



AFRICITIES SUMMIT

NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006

« Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments »

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Preamble

In view of the need to balance the needs of the local communities for development and the urgent need to halt the degradation of the environment, participants at this session came to the consensus that integration of the principles of sustainable development into local policies and programmes in order to reverse the loss of resources. It is therefore recommended that:-

To the Ministers

Central Government should:

- Place the three MDG7 targets (sustainable environment, water supply and sanitation and slums) as national priorities.
- define national strategies for each sector concerned by MDG7. These strategies, elaborate with all stakeholders concerned, constitute frameworks in which local strategies and action plans can be designed and implemented.
- Recognise the role of local authorities and take the necessary actions to effectively decentralise government functions, supported by adequate resource flows (financial and technical), from the national to the local level to support MDG 7 targets.
- Implement, through their decentralised services, an effectiveness technical support to local authorities.
- Improve governance by promoting principles already recognized by all governments: subsidiarity, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship, and security of individuals and their living environment.
- Ensure environmental management is integrated into all sectoral policies.
- Develop a strong coordination between the numerous ministers concerned by the water supply and sanitation sectors and an effectiveness leadership, to ensure sustainable policies and strategies.
- Take concrete actions to improve water governance through policies and legislation that promote effective use of existing resources and active participation of all stakeholders.
- Put in place at national level a cross subsidy mechanism based on user fees and tax payer subsidies, to ensure an access to WS&S services for disadvantaged areas (slums and peri-urban areas, small towns and rural areas)
- Recognise slums as entire parts of the cities and take them into account in cities development strategies (CDS).

To the Mayors

Local Governments should:

- Develop, according to national strategies, policies and action programmes to meet the MDG 7 targets within the framework of local budgets and development plans.
- Plan for development in advance to avoid the high cost of environmental degradation, water scarcity, and slum upgrading in many cases.
- Set intermediate targets to coincide with tenure of Local Governments.
- Generate more accurate, relevant, and disaggregated data to support the MDG 7 localisation process.
- Develop a communication strategy to disseminate city initiatives to the public.
- Build knowledge and capacity within Local Authorities to ensure the process of localizing MDG 7 is effectively used as (i) development framework for debate with all stakeholders; (ii) planning tool for preparation of comprehensive development plans and budgets; and (iii) monitoring tool to measure by Local Authorities' performance.
- Promote collaboration between the various departments dealing with issues linked to environment such as transport, housing, land, water and sanitation.
- Enhance human resources in Local Governments through the integration of community development processes into teaching programmes for professionals (planners, architects, engineers, etc) and civil servants (public administrators, etc.), and converting these programmes into training and demonstration areas for all actors involved in urban development.
- Enhance urban planning and governance in the curriculum of African universities.
- Create effective partnerships between Local Authorities, local communities, and the private sector.
- Strengthen citizen participation and community empowerment by ensuring that all partners who have a political, social, or economic role are involved in the decision-making process.
- Promote domestic, community-driven, and market-based financial solutions for slum upgrading, provision of water and sanitation services, and environmental sustainability.
- Provide adequate and affordable infrastructure and services: Many basic services, (e.g. water supply, garbage collection, infrastructure maintenance) can be provided at rates affordable to the poor through appropriate design and innovative tariff and subsidy structures.
- Enable community contracts and partnerships: Wherever feasible, local improvement projects must be open to low-income communities, co-operatives, and slum-dweller organizations as partners or contractors. This requires that contracts be conceived in sizes manageable by community-based contractors. Such arrangements will create much-needed income, improve skills, create a sense of ownership and civic pride, internalise profit margins, and improve transparency in the use of municipal resources.
- Provide access to sustainable energy services for all urban and peri-urban areas including schools, health facilities and other key community facilities. This includes incentives to use modern energy for cooking and lighting.
- Promote collaborative partnerships between international and local partners to (i) encourage technological exchange and information sharing including on best practices; (ii) improve scientific advice to decision makers; and (iii) strengthen capacity for collection and dissemination environmental information.
- Improve environmental monitoring including reporting systems, modeling and projection.
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations through reducing emissions. This will require among others the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles; improved transport infrastructure (including pedestrian and bicycle lanes); and improved public transport services.
- Reduce use of ozone-depleting substances.
- Ensure environmental impacts are included in all project and programme designs.

