Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy) and Mr Umberto Triulzi (Director of IPALMO, Italy)*

Contributions from the floor

- *Mrs Martha Karua (Water Resources Minister, Kenya)*
- *Mr Alain Henry (Director of Infrastructure and Urban Development, French Development Agency)*
- *Mr Raymond Jost (General secretary, International Secretariat for Water)*
- *Mr Jean-Luc Redaud (Chair of the ISO Technical Committee 224 on service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems and on quality criteria of the service and performance indicators)*
- *Mr Martin Walshe (European Union Water Initiative)*

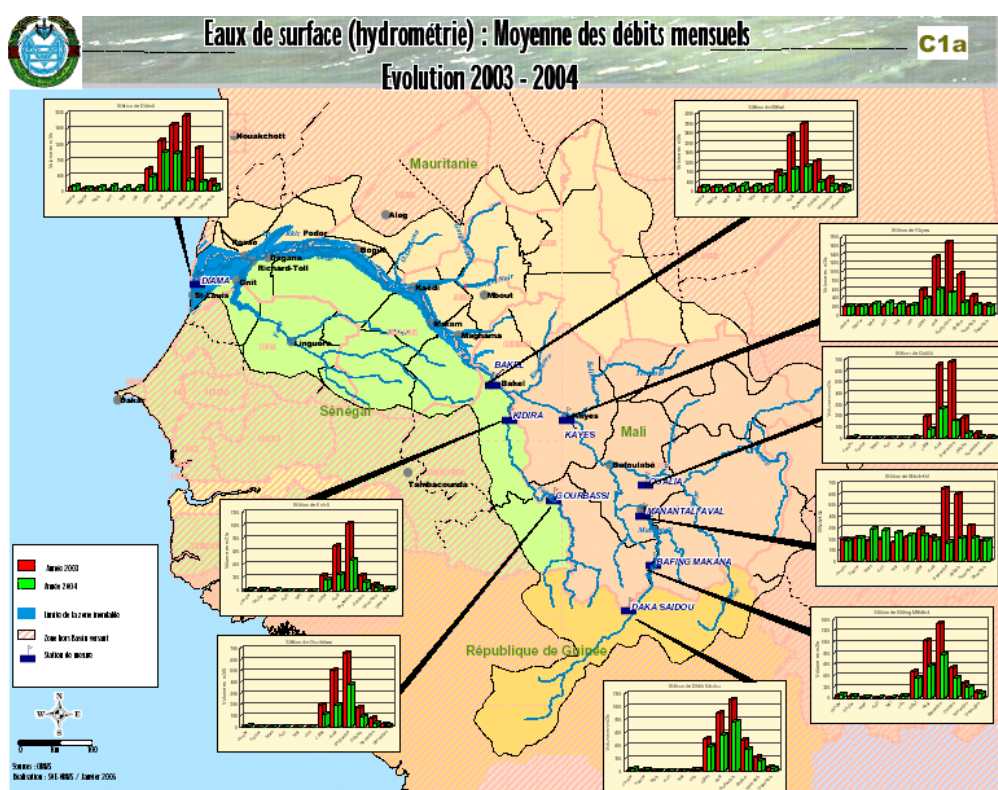
Issue n° 1: Monitoring and evaluation: what for?

1. Mr. Tamsir NDiaye (Director of the Environment Observatory, Senegal River Organisation)

Monitoring at a local, national and regional level requires having objectives at each level. Monitoring should allow the actors at the various levels to have better knowledge of the situation. It should also help them in their planning so that they can anticipate and correct any disparities in the existing situation. It should finally allow them to have precise knowledge of the results of actions on the ground. In order for monitoring to be effective, there is a need for capacity building, especially at national and local levels so as to be able to mobilise information at these levels.

