



Statement  
of  
Minister Juergen Trittin,  
Federal Minister for Environment

Water: Poverty eradication and environmental benefit  
Funding and good governance are key

New York, April 28, 2004

Mr Chairman, Borge,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poverty and the lack of access to water often go hand in hand. We will only achieve the targets on poverty, water and sanitation if we

- always take this inter-dependence into consideration
- draw up and comply with specific binding targets and fixed time frames, and
- acknowledge national ownership and good governance as a key.

It is therefore vital to **set up national water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005**, as agreed in Johannesburg. We must initiate a process which makes water and sanitation a **political priority** in national sustainability strategies and in poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs).

It is of key importance to implement the concept of *integrated water resources management*. The objective is

- to develop a **water management structure which in the long-term is cost-recovering and demand-oriented**. This structure must involve all users equally, especially women.
- to implement the polluter pays principle
- to introduce charges and dismantle false subsidies. This must not, however, be at the expense of the poor population.

**International financing institutions** are called on to revise their concepts for the water sector and to make greater use of *integrated water resources management*. Local level stakeholders must be actively involved in this process.

**Government must not shrug off its responsibility.** Reckless liberalisation should not lead to water access and quality being subjected to the laws of the free market. There is no substitute for water. Therefore, we need a politically legitimate governance for water. But the state can use public private partnership models to overcome financial bottlenecks and promote innovative solutions.

To evaluate the critical consequences of privatisation in water management, Germany has initiated and actively supports a "global review of private sector participation." Good governance cannot be subject to privatisation.

**Willingness to cooperate and holistic thinking** must be given greater encouragement in all areas of water management:

- in the **distribution of water** among the industrial sector, the energy industry, agriculture, private users and nature
- in the **conservation of our ecosystems** and
- in **transboundary cooperation**.

For this reason, the EU has established the EU Water Facility for countries of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean alongside the EU Water Initiative. Germany contributes around **117 million euros** to the planned fund of 500 million euros. Moreover, water and sanitation are among the main funding areas of German development cooperation, with around **350 million euros annually**.

**Pressure on freshwater reserves will increase - through population growth, increasing urbanisation, rising industrial production and more consumption.** It is becoming a threat to peace and security.

There is also a clear link between water and energy policy: In the EU, fossil and nuclear power plants use 40% of the water. **If we opt for fossil power plants in the South, water will become even more scarce and unaffordable for even more people.** By contrast, wind energy and photovoltaics do not use any water during the operation process. Solar and geothermal installations are extremely well suited for desalinating seawater. I warmly invite you to our side event today on the increased use of renewable energies and hope you will be able to attend the Conference *renewables 2004* in Bonn in early June this year.

Mr. Chairman,

With your outcome of this year's review session on water and sanitation and human settlements you will be setting the stage for CSD 13 and beyond. Therefore, we need clear signals for the further **implementation of the goals on water and sanitation and human settlements**. To overcome poverty, access to water and sanitation is crucial. We need funding and good governance. Mr. Chairman, you have our support to concentrate in your conclusions on the main challenges.

Thank you.