



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ACTION DECADE

These web pages contain the background to the International Decade for Action *Water for Life* and the international agreements that preceded it.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/217 proclaiming the International Decade for Action (<http://www.un.dk/doc/A.58.0217.PDF>).

Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. Target 10 is the drinking water and sanitation target (<http://www.developmentgoals.org/Environment.htm>).

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Chapter 4, paragraphs 24 and 25 deal with the MDG drinking water and sanitation target and with integrated water resources management (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIChapter4.htm).

UN/Water Development Report: water for people, water for life. Executive summary (March 2003). Challenge 1 deals with the drinking water and sanitation sector (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/WWDR-english-129556e.pdf>).

UNDESA Briefing document on fresh water.

Provides links to many earlier international agreements (including Chapter 18 of Agenda 21) (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/water.htm>).

Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002

(http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/2309_planfinal.htm).

Sanitation Connection: an Environmental Sanitation Network (SANICON) (<http://www.sanicon.net>).

MDG TASK FORCE ON WATER AND SANITATION – RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The final report of the **MDG Task Force on Water and Sanitation, Health, dignity and development: what will it take?** (http://unmp.forumone.com/eng_task_force/WaterEbook.pdf) makes the following recommendations for action:

Action 1: Governments and other stakeholders must move the sanitation crisis to the top of the agenda.

Action 2: Countries must ensure that policies and institutions for water supply and sanitation service delivery, as well as for water resources management and development, respond equally to the different roles, needs, and priorities of women and men.

Action 3: Governments and donor agencies must simultaneously pursue investment and reforms.

Action 4: Efforts to reach the water and sanitation target must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone.

Action 5: Governments and donor agencies must empower local authorities and communities with the authority, resources, and professional capacity required to manage water supply and sanitation service delivery.

Action 6: Governments and utilities must ensure that users who can pay do pay in order to fund the operation, maintenance, and expansion of services—but they must also ensure that the needs of poor households are met.

Action 7: Within the context of national poverty reduction strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals, countries must elaborate coherent water resources development and management plans that will facilitate the achievement of the goals.

Action 8: Governments and their civil society and private sector partners must support a wide range of water and sanitation technologies and service levels that are technically, socially, environmentally, and financially appropriate.

Action 9: Institutional, financial, and technological innovation must be promoted in strategic areas.

Action 10: The United Nations system organizations and their member states must ensure that the United Nations system and its international partners provide strong and effective support for the achievement of the water supply and sanitation target and for water resources management and development.