



Commission on Sustainable Development

13th Session
11 to 22 April 2005

Statement
by Mr. Jürgen Trittin
Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

New York, April 20, 2005

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

while fully supporting Luxemburg's statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States I would like to add the following points:

If we want the CSD to be heard and if we want to achieve progress, we as ministers have to give a strong and clear message to the Millennium Review Session. CSD 13 has to be a turning point for the implementation of sustainable development.

In 2002, 2.6 billion people were without access to basic sanitation. Without reversing current trends and without changing policies, we will not achieve the sanitation target of Johannesburg.

We know what we have to do and how to do it. We know our own responsibilities:

- the need to prioritize water and sanitation in the national budgets, PRSPs and national sustainable development strategies, accompanied by the structural and legal framework, and to validate decentralization involving and training the people

- the need to put sanitation on top of the political agenda utilizing the agreed techniques, technologies and action plans, particularly from the Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council;

- the need to improve managerial capacity and the understanding of the whole range of policy options available at the local level and to apply innovative financial instruments at all levels;

- the need to continue efforts to achieve sustainable water management using IWRM and to value ecosystem services with UNEP playing a stronger role;

- the need for more and better coordinated donor engagement, in particular for the poorest;

- the need to make a better and more coordinated use of the vast capacities for water and sanitation within the UN system by strengthening UN Water and closely monitoring our progress.

Germany supports the Revised Chair's Text in calling for a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources.

My country invests more than 350 million Euro in water and sanitation and participates with over 117 Million of the intended final volume of 500 million Euro in financing of the EU Water facility.

Following the above principles we directly support national programs in institution- and capacity-building, with a strong focus on Sub Saharan Africa and the poorest.

Reversing the negative trends the global environment is facing will be key to the security of all people on this planet. Access to basic services, including access to energy, is a precondition for peace. I am convinced that innovative financial instruments have to be explored to generate additional funding for the investments, needed. The implementation of sustainable development priorities cannot depend on national efforts and increased ODA alone.

The global environment and the wellbeing of billions of people deserve centre stage when we approach U.N. reform. The architecture of international environmental governance must be adapted to the challenges of the 21st century. I invite interested countries to join the informal governmental consultations the German government will be hosting on May 27, 2005 in Berlin on upgrading UNEP into a U.N. Environment Organization in Nairobi.

The "tightly managed entity" for the environment mentioned in the SG report will be essential for reversing the negative trends we are facing. A UNEO cooperating closely with development agencies would make a difference, in particular for the challenges discussed today.