



EUWI MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM

Thursday 20th of August 2009, Stockholm

Minutes

1. Welcome

Maria Vink, Secretariat of the EUWI at the European Commission, welcomed all the participants to annual the EUWI Multistakeholder Forum (MSF).

2. Opening words

Antonio Garcia Fragio, EC, opened the meeting and expressed his appreciation of the large number of participants (about 80 people) attending; representing partners from the regions in Africa, EECCA, Mediterranean and Latin America as well as EU member states, NGO's and non-EU countries. He especially welcomed the representative of the EU presidency (Sweden) Mia Horn af Rantzien.

He reminded participants of the objectives of the EUWI i.e.: i) Reinforcement of political commitment to action and innovation oriented partnership; ii) Promotion of improved water governance, capacity building and awareness; iii) Improved efficiency and effectiveness of water management through multistakeholder dialogue and coordination; iv) Strengthened cooperation through promoting river basin approaches in national and trans-boundary waters; and v) Identification of additional financial resources and mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing.

Referring to the EUWI Annual Report it was noted that significant results had been achieved by the working groups during the last year, and also that aid to water sector from EU has doubled since the start of the EUWI in 2002 with a gradually increasing pro-poor focus. Garcia Fragio also informed that the European Commission has decided to boost the funding of the EU-ACP Water Facility (WFac) with €200 million, in addition to the previous phase of €500 million. He also noted that, for the first time at the Stockholm World Water Week, there is a EUWI exhibition stand, with new information material available, and that the website (www.euwi.net) has been upgraded.

García Fragio further stated that in view of the current situation of economic crisis and climate change challenges, it is only if all concerned actors work together that we will achieve economically and environmentally sustainable development. The EUWI needs to reinforce this collaboration, which will in turn influence the different agendas and mobilise additional funds.

Anders Berntell, SIWI, noted the remarkable change since the launch of the EUWI in 2002, at a time when the European Union had difficulties in reaching out to stakeholders. Discussions are now being held between EU and the regions and there is wide involvement during this week. The multistakeholder forums are instrumental in making this happen. However, it is time to broaden our collaboration and try to find linkage between the water and climate change. All other sectors are dependant of water and we need to join forces and convey this message.

3. Main Results and Activities of the EUWI

○ Highlights by Regional stakeholders on EUWI outcomes

1. *Mr Gaglik Khachatryan* (Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of Water System from the Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration, Armenia)

Mr. Khachatryan described the experiences of the National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management, supported by EUWI EECCA and led by UNECE, and gave examples of the Armenian approach to set *targets for sustainable water management in the Marmarik basin*.

2. *Mr Bai Mass Taal* (Executive Secretary of AMCOW)

Mr. Taal recalled that EUWI was launched at a time when AMCOW (Africa Ministerial Council of Water) was created and that the two initiatives have the same objectives. Mr. Taal also stated that the EUWI AWG is a unique framework for collaboration with Africa to meet the common objectives and that the AWG brings the facilitated dialogue closer and helps AMCOW to achieve its objectives expressed in the "Vision for Africa for 2025". A successful meeting was held in Abuja this year and it was followed by a meeting in Stockholm early this week. In November, during the Africa Water Week, the AWG will continue its talks to finalise the new work plan. Furthermore, Mr. Taal welcomed the process to increase the transparency and flexibility in the leadership of the EC and the EUWI. He thanked the EC for supporting the AMCOW secretariat, but also stated that, unfortunately, this support is not living up to expectations. He pleaded that in order to help Africa, the partners of EUWI need to increase the support to AMCOW, so that they can fulfil their mandate.

3. *Professor Edward Kairu* (ANEW)

Prof. Kairu from the Africa Civil Society Network on Water & Sanitation (ANEW) commented that, "the EUWI grant has allowed ANEW to bring together hundreds of representatives from African civil society to discuss critical water and sanitation issues". ANEW was formed in 2004 when there were limited opportunities for civil society organizations (CSO) to work together. It now has sub-regional platforms and it is working with national networks on water and sanitation in Kenya, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda. Mr. Kairu also mentioned that ANEW has signed a MoU with AMCOW and is active within the EUWI AWG and the Finance WG. He added that ANEW look forward to continue collaborating with EUWI to manage the high demand from civil society to deal with the challenges ahead.

