

INNOVATIVE PRACTICES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONSULTATIONS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL / GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM, NAIROBI, KENYA, 21-25 FEBRUARY, 2005

Nigeria is committed more than ever before to meeting the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of implementation (JPOI). The specific goals and targets being pursued by Nigeria include:

- (i) **Ecosystem Approaches: developing integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans by 2005;**
- (ii) **Water and Sanitation: halving by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;**
- (iii) **Water, Health and Poverty: halving by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than US\$1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer hunger.**

2. Highlights of selected innovative practices within the Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements Sectors are as follow:

A. Water

A National Water Resources Policy: the goal of the framework policy is to optimize the use of Nigeria's Water Resources for present generation to live without compromising the existence of future generations and to ensure the development and management of Water resources in an integrated manner. It has been developed to set directions for separate sub sector policies like Dams and Reservoir Operations, Irrigation and Drainage, etc.

Nigeria is now pursuing the above policy initiatives through the implementation of relevant programmes in various parts of the country. These include:

- (i) **The Presidential Water Initiative** (Water for People, Water for Life) further reinforces the need to vigorously pursue the implementation of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme. The theme of the programme is "Water for People, Water for Life." The goal is to achieve and sustain water supply access and coverage for all State capitals, three quarters of urban and semi-urban areas and two-thirds of rural communities by the year 2007. It will pay adequate attention to Integrated Water Resources Management so as to conserve, preserve and judiciously utilize water resources for sustainable development. Also, the Federal Rural Water Supply Programme provides a means to improve delivery to Nigerians through construction of new mini-schemes as well as rehabilitation and expansion of existing ones. It involves capacity building of the beneficiary communities to strengthen facility ownership, operation and maintenance as well as the integration of water, hygiene and sanitation services. Specific targets are set, e.g. the programme for 2004/2005 will provide water supply service to 8,145,000 citizens.
- (ii) **The Urban Water Sector Reform Programme** is to improve utility agencies for sustainable efficient performance and attract private sector participation to the sub sector being implemented in phases of a number of states.

- (iii) **National Water-Sanitation Policy** – currently being developed as an individual sub sector policy in line with the direction set by the National Environmental Sanitation Policy. The draft document will be considered for adoption during the National Council on Water Resources in March 2007.

B. Sanitation

(i) **National Environmental Sanitation Policy** – The goal of the policy approved by Government on 26th February, 2005 is to ensure a clean and healthy environment by adopting efficient, sustainable and cost-effective strategies, to safeguard public health and wellbeing in line with the national development objectives. The Policy is also to ensure sustainable environment and poverty reduction. It sets specific targets as follows:

- (a) Enact all relevant legislation required for policy implementation by 2005.
- (b) Increase access to toilet facilities by 25% in public places and 50% in households by 2006; and 75% and 100% respectively by 2010.
- (c) Increase sanitary management of sewage and excreta by 25% in 2006 and 75% in 2010.
- (d) Institute School Sanitation Programmes in 50% of schools by 2006 and 100% by 2010
- (e) Extend present water supply and wastewater services coverage to 80% of the population by 2007, 100% by 2011 and to sustain full coverage beyond 2011.
- (f) Increase private sector participation in Environmental Sanitation services delivery by 20% in 2006 and 75% by 2010.

(ii) Programmes and innovations being implemented by government in line with the above include the following:

- (a) House- to – House Sanitary Inspection –
- (b) Monthly Environmental Sanitation Day
- (c) Establishment of Mobile Environmental Sanitation Courts.

C. Human Settlements

Efforts by the Federal Government of Nigeria have included the following:

- (i) **Institutional mechanism: a new Ministry of Housing and Urban Development** has been established to effectively coordinate, harmonise and enforce existing housing and urban development laws towards the actualisation of the desired goals of sustainable urban development.
- (ii) **Review of the National Policy for Housing and Urban Development** to promote private sector participation in the delivery of housing and urban management, with gender issues mainstreamed into the document. The policy goal of housing for all by year 2010 is a worthwhile initiative to make housing more affordable and create more environment-friendly and live able cities.
- (iii) **Sustainable Cities Project**: The private sector is now actively involved in the provision of houses and sustainable urban development.

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