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COOPERATION WITH UN SYSTEM ON FRESHWATER ISSUES

Item 10.1 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

The enclosed document contains the report of the last session of the UN-Water for the information of the Bureau members.

No decision is required.

Meeting Report
8th UN-Water Meeting
15-17 January 2007, Rome

Summary of Decisions

Develop a two-years work plan; define responsibilities of UN-Water Chair and Secretariat; establish clear criteria for being associated as a partner or member; and consolidate notes of past meetings to identify agreements previously reached.

UN-Water Office and Programmes:

The work plan of UNW-DPC was approved, subject to ensuring that synergies with other offices are sought, particularly the harmonization of activities in relation to the Water for Life Decade.

A time-bound advisory group was established to guide and support the Head of the Zaragoza Office for developing Office's work plan.

Title of the 3rd edition of the World Water Development Report will be "Water in a Changing World". The WWAP Secretariat should provide clear timeline, indicating specifically when UN-Water members will have the opportunity to discuss and clear contents internally.

Heads of Offices should develop a joint strategy for harmonizing their work plans, ensuring synergies and coordinating their activities to demonstrate better impact of UN-Water activities.

Planning for Ongoing and Future Events:

The FAO Legal Office representative will follow-up with the Expo Zaragoza authorities to finalize the legal agreement. The general design concept presented for the pavilion was approved.

A UN-Water subcommittee shall be established to coordinate UN-Water's input to the WWF.

The UN-Water Monitoring Task Force was tasked to ensure that no duplication occurs in the reporting of UN-Water, and take steps to clarify how the information should flow among different monitoring initiatives and reports (GLAAS, WWDR, JMP, IWRM etc).

UNICEF and WHO were tasked to reconcile the existing world water day sites of UN-Water and the IRC's. The WWD 2008 site should follow similar format as of the 2007 WWD site. UNICEF, WHO and WSSCC will provide the necessary material for the site.

UN-Water Task Forces:

A strategy of UN-Water's involvement at the country level should be prepared by the Country Level Coherence and Coordination Task Force, and submitted to UN-Water for review and further action.

The Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting will replace the following two existing task forces: (i) IWRM (after CSD-16), and (ii) Monitoring and Reporting.

The idea to establish a task force on climate change was agreed in principle. Its membership has not yet been decided. Mr. Avinash Tyagi was asked to develop and distribute the ToR of the Task Force.

Morning 15 Jan. - Opening Session

In his opening remarks, the Chair of UN-Water, Mr. Pasquale Steduto welcomed the participants and introduced senior FAO staff :

- Mr. Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Department;
- Ms Annika Söder, Assistant Director-General in charge of the FAO Office of UN Coordination and Millennium Development Goals Follow-up; and
- Mr.Parviz Koohafkan, Director, Land and water Division

In his comments, Mr. Alexander Müller emphasised the importance of UN-Water as a model for working in a collaborative fashion and achieving coherence within the United Nations. He also welcomed the setting up of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund and the newly established Programmes and Offices.

Ms. Annika Söder emphasised that initiatives such as UN-Water should focus on delivering better results and avoiding duplication, while Mr. Parviz Koohafkan highlighted the importance of the coordinating role of UN-Water at country level.

Morning 15 Jan. - 1st Session: General Briefing

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Mr Pasquale Steduto presented the draft agenda and invited suggestions and comments. The draft agenda was adopted with minor changes as reflected in Annex 1.

1.2. Briefing on progress

Mr. Pasquale Steduto briefed the meeting on the status of UN-Water activities and recent developments. These include:

Multi Donor Trust Fund (operational since April 2007):

- Of the initial envisaged amount of 4 million Dollars of which half was provided by DfID; USD165,093 was spent in 2007.
- Priorities of UN-Water were taken as the basis for the discussions and agreement with DfID.
- The process of selection of the assistant to the chair has been finalized, and Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna was recruited in November 2007.
- Transfer of funds from Multi Donor Trust Fund to UN-DESA and WHO is near completion.
- The Trust Fund may need to be moved with the chair or ideally be kept permanently with the Secretariat.
- Sweden and Norway have expressed their interest in contributing to the Fund. (Joakim Harlin of UNDP briefed on his meeting with the Nordic donors who also requested a detailed work plan from UN Water.

In general, a consolidated work plan is required to actively seek further funding to support the implementation of important UN-Water initiatives.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- IWRM Report will be ready for CSD-16.
- The Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) pilot report will be ready for CSD-16.

UN-Water Web Site:

The Website continues to be maintained by FAO. Plans are underway to develop it into an entry portal for the UN system on water.

World Water Day 2007:

WWD 2007 was successfully coordinated by FAO.

UN-Water working mechanism:

Task Forces remain the mechanism to conduct work on priority thematic issues identified as part of the UN-Water work programme.

Cooperation with the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB):

Cooperation between UN-Water and UNSGAB continued to remain active, leading to the co-organization of a UN-Water seminar during the World Water Week in Stockholm 2007 and other joint activities within the framework of the International Year of Sanitation. Representatives of UN-Water also participated in the UNSGAB meetings in Shanghai and Bogotá in 2007.