The basic studies undertaken to establish the Senegal River Environment Observatory showed that it was necessary to mobilise the basic information at local and national levels and then transmit these data to the regional level to be analysed and used to prepare comprehensive indicators. At least 90% or more of the actors did not have the capacity to undertake this monitoring because they did not have enough means or manpower. Therefore the process adopted was the following: first priorities were identified, then focal points responsible for local and national levels were established and finally their capacities strengthened.

Feed-back is essential at local level: the output prepared at the regional level has to be conveyed back to local and national levels in order to have a global reference and be able to evaluate the local or national situation.



River Senegal: mean monthly discharges; evolution between 2000 (red bar charts) and 2004 (green bar charts)

An example of how useful monitoring is in the management of water resources is shown in the graph presented above which displays the mean monthly discharges in 2000 and 2004. This document helped water users' representatives understand that their demand in water could not be satisfied because of a lack of necessary resources.

2. Mr. Benjamin Fournier Espinosa (*Secretary for Water, State of Mexico*)

The State of Mexico is part of the World Association of the Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS). This Federation has developed a monitoring and evaluation system on drinking water, sanitation and drainage which is permanently consulted by 54 major large cities worldwide. It is a reference point for decision taking on matters of drinking water, sanitation and drainage.

The main indicators used by local governments are the following:

- drinking water: physical efficiency, level of service coverage;
- sanitation: level of service coverage, percentage of re-use of treated water;
- drainage: frequency of flooding, levels of service and coverage of drainage systems.

Monitoring and evaluation systems allow decision makers to make important strides forward. For example the results in monitoring drinking water supply and drainage systems can be transformed into indicators of comfort which in turn can help increase the standards of living of the population.

3. Mr. Manuel Dengo (*Chief, Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch, UN-DESA*)

Member states are calling for a follow-up of decisions already taken at Johannesburg and during the Millennium assembly. There is a strong call on the United Nations' system for this global follow-up in collaboration with all stakeholders. It is important to underline that in carrying out this follow-up, issues related to resources, water supply and sanitation should not be separated.

Monitoring and evaluation at the global level have to respond to the following questions:

- How are the policies agreed by member states being implemented?
- How do the results of those policies have an impact at the level of each country?
- How to report on this implementation process?

To answer these three questions, it is vital to transmit the data collected at the country level to the global level. A reflexion on methodologies, approaches and practices is necessary in order to build a system that is coherent in terms of approach and homogenous in terms of methodologies. This will ensure that data sets are comparable and can be discussed in global forums and that indicators have the same meaning for all actors.

The second important issue deals with norms. How can the global community contribute to the harmonisation of norms and definitions accepted both from a technical and a political point of view? In that sense, the UN plays a very important role as it has been working in this field for many years through the Joint Monitoring Program, the World Water Development Report, etc.

4. Mr. Alain Henry (*Director of Infrastructure and Urban Development, French development agency*)

One of the objectives of shareholders is to pay more quickly and more reliably. In this respect, monitoring has two main objectives.

The first one deals with the measurement of progress made in the achievement of the MDGs and Johannesburg goals. Today the efforts of donors are effective but only the financial amounts invested are calculated and published not the results in terms of new access to water supply and sanitation. Those results have to be measured so that donors can make efforts where the problems are the most serious, in the field of sanitation and maintenance in particular. They are also important to enable comparison of performances: monitoring is an ingredient of good management and good governance in the technical operation of the sector.

Reinforcing the confidence of various partners at local level is the second goal. Users will only pay when they know where the money goes, whether it is controlled and whether services are truly provided. This is also true for donors. There is therefore a need for monitoring systems and independent evaluations in order to create trust and objectivity on the reality of performances and to facilitate more fluid payments.

Issue n°2: Donors' and stakeholders' expectations: how can shared views be built?

