

Intervention II by Dr. Fritz Holzwarth, Federal Republic of Germany

I like to echo the presentation on IWRM this morning. We have discussed a lot about process vs. results. Of course, we need substantial outcomes and IWRM is in the end a product. The process, however, is also important. An inclusive and transparent process is a core element of good governance. IWRM plans introduce a cross-sectoral element in the whole water management agenda .

There are two really good examples where we can learn from:

Firstly, the International Commission for the Protection of the River Danube (ICPDR) which is the most international river basin in the world with 18 riparian countries. Despite high social and economic diversity, the consequent application of IWRM principles together with decisive political will has made the ICPDR a different and far more effective institutions. And it became clear that countries can take over responsibility even under difficult economic and social conditions.

Secondly, as become apparent during last years Petersburg Roundtable on Transboundary Water Cooperation in Africa, there are very promising development with regards to the institutional set up to promote IWRM. In Africa, AMCOW takes up the responsibility to provide a regional forum for discussion and action on the transboundary application of IWRM. African Ministers of Water in AMCOW took up the responsibility for water issues far beyond the necessary investment in water infrastructure only and provide a good example of a pace making regional organization.

Finally, we should send a strong message that the broad understanding of IWRM as a key driver of sustainable development here in CSD makes clear that water - in all its dimensions - should feature as a permanent topic on the CSD agenda. This concerns both specific water sessions and mainstreaming of water in CSD discussion on other sustainable development issues.