The two Programmes (Perugia, Bonn) and the Office of Zaragoza:

Two established Programmes and Zaragoza Office are now operational and the following tasks have been completed with the support from UN-Water:

- Bonn: selection process of the Head of Office & opening of the Office.
- Zaragoza: selection process of the Head of Office, opening of the Office and preparations for Expo 2008.
- Perugia: Steering of Third edition of World Water Development Report.

Meetings/events attended by UN-Water to strengthen advocacy, visibility and communication:

- Donor meetings (February and April, Washington World Bank; September in Stockholm).
- UNSGAB Meetings (June in Shanghai, November in Bogotá).
- 5th World Water Forum preparatory meetings (March and November in Istanbul).
- UN-Water seminar at World Water Week in Stockholm 2007.
- EUWI (May, Brussels; December, Paris).
- High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) (September, NY).
- International Year of Sanitation launch (November, NY).
- United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali (December).

The Chair concluded his briefing that there was an element of non-transparency and non-clarity for external observers regarding UN-Water role and its current activities. Mr. Steduto also stated that a mapping exercise will be conducted this year to create a better understanding of the scope of the work of each UN-Water member, and that particular attention will be given to the identification of additional relevant indicators, coordination at national level, and to a single water information entry point on the internet.

Decision 1: An overall communication strategy and a clear visual identity will be developed to promote the visibility of activities being undertaken by UN-Water.

1.3 Monitoring and Reporting

1.3.1 Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS): Jamie Bartram, WHO

Mr. Jamie Bartram, WHO, briefed the meeting on the purpose of the report on "Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS)". He stated that the report aims at developing a comprehensive platform to assess and analyze countries' as well as external support agencies' capacity to contribute to the MDG 7 target 10, at harmonizing efforts and avoiding duplication.

GLAAS has been developed due to a perceived need for comprehensiveness (including access to service, available financial resources for the sector, and institutional capacity) and consistency of information for global comparability. Existing monitoring initiatives will be taken as sources for information. GLAAS outputs will include:

- A global annual report on sanitation and drinking water.
- A library of country snapshots.
- Monitoring of trends over time in countries and for external support agencies.

A pilot study will be presented during CSD-16 and critical appraisal of results will be carried out at the next UN-Water meeting. Mr. Bartram added that this report will become the UN-Water annual progress report on MDGs requested by DfID. He also noted the need for a fact sheet on each report produced under the UN-Water umbrella.

Decision 2: The UN-Water "Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting" Task Force should ensure that no duplication occurs, and take steps to clarify how the information should flow among different monitoring initiatives and reports (GLAAS, WWDR, JMP, IWRM etc).

Decision 3: A fact sheet shall be compiled that will present the three, major reports (JMP, WWDR, GLAAS).

1.3.2 Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP): Jamie Bartram, WHO; Clarissa Brocklehurst, UNICEF

Mr. Jamie Bartram informed the meeting that the next JMP report will be available during the 2nd quarter of 2008. The JMP team has examined how assessment methodology should account for intermediate solutions, such as public access to water supply and sanitation.

JMP will also concentrate on the achievement of the water and sanitation targets post 2015. It was noted during the discussion that no gender disaggregated data is currently included in the JMP. The discussion also highlighted the difficulty and substantive time lag to introduce new questions or alter existing ones.

Mr. Bert Diphorn (UN-Habitat) informed the meeting of a UN-Habitat's project at Lake Victoria, where water supply and sanitation coverage is monitored at the household level and for water utilities using spatial information. A GIS is being developed for the project which is undertaken in partnership with Google.

1.3.3 IWRM Reporting: Joakim Harlin, UNDP

The IWRM task force coordinator, Mr. Joakim Harlin, briefed the meeting on progress of the IWRM status report to be presented during CSD-16. So far, 41 responses were received from developing

countries by UN-DESA. This led to the decision to draw on other surveys including a UNEP survey of 59 countries.

A team of 3 consultants has been recruited under the UN-Water Trust Fund to analyze the responses and prepare a report on status of implementation of IWRM plans. The IWRM task force will review the first draft of this report and a teleconference will be held with all UN-Water members to solicit inputs in due course of time.

Data collected for the IWRM survey will also feed into the WWDR and a side publication on the outcome of this exercise will be added to the WWDR. (Mr. Olcay Ünver, coordinator of WWAP, informed that WWAP is in the process of developing IWRM indicators).

A need for further discussions was pointed out as how to advance the process of IWRM planning and implementation, and how to position this process during CSD-16. The issue was further discussed under agenda item 3.2 IWRM Task Force.

Decision 4: The Task Force Coordinator will send the IWRM Report to all UN-Water members in due course to seek their inputs and comments.