○ Highlights by the leads of the components

1. *Africa Working Group (AWG)*

Mr. Robert Burtscher from Austria, co-chair of AWG 2009, mentioned that:

- ✳ The " Mapping of EU Aid to Africa in the water and sanitation sector " study is finished, and is showing that 60% of EU (member countries and EC) aid goes to Africa, and of this 30% goes to sanitation and hygiene. There is a need to find ways to strengthen support to the countries lagging behind on the MDG's, and the study will give input to this discussion.
- ✳ AWG has actively contributed to adding an OECD-DAC code, which will allow for easier monitoring of the ODA to the sanitation sector
- ✳ AWG contributed during the International Year of sanitation to the Sharm El Sheik declaration, and
- ✳ AWG is now developing a revised strategy and work plan with AMCOW to respond more closely to the needs and priorities of African institutions.

2. EECCA region

Ms. Ana Drapa from Romania gave highlights of the work in the EECCA region. The focus is the national policy dialogues which has resulted in the National Policy Documents (NPD), influencing the policy making process in a number of countries. Among the lessons learned are:

- ✳ National commitment and ownership is key
- ✳ Need to link/integrate dialogue into existing processes
- ✳ Need to focus on policy issues not technical problems
- ✳ Use existing policy documents and analysis as starting point
- ✳ Policy processes require time and evolve over time
- ✳ The importance of an analytical base: methodology must be credible, with robust data, and useful to parties involved
- ✳ Donors can help facilitate dialogue and provide incentives but should not undermine "ownership: i.e. supporting analysis, capacity development and aligning their aid with strategic financial plans.

3. Mediterranean region.

Mr. Michael Scoullas from Greece highlighted that the EUWI work in the Mediterranean region had focused on:

- ✳ Policy dialogues, taking place in Egypt, Lebanon and Libya and is launched in Palestine/Syria, and in several transboundary basins
- ✳ Preparation of the IWRM Status Assessments in the 10 MEDA countries
- ✳ Organisation of the Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Water Directors (Athens) and preparation of the "Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water" (Jordan)
- ✳ Climate change adaptation with contributions in the form of position papers, organization of a side event at the CSD16 and preparation of a thematic papers for the Ministerial Conference in June 2008.

3. Research group

Anne Blenkinsopp from DFID gave a presentation on EUWI Research group (Eranet-SPLASH) project. The objectives are:

- ✳ Improve coordination of water research for development between European countries, to reduce duplication enhance progress to MDG
- ✳ Understand and synthesize effective research management
- ✳ Speed up transfer of results into practice
- ✳ Agree on research agenda

The highlights of the Research group in 2008-2009 were:

- ✳ Fact sheets were produced and evening events were held.

- ☀ The development of a series of joint activities on:
 - I. training support to the Africa Groundwater Network
 - II. research coordination between ongoing programmes in Ethiopia
 - III. jointly financed call for proposals on sanitation, to be launched in March 2010
 - IV. open access training materials on research management
 - V. a tool to support impact evaluation of research

4. Finance Working Group (FWG)

Johan Holmberg, chairing the FWG highlighted that:

- ☀ The FWG is promoting the financing tool FEASIBLE, it was tested in Lesotho with good result.
- ☀ The plan to start FEASIBLE in another country had been delayed due to changes in the countries that were in the plan (Mauretania, Burkina Faso, Niger), and the subsequent need to revise the contract with the EC.
- ☀ The FWG started a session on training for water finance focusing on engineers and water utilities. Trainings were held in Georgia and in Latin America and there is a demand from other countries.
- ☀ Furthermore, the FWG has the ambition to strengthen the dialogue with AMCOW, and presentations will be made at the Africa Water.

Further information about the activities can be found in the EUWI Annual Report, available at www.euwi.net.

4. EUWI Round Table Discussions on Future Priorities

Maria Vink introduced the session on future priorities, by explaining that the issues for discussion had been identified by the EUWI Coordination Group (the advisory group with representation from the EUWI working groups) as issues which needed further attention, within the EUWI framework. The discussion in the multi stakeholder forum gives input to the working groups in their future planning and helps to harmonise the views among stakeholders.