1. **Mrs. Maria Mutagamba** (*Chairperson of AMCOW and Minister of State for Water, Uganda*)

Mrs. Maria Mutagamba is chairperson of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). In 2002 the African ministers responsible for water decided to come together officially and initiate a forum on water. Last December AMCOW was officially recognised as an agency of the African Union and integrated under the umbrella of the EUWI and NEPAD programs. The purpose of AMCOW is to give advocacy to the water situation in Africa, have policy guidelines, and be able to devote itself to a monitoring mechanism.

In order to have common objectives, it is necessary to have a common understanding of the problem that has to be solved. And this problem needs to be described from both the stakeholder and the shareholder points of view. One has to bear in mind that for stakeholders, monitoring is often a new experience. Usually things are done without ever trying to answer questions such as "What was the initial situation?", "What has been done?", "How well has it been done?" or "What are the expected outcomes?"

A common understanding of the objectives to achieve is also required. This will have an impact on data collection. Mrs Maria Mutagamba has monitoring units in her ministry. At times they do not know what to monitor and will bring her information that is not relevant and leave out information that would be interesting. If relevant, information will be useful not only to stakeholders but also to shareholders.

There is also a need to have common standards and indicators. For instance, water coverage can have different meanings. Common minimum service delivery standards have to be defined by all actors, shareholders and stakeholders. Of course there are different methods of delivery both for water supply and sanitation and the question is how to standardize them and be able to report on these issues.

Mrs. Mutagamba insisted in the subsidiarity of principle, that is monitoring and evaluation systems must be based as much as possible upon all existing systems at local, national, regional and international levels. She also indicated that peer reviewing was about to start within NEPAD/AMCOW in the water sector and that this process should be translated at local level. Finally she underlined priorities for monitoring and evaluation at each level:

- local level: enable users to monitor themselves;
- national level: sensitize politicians to make monitoring and evaluation a priority;
- international level : clarify the role of the international community and who monitors the private sector

2. **Mr. Philibert Afrika** (*Director of Operations' Policy and Review Department, African Development Bank*)

Mr Philibert Afrika, speaking as a shareholder, agreed on the need for:

- common guidelines on what has to be monitored and how to monitor it;
- agreed standard indicators;
- agreed measuring instruments;

- agreed methods of data collection;

Today there are various systems of monitoring and evaluation. For example in Africa, there are annual reports from governments, the WHO/UNICEF monitoring program, the World Bank monitoring program, recent assessments carried out by the AfDB. When trying to compare the results, one realizes that there are different standards and a lack of common understanding of what water supply and sanitation signify.

The second point Mr. Afrika underlined deals with monitoring progress in the provision of water supply and sanitation towards the achievement of the MDGs: there is a need to assess the challenges that countries are facing and that are preventing them from achieving the MDGs, and also to determine the way donors can assist them.

Finally donors owe shareholders and tax payers a justification on the results on the ground.

3. Mr. Martin Walshe (*European Union Water Initiative*)

From the perspective of the EU Water initiative and the EU Water Facility, the issue is how effective is the money being spent.

Mr Walshe agreed with what had been said by former speakers. The issue is national monitoring systems and if they are designed with indicators that can be used to guide budget allocations, to adjust these on a regular basis, to allow informed decisions and priorities to be made, then they will make a good basis on which the donors can plan future actions.

Issue n° 3: National, regional, global levels: who does what?

1. Mr. Masaki Konishi (Ambassador in charge of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

Mr. Konishi fully agreed with the previous speakers who emphasized the need to monitor the current situation and the progress made and also to share with other countries the variable experience gained through water related activities.

Project databases are highly beneficial resources that countries and organisations can refer to for examples of good practices in national planning. In the context of Asia, the Portfolio of Water Actions was one of the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting of the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto in March 2003. It was attended by about 1700 participants including 130 Ministers from 180 countries. The Portfolio currently has 525 entries voluntarily submitted by 43 countries and 18 international organisations. Later a database network was established to update information on their water-related activities and Japan, as the host country of the Forum, is managing the site.

