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Agenda item 8
Partnership events

Summaries of the partnership events

Note by the Secretariat



Addendum

Chairperson's summary of the partnership plenary discussion on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB)

*Edited version will be issued subsequently in all six official languages.

Partnership plenary sessions WEHAB discussions

Summary report of the Chair

I: INTRODUCTION:

The WEHAB discussions in Plenary were carried out in response to decision (number and title) at Prepcom IV. A focus on five key thematic areas – Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture, and Biodiversity, was proposed by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The WEHAB initiative seeks to provide impetus to action in these five key thematic areas of crucial global importance and particularly for poor people throughout the developing world.

In an effort to include all major stakeholders in the discussions, the plenary invited the participation of representatives of major groups and of the UN system including the World Bank in an interactive moderated dialogue with governments. Each WEHAB theme had one session dedicated to a discussion on issues and challenges. Implementation Framework documents prepared by a group of UN System experts were used as the basis of these discussions. There was also one session dedicated to a discussion on cross-cutting issues. This experimental format for UN plenary sessions allowed the expression of a variety of valuable views and positions for the implementation of and follow-up to WSSD. The inter-active dialogue with major groups was moderated by Mr. Jan Pronk, Special Envoy of the Secretary General to WSSD.

The purpose of the preparation of the Implementation Frameworks and the discussions at WSSD was to facilitate follow-up action and implementation after Johannesburg by all parties involved. The WEHAB frameworks could, therefore, be part of the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

II. SOME COMMON THEMES:

Following are some common themes that ran throughout the five discussions:

The issues:

- The important potential role of the WEHAB themes in reaching the MDGs and the newly agreed targets of Johannesburg;
- The importance of the WEHAB themes in the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty through people-centered development approaches;
- The need for inter-sectoral approaches and the interrelatedness of each of the WEHAB areas to other sectors and the need for strong coordination among sectors and among UN System agencies.
- The gender issue and the importance of placing a greater emphasis on the empowerment of women as well as the negative effects on women in each of these areas;
- The differentiated needs of the poor and the need to focus on improving knowledge, science, research, and action on their particular basic, technological and economic needs;
- The importance of the role of civil society and their potential contribution to policy and decision-making as well as in implementation;
- The role of youth as important stakeholders in the WSSD deliberations;
- The importance of the role of the private sector but in a world with transparency and clarity of roles and standards and one with corporate responsibility and social contribution;
- The central role of production and consumption patterns and their effects on each of the WEHAB areas;

The challenges:

- Each WEHAB area is an entry point to achieving sustainable development and taking action in any one of these advances the overarching goals of sustainable development.

- The lack of action in most of the WEHAB areas is not due to a lack of agreements. In each, there exists an impressive body of agreements, conventions and protocols that give the basis on which to take concrete action.
- The need to shift from addressing the cure of the problems to one that addresses the underlying causes - prevention and mitigation is more cost-effective;
- The importance of establishing a level playing field for the poor in their countries and for developing countries in the international system;
- The importance of the local communities and the need to empower the civil society to participate in decision-making in areas that affect them as the ones more knowledgeable about their needs;
- The need for decentralized approaches to fit the needs of local communities;
- The need for sound policies and strategies with concrete plans of action at the national level;
- Partnerships, particularly those that include governments, business and other major groups, are considered an important feature of implementation;
- The need for capacity building and financial resources;
- Economic instruments, including subsidies, have been used as a barrier to entry into the market and trade in general. Efforts should be made to eliminate these and use these instruments instead to promote sustainable development;

III. WEHAB SESSIONS:

Health

Good health is vital for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Health is not only about lack of illness but also about fundamental human rights to clean water, sanitation and quality as well as affordable and equitable health services. Health issues thus need to be placed at the center of sustainable development concerns. There is a growing sense of urgency to break the vicious cycle of strongly inter-linked problems of environmental degradation, ill health and poverty. People who are poor are more likely to get sick. People who are sick are more likely to become poor. Health and environment linkages need to be given greater recognition.