Discussions on the future work of EUWI regarding issues of priority took place around 8 round tables, where each participant were able to take part in discussions on two topics. The conclusions from these discussions were:

	How could EUWI contribute to:
1	- improvement of aid effectiveness in the water sector? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect and show factual data, analyse what doesn't work and what does work. ▪ Lobby at political level (on EU side and on the partner side) for implementing the agreed declarations (Paris, Accra) ▪ Promote best practices (such as joint sector reviews, SWAps, GBS) and hold each other accountable to these commitments. ▪ Promote strategic financial planning that includes transfers, taxes and tariffs, to promote analysing sustainability. ▪ EUWI can make the case for weak states when no one else does.
2	- getting water and sanitation higher on the political agenda and sustain interest? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn and benefit from what has been done in other sectors (environment, climate change, health)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to analyse what the costs are of non investment in water, and the benefits of investments Emphasize water as a human right Extend linkages to other stakeholders, in particular to ministries of Finance and local authorities. Push African governments to fulfil their commitments and declarations, e.g. the 0,5% target value for investments in sanitation and hygiene
3	<p>- more effectively link water to other sectors, i.e. health, education and agriculture?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the positive impacts of better water management to other sectors Help ensure better coordination among different sector actors and convince Ministries of Finance to lead inter-sectorial dialogue at the national level Foster donor coordination and use field delegations to engage with governments EUWI has no money but powerful actors and ability to catalyse resources for better analysis of issues to inform decisions (i.e. costs of inaction, cost effectiveness, MDGs, IWRM etc)
4	<p>- climate change adaptation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore available EU funding for climate change issues Mobilise for EUWI to strengthening the climate dimension in its capacity development work Recommend for the EU Water Facility to “climate-proof” all new proposals Address short messages/ extracted lessons learned to the upcoming Copenhagen Conference Make use of the dialogue meetings in September and use coordination through the council/ presidency to identify how to best to insert water issues into draft statements Emphasize the importance of Governance in implementing IWRM to respond to climate change in partner countries
5	<p>- stimulate transboundary cooperation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, EUWI should contribute Disseminate lessons learnt from previous work done in basins in Africa (funded by the EUWI) and EECCA Stimulate use of existing legal instruments e.g. through ratification Support mediation where transboundary cooperation is difficult Develop a mechanism for exchange visits Advocate for transboundary water issues to become part of National Water plans
6	<p>- better link research and policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for regular ongoing dialogue platforms between researchers & policy makers at appropriate levels. Advocate for research proposals must incorporate communication strategies tailored to policy makers Influence to change publication incentives for researchers into more widely read publications EUWI should be a platform where policy makers & stakeholders will jointly formulate research questions
7	<p>- increase accessibility of information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create mechanisms for defining message & targets and choose best way of delivery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exchange between the different EUWI components on their respective communications strategies ▪ Make EUWI better known within EU member states and partner regions e.g. through the European development days ▪ Use of EUWI website, fed by different WG's & embed links to information systems like e.g. World Bank, etc.
8	<p>- increase involvement of stakeholders?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make more use of the networks that are already represented e.g. through CSO representatives and private sector for two-way feedback on relevant work ▪ Improve the balance between Europe and the regions to promote ownership, and the links regions <--> working group on finance and research ▪ Provide more clarity on what benefits participating in the EUWI will bring

5. Conclusions & Wrap-up by EU presidency

Ms. Mia Horn af Rantzien, Deputy Director General at Sida, representing the Swedish Presidency, concluded the meeting. She mentioned that among the main priorities of the Swedish Presidency and for the Swedish development cooperation are: climate change, democracy and human rights, gender equality and aid effectiveness. There is also a focus on improving coherence of EU policies.

She emphasized the need for a stronger link between the climate change and water agendas and that EUWI has an important role to play in raising awareness around these issues.

She concluded that the meeting had been well conducted and very productive in a limited time, and thanked the organizers and participants for their work.