

13th session of the Commission on sustainable development

Business and Industry Major Group statement
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Speaking on behalf of business and industry, we regard this CSD as an important test of how CSD will focus and add real value to commitments on international, national and local levels.

Business and industry, as users of water resources and services, as providers of water related technology, equipment and services and as a driving force for economic development, have considerable skills and resources to bring to the table.

We look to governments to provide the necessary enabling frameworks, as business can only operate effectively in a strong and stable legal, regulatory and economic context. Business recognizes that an IWRM approach can reduce business risks and protect ecosystems and that to achieve the necessary rate of progress requires the engagement of all sectors of society.

Chair, business does NOT support privatization of water resources. Public versus private delivery of services is NOT the issue. The provision of water and sanitation services is recognized as a public service, whether operated by the public or private sectors. Governments, donors and civil society should support solutions that are both effective and acceptable to the local community and encourage innovative management models and clearly defined partnerships.

Finally, we encourage CSD and delegations to return to greater and more meaningful involvement for major groups with substantive input into further sessions.

Thank you for your attention