- Promote direct investment in environmental management including tree planting to combat deforestation, improving land management to combat desertification, treating wastewater to reduce nutrient loads in freshwater systems, curbing chemical pollution to protect human health and ecosystems and preserving critical ecosystems to protect biodiversity.
- Strengthen information and education on environmental issues for civil servants and the public.
- Improve solid waste disposal using well-designed landfills and wastewater and sewage treatment.
- Include environmental planning and management in the implementation of target 11.
- Assume their responsibilities to deliver water supply and sanitation services.
- Engage a shared process to design local water and sanitation strategies involving all stakeholders, including informal operators.
- Regularly update water and sanitation strategies through a permanent dialogue to take into account evolutions of these two sectors and the needs of users.
- Put in place at local level a cross subsidy mechanism based on user fees and tax payer subsidies, to ensure access to WS&S services for the poorest.
- Give priority to scaling up services to the urban poor who lack access to safe water and sanitation.
- Empower the urban poor to ensure equitable participation in decision-making over provision of water and sanitation services.
- Recognize slum dwellers' "Right to the City" and take actions towards land and housing rights. This includes avoiding forceful evictions, unless necessitated by irreversible environmental hazards.
- Provide suitable and affordable land situated in well-served or central locations for low-income households as adequate alternatives to new slum formation, often based on specific land-use designation for low-income housing and related purposes.
- Provide secure tenure in informal settlements using tenure, land use planning, and land administration tools that reconcile available capacities and needs.
- Enact realistic building codes and regulations that are enforceable, affordable, and reflective of community lifestyles and culture (consider minimum plot size, incremental construction, and home-based economic activities).
- Improve the condition of women in slums through the promotion of women's equal rights within the area of human settlements development, notably rights to land and housing; improved security; capacity-building for initiatives and institutions run by women; and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout all slum upgrading activities.
- Include environmental planning and management in the implementation of target 11.

To Development Partners

Development Partners should:

- Increase funding and renew donor commitment to existing mechanisms for cities.
- Be attentive to respond to the demand and needs of the population
- Promote locally-owned projects that have local sustainability component and empower Local Governments to achieve their own development goals.
- Foster collaborative partnerships – including the international community, for technological and information sharing including best practices. This may mean advising Local Authorities on how to take ownership of a localised MDG process based on the recognition that while the targets are global, they can most effectively be achieved through action at the local level.
- Double money flows to achieve the MDG target 10 which is still far from realisation.
- Develop Mechanisms that allow non-State actors to access to international funding (e.g. ACP EU Water Facility, African Water Facility, Water for African Cities). These mechanisms are defined in such a way that they have a leverage effect on local funding be it from financial market or from

the business community. This is the kind of mechanisms that need to be supported and developed if we are serious with local actions.

4 To Municipal Development Partnership

Municipal Development Partnership should:

- Design local strategies with all stakeholders are an efficient development tool that should be promote to local authorities.
- Disseminate specific tools inviting mayors to recognize the principle of working with all stakeholders, more specifically to design local strategies.
- Advise Local Authorities on how to take ownership of a localized MDG process based on the recognition that while Targets 9, 10 and 11 are global, they can most effectively be achieved through action at local level.
- Build knowledge and capacity so that Local Authorities can develop the rich potential that Targets
- Promote the mainstreaming of an environmental sustainability perspective in all policies and programmes developed and implemented by Local Authorities.
- Work with international water partners to produce and disseminate methodological and practical tools for local actors for the elaboration of municipal strategies and for water and sanitation services management
- Support government in the elaboration of national policies and strategies for the two sectors
- Support local authorities in the elaboration of municipal water and sanitation strategies

- Advocate for accelerated action in cities that show high levels of slum prevalence and backlogs in the slum related indicators.