

**"Leader's Summit on Access to Safe
Drinking Water and Sanitation:
Towards an L20?"**

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Commissioned Briefing Notes for the CIGI/CFGS L20 Project



L20



UNITED NATIONS
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Arbitrator's Draft

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We, the Heads of State and Governments of the G20 member countries, after intense deliberations, hereby

Recognize:

- (i) the role and responsibility of the international community to ensure universal access to unserved basic human needs, such as of drinking water and sanitation, food, health care, education, energy and other challenging manifestations of poverty and inequity
- (ii) the limitations of the current international architecture in converting the challenges of globalization, democratic governance, disparities and consequent conflicts into an opportunity for promoting peaceful progress on the planet, despite the good intentions of the UN and proclamations at various summits and conferences
- (iii) the comparative advantage of G20 as the core group for dealing effectively with emerging opportunities and challenges by virtue of its sizeable share of, and impact on, the global economy and polity, North-South commonality of interests on outstanding international issues, and the scope and space for forging collaborative partnership without the constraints of [wide ranging] multilateralism
- (iv) the lack of access to assured supply of safe drinking water and basic needs of sanitation, involving hundreds of millions of humans, who therefore are

afflicted by disease, debility and deprivation, with untold consequences, including heavy costs to society, to say the least

- (v) the limited progress so far in attaining the targets for safe drinking water supply included among the Millennium Development Goals and reaffirmed by the Heads of Governments and States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development together with the provision of sanitation to unserved billions of humans

Note:

- (vi) that, apart from want of will, there are no major constraints to delivering SDS compared with all other manifestations of poverty and injustice, e.g., appropriate indigenous, innovative and advanced technologies are at hand and progressively improved SDS systems can be installed as development goes forward, and embedded political and power structures are not involved or threatened [so much] in the process
- (vii) that the investment costs for SDS services are relatively reasonable, hardly equalling the annual consumption cost of pet food in order to reach the agreed upon targets and even lower cost -also in comparison with any of the other MDGs, while the benefits are enormous with ratios ranging well above six
- (viii) that redeemingly the UN Water for Life Decade is symptomatic of the emerging understanding of the global importance of SDS issue, which could be leveraged for convergent policy paradigms, international cooperation and resource mobilization, among other things
- (ix) that the largest mass of the poorest of the poor and those devoid of access to SDS are in the G20 countries; policies and action for redressing the situation are therefore not only in our own interest but would also deliver the already agreed upon WSSD targets well within reach of our comity of nations, and even more so along with our associates

- (x) that there is much less possibility for any other group to do so effectively, for the UN system at one end of the spectrum is diluted by multifarious agenda generally aimed at reaching agreements after years of negotiations and it has no agency devoted specifically to SDS, while G-8 at the other end is limited in its membership and does not have the same global legitimacy and coverage as G20 and is often qaugmired in issues of national security and the like

Endorse:

- (xi) the need for urgent and concerted action for charting a way forward to address the plight of poverty on the planet, among which none is hardly of such compelling urgency as the supply of safe drinking water and sanitation
- (xii) the highest priority given to water and sanitation under the WEHAB plan of implementation adopted at WSSD -but with up-scaled goals for complete coverage than those indicated in the MDGs and WEHAB in order not to leave this outstanding issue to a half-hearted business-as-usual targets which may otherwise remain unattained for decades to come through the course of the millennium
- (xiii) the inclusion of associate members in the G20 Leadership Forum according to their specificities vis-à-vis thematic and geographical contexts, such as regarding the requirements of SDS and water stressed regions
- (xiv) the strengthening of delivery capability of the composite group of G20 in order to concert at highest leadership levels and to act together with SDS associate members
at various levels
- (xv) the positioning of G20 -in our self-enlightened interest and for the sake of peace and prosperity on the planet- to undertake the role and responsibility of setting a model example of leadership about securing the most basic human need: water and sanitation for all, and water and sanitation for life -without mutual exclusivity of others [inter-related] issues of concern to G20

Affirm:

- (xvi) the supply of safe drinking water as a human right
- (xvii) the overarching importance of assured safe drinking water supply and sanitation for harmony between humanity, state and society
- (xviii) our shared vision for addressing the issues of lack of access to assured safe drinking water and sanitation
- (xix) MDGs in general and those related to SDS with a view to attaining them fully by or before 2015
- (xx) that none remains without safe drinking water and basic sanitation by or before 2025

Agree to:

