Hashimoto Action Plan II



The United Nations Secretary-General's
Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation

Strategy and Objectives through 2012

www.unsgab.org

The United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) is a group of eminent people committed to solving the world's water and sanitation challenges.

Our Chair is His Royal Highness, Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and our Honorary President is His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan. A year after we were established by Secretary-General Annan, we distilled the many existing water and sanitation-related resolutions and declarations into a central mandate, the Hashimoto Action Plan (HAP), named to commemorate our first Chair.

Since 2004, we have promoted momentum-creating activities in the six areas identified in the HAP:

- the lack of autonomy, expertise and financial access of water operators;
- the shortage and misuse of available finance;
- the paucity of focus on water resources management;
- the near-total reluctance to acknowledge sanitation issues;
- the deficiencies in the international monitoring system for water and sanitation coverage; and
- the need to reduce the impacts of water-related disasters.

We make an impact by identifying and working with others to prompt and foster their new initiatives. Since we have no project capacity, we give full credit to the organizations that collaborated with us to reach the following achievements:

- We initiated a global programme to build capacity for local water operators, now run by UN-Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).
- With the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), we identified financial mechanisms and bottlenecks in the water and sanitation sectors which have helped OECD to develop highly creative financial and management tools for water.

- We bolstered the resolve of four regional development banks to lend for water and sanitation projects and virtually all embarked on more sectoral lending. We have introduced some of them to new financing mechanisms.
- We galvanized the UN to declare 2008 the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) to tackle the sanitation stigma.
- We drew attention to integrated water resource management (IWRM) by encouraging and finding support for countries to present their national plans in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.
- We assessed existing international monitoring for access to water and sanitation and made visible the need to support enhanced global policies.
- We created a High-Level Panel on Water and Disaster (HLEP), which joined scattered resolutions on water-related disasters into a shared global plan now ready for implementation.

We also have a special focus on Africa since it faces the greatest challenge to secure safe water and sanitation to the growing urban slum population and the rural poor. Working closely with our African partners, we helped build support for the June 2008 African Union Summit which resulted in the breakthrough Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa, now being promoted by several African and international institutions.

A Renewed Mandate

Over the last four years, UNSGAB has gained valuable experience and understanding that we will now bring to bear on improving access to water and sanitation. It is our firm belief — one shared by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has asked us to continue our mission through 2012 — that we can make a worthy and galvanizing contribution towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water and sanitation (and, by doing so, contribute to meeting all of the other MDGs).

In the three years ahead, we will continue supporting intergovernmental processes on water and sanitation challenges while giving special attention to un-served populations. Our focus on local utilities led to UN Habitat's creation of the Water Operators Partnership Alliance and going forward we will

continue supporting and promoting this programme. In addition, we will support the production of an informed report on human rights obligations related to water and sanitation access and we will help shape the post-2015 agenda for access to water and sanitation.

The Hashimoto Action Plan II builds on five of the six original focus areas — financing, sanitation, monitoring, integrated water resources management and water and disaster. At the same time, we must adapt our efforts to an evolving environment. And so, our work plan includes for each area a new focus on neglected or emerging issues.

Financing

We will build on what we have done to:

» Increase political commitment and financial resources for water supply and sanitation

» Improve access of utilities to financial markets

» Increase leverage and impact of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)

And we will bring a new focus on:

» Promoting strategic financial planning at the country level for water supply and sanitation

The global financial crisis has constricted capital for water and sanitation projects so now, more than ever, capital must be used strategically to maximize efficiency and impact in the water and sanitation sector. HAP II includes action on country-specific planning that includes long-term sustainable cost-recovery to cover operation and maintenance costs.

Sanitation

We will build on what we have done to:

» Bring pressure and attention to commitments undertaken during the International Year of Sanitation

» Improve sanitation and water for schools

And we will bring a new focus on:

» Building new impetus for wastewater collection, treatment and reuse

Since developing countries treat just a fraction of their wastewater, we need to encourage a move beyond toilets to the other side of sanitation — collecting, reusing and disposing of municipal waste as well as storm water. HAP II includes action on wastewater to protect human health, economic development and ecosystems while also alleviating growing water scarcity in many regions.