The strong link between health, productivity and development not only justifies but require more integrated and inter-sectoral approaches to health. Health issues need to be tackled not only by health ministries and health sectors but perhaps even more importantly by sectors such as transportation, energy, and agriculture among others. But action in all of these requires resources and many estimates have been made on what it would take to reach the MDG targets on health by 2015. The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health has recommended an increase in domestic budgetary resources of 1 % by 2015 and donor grants resources of US\$27 billion a year by 2007 and \$38 billion by 2015 for tackling the diseases of the poor.

Most speakers agreed on the need to take urgent action at all levels to deal with the following priority health issues:

- Controlling and eradicating communicable diseases; notably, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS as well as important diseases for developing countries such as malaria;
- Prompt diagnosis and treatment of common diseases, including diarrhea and respiratory diseases including those caused by in-door air pollution as a result of fire-wood cooking;
- Preventing and treating of occupational health diseases and accidents;
- Developing preventive measures and focusing more on prevention in general;
- Improving access to better sanitation and clean water;
- Tackling maternal mortality and reproductive health issues and women health issues in general;
- Protecting health of the vulnerable population including children, women and elderly;
- Protecting and using indigenous knowledge and traditional medicines and recognizing and compensating these benefits;
- Gender empowerment.

For success in approaching health issues, many identified the need for:

- Strong political will and long-term commitments at a high level;
- Sound policies and strategies;
- Practical programmes and actions on the ground with clear targets and timeframes;
- Cross-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination and harmonized actions (e.g. between energy, health, education, environment) at the respective levels;
- Strong coordination among UN system agencies and programmes;
- Decentralized actions to get health assistance to people and communities that need it;
- Shared commitments by partners;
- Partnerships based on available scientific research, data and reliable information;
- Involvement of broad civil society on a voluntary basis, through education, awareness-raising, dialogue, participation and empowerment;
- Mobilization of additional resources to achieve systematic and predictable funding.

At the same time, participants noted that capacity-building and research is needed for:

- Assessing and managing risks to health;
- Identifying new and emerging health threats in time to take preventive measures (e.g. tobacco and smoking-related health issues);
- Planning, managing and monitoring health needs;
- Training and retaining good health care providers.

Also considered essential by many were:

- Learning from past lessons, best practices, and case studies;
- Offering visible evidences of successful partnerships;
- Developing an international code of conduct for recruiting health personnel from developing countries (reducing the brain-drain from south to north) ;
- Mitigating the negative impacts on health of stabilization efforts by countries such as structural adjustment programmes;
- Advancing research on vaccines and preventive medicine on the diseases of the poor and children most particularly and ensuring availability and improving the access of affordable medicine (links to trade and intellectual property rights);
- Committing further global funding for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, to be more consistent with the needs;
- Committing more resources to the health of children;
- More recognition of the linkages between production and consumption patterns and health issues and the need for paradigm shifts;
- Placing greater focus on sanitation and the usefulness of time-bound targets for this important area (MDGs have targets on water but not on sanitation) was emphasized;
- The need for better monitoring and determined action on emerging diseases and behavioral patterns that affect health such as the use of tobacco;
- Better understanding that could lead to more focused action on the diseases of the poor in the rural sector and the health issues caused by types of livelihoods and daily work;
- Improving the health services and health infrastructure need in rural areas.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity and the ecosystems they support are the living basis for sustainable development. They generate a wide range of goods and services on which the world economy depends. About 40 percent of the global economy is based on biological products and processes. The economic value of biodiversity is estimated to be \$2.9 trillion/year whereas that of ecosystem services is \$33 trillion/year. Activities that reduce biodiversity

jeopardize economic development and often the survival of many who depend on biodiversity for their livelihood such as the poor in the rural areas of developing countries. The strong linkages that exist between biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation are not always recognized nor understood.

Human-imposed threats to biodiversity demand immediate attention. The ecosystem approach, as laid out in the decisions under the Biodiversity Convention, should be implemented for progress to be achieved in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The link between poverty and biodiversity need to be paid greater attention as they are intimately related. Many of the poor in rural sectors in developing countries depend on biodiversity for their survival.

There are many instruments in place and important decisions taken on biodiversity. But the many agreements and conventions are not consistent with the lack of action and implementation. Much of the discussion focused on the obstacles to implementation and the need, not for more agreements, but on concrete action and the national and local level.

