

UNEP
29 November 2005

Committee of Permanent Representatives to
the United Nations Environment Programme
Subcommittee I
Nairobi, 29 November 2005

**INPUTS BY ACCREDITED INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
TO THE UNEDITED ADVANCE ENGLISH COPY OF DOCUMENTS OF THE NINTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL
ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

The secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has the honour to submit herewith, the inputs to the unedited advance English copy of document UNEP/GCSS.IX/4 (Draft updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director), submitted by the following international non-governmental organizations accredited to the Governing Council: Emirates Environmental Group, International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) and Rotary International.

Emirates Environmental Group

RE: Comments on the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy Discussion Papers

Dear Ms. Miller,

Greetings from EEG!

In reference to your letter on 15 November 2005 regarding the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy, we would like to provide you with our views and comments on the discussion papers.

We would like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to take part in on-going discussions on such important issues and concerns. We look forward to a fruitful working relationship with UNEP.

With best regards,

Habiba Al Marashi
Chairperson
Together for a better environment
NGO with accredited status with UNEP and UNCCD

3314/AD2-21/GLJ05

Comments on the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy

Emirates Environmental Group

The UNEP Water Policy and Strategy is clear and comprehensive as it touches national, sub-regional, regional and global concerns and draw up approaches on how to go about addressing them.

It has three main component to achieve the overall goal. These are *improved assessment and awareness, improved environmental management of freshwater systems, and coordination and cooperation* among stakeholders.

For the first component, there should be case studies made available to the stakeholders on how to deal with threats, trends and emerging issues (**Component 1, point number 3**). This should be part of the awareness building process providing one country to learn from another in terms of concrete strategies and approaches on how to deal with threats.

It should be noted though that on the **second component, point number 3**, the paper talks about identifying , promoting the development and transfer of "low-cost" technologies which include desalination, wastewater reuse...These technologies are and do not come cheap. Some re-wording or rethinking should be done on this

portion of the paper, since this is a major point in the entire paper, as this hints on interventions on how to improve water supply, availability and access, presumably in areas where they are most needed.

This point is the most critical factor in the entire paper.

This is intertwined with the first component (improved assessment and awareness) since there should be a massive information campaign on the current technologies available and where or which part of the world these technologies are most needed. This is a vital point in the vertical and horizontal integration of the logical framework.

With regard the third component, it was stated that there will be a better coordination between and among the stakeholders of the water sector including UN agencies, businesses, financial institutions among others. There should be stress on the role of financial institutions/funding agencies in the overall framework, since resources, both internally and externally generated, should be tied up with the plans or program of work of the UNEP. '**Availability of financial resources**' should be placed at the bottom most part of the vertical logic of the logical framework analysis, under the column '**intervention logic**'. If this is not addressed then there will be a clear gap on the flow of logic on the vertical integration of the Logframe.

Realistically, 'lack of resources' could be a potential problem for the UNEP in undertaking its strategies and policies. There should therefore be an **important assumption** made on the logframe that **commitment from financial institutions should include the programs and projects of UNEP**.

There should be stress on internal capacity building at the national level. Funding facilities and mechanisms should be used to build the capacity of developing countries in this regard. One possible mechanism for drawing up resources for water related projects is foreign debt management. The UNEP policy and strategy paper should focus on how to make use of such a mechanism. This could be UNEP's additional contribution to the achievement of the millennium development goals.

Lastly there should be focus on the role of developed countries in the fulfillment of UNEP's policies and strategies. These countries can provide unprecedented support to developing nations in terms of technology transfer and co-sponsorship agreements through their respective **agencies for international development**.

The UAE for one is a leader in the field of wastewater reuse and desalination technologies. One could just imagine the potential contribution of the UAE in other countries, which are facing water scarcity. The UAE can provide the expertise as well as the financial assistance to key projects around the world when it comes to these types of projects.

Other developed countries should come forward to the challenge of fulfilling the MDGs of the UN. This is the only time we can call ourselves a Global Village.

International Association of Ports and Harbors

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for sending us a copy of the above captioned draft report.

Having read your reports, I have found it of great value to the sustained water environment, though no specific issue are directly impacting ports. Nevertheless I will circulate a copy of your email with the attachments to those directly concerned and involved with environment -related issues in our Association for their information.

Under the circumstance, our Association will be closely monitoring the further development of the subject UNEP has been addressing with keen interest.

Yours sincerely,

Satoshi Inoue
Secretary General, IAPH

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UNEP WATER POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMENT
FROM PDG. HENRY KYEMBA
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE TO UNEP (2004 – 2006)

Thanks for the documents sent to me for Rotary International and I have great pleasure to send the following comments on behalf of Rotary International as their Primary Representative to UNEP.

Generally, the document has analyzed the issues of water resources and management at the National, Regional and International levels.

However, Rotary International whose motto is "*Service above self*", I would like to submit the following comments. This is in consideration that our primary concern in Rotary International is the individual water user who is disadvantaged, unfortunate, or less privileged. I will bear in mind the paragraphs that I have touched on the areas of my concern like I (2), II (10), the mission, II (14), II (18) and the strategic principles generally.

UNEP and other bodies mentioned in VIII (56) should impress upon national governments to have deliberate policies and strategies on water services bearing in mind the poor people, the women, people with disability and children. Water is life, they should specifically consider the following;

- Accessibility to safe water
- Costs of water, sanitation and sewerage
- Sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems through proper use of wetlands and water resources
- Controlled land use along the river banks and lake shores
- Regulated and /or mitigated industrial pollution into water bodies
- Adequate funding of the water sector
- Alternative water sources e.g. rain water harvesting should be promoted
- Early warning systems against water disasters e.g. floods and droughts
- The population that earns its living from water and water resources should be integrated in their management
- Standardization of management of dumping sites /landfills to avoid leaking of dangerous fluids from garbage into water bodies

1. Latest case: - Spillage of more than 100 tons of toxic chemicals from an industrial explosion into the river in Northeastern China, Harbin rendering a population of

4 Million people waterless.

2. Presently, in the great lakes region in Africa, poverty is reigning in the Lake Victoria region where poor communities are depending on the lake for survival and yet have no knowledge towards its protection. Progress on poverty eradication in the region would help curb degradation; hence the urgent need for arrangements to maintain soil and water conservation as well as reduction of industrial and urban waste.

In addressing the management of water resources right from the individual level, UNEP and other bodies will have assured the world population of sustainable quality of life without compromising the future generation.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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