Monitoring

We will build on what we have done to:

» Improve tools which currently monitor access to water and sanitation

» Enhance knowledge of water and sanitation economics at global and national levels

» Improve wastewater monitoring

» Support efforts to boost monitoring of water resources management

And we will bring a new focus on:

» Shaping the long term goals and objectives included in the post-2015 agenda for access to water and sanitation

It is time to start defining the post-2015 development agenda so that we can offer a renewed paradigm to decision-makers before the Earth Summit in Brazil in 2012 (Rio+20). The international community must take advantage of the experience gained during the MDG process to ensure that a viable framework is in place to tackle our remaining development challenges. HAP II includes activities to help the global community define post-2015 goals for water management, drinking water and sanitation.

Integrated Water Resources Management

We will build on what we have done to:

» Promote ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

And we will bring a new focus on:

» Applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) to more effectively manage the rapidly increasing need for water to adapt to climate change, expand agriculture and maintain environmental needs while using an ecosystem approach

Climate change has already begun to alter the global meteorological pattern with its effects being amplified in the water cycle. IWRM offers the best available framework for building the resilience needed to adapt to climate change. HAP II includes action to convene actors both outside and inside the water sector in a dialogue to link water to adaptation, agriculture, national planning and economic policy.

Water and disaster

We will build on what we have done to:

» Facilitate the global discussion and draw attention to the High-Level Expert Panel report

And we will bring a new focus on:

» Starting an inclusive knowledge-sharing process linking water-related disaster to climate change and sustainable development at various levels of governance.

UNSGAB created the High Level Expert Panel on water-related disasters which produced a concise set of recommendations aimed at improving the response capabilities of countries. Now, with climate change causing more water-related disasters, it is time to implement these recommendations at various levels of governance. HAP II includes action to share and implement the Panel's recommendations.

1. Financing

Financing, especially in local currency, remains a major challenge to achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation. More funding from tariffs, taxes and transfers (international and internal), in the right mix, is needed to sustainably meet national development goals. Strategic financial planning at the country level is necessary to adapt financing to water policy targets. To help local water utilities to find their own financing, legal barriers that inhibit access to local currency debt markets must be identified and removed.

Financing Objective 1: Increase political commitment and financial resources
Real progress is impossible without national leadership and involvement. UNSGAB will advocate whenever and wherever possible for national governments to increase their effort to make additional funds from users and public budgets available for improving water and sanitation management and services.
Actions
Partner with global organizations such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP), OECD and international finance institutions in campaigns aimed at water, finance and health ministers to demonstrate the utility of investing in the water and sanitation sector.
Create follow up opportunities to review implementation of regional declarations, such as the Sharm el-Sheik Declaration, in partnership with regional organizations and Regional Development Banks.
Outcomes
Increased number of countries where an advocacy campaign has been developed.
Specific activities developed to implement regional declarations.

Financing Objective 2: Improve access of utilities to financial markets

The borrowing capacity of many local water operators needs to be enhanced, so that they can plan and finance the necessary investments to function effectively. National governments are responsible for putting in place appropriate legal, institutional and financial frameworks and developing access to local financial markets.

Actions

Collaborate with the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, UNDP regional offices, UN Regional Commissions and Water Operators Partnerships to assess the current situation and highlight country level obstacles that hamper development of local financing for water utilities.

Support knowledge sharing and the scaling up of existing mechanisms to help water utilities access financial markets.

Convince local and national governments to implement good practices such as sustainable cost recovery policies, capacity building and transparency.

Mobilize international support to water utilities in this regard, from water utility networks, Regional Development Banks and others.

Outcomes

National plans in place that improve access of local utilities to financial markets.

Increased activity of donors and multilateral banks aiming at access to capital markets for sub-sovereigns.

Financing Objective 3: Increase leverage and impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA)

ODA contributes only a limited amount of investment financing in the water sector. It is essential to maximize ODA's impact in developing sustainable financing schemes for the sector by enhancing both its leverage and catalytic effects. Donor organizations and countries should adhere to their commitments and provide ODA at levels and in forms that will leverage greater impact.

Actions

Encourage multilateral and bilateral donors to enhance the volume of ODA for water and sanitation, pay due attention to its impact (reporting on ODA's leverage and catalytic effects) and simplify administrative procedures for recipients.

Promote the use of guarantee mechanisms and pooled financing.