Although there is a need for more knowledge on biodiversity and its role in the functioning of ecosystems, there is enough knowledge to justify action. This knowledge is, however, often not provided to decision-makers. Scientists must put the issues of biodiversity into understandable language for politicians to act on. There is an urgent need to mainstream biodiversity into overall development and sectoral strategies but in order to do so, the closing of the feedback loop between science and policy – maker must be better addressed. The lack of knowledge also applies to the public at large. There is no always recognition of the values of biodiversity and its linkages to other sectors. Strengthening inter-sectoral linkages is an essential prerequisite for tackling biodiversity concerns around the world.

Challenges of biodiversity include:

- Ensuring equitable benefits arising from the use of biodiversity;
- Empowering of people and communities dependant on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning for their livelihoods, and supporting those that are affected by loss of biodiversity or negative change in ecosystems;
- Protecting and using indigenous knowledge and recognizing and compensating these benefits;
- Integrating biodiversity concerns and the importance of biodiversity into all economic activity including agriculture, forestry, land use, water resources management, and infrastructure development.
- Recognizing not only the economic value but also the cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity;
- Shifting the focus from addressing the proximate causes of biodiversity loss to a strategy that addresses the underlying causes (treating the disease rather than the symptoms)
- Addressing the need for paradigm shifts (production and consumption patterns are at the root of biodiversity degradation and loss);
- Improving the public knowledge and recognition of the importance of biodiversity for basic and daily needs for the public in general that in turn could lead to a growing demand for more determined action on biodiversity by policy-makers;
- Improving knowledge on the linkages that exist between production and consumption patterns and biodiversity;
- Addressing the special conservation needs of important biodiversity areas and fragile ecosystems, such as those in many SIDS – Small Island Development States;

Among the many actions required to address the challenges, the participants noted the following:

- Developing better processes and mechanisms for concrete action and implementation;
- Introducing and using economic instruments more widely in relation to biodiversity (economic incentives and a closer look at the relation between perverse subsidies and biodiversity loss and degradation)

- Sharing more openly global and regional research results on ecosystem functioning and establishing ecological networks particularly those that lead to more sustainable ecological mosaics for better land use and ecosystem management;
- Building capacities and technology sharing and scaling up outstanding examples of best practices of rural communities throughout the developing world;
- Building better synergies among the various biodiversity-related conventions;
- Better recognition of linkages between trade and environment and particularly trade and biodiversity and the need to establish cooperation to achieve synergies and mutual supportiveness between MEAs and WTO;
- Addressing the challenges of poverty and the need for poverty eradication as one major impediment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, particularly rural poverty and develop new sustainable use options for employment;
- Building capacities at the local level and empowering local communities to take action as it is at the local level where stress on biodiversity occurs;
- Building partnerships among governments, business, farmers and local communities are the best way to mainstream biodiversity concerns into economic and social activity.
- Addressing the issues of Intellectual Property Rights in support of equitable benefits and use through capacity building and proper legislation.

Agriculture

Agriculture is central to sustainable development. Around 70% of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas and depend in one way or another on agriculture for their survival. Progress in agriculture, therefore, provides the best safety net against poverty and hunger that exist in many countries of the world. Because of its important role in the economy of most developing countries, agriculture is also an engine for growth and economic growth opportunity. A compact is needed to: i) defend gains already made; ii) expand gains to marginal areas; and iii) make new gains through diversification of farming systems and products as well as by developing institutional structures to manage change in ecology, economy and trade.

One of the two presenters spoke of the polarization of agriculture: (a) the agriculture driven by technology, capital and subsidies – (mass production) ; and (b) the agriculture driven by peasants and local farmers – (production by the masses). Commercial as well as peasant agriculture need to exist and both make important contributions to feeding the population of the world. But both also require major reforms in order to realize their potential role of reversing the present trend of slow decline in the numbers of malnourished and hungry, particularly in the continent of Africa.