1.3.4 World Water Development Report (WWDR): Olcay Ünver, WWAP

Mr. Olcay Ünver, Coordinator of the WWAP, reported on developments regarding WWAP since August 2007. He informed the meeting that:

- facilitators were hired;
- structures for chapters were developed;
- an inception meeting was held in November in Paris;
- the findings of an external evaluation of WWDR2 were taken into account;
- inputs from 50 partners and UN organizations have been sought; and
- in addition to chapter facilitators, 6 professional writers were hired to integrate contributions from 150 individuals.

The timeline was clarified, highlighting that the first draft chapters are due in February 2008; the integration meeting will be held in April 2008; and the report will be launched on the first day of WWF5 to maximize visibility. Mr. Ünver suggested that the policy recommendations of the WWDR could serve as an input to the WWF ministerial segment.

The meeting flagged the importance of discussing the executive summary with UN-Water members. The WWDR was further discussed under agenda item 2.3.

Decision 5: WWAP should distribute the annotated table of contents and post it on the website in an effort to solicit further comments and feedback. In addition, the overview of contents of the report should be distributed.

1.4 UN-Water Work Plan 2008: Johan Kuylenstierna, UN-Water

Mr Pasquale Steduto officially introduced Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna, as the new assistant to the UN-Water Chair. Mr. Kuylenstierna presented a first draft of a UN-Water work plan tentatively structured into six Operational Goals (OG):

- OG1: Arrangements for a single point of entry for agencies, member states and external bodies
- OG2: A single mechanism and format for monitoring and reporting progress towards water related MDGs and JPOI targets

- OG3: Efficient UN-Water operational arrangements
- OG4: Enhance coordination and coherence among UN-Water members and partners
- OG5: Efficient information exchange arrangement within UN-Water, proactive external communication and advocacy
- OG6: Strengthened inter-agency work at the country level

The meeting proposed that the work plan should articulate clear results and include an external evaluation mechanism. It was also suggested to revisit the earlier decision of UN-Water to bring out policy papers on 9 priority areas.

Other matters concerning UN-Water were discussed and the chair clarified that the Trust Fund is supporting the issues that were identified previously as priorities. He also reiterated that the legal office of the United Nations ruled that the UN-Water emblem is not a logo. It was also stated that UN-Water is not a legal entity but rather an inter-agency coordination mechanism.

SIWI also raised the importance for UN-Water to decide on how to engage partners in its activities.

Decision 6:

- Produce a brochure to clarify what UN-Water is all about, including making it clear on the UN-Water website.*
- Consolidate notes of past meetings – need to identify if there are clear criteria on partnership, and other decisions, such as use of emblem.*
- Draw up and distribute a work plan, covering two years with a clear introduction to UN-Water.*
- Define responsibilities of UN-Water Chair's Office and Secretariat.*
- Establish clear criteria for being associated as a partner or member to UN-Water.*

Afternoon 15 Jan. - 2nd Session: Work Programmes of UN-Water Offices

2.1 UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), Bonn: Reza Ardakanian, Coordinator

Reza Ardakanian, Coordinator of UNW-DPC, reported on progress since the official inauguration of the Programme on 31 August 2007. He noted that a draft version of the work plan was distributed in September 2007 to all UN-Water members for their suggestions, and all comments received have been incorporated in the revised version. Mr. Ardakanian briefed the meeting on main developments and activities carried out under the Programme, mainly:

- Creation of a Capacity Development Observatory with the ultimate aim of improving capacity development worldwide;
- Strengthening policy guidance;
- Collaboration with other UN-Water members and partners on issues relating to capacity development;
- Promotion of capacity development including resource mobilization as part of water plans; and
- Development of instruments and materials using knowledge management and e-learning.

A draft report on the current state of the survey of UN organization's capacity development activities was distributed, while noting that some organizations did not respond. It was decided that in the future, the chair and/or the Secretariat of UN-Water will intervene to ensure that required responses are provided in time. During the discussion, the need for circulating all publications to be produced under UN-Water to all members for their comments was emphasized, prior to their actual publishing.

M. Reza Ardakanian requested UN-Water members and partners to review activities contained in the online repository on the UNW-DPC website (www.unwdpc.unu.edu) and propose adjustments, if necessary

It was clarified during the discussion that the outside Advisory Committee, established for UNW-DPC, has neither a supervisory role nor a mandate to take decisions; its purpose is solely to provide advice.

Decision 7:

- a. *UN-Water members should provide information on their capacity building activities by completing the questionnaire.*
- b. *Themes identified in the survey of UN-Water members' capacity building programs should be further elaborated.*
- c. *The work plan of UNW-DPC was approved subject to ensuring that synergies with other offices are sought, particularly the harmonization of activities in relation to the Water for Life Decade.*

2.2 UN Office to Support the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015 Zaragoza: Carlos Fernandez-Jauregui

The coordinator of the Office in Zaragoza, Mr. Carlos Fernandez-Jauregui informed the meeting that the office was officially opened in October 2007, and it will be fully operational by the end of March 2008. He further laid out the main components and objectives of the work plan for the Office which are tied to the host-country agreement with the Government of Spain, mainly:

- Institutional Development;
- Advocacy and Outreach;
- Capacity-Building in communication; and
- Research and Communication.