The Portfolio aims to support governments in planning water-related activities at local and national levels. The Portfolio also allows contributors to renew and add information to their entries, thus indicating the extent to which participants are fulfilling their commitments. The database contains a case sheet for each project showing the country or organisation implementing the project, its name, sector classification, location, purpose, contents, prospective results and progress results. Each case sheet also includes the name and contact information of the person or persons in charge of the project and responsible for the information posted in the interest of ensuring transparency.

Mr. Konishi presented two regional monitoring networks in Asia and represented in the Portfolio of Water Actions. The first is the Network of Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO) which was established by Japan in cooperation with 14 other Asian countries and the Asian Development Bank. NARBO aims to advocate and raise awareness regarding integrated water resources management (IWRM) among countries and river basin organisations throughout the region, share information, good practices, and lessons learned among the organisations concerned and foster regional cooperation for trans-boundary river basins. Its activities are focused on capacity building through activities such as training course on integrated water resources management (IWRM), regional workshops, seminars on websites, and programs to exchange human resources for the purpose of staff training.

In addition to NARBO, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment is promoting the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) as a follow-up to the Asian water monitoring initiatives of the 3rd Forum. The objective of WEPA is to contribute to the implementation of water environment conservation by sharing its knowledge of water environment management. It also aims to develop an information platform to strengthen water governance and build capacity to solve water environmental problems in the region. It will do this by collecting good practices in the area of water quality monitoring and pollution reduction technologies and by providing and updating the database on policy-related information and the activities of NGOs and CBOs (community-based organisations). WEPA is enhancing its partnership by holding working group meetings on policy and technology.

2. Mr. Niels Ipsen (*Director of the Danish Hydraulic Institute, UNEP Collaborating Centre on water and environment*)

Monitoring should be carried out both on the water and sanitation targets which are the ones about halving the number of people without access to drinking water and sanitation and on integrated water resources management (IWRM) which plays a role in achieving the other MDGs (poverty, hunger, education and health).

The Danish views on "who is doing what" are very much based on the work of the Task Force for water and sanitation of the Millennium project: the primary mechanism for monitoring water supply and sanitation at global level should be the Joint Monitoring Program (WHO/UNICEF). As regards water resources management, attention needs to be focused on the actual implementation of IWRM in general and more precisely on water efficiency plans that have to be established by the year 2005. Denmark considers that the world water development report (WWDR) should be recognised as the reporting mechanism on these issues on a global scale.

For these two mechanisms to be effective, inputs from many actors are required, such as countries which have signed these international commitments. Regional or basin wide intergovernmental organisations appear also to be very appropriate mechanisms to carry out monitoring. For example the Southern African countries through SADEC have just prepared a report on the progress on IWRM and the 2005 target. The same has been done for the West African countries (16 countries). The Mekong secretariat is also preparing a progress report for the IWRM situation in the countries under the Mekong River Commission. So there are a number of mechanisms at national and regional levels which can and should be used to monitor IWRM and which include the organisations which are supporting these countries, that is UNEP, UN, GWP...

The challenge now is about indicators. When one reads the progress reports from GWP, from regional organisations, it is not very clear what kind indicators should be used: there are subjective indicators ("What is the progress on a scale of 1 to 5") but also objectives indicators ("Have you included IWRM in your law, in your policies...?"). What is really needed today is for the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) to sit together with all the actors concerned to try and find a way to report on water resources management.

3. Mr. Loïc Fauchon (*President of the World Water Council*)

One should pay attention to the fact that monitoring and evaluation should not appear to be a constraint but something useful. One should not fear monitoring but perceive it as a helping hand, a challenge behind which there is recognition, esteem and confidence. Mr. Fauchon insisted on these points because he believed that they are the keys to success. One could put forward excellent indicators but if people are not convinced on the ground that it is also in their interest, then the tools will not go anywhere. So there is a need for mutual confidence. Mr. Fauchon talked about his own experience as mayor in France when the regional audit offices were created. Everyone thought the gendarmes were coming. However everyone understood year after year that it was interesting to be monitored and advised.