The stigma of agriculture as the sector that overproduces while millions go hungry; that receives subsidies while blocking markets for those that could produce at lower prices; and one that harms the environment with its chemicals need to be taken seriously and reversed. Changing the image of the sector and increasing agricultural productivity in the developing world require tackling the underlying causes for this. It also requires reversing the downward trend in ODA of the past decade. Agriculture and the need to increase agricultural productivity need to be placed back on the priority of the global agenda. FAO mentioned that according to its proposed Anti-Hunger Programme, cutting hunger in half by 2015 will require additional public investments of an additional US \$24 billion annually over the next 13 years.

Many participants focused on the issues of trade and subsidies and the need to eliminate trade-distorting subsidies and trade barriers in developed countries. It was mentioned that without solutions in these areas, little would be accomplished in the efforts to increase agricultural productivity and in reversing the numbers of those who are hungry and malnourished around the world. Many focused on the “governance of agriculture in the rich countries” as an area requiring serious and determined action if we are to achieve progress in agricultural productivity in developing countries. It was suggested that perhaps a small portion of the \$1 billion-a-day subsidy given by rich countries to their agricultural sector should be dedicated to helping developing countries address their problems of soil fertility, internal markets development (particularly rural infrastructure) and access to the markets of the rich countries.

The challenges of agriculture are of a short, medium as well as of a long-term nature. In order to achieve the target of halving hunger by 2015, the problem of hunger needs to be tackled in all time scales. The urgent and critical short-term problem of frequent food emergencies in some parts of the world requires not only resources but also innovation. The establishment of decentralized community food bank networks was mentioned as one potential formula to address the food needs of food deficient areas and for the international community to support. For the medium and long term, institutions and capacity building are required to provide support in sustainable production technologies, and competitiveness of agriculture in trade (both domestic as well as international).

The key issues mentioned for agriculture, particularly in developing countries, included:

- The need to address the serious soil fertility problem in Sub-Sahara Africa developing countries through the replenishment of soil fertility;
- The need to increase water use productivity;
- The potential diversification of crops as well as non-farming activities as alternative sources of income and employment in rural areas;
- The need to involve farmers into policy- and decision-making;
- Eliminating trade-distorting subsidies and trade barriers in developed countries to provide a level playing field and fair market access;
- Building and strengthening rural infrastructure (roads, rural electrification, social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals) and strengthening the rural economy;
- Addressing land tenure and land rights issues, including those related to women and indigenous people;
- Applying research and development to increase productivity in crops and livestock that are of interest to the poor in rural areas;
- Providing selective financial incentives in key areas to facilitate self-reliance and empower communities.
- Strengthening early warning capacities vis-à-vis natural disasters
- Helping to scale up successful farming and agricultural practices in many parts of the developing world
- Supporting sustainable agricultural practices and organic farming efforts around the developing world including for organically and sustainably produced crops that are increasing in demand in developed countries.
- Improving linkages to other sectors of the economy particularly water (about 70% of the water resources in the world is used by agriculture and any efficiencies here will provide water resources for other sectors) and energy (efficiencies in this sector could help liberate energy services for other uses; but agriculture could also be a major player in energy production with its vast potential for biomass);
- Supporting preventive measures for reducing hunger and increasing agricultural productivity;

While large-scale, commercial agriculture does make an important contribution in feeding the world, the small farmers and their livelihood are key to sustainable development and key to reversing the numbers of hungry and malnourished around the world. But small farmers need technical and financial assistance such as in the form of micro-credits, to increase agricultural productivity and to produce high value crops that can be grown on small scale. The suggestion was made that there should be a better distinction, in terms of policies and support, for those products which should be low value – high volume (such as maize and beans) and those that are high value – low volume (such as fruits and vegetables) and which are more marketable domestically and internationally to those with higher purchasing power.

The Green Revolution of the past was technology-driven and input intensive. The future agricultural revolution should be small-farmer, sustainable-agriculture based, and low input based. We have many lessons from the Green Revolution. They helped the world make a quantum leap in agricultural productivity. But it also led to stresses of the environment that could be avoided with new sustainable agricultural practices.

