

Sponsors: China, Russia, Uruguay, Poland, Germany, Pakistan

Signatories: Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Netherlands, France, United States of America

IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF NATIONAL PLANS FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Governing Council,

Gravely concerned with the water scarcity and sanitation crisis currently faced by developing countries,

Recalling the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, Agenda 21, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Developing Countries, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Aware of the importance of the sovereign rights of individual states to work on their own national plans and strategies,

Considering the financial resources currently available for the implementation of these objectives,

1. *Strongly recommends* the development of comprehensive and sustainable national plans for integrated water resources management in accordance with the specific needs of individual nations. The international community is strongly encouraged to:

- a) *Support* national studies and dialogues to explore the individual and specific needs of each nation;
- b) *Promote* the development of national preliminary legal frameworks dealing with water efficiency (i.e. policies for water preservation and conservation and for water pollution reduction);
- c) *Support* the transfer of technology and information between member nations;
- d) *Endorse* the creation of national education programs based on the specific criteria of each nation;
- e) *Make* research a national responsibility to ensure the development of national strategies unique to each nation;
- f) *Invite* countries to develop municipal taxation structures to finance development of new water infrastructure;
- g) *Promote* a regional cooperative approach between countries to manage water resources in water basins and courses (i.e. ecosystems approach);
- h) *Take into account* that access to water resources should remain a priority to all nations;

2. *Further recommends* the following financial strategy for integrated water resources management by developing nations:

- a) Financial resources already reserved for international environmental cooperation should be allocated for the purpose of financing the development of national water management plans;
- b) A Foundation for Water, based on voluntary contributions of donor countries, should be created with the objective of promoting investments in education, research, water purification technologies, water and sanitation infrastructure, and regional strategic partnership initiatives;
- c) The private sector within sovereign nations should be encouraged to invest in the Foundation for Water under the supervision of national governments in order to ensure the integrity and success of national strategies;
- d) Developing countries should create national trusts as a vehicle for international resources to flow into water sustainability programs;

3. *Advises* that national plans for integrated water resources management be created to mitigate potential conflict over water resources between nations, ensuring continued international security;

4. *Suggests* that nations negotiate bi-lateral partnerships to ensure the security of visiting experts within their countries.