Outcomes

Outcomes of ODA noted in annual multilateral and bilateral donors reports.

Effective policy by OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to promote guarantee mechanisms while paying due attention to leveraging.

Annual reporting by donors and multilateral financial institutions of non-ODA funds leveraged by their aid in the water and sanitation sector.

Financing Objective 4: Promote strategic financial planning at the country level for water supply and sanitation

National governments should establish a national financing strategy for sustainable development of the water and sanitation sectors — including decisions about tariffs, taxes and transfers.

Actions

Partner with the OECD, financial institutions such as the Regional Development Banks and the World Bank and regional organizations such as the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to develop and promote strategic financial planning at the country level while also finding support for implementation processes.

Outcomes

Strategic financial planning presented to a number of governments at the ministerial level.

More countries with national strategic financial plans for water and sanitation.

2. Sanitation

including wastewater collection, treatment and reuse

The International Year of Sanitation (IYS) opened a space for frank, productive and concrete public discussion about expanding access to sanitary toilets and improving hygiene. Around the world, communities rallied around the sanitation issue and political leaders committed publicly to improve basic sanitation coverage. Now, UNSGAB is committed to ensuring that these IYS commitments are fulfilled.

Safe sanitation and water is acutely needed in schools to both increase attendance and change cultural norms toward sanitation. Schools now are not included in official reporting on the MDG water and sanitation targets. Making them part of such reporting will encourage governments and development organizations to expand coverage in educational institutions. UNSGAB will generate support for this.

We also need to seize the IYS's positive momentum to widen the discussion to include the collection, treatment and reuse of human, household, agricultural, storm and industrial wastewater and run-off. Untreated wastewater has a material impact on human health, social and economic development and ecosystem sustainability. Meeting this sanitation challenge will require forming new alliances to build on the global commitment made in the 2009 Istanbul Ministerial Statement to "further develop and implement wastewater collection, treatment and reuse."

Sanitation Objective 1:
Bring pressure and attention to commitments undertaken during the International Year of Sanitation

Unprecedented political commitment for sanitation was declared during the IYS. Leaders in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and in the Black Sea Countries signed onto regional sanitation declarations committing to increase funding for sanitation, identify responsible government agencies and to promote hygiene education. Now the challenge is to ensure that these commitments are fulfilled.

Actions

Follow-up on regional sanitation conferences, with partners such as the members of the UN-Water Task Force on Sanitation, relevant ministries and local departments, to advocate, monitor and encourage governments and Heads of States to fulfil their IYS commitments.

Outcomes

Measurable steps including policy changes and budget increases taken by actors including governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations to implement commitments made during IYS regional sanitation conferences.

Sanitation Objective 2:
Improve sanitation and water for schools

A crucial step on the ladder out of poverty is education. Lack of sanitation and water facilities in schools, however, deprives children (particularly adolescent girls) of a full education and thereby hinders achieving the MDG education targets. Furthermore, since students take home new attitudes learned in school they are critical "change agents" in the difficult struggle to change cultural norms toward sanitation and to increase public understanding of the links between sanitation, hygiene and health.

Actions

Convene partners including UNICEF, Education International, UN-Habitat and others to make a concerted and coordinated push for school sanitation.

Work with partners such as the UNICEF–WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and others to explore how to track school water and sanitation coverage.

Outcomes

New or reinforced national, regional or global initiatives on sanitation for schools resulting in more coverage.

Improved school sanitation monitoring methodologies established.

Sanitation Objective 3: Build new impetus for wastewater collection, treatment and reuse
Wastewater collection must be enhanced to protect individuals, build vibrant cities and reduce threats to ecosystems. With local shortages of clear water, concerns about the energy use of current water systems and the imperative to harvest the nutrients and energy contained in waste flows, we need systems that treat to an appropriate level for the next use.
Actions
Create an alliance of implementers to develop a new wastewater paradigm for large cities starting in Asia.
Work with global partners such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat, International Water Association, World Water Council, Global Water Partnership, Aquafed, SuSanA and UN-Water to establish agenda space for this issue in the coming milestone events, such as international water days, international health days, World Economic Forums, G-20, World Water Forum 6 and other relevant UN conferences.
Outcomes
Alliance created, ministerial declarations signed and implemented.
Wastewater policies moved higher on national, regional and international agendas.
Monitoring arrangements for wastewater management developed (see Monitoring and Reporting Objective 3).

3. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring helps governments and donors design, build on and implement their policies. It is a fundamental tool for sound policy decisions, both in the short-term (to reach the MDGs) and the long-term (post-MDG). Global monitoring for the MDG targets on access to water and sanitation is the mandate of the UNICEF-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP). UNSGAB helped foster broad recognition of the need to monitor different types of access to water and sanitation and the economics of the water and sanitation sector. Progress in monitoring these sectors will be instrumental to build sound post-2015 policies. In addition, universal access to water and sanitation is crucially linked to the management of water resources, which also needs improved monitoring for informed decision-making.

Monitoring and Reporting Objective 1: Improve tools which currently monitor access to water and sanitation
UNSGAB worked with the JMP to improve the global-level methodology by widening its reporting scope to include estimates of different types of access and data on water quality and availability. Needed now are stronger national monitoring systems, in particular by reconciling monitoring datasets to ensure information is understood by all stakeholders.
Actions
Collaborate with the JMP to improve monitoring of more disaggregated types of access and of water quality and availability.
Galvanize political and financial support for the JMP.
Support initiatives to reconcile national datasets.
Outcomes
Indication of reconciled national datasets.
Improved national and global information that contributes to the post-2015 global water policy debate.

Monitoring and Reporting Objective 2:
Enhance knowledge of water and sanitation economics at global and national levels

Better knowledge of all water expenditures including public and private infrastructure investment, operation and maintenance and household expenditures must be developed.

Actions

Develop collaboration and mutual understanding with OECD, the Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), the UN-System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) and the World Bank to improve knowledge of the overall cost of water and sanitation services at national level.

Outcomes

Mechanisms for improved collection of economic data on water and sanitation established.

Monitoring and Reporting Objective 3:
Improve wastewater monitoring

The 2009 UN World Water Development Report notes that "no comprehensive information exists on wastewater generation and treatment and receiving water quality on a regional or global scale". It is critical that better indicators supported by new data sources are developed so that policy makers can understand and make informed decisions on wastewater and water quality management at the national, regional and global scales. This will enable the international community to establish a baseline for a wastewater treatment target to be considered as part of the post-2015 agenda.

Actions

Work with UN-Water, including the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and JMP to establish a monitoring methodology and reporting on wastewater collection, treatment and reuse and raise awareness on this issue.

Advocate the need for potential global goals about wastewater management.

Outcomes

Availability of information and awareness raised on the issue so that the international community may set common goals.

Monitoring and Reporting Objective 4:
Support efforts to boost monitoring of water resources

The water sector requires monitoring that goes beyond water supply and sanitation — beyond JMP and GLAAS. The World Water Development Report *attempted to address these needs, but the* 4th World Water Development Report *didn't publish any indicators because there was no new information made available since the 3rd edition. This illustrates the need to rephrase and boost monitoring on water including on water resources, management and use.*

Actions

Collaborate with UN-Water and the World Water Assessment Programme on indicator setting and on promoting data collection on water resources management.

Outcomes

New initiatives established for collecting data and better appraisal of the status of water resources.

Monitoring and Reporting Objective 5:
Shaping the post-2015 agenda for access to water and sanitation

New common targets and timeframes must be adopted at the UN level for improving further access to water and sanitation beyond 2015.

Actions

Generate enthusiasm and debate among interested stakeholders (UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, member states, regional organizations).

Contribute to reporting efforts that feed the debate.

Make proposals on wider targets and timeframes which go beyond the current MDGs (such as targets on financing, on wastewater treatment, etc).

Outcomes

Post-MDG water and sanitation targets proposed and introduced to the intergovernmental agenda and at appropriate international forums.

4. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Globally there is about a 40 per cent gap between the amount of water now available and the amount of water that will be needed in 2030 for aggregate food production, energy, municipal and industrial goals. This is a perilous situation — acute shortages will emerge even if ecosystem water needs are not taken into account. Water is integral to numerous global challenges, most obviously climate change, food production, growth and poverty reduction. Yet water management decisions are still made outside the water sector, usually in the framework of agricultural, industrial or infrastructural development objectives. An urgent message of the recently released *UN World Water Development Report 2008* is that water sector managers must get out of the water box if they wish to have any hope of influencing decisions about sustainable development. Integrated water resources management is one way to do that. It emphasizes the importance of getting all sectors involved to build the needed resiliency for both development and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate change impact on the world's shared freshwater resources makes even more pressing the need for viable transboundary management tools.

