

G20 COMMUNIQUE ON SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SDS) TO ALL BY 2025

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We, the G20 leaders of key industrialized and developing nations, recognize the urgent global challenges that access to safe drinking water and sanitation (SDS) lies at the heart of human well-being and security, and perhaps the world's greatest humanitarian, social and developmental challenge. We understand that the crisis is enormous in scale and brutal in consequences including the G20 countries. We believe that the solution requires intensified international and national efforts lead by the G20 as a unique mix of developed and developing countries that are broadly representative and superbly equipped with economic, scientific and technological capacities to address the SDS problem. Consequently, we build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) declaration by 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development which calls on the global community to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. The G20 are committed to lead a powerful and creative mechanism through which its governments and peoples can effectively address a joint commitment and responsibility for a provision of SDS to all by 2025. We are united in our commitment for SDS as a shared political endeavor and responsibility.

1. G20 LEADERSHIP ON GLOBAL SDS

1.1 Global SDS Advantages

The merits of addressing the SDS challenge are accepted universally. It can be presented to developed countries as an act of enlightened self-interest and an investment in future economic growth, while in developing countries it will be seen as saving lives, reducing human misery and freeing up enormous economic growth potential. This will result in lower overall expenditures on health and congruent improvements in existing public health services, outcomes that will be strongly supported by the general public and local communities. Current analyses indicate exceptional economic returns on the investments in SDS. Resolving the SDS crisis has a high probability of success.

1.2 Comparative advantages of the G20 to undertake the SDS initiative

The comparative advantages of the G20 to undertake the SDS initiative stem from its composition from developed and developing countries that are broadly representative yet still compact enough to form an efficient decision-making body. The G20 contains 70% of the world's population without adequate sanitation and 55% of those without safe drinking water. It is thus a "home grown" issue of enormous relevance for the G20. The G20 is superbly equipped to address the SDS problem, given the economic and technological capacity of its member states. Such economic capacity

pre-eminently qualifies the group for action on the SDS initiative and can lead to significant, long-term, economic benefits. The G20 developed countries also lead the world in the number of water scientists, engineers and technicians. Successful implementation of the SDS initiative would yield a “win-win” outcome of enormous significance for its members, both developing and developed, and for the world.

2. STEWARDSHIP OF GLOBAL SDS

Urgent recognition of the severity of the water and sanitation crisis has led the United Nations, at its Millennium Summit and at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development, to declare the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for safe water and sanitation. These call on the global community to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. We, the G20 leaders commit our nations to providing political and financial stewardship of the effort to ensure that global SDS touches all peoples and countries by 2025. We, the G20 are committed to creation of the essential elements for successful global provision of SDS services. These elements are: *engaging the public and stakeholders at all Levels, monitoring and assessing progress, strengthening implementation capacity, accelerating service provision, mobilizing finances for SDS, and creation of networks to facilitate action (G20 proposes the creation of multi-stakeholder Governance Networks GNs and Water Action Networks ,WANs, to better engage stakeholders and to improve capacity development). (Detailed description of these elements are attached in appendix a)*

3. G20 ACTION PLAN FOR SDS

3.1 Creation of Global Water Agency

Full scale and successful implementation of SDS initiative by G20 for all by 2025, several sets of complex actions related to economic, political, social, capacity building, engineering, financial, health and organizational issues on local, regional and international levels involving different types of organizations and agencies should be carried out within very well planned and designed framework. This type of unique and sensitive responsibilities for the world sustainability requires the establishment of a special water agency. The G20 are committed to establish a Global Water Agency (GWA) to oversee the preparation of a Global Master Action Plan, (GMAP), planning and management of the advocacy, networking, capacity building and monitoring, evaluation exercises, This Agency would facilitate the flow of resources for these activities and provide an interface to the multilateral and/or national partners. It would also monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the advocacy program, as well as the horizontal and vertical networks. It will be also responsible for basic implementation strategy, leaders’ communications plan, institutional delivery mechanisms, a robust financing framework, capacity development strategy and monitoring and assessment methodologies. The work of the G20 Agency will be further reinforced by the creation of an expert panel. Required funding is estimated to be in the order of US\$ 2-4 billion a year throughout the duration of the SDS program.