During the discussion, several issues on the work plan were raised. These included an overlap on the issue of capacity building with UNW-DPC; little reflection on communication, advocacy, outreach in the planned events; and the need to interface with the other two programmes.

It was concluded that the work plan needed to be revisited while taking account of the formal agreement between the Government of Spain and UN DESA. Towards this aim, a time-bound advisory group was formed to support and guide the Office in the formulation of a work plan. Particular attention shall be given to the wording of the activities to avoid confusion or the perception of overlap of activities with the other two Programmes/Offices. However, the Office does not need to wait to have the finalized/approved work plan in place to move forward—there are certain priority activities, for example, Expo Zaragoza, on which work should continue.

The meeting was informed that the name of the Office cannot be changed to include the term ‘programme’ as the signed trust fund agreement refers to the “Office” and not “Programme”.

Decision 8: It was decided to create a time-bound advisory group to guide and support the Head of the Office for developing a work plan. The advisory group will consist of: Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa (IFAD), Mr. Alan Hall (GWP), Mr. Janos Bogardi (UNU), Mr. Bert Diphooorn (UN-Habitat), Mr. Avinash Tyagi (WMO), Mr. Joakim Harlin(UNDP), Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry (UNDESA), Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna (UN-Water).

2.3 World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), World Water Development Report (WWDR) , Perugia: Olcay Ünver

Mr. Olcay Ünver, WWAP Coordinator recalled the decisions for the third edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR3) taken at the 7th UN-Water meeting in Stockholm in 2007 and outlined the organizational structure for the production of WWDR3. The external evaluation of WWDR2, available on the WWAP website, was taken into consideration for WWDR3. Mr Ünver gave a short briefing on progress on the production of the chapters and presented a timeline for the report.

Mr Ünver also gave an update on the transfer of the WWAP to Perugia. He stated that a Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Government of Italy had been signed on November 22, 2007 in Rome, which completed the formalities for the transfer. It was reported that the WWAP Secretariat would officially move to the new facility when the UN security requirements were met; tentatively this move will take place in late Spring 2008.

He added that an inception meeting was held from 7 – 11 November 2007 in Paris; the meeting developed a draft Table of Contents (ToC), identified major indicators and main contributors, identified gaps and overlaps, debated on emerging issues and identified several side publications.

Progress since the inception meeting include a review of the ToC by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a draft story line and an annotated ToC prepared with input from the chapters' facilitators and writers. A DELPHI exercise is being prepared to get feedback on selected emerging and debated issues. The indicators elaborated in WWDR2 are being revisited and will take into account development of new indicators.

The contents of the different chapters of the WWDR3 will be consolidated during the integration meeting in April 2008. UN-Water members and partners may contribute further through the web based tool and via emails. In addition UN-Water members and partners were invited to contribute to the side publication series of the WWDR3.

The meeting was also informed of a WWAP group, consisting of scientists that investigates existing indicators and provides advice on the robustness of existing indicators. It was clarified that this group was invited by WWAP, which will report to UN-Water. The discussion emphasized the need for a coordinated response to the work on indicators, and the need to coordinate with and actively seek a response from the UN-Water Monitoring Task Force.

Mr. Ünver stressed the importance of contributing to the WWDR preparatory process. He urged UN Water members to respond to the requests from WWAP for text, information, and data. He reminded the UN Water members that the agencies that provided indicators to WWDR2 had been requested to update these for WWDR3 and underlined its urgency.

It was observed that WWAP is hosted by UNESCO's Unit on Global Water Assessment (GWA) and GWA's activities and programs –other than those under WWAP- are reported to/steered by UNESCO.

During the discussion, the importance of communicating and marketing the findings of the report was stressed, highlighting for that purpose, the importance of an executive summary and the need for the production of a 1-2 page condensed brief of the whole report to disseminate the main message.

It was also clarified that climate change will be significantly reflected in the report and the proposal that other drivers, such as population growth and resource depletion should be similarly reflected under the overall theme of "change".

The meeting reiterated the decision of the 7th UN-Water Meeting in Stockholm that the side product "policy brief" of the WWDR should not be confused with the "UN-Water policy briefs" which could be termed "briefs for policy makers" or "Summaries for decision-makers" in order to avoid miscommunication.

Decision 9:

- a. *Title of the WWDR3 will be “Water in a Changing World”.*
- b. *The WWAP Secretariat should provide clear time line, indicating specifically when UN-Water members will have the opportunity to discuss and approve contents internally. The time allocation for internal review need to be sufficient for members to properly review and approve the contents and main messages of the report.*
- c. *The section/title on “emerging, debated and cross-cutting issues” should be deleted, since there was no agreement among members.*

2.4 UN-Water Programmes and Office Coordination: Mr. Carlos Fernandez-Jauregui, Mr. Olcay Ünver, and Mr. Reza Ardakanian

The three Coordinators highlighted that regular meetings among the two Programmes and the Zaragoza Office will be held in order to harmonize their work plans and explore synergies. Jointly organized capacity building events during the Expo Zaragoza and a film series on best practices were mentioned as ideas for possible cooperation projects.

