

Submitted by the United States to the  
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the  
13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

## **Policy Options and Practical Measures to Expedite Implementation on Water**

*Based on the broad range of experiences and best practices that emerged from CSD-12, the policy options and practical measures highlighted below can advance progress toward internationally agreed objectives related to safe drinking water and integrated water resources management (including, inter alia, Agenda 21, Ch. 18; CSD 6, paragraphs 10 & 13; and, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, paragraphs 8, 25, and 26). Although these options may find widespread applicability, not all of them are necessarily relevant to every circumstance.*

### **Themes:**

- **Providing access to safe drinking water in urban and rural areas**
- **Preparing IWRM plans and creating an institutional policy framework for IWRM**

- Support community-based institutions such as water committees and user groups through capacity building and national legislation that supports their development.  
*Case Study: Strengthening Water User Associations*  
([http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/water/case\\_studies/romania.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/case_studies/romania.pdf))
- As an interim solution, support point-of-use household water treatment and safe water storage to provide safe drinking water from unsafe and/or unimproved water sources.  
*Case Study: The Safe Water System* (<http://www.cdc.gov/safewater/>)
- Develop and implement water safety plans to ensure safe water supplies.  
*Case Study: Kampala, Uganda* (<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/watermark/WEJX7/case-study-annexes.pdf>)

### **To increase the priority of water, sanitation and hygiene issues:**

- Incorporate water, sanitation and hygiene issues into national development plans and strategies.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure coordination among ministries with a responsibility for these issues.
- Develop/strengthen institutions to manage and protect water resources.
- Enact national legislation to protect watersheds and ensure water quality.
- Commit resources.  
*Case Studies: The Upper San Pedro Partnership* (<http://www.uspppartnership.com/>)  
*The United States Safe Drinking Water Act* ([www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html))

### **To promote full cost recovery and financial self sufficiency:**

- Establish tariff systems.
- Use cross subsidies to ensure the needs of the poor are met.
- Apply utility-paid end-user efficiency improvements to lower costs to vulnerable users and reduce technical losses.
- Enact legal reforms to regularize land titles and provide tenure security.

### **To encourage public-private partnerships:**

- Implement competitive contracting.

- Develop pooled-financing mechanisms to support domestic capital mobilization.
- Establish water regulatory authorities to monitor and enforce standards, promote cost recovery and support public participation and dispute resolution.

*Case Study: Oregon Watershed Councils ( [www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB) )*

**To encourage small-scale service providers:**

- Increase technical training and capacity building.
- Improve access to credit.
- Build a supportive regulatory environment.

**To promote integrated water resources management:**

- Establish governmental mechanisms for coordination among ministries and local entities with responsibilities relating to water.
- Strengthen the capacity of, and provide budgetary support to basin organizations – both in country and among countries – for joint management of shared water resources.
- Develop inter-sectoral planning processes that engage affected stakeholders and take into account social, economic and environmental needs.

*Case Studies: The Tennessee Valley Authority Experience*

*([http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/water/case\\_studies/tva.basin.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/case_studies/tva.basin.pdf))*

*The Mississippi River Basin (<http://www.epa.gov/msbasin> )*

*The Gulf of Mexico Program (<http://www.epa.gov/gmpo> )*