There will be no success without the active participation of the stakeholders in the field. And they have to be consulted on the nature and the modalities of the monitoring and evaluation.

He believes a unique system cannot be imposed on the whole surface of the globe. Specificities, particularities, differences have to be admitted.

As a conclusion Mr Fauchon talked briefly about the Water Monitoring Alliance which is a tool which aim is to make an inventory of existing monitoring systems and analyse them. It is a platform available on the web.

4. Mr. Mario Quagliotti (Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy) & Mr. Umberto Triulzi (Director of IPALMO, Italy)

Mr. Quagliotti and Mr. Triulzi presented the European Union Water Initiative monitoring and reporting component:

- Mandate: Multi-Stakeholder Forums (March and June 2004)
- Leadership: the European Commission and Italy
- Overall objective: outline an effective M/R system in measuring the contribution of the EUWI towards the water-related MDGs
- 2 objectives:
 - ensuring that the EU contribution goes in the right direction to attain MDGs and WSSD targets
 - monitoring progress made in implementing the EUWI's set of objectives
- To be reached in 4 phases:
 - preparatory phase
 - design phase
 - test phase
 - implementation phase

The group is currently working on the design phase.

The importance of the EUWI on monitoring is to:

- keep track and reinforce accountability, transparency and visibility
- strengthen EU coordination and coherence
- highlight possible room for improvement
- create a shared platform of work on monitoring policies

The group has already:

- defined the "water policy process" and highlighted several critical issues
- approached the monitoring methodology
- conceived several indicators
- put forth a strategy for external visibility (CSD13, Stockholm, etc.)

The partners involved in the M/R working group are:

- EU Partners: Austria, France, Greece, Germany, Spain, UK.
- Non-EU Partners: Japan.
- Stakeholders: WHO-UNICEF JMP, WWC, UNDESA, OECD, IRC, JWF, WWF

The EUWI can support regional, national and local levels by setting up a methodology able to support these different levels.

The monitoring and reporting component does not aim at establishing a new global monitoring regime. Its aim is to establish an ex-ante qualitative assessment of consistency between objectives at different levels of the policy-making and an ex-post quantitative track

of input, output and outcome indicators, in terms of physical, financial and procedural realizations

The group is currently working on a matrix where one can find the indicators according to the phases of the policy process from the global goals to international and national strategies then to programs and last to implementation plans. Its architecture allows the production of indicators from local to global level and ensures both vertical and horizontal consistency of the information flow all along the process.

5. Mr. Benjamin Fournier Espinosa (*Secretary for Water, State of Mexico*)

The local governments' expectations in the short term are also to get information on aspects referring to financial questions, such as billing. Another challenge is to homologate the international water targets into local policies in order to increase the efficiency of all services.

6. Mr. Jean-Luc Redaud (*Chair of the ISO Technical Committee 224 on service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems and on quality criteria of the service and performance indicators*)

The aim of TC224 is to build a common framework for the definition and measurement of service activities relating to drinking water supply and wastewater systems. The objective is not to set up new indicators. It must be relevant for all partners: for the poor and rich countries, for the private and public sectors... 40 countries have engaged in this work.

7. Mr Raymond Jost (*General secretary, International Secretariat for Water*)

Mr. Jost is convinced that what former speakers said can work and can function and to a large extent already works. He wishes to present the Blue Book which is very digestible (only 8 pages) and which has up to now been written for 3 countries: Burkina, Mali and Niger. The upstream work will soon be available on several websites (French Development Agency, World Water Council, International Secretariat for Water...).

This Blue Book suggests a critical vision of the sector of access to water and sanitation in these three countries by independent measurement of the progress made at regular intervals. The Blue Book has a participating methodology. It starts with the opinions expressed by the professionals, by local officials... The Blue Book is a tool for exchange, for dialogue and for sensitization of all actors. There are concrete objectives presented in these documents with measurements parameters.