In addition to the steering function of UN-Water there could also be a mechanism to trigger a dialogue among the two programmes and the Zaragoza office to identify further synergies.

As WWAP and UNW-DPC have both created an Advisory Committee with mainly external members, the need to communicate to both Advisory Committees that their role is purely a consultative one was emphasized. However, the two Advisory Committees will be encouraged to communicate any concern or advice about the respective Programmes to UN-Water.

While some members emphasized the need to create steering committee(s) to guide the activities of each office, others felt that this function should be performed by the whole UN-Water group, and there is no need to create an extra layer. Moreover, there was a consensus that UN-Water need not to involve itself into micro management of these offices/programmes. However, if absolutely required, the UN-Water can take special actions to support these offices/programmes, such as the establishment of an advisory group to assist the Head of Zaragoza Office in the development of a work plan.

Decision 10:

- a. *Overall UN-Water’s work plan should reflect and embed the work plans of the two programmes and the Zaragoza Office.*
- b. *The three Heads of Programmes/Office should develop a joint strategy on how they can harmonize their work plans, ensure synergies and coordinate their activities to demonstrate better impact of UN-Water activities.*
- c. *The offices of the Chair and the Secretariat should produce a brief explanatory note on the main line of activity and principle orientation of each of the two Programmes and of the Zaragoza office.*
- d. *Advisory committees to the Programmes should have the opportunity to present their recommendations to UN-Water.*

Morning 16 Jan. - 3rd Session: Reporting by Various UN-Water Task Forces

3.1 Gender and Water Task Force: Ms. Kenza Robinson, UN DESA

The coordinator of the Gender and Water Task Force, Ms. Kenza Robinson, UN DESA, briefed the meeting that the task force held two brainstorming sessions among its members, which concluded that the work of the task force should concentrate on advocacy and capacity building. Towards this aim, the following activities are planned:

Advocacy

- Steps are taken to ensure that the gender component is included in the Ministerial Declaration and the final outcomes of the remaining two regional sanitation meetings.
- A CSD-16 side event will be organized under the theme “Gender sensitive national sanitation policies - success stories and challenges in implementation”.

Capacity Building

- A workshop on the challenges of sanitation and its links to girls education in Jamaica in Spring 2008.
- An Expert Group Meeting on gender disaggregated data.

The change of the task force’s name was proposed to “Gender Sanitation and Water Task Force”. A decision on this item was postponed as confusion with the name of the Sanitation Task Force was raised.

It was also proposed to translate the need for funding of the task force into a proposal that can be taken up by the UN-Water Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

3.2 IWRM Task Force: Joakim Harlin, UNDP

The UN-Water meeting was reminded by the task force coordinator, Mr. Joakim Harlin (UNDP) of the two main objectives of this task force were to:

- Prepare a report on the state of implementation of IWRM target for CSD-16, including inputs to the CSD Secretariat for preparing SG Report for CSD-16;
- Prepare a proposal for the establishment of a formal monitoring and reporting (WWDR) mechanism on IWRM, including milestones and a set of robust indicators (both process and outcome/impact).

After briefing the meeting on the progress of the task force, the meeting was requested to accept:

- The document circulated prior to the meeting titled: “Roadmap for Advancing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – A statement based on the Copenhagen Initiative on Water and Development prepared by UN-Water and Global Water Partnership (GWP)” and;
- Launching of the initiative on Roadmaps for IWRM at CSD-16.

The ensuing discussion reflected the following concerns:

- Some of the statements in the document concerning UN-Water with reference to the decisions taken during CSD-13 are not correct;
- Rationale for proposed time-line (as to what should a country do by such and such date) may be questionable;
- Language of the statement may not be prescriptive; and
- UN-Water does not have the authority to formally endorse this initiative, and implications of formally accepting this paper by UN-Water are not clear.

On the last issue of the implications of formally accepting this paper, it was inferred that UN-Water would urge countries to take actions for roadmaps and measure/monitor progress against the proposed IWRM process and outcome indicators. The initiative would provide a structured framework for reporting on IWRM. It would at large be viewed as an advocacy tool--promoting transition from planning to implementation. It was also suggested to add to the document a disclaimer on what UN-Water’s association with the statement means.

There was a general consensus to include indicators-related activity of the IWRM Task Force into the ToR of the Monitoring and Reporting Task Force to form one single Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting. Its principle tasks would be to: (i) coordinate and harmonize actions on indicators, monitoring and reporting on the whole water sector; (ii) minimize reporting requirements for countries and UN agencies; and (iii) present indicators to policy makers more effectively, recognizing that at present there is a confusingly large number of indicators.

