

Water and Sanitation

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Our team consisted of Romania and Poland would like to thank the Technical Support Team, co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme for the preparation of the background notes.

The Outcome Document “The Future we Want” recognizes that water is at the core of sustainable development and poverty eradication and underlines the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Water is closely linked to a number of key global challenges and thematic areas of sustainable development: food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, sustainable cities and human settlements, health and population, biodiversity, desertification, land degradation, drought and mountains.

As populations grow and urbanize the demand of water is projected to drastically increase by 55% by 2050. At the same time climate change could lead to as extreme events as floods and droughts which are already on the rise. The degradation of ecosystems due to human activity has already exacerbated water scarcity and flooding. These trends could increase the risk of conflicts over water.

To achieve poverty eradication and universal human development we should enhance water productivity, develop an appropriate infrastructure, implement integrated approach to water resources and improve water governance system at all levels (including infrastructure development – storage dams, hydropower and irrigation systems).

Improved knowledge, research, innovation and implementation towards more productive and sustainable use of water, especially for food and energy is required to meet the world’s energy and food needs. Wise water management offers enhanced livelihoods, job creation, safer environment, better health and well-being of population. It is also very important to adopt sustainable production and consumption pattern to meet future water demands.

Water remains a catalyst for coordinated policy, shared management and peaceful cooperation between countries (coordinated policy over water issues can reduce potential water conflicts).

There is a pressing need to improve global freshwater quality by addressing water pollution and making better use of wastewater. The pollution reduction can be achieved by collecting and treating contaminated water.

Now we would like to say a few words how a sustainable development goal on water related issues can be formulated.

There are two categories of issues for integration of water into SDGs framework. The first one is: access to safe drinking water and sanitation target, and pollution prevention. The second category is linked to development dimension – basic human needs and natural resources management.

A standalone goal, for example “Water secure world” could address 3 following pillars:

- safe and sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all;

- sustainable and integrated management of water resources in order to satisfy human needs by respecting ecosystem requirements.;
- management, treatment, safe reuse of waste water as well as pollution prevention.

All water issues are connected and interrelated also with human development and environmental objectives, therefore they require an integrated approach which would keep them together in one SDG goal.

The future post 2015 and SDGs agenda should go beyond MDGs existing commitment – **drinking water target** . Water should be a central focus of any post 2015 framework for poverty eradication and global sustainable development.

The new agenda should encourage an integrated approach to water in universally agreed goals that improve people's lives and protect their future and environment.

Safe Drinking Water, sanitation and Hygiene, Management and Development of Water Resources, Wastewater management and Water Quality are indispensable elements for building a water secure world. A water secure world is a joint responsibility and cooperation is needed at local, national, regional and global levels with the participation of stakeholders and private sector.

Thank you Mr. Co - Chair