3.2 Global Advocacy Campaign for SDS

To secure a success global awareness of SDS crises, the G20 are committed to lead a worldwide campaign through the GWA to convince the public and a spectrum of stakeholders, from policymakers to community leaders, that meeting the SDS goals is a critical and imminent challenge. The simplified goal is for people worldwide to understand the importance of SDS and the need for commitment to resolving it. The cornerstone of this campaign would be a global awareness campaign - “Water for All – Now!” The G20 are committed through GWA to use the political and economic influence of the G20 member states, a major re-shaping of international, national and local agendas regarding SDS can be crystallized. This campaign builds on, and extends from, the MDGs to include active advocacy and social marketing. It would highlight the health, economic and social benefits from every person on the globe having access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The popular media (radio, television, movies, the Internet) and targeted production of printed and electronic media would serve as the main tools for the campaign.

3.3 Global Stakeholder Engagement

A critical element of the SDS initiative is fully engaging the general public, as well as the various stakeholders, from global to local levels. Such engagement, leading to positive public opinion, would largely guide the actions of politicians as well as governments. The G20 are committed through GWA to creation of geographically horizontal, multi-stakeholder Governance Networks (GNs) and thematically vertical Water Action Networks (WANs) would be undertaken on a global scale. The engagement of stakeholders: horizontally within the community to ensure ownership and to fill the roles needed for integrated service provision; and vertically from community to global level to provide technical, institutional, financial and political assistance for effective action. Community stakeholders are diverse, including local governments, local business people, community banks and credit brokers, suppliers of water infrastructure (engineers, managers, laborers etc), consumers, NGO’s, and academic institutions. This group has a distinct advantage in sharing locally-acceptable solutions and best management practices to deliver safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Through GWA coordination, multilateral partners can be actively engaged as players in the GNs and WANs. Such joint implementation can complement the ongoing work for the World Water Development Report (WWDR) and other initiatives that will likely be developed under the aegis of the UN International Decade for “Water for Life” (2005–2015), as it becomes operational.

3.4 Global Capacity Building program

Lack of human, technological, infrastructural and institutional capacity is the foremost impediment to universal access to SDS services. The magnitude of the SDS challenge is so immense that hundreds of thousands of professionals, technicians and managers will be needed at all levels. To successfully undertake the SDS initiative, the G20 are committed to a global capacity-building program that would primarily focus on human resource development through training of professionals needed for on-the-ground implementation of the SDS initiative. This would also indirectly enable effective transfer of knowledge and technologies from North to South and South to

South. Capacity building should address all components of the capacity development process in an integrated fashion. An interdependent "Four-Pillar" framework for such capacity building should be planned namely:

- Pillar 1 - the capacity to educate and train, including community awareness building, adult training and formal education, so as to provide sufficient and competent human resources to develop and apply enabling systems,
- Pillar 2 - the capacity to measure and understand SDS implementation, through monitoring, applied research, technology development and evaluation, so that reliable data are used for analysis and decision-making.
- Pillar 3 - the capacity to legislate, regulate and achieve compliance through effective governmental, non-governmental and private sector institutions and through efficient enforcement and community acceptance.
- Pillar 4 - the capacity to provide appropriate, affordable water infrastructure, services and products through sustained investment and management by both public agencies and private enterprise.

The G20 efforts will be planned and supervised by GWA. These efforts should complement the existing training efforts of UN agencies, professional organizations, and NGOs. The G20 are also committed to carry out a parallel effort to facilitate development of institutions, particularly at the community and national level, to accelerate implementation must also be undertaken. Such institutions are critical to ensure sustainability over the 20-year life of the SDS initiative.