Decision 11:

- a. *Members should provide feedback to the roadmap document by 31 January 2008. Comments are to be sent to the coordinator of the task force, Joakim Harlin (UNDP) with copy to the Secretariat of UN-Water (unwater@un.org).*
- b. *The IWRM task force will cease its activities after CSD-16.*
- c. *Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting will replace the two existing task forces (i) IWRM and (ii) Monitoring and Reporting.*

3.3 Monitoring and Reporting Task Force: Mr. Pasquale Steduto; Mr. Vahid Alavian, World Bank; Mr. Joakim Harlin, UNDP

The meeting was reminded of activities on monitoring and reporting that started in August 2007, presented at the Stockholm meeting and further developed with inputs from the side event held during the Stockholm World Water Week, 2007. It was proposed to engage the services of a consultant to consolidate existing indicators and draft ToR for a TF to accommodate the work on IWRM indicators (as discussed under agenda item 3.2 above). The name of this Task Force was changed to: Task Force on *Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting* (see also decision under 3.2).

3.4 Sanitation Task Force, Action Plan for IYS: Ms. Clarissa Brocklehurst, UNICEF

The coordinator of the UN-Water Sanitation Task Force, Ms Clarissa Brocklehurst (UNICEF) briefed the meeting on the activities completed and currently carried out by the task force related to the International Year of Sanitation. These include the completed communications strategy, successful funding requests to the DfID and Gates foundation, support to the development of the logo and support to the regional launches and the global launch organized by UN DESA

Current Activities include:

- completion of flagship publication
- advocacy kit in preparation by WSSCC
- media support being provided by UNICEF
- support to TVE/BBC crew
- Development of list of spokesperson and advocates (including Gareth Thomas)
- Maintenance of IYS website by DESA

During the discussion it was clarified that press releases need to be released by agencies, but the role of UN-Water could be highlighted

Decision 12: The task force coordinator was asked to periodically send updates to the whole UN-Water membership through the Chair and Secretariat.

Due to a lack of time the presentation of the other task forces were postponed to the next morning.

Afternoon 16 Jan. – 4th Session: Planning for Ongoing and Future Events

4.1 Expo Zaragoza: Mr. Pasquale Steduto, Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry, Mr. Carlos Fernandez-Jauregui, Ms. Nicoletta Forlano (FAO) and Mr. Scott Grove (FAO)

The Expo in Zaragoza (14 June – 14 September 2008) will be organized under the theme “water and sustainable development”. Over 100 countries, the UN and the EU are exhibiting ideas, resources, projects and experiences in pavilions.

The Government of Spain invited the UN to participate in Expo Zaragoza. In response, the Under-Secretary-General of DESA informed that the UN-Water will represent the UN system in the expo. Actions are underway to have the Chair of UN-Water nominated as UN Representative—so that legal agreement could be signed between UN-Water and Expo Zaragoza. The process so far had faced some legal complications, and thus the delays in signing of the agreement.

A representative of the FAO Legal Office briefed the meeting that the legal content of the contract needs amendment, particularly the text stating that Spanish law is guiding the process may infringe on FAO’s immunities and privileges as an UN organization. The meeting suggested that the representative of the FAO Legal Office should discuss these issues with the Expo Commissioner to reach an agreement on the contract for the pavilion as soon as possible.

The meeting was informed that, despite legal constraints, the work is progressing on the design of the pavilion. Ms. Nicoletta Forlano and Mr. Scott Grove (both from FAO) reported on the budgetary and timescale requirements. The Expo is expected to be visited by 85% Spanish nationals and predominantly young people.

The UN-water proposal for the pavilion will focus on key water related issues, such as food, environment and energy with the help of gigantic three-dimensional objects. In addition, it was noted that the existing walls and screens could be used to portray the work of UN-Water. Fact cards, with information collected from UN-Water members will be distributed at the end of the exhibit as take-home tokens.

Each pavilion has been requested to keep its exhibit dynamic and change some of its contents during the course of Expo. Agencies would be given a 3-4 day time slot to present their respective work.

During the period of Expo 27 August 2008 has been designated as UN Day. It will include an official reception hosted by the Spanish Government and the Expo Commissioner. The Expo authorities expect the UN to arrange/organize a special event on this day.

The meeting also discussed UN-Water participation in events sponsored by a single entity/ Government. The meeting suggested the need to evaluate these invitations carefully with the objective to see if such requests are in line with the work plan and activities of UN-Water. If an event had no relevance to the work of UN-Water, the invitation could be passed on to the UN-Water’s membership and individual UN-agencies who may wish to participate in the event in their individual capacity. In this regard, Item 2.3 from the 2nd UN-Water meeting in Rome was recalled in which a balanced approach, ensuring neutrality of UN-Water and the possibility to delegate individual UN-Water members to represent UN-Water in events, was reaffirmed.

Decision 13:

- a. FAO Legal Office representative will follow-up with the Expo authorities to finalize the legal agreement.*
- b. The general design concept presented for the pavilion was approved, although some of the 3D objects presented need to be reconsidered.*
- c. The Zaragoza Office will engage a consultant, using funds provided by the Expo, to draft a proposal on how UN organizations may contribute to the Expo. This proposal will be circulated to all agencies to seek their comments and then submitted to the Expo administration.=*

- d. *UN-Water members are encouraged to provide facts or factoids to designers of UN-Water pavilion.*

4.2 Fifth World Water Forum, Istanbul 2009: Mr. Daniel Zimmer, WWC; Mr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy, UNESCO; Mr. Pasquale Steduto

Mr. Daniel Zimmer, Executive Director of the World Water Council (WWC) briefed the meeting on the programmatic framework of the 5th World Water Forum (WWF), which will be held in Istanbul, 16-22 March 2009 under the overarching theme “Bridging divides for Water”.

