

Canada

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATION**

STATEMENT BY

**HON. DAVID ANDERSON
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**TO THE TWELFTH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Meeting basic needs in water, sanitation and human Settlements, with a
particular focus on water**

NEW YORK, APRIL 29, 2004

ALLOCUTION DE

**L'HON. DAVID ANDERSON
MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

**À LA DOUZIÈME SESSION DE
LA COMMISSION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

**Satisfaction des besoins fondamentaux en matière d'eau, d'assainissement et
d'établissements humains, accordant une importance particulière à l'eau**

NEW YORK, LE 29 AVRIL 2004

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Building on my comments yesterday and this morning regarding translating our commitments into action, and partnerships, I would like to focus now on governance at the local level, and financing.

With respect to local governance, many countries and UN agencies have identified community-level involvement as a critical element of water management. I strongly agree - it leads to a better result when local communities, including indigenous people and civil society, are involved in the design phase, as well as implementation. Canada's long experience with international programming has helped us discover what works. So, what lessons have we learned?

One, because good governance at all levels is essential to addressing the emerging water crisis, nearly 50 per cent of our development assistance work on water and sanitation is focused on governance issues.

Two, for water-related development initiatives to be effective and lasting, countries - both developed and developing - must commit human and financial resources to sustainable water management. Developed countries, in particular, should be prepared to provide training and technical assistance, in addition to financing, if requested.

One such example in Canada is the UN University on International Network on Water, Environment and Health which responds to developing country demand for capacity building to improve water management in low-income countries.

Third, water supply and sanitation initiatives can mobilize and empower a community - in particular, the women of the community - which in turn leads to those communities being better able to take charge of other development activities. Recognizing the difference that an empowered community can make is at the heart of the Equator Initiative that I described this morning. In other words, a water initiative at the community level can be a small start that leads to something much larger for poverty alleviation.

On the issue of financing, Canada has also learned the critical importance of responding to developing countries' priorities, and working with local institutions.

We've put this into practice in our response to African water priorities, through the Canada Fund for Africa. One of our key projects is to support the African Water Facility, and you have heard already the importance that Africa places on this initiative. Another Canada Fund for Africa project is focussed on strengthening the African Development Bank's capacity to apply IWRM principles and to promote best water management practices.

The Commission on Sustainable Development must become a catalyst for action to translate international agreements into political will and concrete action on the ground. This must be part of our advice, as we proceed through this review session to CSD-13.

We now have just over a decade left until 2015. Let's use this Commission to move forward, quickly.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.