

Business Action for Water (BAW)

Working for sustainable solutions

13th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 11-22 APRIL 2005

Statement by Business and Industry
Access to Basic Sanitation and Hygiene & Wastewater Treatment, Recycling and Reuse
12 April 2005

Delivered by Jeffrey Sloan, Chlorine Chemistry Council

Access to Basic Sanitation and Hygiene

Business and industry will play a significant role in improving access to basic sanitation and more sophisticated wastewater management, as well as the delivery of safe drinking water.

Businesses of all sizes and from a variety of sectors contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in a variety of ways, including:

Developing and refining appropriate products and technologies, including water disinfection and other treatment methods for use in household, municipal, and industrial applications;
Accelerating the dissemination of these technologies through the marketplace;
Transferring knowledge, skills and best practices.

In addition, the business community supports the development of local enterprises, recognized as an integral part of implementing local solutions to water and sanitation challenges.

In this context, businesses have successfully worked in numerous partnerships, particularly with NGOs and local authorities. These partnerships, as highlighted in the examples of practical measures distributed here through Business Action for Water (BAW), are critical to building markets and ensuring sustainable access to products that address water and sanitation needs.

The Business and Industry major group encourage policy options that

1. Strongly support private sector participation in partnerships,
2. Promote incentives to engage global, national and local businesses,
3. Establish mechanisms for continuous sharing of information among all partners, including micro-enterprises.

Wastewater Treatment, Recycling and Reuse

We strongly support statements in Section IV of the Sanitation Policy Options Paper that call for evaluating and developing a wide variety of wastewater treatment technology options. Consideration of these options in the local context will serve to identify the most cost effective technologies to match community needs, expectations, and available resources.

We would like to call attention to Paragraph 43, which appears to exclude any chemical application from the definition of low-cost and low-technology wastewater treatment. Chemical disinfection of wastewater can be cost-effectively implemented, not only in large municipal treatment plants, but also in smaller community systems.

In keeping with the focus on a wide range of options and technologies, the outcomes of CSD-13 should not exclude the appropriate use of chemical disinfection technologies from the low-cost and low-technology options for wastewater treatment.

A joint initiative for CSD 13 by the:

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) www.iccwbo.org

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) www.wbcsd.org