UN-Water was requested to lead theme number two of the six themes, “Advancing Human development and the MDGs”. UN-Water was also requested contribute to the call for 100 key questions around which the sessions in the forum will be designed. The questionnaire is available at: <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2090>

Mr Andras Szollosi-Nagy briefed the meeting in his capacity as Governor of the WWC on the political process. The WWF is governed by a steering committee, which is composed in equal numbers of members of the WWC and the Turkish Government.

The UN was invited to play an important role in the stakeholder dialogue of the Forum. Mr. Szollosi-Nagy also noted that the Ministerial Declaration has in the past been decoupled from the thematic process. This has been reversed in the preparations to this WWF. Four regional preparatory meetings will be held during 2008, which will produce inputs for the WWF Ministerial Declaration.

The Turkish Government will invite other Governments to take part in these preparatory regional meetings. UNESCO will host the first of the four meetings, and other UN organizations were asked whether they would consider hosting other regional preparatory meetings. It was clarified that this would mean to simply provide the facilities and that these meetings would not be a UN process.

The meeting welcomed the request for a serious involvement of the UN in the WWF, in which UN-Water has a strong role in shaping the agenda especially as requested for the 2nd theme. The consideration of the thematic discussion in Ministerial Declarations was also positively noted. The WWF was seen as a good opportunity for UN-Water to advance the implementation of its mandate.

A discussion on the principle of participating in the event and the role of UN-Water as a coordination mechanism led to the conclusion that it could mean either delegate authority to one agency (with the support of the Chair and the Secretariat office and possibly the two Programmes and the Zaragoza Office), or for UN- Water to decide jointly during its meetings and via email.

Decision 14:

- a. *The WWF Secretariat should send a formal request/invitation to UN-Water explaining expected inputs and role of UN-Water in the WWF.*
- b. *A UN-Water subcommittee, consisting of agencies who work on the topics related to Theme 2 of the WWF Programme Framework, shall be established to coordinate UN-Water’s input to the WWF.*
- c. *Requirements in terms of time and financial resources shall be clearly delineated in order to include it in the UN-Water work plan and allocate funds from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.*

4.3 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16): Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry, UN DESA

Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry (UN DESA) briefed the meeting on the progress in the planning of CSD-16 (5-16 May 2008) in relation to the review of Water and Sanitation related Decisions of CSD-13 and noted that the review is tentatively programmed for the 12 and 13 May 2008.

He added that several opportunities exist for the UN-Water to feature itself during CSD-16:

- UN-Water members could be part of panels.
- UN-Water representative could make statements in the plenary session.
- UN-Water could participate in side events and learning centre activities (guidelines and request forms are available on the website)

The meeting agreed that UN-Water shall feature itself in the following side events and activities:

- IWRM (UNSGAB expressed interest in participating)
- Water and Sanitation with focus on JMP and GLAAS
- National sanitation policies (organized by DESA with UNSGAB and Habitat's participation.)

UNW-DPC will consider offering a course on capacity building under the learning centre modality. (Mr. Zafar Adeel and Mr. Reza Ardakanian will revert with a proposal).

Taking advantage of the presence of many Heads of Agencies during the CSD, FAO in its capacity as chairing agency of UN-Water is planning to host a strategic meeting on the enhancement of UN-Water role to internalize the relevance and prominence of UN-Water at the highest level within the UN system.

Decision 15: The Office of the chair will co-ordinate the application process to organize the side-events on IWRM, Water and Sanitation, and the Heads of Agencies meeting.

4.4 World Water Day (WWD) 2008 on Sanitation: Mr. Jamie Bartram, Ms. Clarissa Brocklehurst, Mr. Jon Lane, WSSCC

Mr. Bartram reported that WWD 2008 celebrations will be held on Friday, March 14, in Geneva and New York due to the Easter holiday around the official day 22 March. The day aims to encourage actions at all levels by issuing guidelines on how to organize events for the day. A website, taking the work done for WWD 2007 as a base will serve as the front page to enter the official IYS website (www.sanitation2008.org).

He added that a joint press release by UNICEF and WHO as well as plays for children were planned. The day will also mark the launch of the 12 page flagship publication for the IYS.

Decision 16: UNICEF and WHO were tasked to reconcile the existing world water day site of UN-Water and the IRC's. A WWD 2008 site will be developed and follow similar format as of the 2007 WWD site. UNICEF, WHO and WSSCC will provide the necessary material for the site.

Due to a lack of time the presentation of the other items of session four were postponed to the Morning of 17 January.