To achieve sustainable agricultural growth, changes are needed for:

- Promoting technological development – e.g. safe and accountable biotechnology use, new and renewable technology, information technology;
- Building ecological foundation in terms of water, biodiversity, climate, land;
- Developing marketable products and making use of marketable surplus;
- Applying integrative approaches since agriculture, water, energy, land, biodiversity and others are closely linked.
- Increasing public investments in agriculture and building local markets;
- Building capacities and establishing facilitating mechanisms for the diffusion of technologies to farmers as well as the sharing of these technologies;

In terms of human resources, special attention should be paid to:

- Empowerment of women – women play an important role in eradicating hunger since women are the majority of farmers affected most by hunger and are key agents of change;
- Retaining youth in agriculture – youth holds key to the future; farming should be made intellectually satisfying and economically attractive to attract them;
- Recognition of waged agricultural workers' conditions and needs;
- Recognizing and valuing indigenous knowledge as well as respecting their rights and cultures.
- Empowering local communities to join a global campaign to reduce the numbers that go hungry and malnourished each day throughout the world.

Water and Sanitation

Water is not only the most basic of needs but also at the center of sustainable development and essential for poverty eradication. Water is intimately linked to health, agriculture, energy and biodiversity. Without progress on water, reaching other MDGs will be difficult if not impossible. Despite this, there is a low priority assigned to water by countries as evidenced by the decrease of ODA for this sector, by the reduction of investments by International Financial Institutions, by the low priority in national budgets, and by the absence of water as a central feature in major regional programmes. And yet, some 1.2 billion people still have no access to safe drinking water.

And sanitation is intimately linked to good health and for many, human survival. There is no justification for the 6,000 deaths of children that happen everyday as a result of a lack or deficient sanitation facilities. The need to come up with concrete plans of actions to reduce the 2.4 billion people that do not have adequate sanitation was mentioned as one of the priorities of WSSD. The usefulness of time-bound targets to achieve this in the medium and long term was emphasized.

The lack of action and low priority on water in many countries is not caused by a lack of agreement on the urgency and the need to take determined action. On the contrary, there is strong agreement on many of the key issues surrounding the issues of water and sanitation. On issues such as cost-recovery or financial systems to ensure access and availability and the role of the private sector, there is less agreement. More global coordinated action and higher priority by countries will help sort these differences more easily. One of the presenters mentioned that there are several estimates made on how much is required to reach the MDGs on water. One of these calculates that it would require between US\$14 billion and \$30 billion a year on top of the roughly US\$ 30 billion a year already being spent.

A common theme in the areas of water and sanitation is the need to involve all stakeholders for a multi-stakeholder approach to water and sanitation. The need to examine the institutional frameworks that establish priorities and policies for water and sanitation is also important as many of the decisions regarding water and sanitation and the effects on people are taken in a variety of sectors and ministries.

The subjects of water and sanitation revolve around the issues of:

- Access, availability and affordability

- Allocation issues
- Capacity building and technological needs
- Social issues

The following were highlighted as important issues to address in each of these areas:

Access and availability

- The numbers of people to reach with adequate and quality coverage are immense and either in the poor rural areas or in the marginal urban or peri-urban areas where the ability to pay for the services is more limited;
- The need to come up with policies, including cross-subsidization schemes to help pay for the services of the poorest areas of the population;
- The private sector has a role to play as a provider of technology, management and finance. It is most effective when there is a strong public sector assigning allocation priorities and where standards of accountability are present for all sectors;
- The need for decentralized solutions to fit the needs of the local and rural communities, including with less costly technologies that use local human and capital inputs;
- Poorer countries facing water scarcity will face difficulties in providing access to water and sanitation particularly where they are constrained by indebtedness.

Allocation issues:

- Water has many uses and many competing demands. These demands come not only from various sectors of the population but also from various sectors of the economy. An Integrated Water Resources Management approach at the country, regional and local levels is key to mediate among the various demands in a rational way;
- Because there are sectors of the population that are less able to pay for services, policies and strategies need to be formulated to ensure that there are differentiated pay schemes that can eliminate the present system which often has the poorest paying the highest costs for services;
- Trans-boundary considerations need to be given greater attention and resolution through regional cooperation (including those affected by civil conflict that lead to ecosystem destruction);
- The biggest user of water resources – agriculture – need to improve on water use efficiencies (“more crop for the drop”);
- Many ecosystems that are crucial for the water supply often lack constituencies. As a result, they are often degraded by human activity. The link between the conservation of ecosystems and water needs to be better recognized.

