

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 12th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

“MEETING TARGETS, GOALS AND TIMETABLES”

**REMARKS BY HON MARIAN HOBBS
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28 APRIL 2004

Mr Chairman

We have all agreed that the targets and goals are established. Now is the time to review how we reach those goals.

To echo the Secretary-General Kofi Annan's comment this morning, "integration is essential" – the integration emphasised in the concept of the three pillars of sustainable development: social justice; economic growth; and environmental protection.

Water is essential for all three pillars. An example of the impact of water on social justice is the interrelationship between Women's educational opportunities and access to adequate sanitation and water. Unless we protect our water quality, including from pesticide run-off, and our biodiversity – then our environment is threatened. As we grow economically, we need water for irrigation, for power, for industry.

I would like to focus on the integration of action between developed and developing countries. In New Zealand's case we have worked closely with our Pacific Island neighbours to support the development of an Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management. This framework allows for donors to work together under the leadership of Pacific Island States to meet their needs for sustainable water management, including wastewater. The needs of water management in small island states are very particular: these must not be overlooked in the work of the CSD.

Water issues must be integrated into the whole of government action through budget provisions and policy development.

This can be assessed at the global level. As Professor Sachs noted earlier, US\$900 billion is spent on armaments, only US\$60 billion for development. How much of that \$60 billion is focussed on water?

But integration must also occur at national level. For New Zealand we saw water as one of our major projects for cross-government work on sustainable development. There were questions of water allocation that needed to be addressed: faced with limited water supply, how do we best use it? How do we decide at community level? There are competing demands: river ecology, wetlands, irrigation, urban use, hydro-electric power. There are questions of conserving our iconic water bodies such as lakes like the beautiful Taupo.

This work has involved cooperation from Treasury and ministries of Agriculture, Trade, Environment, Conservation, Local Government, and Transport. Water management has become integral to central and local planning.

Mr Chairman

If we are to achieve our targets we must integrate our work, we must plan together. It is not impossible. Both nationally and regionally we have begun the journey.

Thank you Mr Chairman