3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are essential elements of the global SDS initiative, both to chart its progress and to understand its impacts. G20 are committed through the GWA to carry out a global monitoring and evaluation program complimenting the comprehensive program of the UN Joint Monitoring Program (JMP), WHO, JMP and the UN-WWDR. The G20 will establish a trust fund to expand and sustain these efforts to comprehensively monitor and assess global progress in meeting the Water MDGs. Understanding that the implementation may be phased in, and proceed at different rates in different regions and countries, it is essential that targets, as well as robust systems to monitor them, be established. The G20 are committed to evaluate the SDS initiative at regular intervals during its 20-year life span. Such evaluations should be systematic, independent assessments of the design, implementation, and impacts of the initiative. Once agreed upon, the same strategic template and annual planning process can be used from the local community to the national and even region level. These "nested" plans would specify budgets and capacity development goals at each level. Without duplicating functions, the GWA would work in partnership with national Ministries of Health and Environment, contributing to overall institutional strengthening across the globe.

3.6 SDS Service Provision

In the recent past, most of the SDS provision and water-related infrastructure has been raised at the local level by local agencies. This is likely to continue. During the 1990s, for example, most financing of water and sanitation originated from the domestic public (65-70%) and private sectors (5%), with only 10-15% from

international donors and 10-15% from international private companies. The G20 are committed to complement the existed local efforts for service provisioning jointly with the multilateral partners. Through G20 coordination, multilateral partners can be actively engaged as players in the GNs and WANs. Such joint implementation can complement the ongoing work for the World Bank, World Water Development Report (WWDR) and other initiatives that will likely be developed under the agencies of the UN International Decade for “Water for Life” (2005–2015), as it becomes operational. The G20 is also committed to consider the efforts of the commitment of G8 which was made through its 2003 summit to an Action Plan for Water. The plan addressed many of the financing issues, including a pledge to provide targeted subsidies for the poorest communities. The G8 also announced its commitment to help mobilize domestic resources for water infrastructure financing through the development and strengthening of local capital markets and financial institutions, including revolving funds in local currency, risk guarantee schemes and support for the development of efficient local financial markets. These commitments, met in a comprehensive manner, can be an effective first step towards SDS implementation.

Furthermore, the G20 developed countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US) provide about US\$ 40 billion in official development assistance (ODA) and about US\$ 50 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) into developing countries each year. The G20 are committed to utilize part of such economic capacity of the group for action on the SDS initiative, to fill the gap in financial requirements for the poor countries.

The GWA will play a major role in coordinating such activities in cooperation with local and regional agencies and networks. A comprehensive G20 GWA, backed with the appropriate financing mechanisms, would be needed for successful implementation of SDS plan. Required funding is estimated to be in the order of US\$ 2-4 billion a year throughout the duration of the SDS program.

3.7 Priorities for SDS Service Provision

To encourage and secure positive response from different countries with the G20 SDS initiative, the G20 are committed to give priorities which is going to be based on WGA investigations: These priorities are:

- Poorest countries with maximum suffering from SDS deficiencies.
- Countries that have national water policy and are adopting the integrated water resources management.
- Countries with enough financial support but are lacking technical, operation and management skills.

3.8 Think Tank for G20 SDS Initiative

Due to the changing, dynamic and complex problems of SDS with time, the G20 have agreed to create and fund a Global Think Tank, through which leading thinkers on the water and sanitation sciences, health, information technologies, social activism, and globalization are periodically brought together to review, discuss and debate arising problems during the course of global SDS initiative. The Think Tank will be tasked to provide actionable policy recommendations for G20 SDS initiative to pursue nationally and internationally.

3.9. Fast Tracking Low-Cost and Low-Tech SDS Related Solutions

Scientific progress offers possibilities for new SDS technologies, but G20 also recognize that much remains to be accomplished by increasing the global use of existing low-cost or low-tech SDS related technologies. G20 have agreed to instruct their Water ministers to work with GWA, private industry, and non-governmental organizations to identify feasible options to fast track broader and deeper implementation of existing inexpensive or low-tech SDS interventions for SDS initiative.