Capacity building and technological needs:

- There is a need for capacity building particularly in the introduction, use and maintenance of technologies that fit the needs of local poor populations;
- There is a need for capacity building and education on water management and conservation as well as on sanitation and hygiene;
- There are capacity building needs in support of integration and coordination among sectors and communities;
- Education, information and public awareness are essential in support of water management and conservation.

Social issues:

- Water is a human right and most countries are in agreement but there is less agreement as to how to put this into practice;

- Women and children and vulnerable populations in general are taking the brunt of the negative impacts of the lack of action on water and sanitation – when there is scarcity of water and sanitation in any one country or region, it is not the rich who are affected but the poor;
- Better institutional frameworks are needed for governance, decentralization, multi-stake holder – an overarching framework that helps to bring all of these into a well linked national – regional – and local levels (linking strategies and policies with actions at the local level);
- Allocation of water among sectors of the population should not be based on the ability to pay but on need and in the case of the ultra-poor with little or no purchasing power, measures should be taken to ensure that water is supplied as needed.

Energy

Energy is central to the lives of the poor and affect their lives in terms of food, water, health and income and jobs. Access to energy is central to poverty alleviation. Currently, 50 percent of the people living in least developed countries live on less than \$1 a day, 70% live on less than \$2 a day and approximately 50% are unemployed. Access to affordable energy services are critical for increasing agricultural productivity, encouraging economic activity, generating employment and income opportunities, and improving the quality of life particularly for women and children. The many hours a day spent on fetching firewood and cooking using rudimentary methods could be used in other productive and family activities that they are now foregoing because of these chores.

According to one of the presenters, energy interventions in the past have not been efficient. Small scale technologies, ranging from \$50 to \$300, are possible as a means to providing energy services to the poorest, particularly in rural areas. Some of the technologies recommended include mechanical water pumps, solar dryers and biofuel furnaces. The same presenter recommended that developing countries, particularly Africa, should consider allocating from one quarter to one third of their energy budgets to small-scale energy technologies. These technologies, when possible, should be as self-reliant as possible in terms of inputs, local equipment manufacture and maintenance.

In addition to meeting the needs of the poor, energy services are also crucial for economic growth and an entry point to sustainable development in general. Three major thrusts were mentioned as requiring action: the need to provide access to energy services to the approximately 2 billion people, mostly in rural areas, who do not have electricity; the need for an increased emphasis on renewable energy; and finally the need to develop clean and improved fossil fuel technologies. Switching to cleaner and more sustainable energy paths will, however, require policies and strategies. This shift will not be driven by scarcity, at least not in the foreseeable future. Setting time-bound targets on renewable energy was emphasized by several as a useful method to promote more sustainable sources of energy.

A comprehensive policy agenda for sustainable development will include capacity building programmes, focused attention on the needs of the rural poor and on the needs of those which do not have access to adequate or any energy services, and support for renewable energy development. Reducing subsidies and effectively internalizing environmental costs associated with energy use are elements of effective markets. The deregulation of electricity markets, as many countries are now doing, should be undertaken in a way that meets the needs of the rural and urban poor.

Policies in general should be integrated and consistent to meet the needs of the poor in both the rural as well as the urban areas. The investments required for increasing the provision of energy services are immense and will be undertaken by both the public as well as the private sectors. Creating an enabling environment for investments to take place in the most appropriate energy paths for each country in support of sustainable development require action now. Ten years ago, energy was not in the agenda, at least not directly (it was indirectly addressed through one of the conventions coming out of Rio – the UNFCCC. Ten years later in Johannesburg, energy is not only included but one of the focal areas of WSSD requiring action and implementation.