IWRM Objective 1:
Promote ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational uses of International Watercourses

Sustainable management of water at the basin level often requires both an IWRM approach and transboundary cooperation. While there are numerous regional and basin-level legal agreements on transboundary waters, there are also many cases where no cooperative agreements exist. An imperative need exists for an overarching layer of international water law provided by the UN convention on transboundary water management.

Promote the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Water Courses by encouraging the necessary ratifications.

Support further ratifications of the UN Economic Commission for Europe Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes in the region and of the amendment to it which would allow states from outside the region to become parties.

Increased number of countries ratifying, or launching a process of ratification, for the Conventions.

IWRM Objective 2:
Apply IWRM to more effectively manage the rapidly increasing need for water to adapt to climate change, expand agriculture and maintain environmental needs while using an ecosystem approach

The UN Climate Change Conference — COP-15 in Copenhagen — focused attention on curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Now, water must be more fully on the agenda. Actors, especially those outside the water box, must start linking water to adaptation, mitigation, national planning, economic and agricultural policy, as well as disaster planning. And all this work must use an ecosystem approach.

Actions

Work with partners to convene several post-Copenhagen sessions to work out broadly acceptable, cross-sectoral paradigms on applying water management both to mitigate and adapt to climate change. With partner organizations, encourage and develop a "common" approach to water's role in adaptation to climate change, with due consideration to potential policy instruments and ways to promote ecosystem management.

Encourage and support innovative approaches to financing for risk reductions, implementation of climate change adaptation policy frameworks and improved water management decision-making.

Outcomes

New strategies for effective IWRM-based approaches, including financing, to build resilience for climate change developed.

Water resources management addressed in future climate change negotiations and in climate change adaptation strategies.

5. Water and Disaster

More action is needed to prevent, prepare for and manage water-related disasters, which is key for sustainable development especially given the impact of climate change. The High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster (HLEP), composed of UN organizations, governments, NGOs and academics, examined existing recommendations to determine ways to improve the probability of their implementation. It has set out specific actions by players throughout society, assigning actions aimed at improving awareness and increasing preparedness to reduce loss of life and livelihoods by water-related disasters.

Water and Disaster Objective 1: Facilitate the global discussion and draw attention to the HLEP Report
Once the HLEP follow-up mechanism is in place, UNSGAB will collaborate on measures to draw international attention to the key recommendations.
Actions
Convince the OECD–DAC to consider disaster risk reduction as more than a humanitarian task. This would enable donors to increase their development investment in preventive measures and disaster risk reduction.
Create a series of events and information campaigns to facilitate member states and international and regional organizations to take the actions recommended in the "Hyogo Framework for Action to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters" and the HLEP report.
Outcomes
Changed classification by the OECD-DAC leading to increased ODA to disaster risk reduction projects.
Discussion advanced in the UN Economic and Social Council and other international fora towards taking concrete actions for water-related disaster risk reduction as recommended by in the HLEP report.

Water and Disaster Objective 2: Starting an inclusive knowledge-sharing process linking water-related disaster to climate change and sustainable development at various levels of governance
Multi-sectoral dialogue focused on breaking barriers is required to convene the political will to reduce loss of life and livelihoods from water-related disasters. This is a fundamental issue for sustainable development and climate change adaptation. There is a pressing need to promote knowledge and experience sharing among actors and sectors at various levels of governance.
Actions
Assist HLEP in working with multilateral and regional bodies to create concentrated global awareness of the disaster reduction potential.
Support HLEP in encouraging relevant agencies to develop information-sharing and disaster preparedness workshops with participants including city planners and municipal utilities.
Help HLEP in recommending that the World Bank country offices, UN Resident Coordinators and national governments hold regular meetings to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development planning.
Outcomes
Action at regional, sub-regional and national levels to promote information sharing and knowledge transfer on disaster mitigation.
Integration in development plans of concrete description of disaster risk assessment and/or reduction.



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