Afternoon 16 Jan. – 5th Session: Other Business

5.1 The Right to Water; Mr. Jack Moss, AquaFed

Mr. Jack Moss, AquaFed, gave a presentation on the issue of the Right to Water and referred to the UN General Comment No. 15 on the Right to Water, adopted in 2002 by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which is not legally binding.

In the discussion it was clarified that UN-Water does not have the authority to formally endorse a position on this matter and that a political endorsement would need to come from the governing bodies of agencies and/or other inter-governmental fora.

The meeting was further reminded of an email sent on 27 March 2007 from the UN-Water Secretariat to all UN-Water members bringing to their attention the letter from the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding Human Rights and Access to Water. The letter requested UN members to submit their inputs for inclusion into a detailed study on the scope and content of relevant human rights obligations relating to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments.

5.2 Water Wiki: Mr. Andrew Hudson, UNDP

Due the lack of time this item could not be discussed. The UN-Water Secretariat will send out the updated Water Wiki presentation.

Morning, 17 Jan. continued 3rd and 4th Session

3.5 Country Level Coherence and Coordination Task Force: Mr. Joakim Harlin, UNDP

The Country Level Coherence and Coordination task force coordinator Mr. Joakim Harlin mentioned that the objective of the task force was to develop a strategy for coordination at country level in order to scale up the impact of the UN System action on water resources management, water supply and sanitation.

Preliminary findings from Pakistan, Rwanda and Uruguay were presented including challenges facing UN-Water's engagement in this exercise.

The following future activities were proposed:

- Expanding the inventory of on-going coordination to approximately 20 countries, including more in-depth analysis of 3 to 4 countries.
- Compiling of win-win examples, as well as challenges for scaling up.
- Seeking feedback from countries as to their expectations from UN-Water (added value).
- Mapping of activities carried out by each agency, including the ones without a country presence and NGOs. The recently conducted donor mapping on transboundary issues in Africa could serve as an example for such an exercise.

Decision 17: A strategy of UN-Water's involvement at the country level should be prepared, and submitted to UN-Water for review and further action. Financial implications, if any, should be included.

3.6 Transboundary Water Task Force: World Water Day 2009 on Transboundary Water, Policy Brief, Preparations for World Water Week in Stockholm. Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UN-ECE; Mr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy.

The coordinator of the Transboundary Water Task Force, Ms Francesca Bernardini, gave an overview of the current state of the UN-Water Transboundary Policy Brief. UN-Water members were invited to join the drafting group meeting on 27-28 March 2008 in Geneva. The brief will focus on the facts and will give an overview of the activities of UN-Water on the topic as well as provide political guidance. The importance to liaise with partners regarding their stance on relevant conventions was emphasized.

FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNU, UNW-DPC, WMO and the World Bank expressed interest to join the drafting group meeting. Some members also requested the holding of a video conference.

The meeting was also briefed on WWD 2009, which will coincide with the 5th World Water Forum. It presents an excellent opportunity to showcase what the UN is doing collectively on the issue of transboundary waters. Several ideas involving transboundary basins were voiced.

Decision 18:

- a. *Francesca Bernardini will circulate the report via the UN-Water Secretariat. All UN-Water members and partners are invited to contribute to the policy brief until 20 February 2008.*
- b. *The Zaragoza Office will support the layout, translation and printing of the policy brief which will be reflected in its work plan.*

4.5 Preparations for World Water Week in Stockholm: Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Mr Andras Szollosi-Nagy, Mr. Johan Kuylenstierna

The meeting was informed that preparations for the World Water Week in Stockholm and the UN-Water seminar on transboundary waters were underway. It was also noted that the transboundary policy brief may be included in each conference bag at the Stockholm World Water Week 2008 if SIWI is contacted well in advance.

4.6 UN-Water and Climate Change Events: Pasquale Steduto, FAO

The work on climate change is gaining importance in the overall UN development agenda. The meeting discussed how UN-Water could make contributions to this process. In this context, a need to create a new Task Force on Climate Change was proposed.

Mr. Avinash Tyagi (WMO) briefed the meeting on a planned conference on adaptation to climate change, and requested UN-Water members to participate.

Decision 19: The idea to establish a Task Force on climate change was agreed in principle. Its membership has not yet been decided. Mr. Avinash Tyagi was asked to develop and distribute the ToR of the Task Force.

4.7 Themes for World Water Days

The meeting was reminded that World Water Day 2010 will feature the theme “Pollution/ Water Quality” with UNEP and ESCWA being the lead agencies.

Decision 20. The theme for World Water Day 2011 will be decided at the next meeting in Stockholm.

5. Next Meetings and Closure

The 9th UN-Water meeting will take place in Stockholm from 16-17 August 2008. The discussion in this meeting will focus on substantive issues and less on UN-Water organizational and process related issues. Sufficient time, however, will be allocated to discuss the two Programmes and the Zaragoza Office. Partners will be notified about the specific agenda items in which their participation is required.

The 10th UN-Water meeting will be hosted by one of the 3 UN-Water Offices.

Mr. Pasquale Steduto thanked the members for their participation.