



Intervention by Mrs.Chitra Chopra, Secretary, Agenda Item 4:Thematic Cluster for the implementation cycle 2004-2005 (policy session): Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of water and sanitation services; Global water and sanitation follow-up: in the 13th session of Commission on Sustainable Development on April 13, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

We associate ourselves with the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of G-77 and also complement the panelists for focusing on basic issues, which are crucial and central to monitoring and evaluation to expedite implementation of policy options and decisions in the area of water and sanitation. We also join the earlier speakers in underlying the importance of various initiatives, in the water sector, which are indeed vital to human existence the world over. The issues of monitoring and evaluation need to be viewed from the perspective of countries' national planning and priorities and competing claims within the overarching agenda of social, economic and human development. India with a billion plus population, of which nearly 28% live in the urban areas lays strong emphasis on Governance, particularly, strengthening of urban local bodies and decentralized planning with the elected local bodies forming the third tier of Government.

Right to information enacted in some states is emerging as a powerful medium of monitoring and involvement of civil society in development efforts and programmes of the Government. Need to strengthen capacity of local and municipal level structure would require the support of CSD in our national efforts in these directions, so that the developing countries move steadily and surely towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Monitoring is essentially a National responsibility and should remain so. I may mention here that in India, data at the household level for access to water supply, sanitation and shelter is part of national census. India also has a robust system for monitoring surface and ground water which is being further improved under World Bank funding. With regard to integrated water resources management it is for each country to decide on its approach to IWRM depending upon national circumstances.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we wish to reiterate that CSD remains in the only high-level intergovernmental body within the UN system for sustainable development with the role of reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI. We do not support setting up of new and parallel mechanisms for monitoring and reporting. In fact, the efforts should rather be to strengthen the existing systems and regimes by building capacities within each country.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman

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