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Key Conclusions from the
World Water Week in Stockholm 2005
Presentation at IPM, CSD-13

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Thank you Mr Chairman,

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to you for providing the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) with an opportunity to present this short summary with some of the key conclusions from the 2004 World Water Week in Stockholm.

The week was organised for the 14th time, in August 2004 with some 1400 participants from more than 100 countries, representing scientists, governmental organisations, NGOs, the private sector, and international organisation. Close to 40% of the participants came from developing countries. The theme was "Drainage Basin Management: Regional Approaches for Food and Urban Security", linking water issues with food production and rural and urban development.

We have distributed a short summary document that we hope can provide some useful and thought-provocative inputs to the deliberations this week. It contains two sets of conclusions;

1. A selected number of conclusions and recommendations from the seminar focusing on the CSD process organised jointly with the Norwegian Ministry of Environment and;
2. A selected number of key conclusions from the World Water Week as a whole.

I would like to stress that the Week does not present a written joint statement or a set of agreed recommendations. With more than 20 seminars, 10 workshops, side events, plenary sessions, debates and exhibitions, it is an open forum where thoughts are shared and discussions are wide and open. Thus, SIWI takes the full responsibility of the conclusions and recommendations presented here.

As my intervention should be short, I will briefly highlight a few key points:

- ... One. Water and sanitation is key to sustainable development. Decision makers need to be convinced that investment in the water and sanitation sector and sound water resources management represents an engine for economic growth, linked as they are to wider macro economic aspects. It is, in the end, an issue of a country's capacity to eradicate poverty and sustain development. Investments therefore need to be increasingly discussed as economic opportunities rather than just costs.
- ... Two. MDGs and PRSPs need to be integrated nationally so that water, sanitation and poverty, but also all other MDG targets that depend so much on water, are addressed comprehensively. The cross-cutting aspects of water is critical.
- ... Three. With the world's urban population expected to reach 5 billion in 2030, a 66% increase compared with 2000, water supply and sanitation and related

resources management challenges in urban areas must be tackled - now. In particular the fundamental role of water services for the livelihood of women and girls must be in focus. Water and sustainable sanitation planning need to be better integrated into physical urban planning processes. Strategies for the decentralisation of political and economic decision making needs to be promoted, as it provides opportunities for institutional change, increased democratisation, transparency, participation and a greater voice for civil society. Land and water rights for illegal settlements, critical to encourage communities to invest in facilities, must be address with the support of the international community and there need to be clear commitments to formalise property rights. Women need to be empowered, especially regarding issues of land and water tenure.

... Four. Feeding the world's growing population, and finding the water to grow the food, is a sizeable challenge. Between the late 1990s and 2020 world cereal demand will increase by 40% - through a growing population but also changes in consumption patterns. The strain on water and land resources will be considerable and food security issues need further attention within a water context. Strategies should not only address irrigated agriculture, but also the too neglects rain-fed agriculture, still the dominant provider for food. Water use efficiency can increase, and available technologies and strategies to do so need to be implemented. National strategies for food and nutritional security, linked to IWRM, WEP and PRSP and to the basin level are critical. They need to include time-bound sector targets for improved water use efficiency and considerations of aspects such as environmental flow. Important is also to address the opportunities and consequences for trade in food, and the impact on water resources, which need further consideration also within a CSD setting.

... Five. Both conceptually and in its implementation, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) needs greater integration with land and ecosystems management, and vice versa. CSD need to make sure that water issues (including sanitation) is duly addressed also at future CSD sessions, dealing with agriculture, land degradation, energy etc. After all, water is everywhere in sustainable development!

The world finds itself in the middle of a period of rapid change. How humans cope with that change, acknowledging the physical realities of the Earth, and how we govern such changes on many different levels, will go a long way in defining our world by 2025. If people are to be less hungry, if they are to live in dignity, and if our expanding urban areas are to be well functioning, it will require that critical decisions are made today, here and now. CSD, as the critical political authoritative body dealing with sustainable development in its most encompassing way, need to take the necessary, sometimes bold, decisions.

You may rest assure that the annual World Water Week in Stockholm will do its part and continue to keep water and sanitation issues, in their widest sense, on the global agenda and thus play an important role as a follow-up mechanism on global targets and commitments.

Mr Dag Hammanskjöld once said:

“Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.”

Ladies and gentlemen, the only thing that cannot be recycled is wasted time, so I will end my intervention here.

Thank you Mr chairman!