

UN High-Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals



Recommendations for Donor Governments

Background

The UN High-Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2008 is a unique opportunity for donor governments to ensure that clear, concrete and measurable outcomes are agreed to accelerate efforts to meet the most off-track MDG targets – particularly those on sanitation and water. The Event provides a platform for donors to agree actions to support the commitments made by developing countries throughout the International Year of Sanitation, including those made in the *eThekweni Declaration* (February 2008) and at the African Union Summit (July 2008).

Championing accelerated action at two key events - the High-Level Partnership Event on Water and Sanitation (24th September), and the main High-Level Event itself (25th September) – will be crucial. We call on leaders of donor governments to work with partners to ensure that the resolutions from these events include the following measures to meet the sanitation and water MDG targets:

1. The establishment of an Annual High-Level Meeting

The High-Level Partnership Event on 24th September should serve as the first annual High-Level Meeting (HLM) to monitor and drive global progress in the sector. 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 requiring attention. The outcome of the meeting would be a set of achievable policy and financing actions agreed by participants.

The HLM should include representation from major bilateral and multilateral donors and from governments of the most off-track regions. The meeting could be chaired by members on a rotating basis. A small secretariat under the aegis of a UN agency would be charged with ensuring follow-up of commitments and providing technical and administrative support.

2. A commitment 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 incentivise the creation of credible, costed national plans aimed at meeting the MDG targets. 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*¹ of external finance each year to meet the MDG targets on sanitation and water. In June, the EU committed to providing 60% of this amount². European countries need to be made clear how (and by whom) this will be delivered, whilst other donors should make it clear how the remainder of this amount will be provided.

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¹ Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group, June 2008, Recommendation 4.3, p19.

<http://www.mdgafrica.org/pdf/MDG%20Africa%20Steering%20Group%20Recommendations%20-%20English%20-%20HighRes.pdf>

² EU Agenda for Action, June 2008, p8 http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Fact-summit-JUNE/0616_EC_Priloga.pdf