

III Session SDG OWG – 24 May 2013
Interactive exchange of views on “Water and Sanitation”

***Reactions by the Local Authorities Major Group delivered by
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Thanks Co-chair. It is an honour to take the floor again on behalf of f Local Authorities.

First and above I would like to thank our distinguished delegates. There has been **hardly any delegation that has not mentioned the local dimension of water and sanitation**. All of you have talked about **local solutions; the role of local authorities and communities water access, safety and management**. Our impressive guest experts have also highlighted the connection between **megacities and their impacts on environmental and public health protection**. We are most **grateful for this level of awareness and for the will** to take into the SDGs discussions the local dimension of water and sanitation.

We are **particularly interested in the modular approach suggested by Colombia**. We see **cities and regions as the place where the interlinkages can happen**, where the integration of all dimensions of Sustainable Development should take place. **The modular approach would provide for an enhanced and more accurate territorial dimension in the wider SDG framework**.

Please allow me to leave with you **3 ideas, namely on water planning, on interlinkages and on data collection**:

1. On water planning - Several delegations have mentioned the need to encourage **integrated water planning in cities**. There are cities and subnational governments already following this approach but it is a complex task that requires specific skills and knowledge, both in developing and develop areas. Further reflection needs to go into how to enhance the capacity of local authorities and communities to elaborate integrated water plans.

2. On interlinkages - Further reflection is also needed on the interlinkages between the demographic and urbanisation pressures and the obligation of provision of public services that local and subnational authorities face, particularly in developing countries. Ultimately it is subnational and local authorities face the obligation to provide water, and safety in access to water. This implies the need to further reflect on matters of governance – like decentralisation of management responsibilities - and funding, including tax collection and infrastructure financing.

3. On data collection - A lot has been said in the past days about the crucial need for adequate data. We need to go one step beyond the need for disaggregate data at subnational and local levels. We know that sometimes local and national data can enter in contradiction because they are not necessarily collected using the same methodology. In this context, we indeed need data collected at subnational and local levels - as it has been said here - but we also need standardised methodologies and incentives for using such standardised methodologies so that the data we collect can then be useful to the goals and targets we trace.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Video available from:

6th meeting - Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, third session

At minute 36:57

<http://webtv.un.org/search/6th-meeting-open-working-group-on-sustainable-development-goals-third-session/2407675633001?term=SDGs>