



Thematic Consultation on Water

Post-2015 Development Agenda Consultation on Water: Water Resources Management and Wastewater Management & Water Quality

27-28 February 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Information Note

I. Background

Following the Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, the United Nations started an open consultation process to identify priorities from citizens around the world for the post-2015 development agenda, as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reach their target date in 2015.

The global consultation process is organized around 11 thematic areas. Water was chosen as one of the thematic areas. Given the importance of water, especially due to the fact that water underpins most of the other MDGs and any future goals, it is critical that there is an insightful and informative debate on the role of water in the post-2015 development agenda.

The Thematic Consultation on Water, led by UN-Water, UNICEF and UN-DESA with the support of the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland, began through the website <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/water> in November 2012. Through a post/response system, people worldwide participate in a discussion on the post-2015 agenda on water-specific issues. Starting on 14 January 2013, sub-consultations will start on the three “streams” under the water theme, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Wastewater Management & Water Quality and Water Resources Management. Under each “stream”, weekly discussions will focus on specific areas related to water. These discussions will be synthesized into recommendations for how to move forward in the post-2015 development agenda.

II. Objectives

The objective for the meeting *Post-2015 Development Agenda Consultation on Water: Water Resources Management and Wastewater Management & Water Quality* is to allow for more profound technical and political debate and synthesize the discussions of two of the three streams of the water consultation: Water Resources Management and Wastewater Management & Water Quality, facilitated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and UN-Habitat/Aquafed, respectively.

The meeting will facilitate the development of a short document that reflects the discussions that have taken place both online and during this meeting and, possibly, highlights potential targets and indicators for a potential future water goal and the reasoning/arguments behind them, thereby providing a basis, both technically sound and politically strong, for the future negotiations in the Open Working Group as well as an input for the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

III. Organization of work

The consultation meeting will include high-level plenary discussions to reflect on the consultation process and frame the issues related to the two streams, including sub-themes. This will be followed by a series of parallel working group meetings to go into depth in these areas. A concluding plenary discussion will address the prioritization of potential targets and indicators for a potential future water goal to be

considered as recommendations for the final outcome of the Water Resources Management and Wastewater Management & Water Quality streams.

IV. Participation

The meeting will be attended by government-nominated delegates from over 60 countries as well as representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

It is expected that delegates will be governmental representatives at the director level or higher. Due to space limitations, it is recommended that each government/organization send only one representative to the meeting.

V. Practical Information

The meeting will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will start at 10.00 on Wednesday, 27 February 2013 and end at 18:00 p.m. on Thursday, 28 February 2013. The working language will be English.

Participants from countries with economies in transition / developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting as the Swiss Government has made available funds for this purpose. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (water.consultation@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than 21 January 2013. No application for financial support will be accepted after this deadline.

Participants requiring entry visas should inform the secretariat as soon as possible. The minimum amount of time needed for obtaining a visa is 15 working days since Switzerland is part of the Schengen zone since 2009. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least three weeks before the meeting.

In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form available online at http://www.unece.org/post_2015_water_consultation_meeting.html and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 4 February 2013 either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0107) or e-mail (water.consultation@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, participants should bring identification and a copy of their registration form to obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix ([see map](#)). Please allow time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1911.

Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>. Participants are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements.

Further information, the registration form and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: http://www.unece.org/post_2015_water_consultation_meeting.html

VI. Contact Information

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