

Written statement by the UK for the sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting, April 23rd 2010

Key Outcomes:

A. Political prioritisation:

1. Plans to attend future High Level Meetings

DFID plans to attend future High Level Meetings.

2. Plans to join Sanitation and Water for All and agree to the Guiding Principles

The UK (with the Dutch) is a founder of the Sanitation and Water for All initiative and have promoted it with other stakeholders throughout. We support the SWA draft Guiding Principles and urge the Interim Core Group of SWA to work towards their finalization and adoption.

3. Specific increase in budget allocations to LDCs and OLCs (%)

We recognize the need to target resources to where they are most needed. DFID's bilateral aid, both overall and in water and sanitation, is already well targeted to the poorest countries. 81% of UK's aid for water and sanitation goes to LICs (2006-2008). There is limited scope to further increase this, as the remainder of our aid not directly allocated to low-income countries is allocated to wider regional initiatives, which include and benefit these countries.

Between 2004 and 2007, we doubled our aid in water and sanitation to sub-Saharan Africa – the region which contains the most low-income countries. We made a policy commitment to double this again to £200m per year by 2010. We are on target for meeting this commitment.

We see the Sanitation and Water for All initiative as a vehicle for improving the targeting of aid to the poorest countries, by helping those countries develop good plans and by encouraging donors to respond.

4. Specific increase in budget allocations for basic sanitation and water (%)

68% of UK's aid goes for basic services (2006 – 2008). And 95% of our commitments in 2008 were for basic services. Given how high the proportion of our aid to water and sanitation already goes for basic services, we do not see much scope for improving on this, as it would be at the expense of our spending on water resources management, which is also an increasingly important development issue.

5. Commitment to serve a specific number of people per year

DFID is on track to meet its key commitments to help up to **25 million more people** to gain access to safe water and basic sanitation **in Africa** over five years; and to support at least **30 million people in South Asia** to get improved access to sanitation by 2011.

6. **Improvement of global donor alignment and harmonisation**

DFID has been a strong promoter of improved alignment and harmonisation of international aid. We have also made a lot of progress in implementing international commitments on aid effectiveness made at Paris (2005) and Accra (2009).

We see the Sanitation and Water for All initiative as the mechanism through which global aid to the water and sanitation sector could be better aligned behind government policies and programmes.

B. Evidence-based decision-making:

1. Plans to respond to future GLAAS surveys

DFID has supported UN-Water / WHO to produce the first GLAAS report. And we have supported the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) to produce the Country Status Overviews that provided important data and analysis for the first GLAAS report.

DFID has provided data for both the pilot and the first GLAAS surveys and intends to do so in the future.

2. Use of coverage data (ie JMP) in allocation decisions to ensure targeting the unserved

DFID will use JMP data as one of a number of sources informing us of the challenges facing the poorest countries in meeting the MDGs and the type of support they may need.

C. National planning processes

1. Technical assistance (TA) support for the creation or strengthening of strong actionable national plans and planning frameworks

At the announcement of the Global Framework for Action (now Sanitation and Water for All) on 24 September 2008 at the United Nations in New York, UK and the Netherlands jointly committed £5 million (6 million Euros) over five years towards producing a global annual report and organising a high level meeting focused on reviewing progress. DFID has supported UN-Water / WHO to produce the first GLAAS report and have supported UNICEF to convene and organise the first high-level meeting in Washington on 23 April.

2. Funding for a virtual or pooled fund to support the development of actionable plans in the most off-track countries which are receiving inadequate aid

A further joint Dutch-UK commitment was made of £85 million (100 million Euros) over the same period to help up to 20 poor countries develop and implement their own national water and sanitation plans.

3. Alignment with national processes

See response to A6.