

Norwegian Delegation
Statement on Monitoring and Reporting,
Wednesday 2 March 2005

Efforts to reach the water and sanitation targets must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than on construction of facilities.

This focus on service delivery should also extend to monitoring systems. Monitoring and assessment systems for access to water supply and sanitation services need to be active and adequately resourced from the sub-national to the international levels. These systems need to employ valid and reliable measures of access to water supply and sanitation services. More specifically:

- Access to services, rather than to infrastructure, should be at the center of monitoring efforts. The parameters that matter most to users—including the convenience, reliability, sustainability, and adequacy of water supply and sanitation services—should be measured over time, as should equity of access;
- Collected data should be shared in user-friendly formats with NGOs, civil society, and the public at large as well as with national and international institutions.

What mechanisms should be used at the international level to report on progress?

Our position is that there is no need to establish new mechanisms – we need to strengthen the existing ones.

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme – JMP - must be strengthened as the key global mechanism for monitoring access to water supply and sanitation and provided with greater funding.

WHO and UNICEF should ensure that arrangements increasingly enable contribution to and participation in the JMP. Bilateral agencies should both provide more funding and refrain from setting up parallel structures.

We welcome the establishment UN-Water to enhance cooperation and coordination within the UN. UN-Water should be mandated to periodically report, through World Water Development Report (WWDR), which is hosted by UNESCO, on progress in water resources development and management for the MDGs, including progress on the development of strategies for integrated water resources management and efficiency by 2005.

Thank you!