8. Mrs Martha Karua (*Water Resources Minister, Kenya*)

Monitoring is being seen as something that will again lead to overlap because there is monitoring at too many levels, at global, regional and local levels. And there is no information on how these systems will feed on each other.

Is monitoring related only to the recipient countries or is the efficacy of programs and systems of the donor countries also going to be monitored? There is a lack of constructive engagements and the general discontent leads to a reaction of not wanting monitoring at all. However Mrs. Karua is convinced that monitoring is important but it should be participatory and the relations between donors and recipients countries need to be changed in order to avoid leakages.

9. Mrs. Maria Mutagamba (*Chairperson of AMCOW and Minister of State for Water, Uganda*)

From the African point of view, monitoring should start at regional level. The NEPAD has it embedded and AMCOW has embraced it. And it is a new challenge for the African Water Facility and African Water Task Force.

At subregional level, there are opportunities to carry out monitoring by the subregional economic commissions or research centres such as the one that exist in Northern and Southern Africa. These centres should be supported and strengthened. Within AMCOW there are five subregions and it is the responsibility of the Vice-President of each subregion to make sure that the activities are monitored under a peer review process.

At national level, there are number of efforts being made. In Uganda there are joint sector reviews where all stakeholders come together to look at what they have been able to achieve, the money they have put in, where they have failed... This can be reproduced in other countries.

At the local level, local governments need to be sensitized to monitoring. For the moment they often see monitoring as they are being audited.

Finally the civil society must be associated with this process.

10. Mr. Philibert Afrika (*Director of Operations' Policy and Review Department, African Development Bank*)

The African Development Bank has launched a major initiative for the African countries in order to try and support them in the implementation of the MDGS. A meeting held in Paris on the 1st of April and attended by various ministers of finance and water endorsed the establishment of a regional mechanism for surveillance that is going to be housed at the AfDB. Its purpose will be to track progress towards the achievement of the water supply and sanitation objectives.

That monitoring system is going to be able to work at local and regional levels. It will be established in close cooperation with AMCOW secretariat and NEPAD so that it will be able to establish the linkage that is required. It will also work very closely with WHO/UNICEF.

11. Mr. Serge Lepeltier (*Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development, France*)

France believes that to achieve the Millennium Development goals and the Johannesburg commitments the right thing to do is to rely on a pilot support tool which could take the form of a global observation mechanism for water and sanitation. Naturally there is no question of establishing a new institution.

This mechanism which is also supported by the European Union must rest on a national level, a regional level and a global level. The national level constitutes the foundation of this global mechanism. Consequently the international community must assist countries and local communities which need capacity building as has been stressed by the Joint Monitoring Program, by the G77 and China and by the African group during the CSD13 plenary on monitoring and evaluation on the 13th of April.

France also recognizes that the regional level plays an important part in this global mechanism. It can support countries and local communities at their request in order for them to improve their monitoring and evaluation systems. The regional level thus contributes to improving data which support the world level. It can also promote peer reviews in order to be able to make good use of everyone's experience.

France is ready to play its part in the effective implementation of these multiple strengthening requirements. Its global contribution to water and sanitation in the world is 165 million euros per year and President Chirac has committed itself to more than doubling the French public assistance for water to up to 360 million euros per year.

In terms of monitoring at world level, France commits itself:

- to supporting the Joint Monitoring Programme through technical and financial contributions;
- to strengthening UN-DESA by making available an expert in order to be able to better provide the secretariat of UN Water and the Secretary General's Advisory Council for water and sanitation.

At the regional level, France supports the implementation in Africa of the regional monitoring and evaluation committee which is backed up by the African Council of Ministers responsible for water, by NEPAD and by the African Development Bank. The African Water Facility, which is the trust fund of the African Council of Ministers responsible for water and to which France contributes up to around 12 million euros could be mobilised to this aim.

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