The following were highlighted as important issues in each of the following areas:

- The importance of energy conservation and efficiency and the need to integrate these into existing policies and consumption patterns;
- The importance of clean energy and health linkages;
- The importance of clean energy sources and the need to develop technologies to harness these resources;
- The need for clear targets on renewable energy as a percentage of the total energy source;
- The need to balance the current heavy emphasis on centralized high capital cost conventional energy with investments in more decentralized small-scale technologies for the rural poor;
- The need to cooperate in all areas related to energy, including climate change and the need for progress on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol so that it could enter into force;
- The ability of countries to take their own decisions on energy use and policies, but within improved global policy frameworks for energy user and access;
- The need to engage with civil society in defining policy and implementation, including the role of women and of local populations including indigenous peoples;
- The need to do away with subsidies that are not supportive of sustainable energy;
- The need to provide safety nets for workers affected by transitions to cleaner energy paths;
- The need to restructure markets in order to promote, support and accommodate transitions to more sustainable energy paths;
- The importance of science and business for the development and improvement of technologies;
- The need to launch large-scale programmes for dissemination of small-scale cleaner energy technologies;
- The importance of partnerships for developing and introducing sustainable energy technologies and energy services in developing countries.
- The importance of regional integration and collaboration and the usefulness of these to reach regional energy goals.

The main energy objectives highlighted in the discussion included:

- Energy for poverty alleviation: The access of energy services for poverty alleviation should include a focus on access to energy in rural areas and by women. National energy budgets should include a significant allocation for small-scale energy investments for affordable energy services for the poor. Large scale energy projects, however, are also necessary to provide energy for industry and thus necessary for creating jobs and increasing incomes.
- Energy conservation and energy efficiency: Improvement in building design and management, better mass transportation, adoption of advanced and innovative cleaner technologies, energy labeling and standards and better public procurement policies can contribute significantly in this area. All have a stake and all have a role to play. Trade unions, for example, have a role to play in conserving energy in the workplace. Indicative energy efficiency goals were mentioned as useful instruments to reach energy efficiency.
- Promotion of renewable energy: Many agreed that a target of increasing modern renewable energy sources to 10 percent of the energy mix by 2010 or 2015 is reachable and useful. Some countries, while agreeing on the overall concept of setting targets, believed that each country should be left to decide on its energy policy and energy mix according to needs and capacities.
- The use of policies and economic instruments: Many mentioned the need to reduce subsidies that do not promote clean energy technologies or renewable energy. Others suggested that some of these subsidies should be given to these same companies to increase research and development of renewable energy. Policies that internalize environmental costs were also mentioned while recognizing that these would increase the cost of energy provision. When present, these adverse effects should be addressed with policies to protect the poor.
- Meeting the needs of women: There is a need to design energy policies that meet the needs of women. These should address the particular burdens faced by women with regards to indoor air pollution and wood collection, access to credit for energy services, and the inclusion of women in the decision-making process.

- Action on climate change: Many called upon governments to take action aimed at climate change. They called upon countries which have not yet done so, to ratify the Kyoto Protocol so that it could enter into force at the earliest possible date. Some other countries, however, suggested that this is a subject that should be discussed in other fora.

Cross-cutting Issues

Unlike other sessions on WEHAB, the session on cross-cutting did not have a framework document but instead a background issues paper as a guide. The discussion was clustered around three themes: a) information, education and science; b) consumption and production patterns; and c) trade, technology transfer and development. Common challenges to promoting sustainable development in all three clusters of areas include:

- Need for new approaches that emphasize empowerment, ownership, bottom-up and gender-sensitivity;
- Need for capacity building and information sharing;
- Need of resources;
- Steering international cooperation and globalization into a direction more beneficial for sustainable development;
- All of the above requiring major groups' involvement in public policy-making.

Information, Education and Science

Scientific and technological community has much to contribute in sharing knowledge, transferring technology and contributing to capacity building. Data and information based on scientific evidence are essential to sound decision-making as well. New lines of research are needed to address interlinkages between natural sciences and social sciences, so that science and research can contribute directly to poverty eradication and promoting sustainable consumption and production among others.

Education is a key to achieving sustainable development. Poverty eradication cannot be achieved without investment in primary education and public awareness raising. Female education is essential to achieving gender equality.

Good capacity building initiatives need five basic principles:

- Ownership involving stakeholders from the beginning;
- Integration and taking full account of ongoing actions;
- Cross-sectoral harmonization between donors and recipients;
- Increased use of modern technology and communication; and
- Development of new forms of cooperation such as decentralized cooperation among local authorities.

