



# UN High-Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals



## Recommendations for African leaders

The UN High-Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2008 is a unique opportunity for African leaders to ensure that clear, concrete and measurable outcomes are agreed to accelerate efforts to meet the sanitation and water MDG targets. The Event provides a platform to demonstrate how the commitments made through the *eThekwin Declaration* (February 2008) and at the African Union Summit (June 2008) will be fulfilled, as well as to call on donor governments to accelerate action to support these goals.

The High-Level Event will include three different opportunities to champion sanitation and water: the meeting on Africa's Development Needs on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the Partnership Event on Water and Sanitation on 24<sup>th</sup> September, and the main High-Level Event itself on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### 1. We call on African leaders to announce plans to meet their 2008 commitments, including:

- a. **Increasing domestic investment**, outlining a timetable to invest *at least* 1% of GDP to meet the water and sanitation MDG targets<sup>1</sup>. Within this, 0.5% of GDP should be invested in sanitation to meet the *eThekwin Declaration* commitment.
- b. **Outlining a timetable for the production of costed national water and sanitation plans**, which would show the actions needed to meet the MDG targets, and would include a **single coordinating mechanism** and **single monitoring and evaluation framework**.

### 2. We call on African leaders to ensure that donor governments agree a global action plan to meet the sanitation and water MDG targets that includes:

#### a. A global task force and an annual high-level meeting

The High-Level Partnership Event on 24<sup>th</sup> September should serve as the first annual High-Level Meeting (HLM) to monitor and drive global progress in the sector. It should include representation from major bilateral and multilateral donors and from governments of the most off-track regions.

The HLM should draw on analysis presented in the Global Annual Assessment on Water and Sanitation (GLAAS) Report. The meeting would identify specific issues affecting off-track countries and financial gaps that require the attention of attendees. The outcome of the meeting would be a set of achievable policy and financing actions agreed upon by meeting participants.

#### b. A commitment from donors that '*no credible national water and sanitation plan will fail through lack of finance*'

Such a commitment is immensely important. Not only will it lead to increased investments in water and sanitation, but it will provide an incentive for the creation of credible, costed national plans. Similar commitments spurred increased investments and the development of national plans in promoting education and tackling HIV and AIDS.

A recent report from the MDG Africa Steering Group estimated that by 2010 Sub-Saharan Africa will require *at least* \$5.8bn<sup>2</sup> of external finance each year to meet the MDG targets. In June, the EU committed to providing 60% of this amount<sup>3</sup>. European countries should make clear how (and by whom) this will be delivered, and other donors should outline how the rest will be provided.

For more information contact [stevecockburn@endwaterpoverty.org](mailto:stevecockburn@endwaterpoverty.org) or [jamillah@anewafrica.net](mailto:jamillah@anewafrica.net).

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation from the UN Human Development Report 2006, p9

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group, June 2008, Recommendation 4.3, p19.

<sup>3</sup> EU Agenda for Action, June 2008, p8