

**Statement for the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting, 23. April 2010
Germany (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ)**

Introduction: Water and Sanitation in German Development Cooperation

- Germany is traditionally strongly engaged in the water and sanitation sector. Since long, Germany ranks among the three largest bilateral donors, and the largest bilateral donor in Africa.
- An estimated 80 million people benefit from ongoing activities in the water sector.
- Germany has considerably increased its commitments for Low Income Countries. Support to Sub-Sahara-Africa doubled from 2008 to 2010. Germany's total WASH Aid commitments more than doubled between 2005 (283 Mio. USD) to 2009 (906 Mio. USD).
- BMZ's Water Sector Strategy adopts Integrated Water Resources Management principles and focuses on reaching the MDGs, highlighting pro-poor approaches and a stronger focus on sanitation.
- As an early champion of the International Year of Sanitation, BMZ took advantage of the IYS to analyse its activities and strengthen support, particularly for basic sanitation. It hosts the Secretariat of the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA). Approximately 40% of German ODA to the water sector is spent on sanitation.
- Germany promotes the recognition of access to water and sanitation as a human right. Together with Spain, Germany leads an initiative in the UN Human rights council, and has adopted a human-rights based approach to development cooperation.
- Germany plays a leading role in promoting water for peace through its support to transboundary cooperation, institutions and initiatives such as the Petersberg and Berlin processes, particularly in Africa, Central Asia and South-East Europe,
- Germany participates in political dialogue on water and sanitation in the G8, the EU and with regional partners such as the AU Commission and AMCOW. BMZ also supports a broad range of international institutions such as GWP, JMP UNW-DPC and WIN., as well as the Stockholm World Water Week and UNSGAB.

Special focus Africa:

- BMZ's Africa Strategy prioritizes water and sanitation as one of three key sectors and commits to provide at least 30 million people in Sub-Sahara Africa with sustainable access to water and/or sanitation until 2015.
- Germany advocates for close alignment with African priorities in multilateral initiatives and focuses its bilateral cooperation on support towards the implementation of the Sharm el Sheik declaration, which marked an important milestone for achieving water security in Africa.
- Germany is a major supporter of the "Strengthening of the Africa-G8 Partnership on Water and Sanitation" agreed by African and G8 Heads of States at the G8 L'Aquila summit. Germany announced at the African Water Week 2009 two specific contributions to strengthen the partnership:
 - Germany will – together with the EC – extend its support to the African Union Commission and AMCOW in the development of implementation strategies to translate commitments into action, and
 - has agreed to take up the role as "Champion for Water" in the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) with a view to raise the profile of water for increased investments in water infrastructure for economic growth and protection of water resources.

- Germany recognizes the particular challenges in Sub-Sahara Africa and therefore BMZ planning foresees a doubling of resources between 2008 and 2010.

Pro-poor focus:

- BMZ's Water Sector Strategy states that "the key target group for German development cooperation in the water sector is the poor and extremely poor population, which currently has little or no access to safe and/or adequate drinking water, sanitation and/or water for farming, and the most vulnerable, such as slum dwellers and children. The urban slums and rural regions are especially important in this context." This is underlined by the commitment to provide at least 30 million people in Sub-Sahara Africa with sustainable access to water and/or sanitation until 2015. This focus on the poor and vulnerable is based on the human-rights based approach.
- The degradation of natural resources most severely hits the poor. They have the least capacity to choose alternatives or adapt to changes. Therefore, sustainable water resources management makes important contributions to a pro-poor approach as well as the sustainability of water supply as a whole , e.g. under conditions of scarcity such as in the middle east, or to prevent the pollution of rivers, out of which poor people may drink.

Evidence-based decision-making:

- Germany appreciates the GLAAS review as an important new mechanism for transparency, and will continue to take part in the surveys. Global monitoring of the MDGs is measuring trends at global level, and we welcome the plans to reform this monitoring so that it better reflects the reality on the ground. Germany intends to continue its support to the JMP Programme.
- National data are the most important cornerstone for evidence-based decision-making, for achieving progress on the ground, and as a basis for global monitoring to support global policy dialogue. Therefore German Development Cooperation supports and uses national monitoring systems in many partners countries. Germany together with JMP led the development of principles and recommendations on this issue agreed by many stakeholders at World Water Week 2009.

Country Level Cooperation: National planning and implementation processes

- German Development Cooperation at country-level supports the development of sustainable water and sanitation systems, including plans, strategies and programs. German DC has been a major contributor to the development of the water and sanitation sector in many partner countries and supports national governments to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor the delivery of water and sanitation services.
- While plans and sector programs are an essential basis, the major challenges to progress on the ground lie in their implementation. Recognizing these challenges German Development Cooperation uses a multi-level approach of support that extends from government ministries in charge of water and sanitation over support for utilities and regulators to implementation support at communal and district level where – particularly in the context of decentralization – major implementation challenges lie and where services are ultimately delivered.

- The German-Kenyan water sector reform programme exemplifies this pro-poor and multi-governance level approach: German Development Cooperation advises the Ministry for Water and Irrigation (MWI) on national policies, e.g. a Sector Investment Plan and a Water Sector Strategic Plan. It supports the new regulatory authority at national level to formalize service provision in towns and communities. Germany assists the operationalisation of this approach, e.g. in licensing, standards and guidelines, tariff adjustments, good corporate governance, or information system with reporting to the public. Germany's focus on pro-poor policies and the linkages between national and utility/municipality level also includes support to the up-scaling of water supply and sanitation for the urban poor through financial support for the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF), which is implementing water and sanitation investments for the urban poor, and the "Urban Project Concept", a national implementation concept setting national standards to reach the urban poor with low cost technology.

German contributions are fully aligned with existing national processes as Germany recognizes ownership as the fundamental condition for any long-lasting success.

Sanitation and Water for All – A Global Framework for Action:

- BMZ welcomes the Sanitation and Water for All Initiative and fully supports its objectives.¹ We are willing to contribute to make Sanitation and Water for All a useful platform for a strategic dialogue on water and sanitation issues among decision-makers.. SWA is a chance to contribute to much needed additional momentum towards the achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs, particularly in the most off-track countries where no functioning sector dialogue mechanisms are in place.
- BMZ has helped to shape the initiative through participation in consultation meetings as well as the working groups on Aid Effectiveness and Country Processes.
- BMZ has put particular emphasis on ensuring that SWA strengthens – and not weakens nor duplicates – existing regional and country-level processes and instruments. Sanitation and Water for all must be demand-driven, reinforce national ownership and country-level processes. It should not create an extra burden for our partner countries. This will remain a priority for us in the next phases of SWA development.
- This position is guided by the Accra and Paris Agenda emphasis on effective country-level ownership and in-country coordination as well as the donor commitments in the Accra Agenda for Action that "donors will ensure that existing channels for aid delivery are used and, if necessary, strengthened instead of creating new channels that risk further fragmentation and complicate coordination at country level. In this way, SWA would provide an additional value for our partner countries.

• ¹ BMZ participates in the discussion on the *Draft Guiding Principles* . As there is no final draft yet we cannot yet endorse them.