- (xxi) institute a World Water Foundation [or Organization] (WWF) to (a) be the world centre-of-excellence for coordinated approach to safe drinking water supply and sanitation issues, (b) provide a platform for policy dialogue and partnerships among member countries, associates and allies (c) be a bridge between governments, citizens and civil society, and (d) bring about synergies among the large number of diverse and diffuse international arrangements and institutions involved with various aspects of water supply and sanitation, e.g., World Water Council, World Water Forum, World's Water, Global Water Partnership, International Office for Water, International Water and Sanitation Centre, International Water Management Institute, IWMI, WSP, WHO, FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNEP and others
- (xxii) establish a World Water Trust Fund (WWTF) managed by WWF for delivering SDS programmes and projects worldwide, involving multilateral

and bilateral donors , foundations, CSOs, the private sector and private-public partnerships

- (xxiii) prepare and put forward a World Water Strategic Framework(WWSF) with a visionary mission, mandate and goal of WWF for endorsement by ECOSOC, UNGA and other international institutions and forums, including various regional political and economic groupings
- (xxiv) formulate a World Water Action Plan (WWAP) with time bound targets for ensuring that all the humanity is served with safe drinking water and basic sanitation by or before 2025 with measurable outputs assessed and evaluated in 2010 and 2015 fully in line with or exceeding the MDGs
- (xxv) help prepare similar Special Water Action Plans on SDS (SWAPs) for various regions, such as the Middle East, Central and West Africa, South and Southeast Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus, South and Southeast Asia, and for ACP in concert with EU with special reference to SIDS, landlocked and HIP countries
- (xxvi) promote National Water Action Programmes (NWAPs) and help build and strengthen national and local capacities for their formulation, implementation, monitoring and review -with due support of WWF and involving both North-South and South –South cooperation, which G20 leadership would guide, catalyse and promote
- (xxvii) reinvigorate and refocus the World Day for Water as the World Water Day (WWD) for information sharing and dissemination, awareness and fund raising with focus on safe drinking water supply and sanitation for the forthcoming five years
- (xxviii)invite and designate 20 good-will ambassadors from all regions of the world willing to dedicate their time and energy for advocacy of SDS on their own and at events organized by the WWF and for campaigning the cause of the reinvigorated WWD

Seek:

- (xxix) Canada to continue to be pro-active in this initiative as part of the G20 consensus and authorize it to take lead in arranging (a) an annual review meeting of G20 leaders on the progress of Action Plan (WWAP), (b) the institution and hosting of the Foundation (WWF) and the Trust Fund (WWTF) [preferably at Geneva, London or New York], and (c) decentralization of WWF activities across continents with liaison units in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa

- (xxx) all the G20 members and associates [of the SDS initiative] to (a) provide an initial once-for-all contribution of 0.01 per cent of their GDP, or more, to the Trust Fund (WWTF), (b) to formulate National Action Programmes in their own countries by or before March 2006, (c) help leverage resources –human and financial, for formulating and implementing National Action Programmes in all countries, (d) promote national alliances in all countries with annual reporting to WWF in anticipation of the WWD, (e) to expand G20 outreach across governments, UN system, CSOs/NGOs and to nominate focal points at various pertinent headquarters, such as of GEF, UN and UNDP, World Bank and UNF, EU, WHO, NEPAD, AU, SAARC, APF and WWF, and (f) provide support to the initiative through their academic and research institutions and CSOs, among others

Commit:

- (xxxi) to, *inter-alia*, institute in G20 and associate countries appropriate policies and strategies to serve as role models; to legislate and/or reaffirm SDS as a human right; to create an enabling environment for motivating individuals, communities, local authorities and private sector to invest in SDS interventions; to regulate water supply utilities and sanitation societies for improved efficiency and accountability; to promote partnerships and stakeholder participation at national and local levels; to celebrate WWD with

vigour and unison throughout the country with due involvement of women, youth, media, celebrities and opinion makers; and to undertake programmes and projects for covering unserved parts and communities of our countries

(xxxii) to set an example for ourselves and others in the international arena how good global governance, committed leadership, national action and international cooperation can help speedily and effectively deliver the various MDGs and other interrelated dimensions of water resource management, all of which we consider to be important and some of which we would be willing to lead likewise but without losing focus on the process for an assured way forward on SDS, and

(xxxiii) to work with resolve in being an effective and active global forum of forums for our common endeavour to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation by or before 2025