Information is essential for decision-making. Information-sharing is a form of capacity building. Earth observation satellites and global mapping are essential tools for monitoring changes on the earth. Data collection and distribution should be strengthened.

Additional issues to be considered under this cluster include:

- Question of monopolizing knowledge such as through patenting;
- Emphasis not only on theoretical knowledge but also on practical knowledge;
- Creating enabling environment for promoting education, science and research;
- Benefits of research should be shared by people;
- Involvement of youth in capacity building.
- Making use of traditional and other already existing knowledge;

- New ethics of sustainable development;
- The importance of new technologies such as remote sensing and their wide potential application for developing countries;
- Emerging trends and technologies such as the ICT and its growing key role in development;

Consumption and Production Patterns

A notable difference between Rio and Johannesburg is the more conspicuous presence of business in the latter. Business has taken more interest in sustainable development issues; industries in some countries have realized that it might be more profitable to produce more sustainably. At the same time, governments have been encouraging sustainable practices by business through tax relief and incentives. Efforts to achieve sustainable production among developed countries have focused on achieving resource efficiency in production and on minimizing waste but performance so far has had mixed results.

Transnational corporations have the potential to contribute to sustainable development in countries where they invest and guide good practices. Companies are interested in new technology and many are aware of the need for capacity building in developing countries. Pressures for their sustainable practices could come from host countries and NGOs through such means as environmental accounting and reporting requirements. Local authorities could promote green procurement policies to push industries to produce in environmentally friendly and fair manners.

Consumer groups can play an important role in promoting sustainable consumption and thereby promoting sustainable production as well. Women are important consumers and thus should participate in decision-making concerning production.

Other issues highlighted include:

- Perspectives of small and medium enterprises to be considered;
- Corporate social responsibility and accountability must be sought;
- Government control may lead to corporations seeking lowest common denominator, thus good governance is important.
- Developed countries need to take lead in changing consumption and production patterns given their past records

Trade, Technology Transfer & Development

Wide gaps that exist between developed countries and developing countries (“global apartheid”) need to be bridged. Doha and Monterrey have achieved milestones in attaining commitment from donor countries to increase aid. There is a strong linkage between these processes and WSSD. SAY WHY....

A major turning point in development assistance, according to OECD, has been for donors to agree to work on the basis of a single development framework that each of the developing countries themselves decide on. Both bilateral and multilateral assistance are needed to tackle global issue such as poverty. Concrete results are needed in achieving 0.7% of GDP for ODA and providing debt relief to free resources for development of countries concerned.

Additional issues to be mentioned include:

- Inappropriate development models can do more harm than good particularly to poor communities;
- The need to place greater emphasis on the appropriateness of technology,
- Strong call for debt relief to free countries concerned from heavy burden;
- Elimination of tariffs against non-agricultural products;
- Removal of trade-distorting subsidies;

- Long-term financing is required for building infrastructure, capacity-building;
- Integrated, cross-sectoral assistance needed in development assistance;
- Peace-building must be an integral part of development strategies;
- “Today’s complacency is tomorrow’s plight” – call for entering into force of the Kyoto Protocol;
- Culture of sustainable development cannot be imposed from outside; people-centered development is needed.
- Partnership is essential to promoting sustainable development.

III. CONCLUSIONS:

- **The urgency of implementation:** The action plan, and all WEHAB targets and policies need to be implemented; action is needed at all levels: inter-governmental, regional, and at local levels, with active participation of all major groups.
- **Partnerships to make things happen:** between governments, business, local communities and NGOs. Partnerships to do research, to set standards, and to implement. In order to be effective, partnerships must be based on the principles of transparency, of ownership, of sustainability, of major group participation, and underpinned with new, more and better directed financial resources.
- **A follow-up process:** to give foothold to new partnerships and other initiatives in each of the WEHAB areas. Consultations are required between the UN, governments, and major groups on the modalities of such a follow-up process. The Secretary General of the UN, who took the initiative in the process towards the WSSD to focus on WEHAB, could be invited to start such consultations.