

POPULATION, BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENT NEED MORE AMBITIOUS WATER AND SANITATION POLICIES

AquaFed, the International Federation of Private Water Operators, has reviewed the progress made on meeting the UN CSD13¹ decisions on water and sanitation². Greater efforts need to be made.

The urgency to accelerate projects to deliver drinking water and sanitation to people is greater now than three years ago. It is more urgent that action is taken now than it was three years ago. New challenges have emerged that make people's access to drinking water and sanitation more difficult to prioritize in political agendas. These challenges must not divert governments from their duty to provide satisfactory access to drinking water/sanitation to their population. Access to water and sanitation is key to peoples' health, dignity, education, to the protection of the environment and to economic development

It is urgent to extend drinking water and sanitation networks in all urbanized areas in order to turn the human right to water into a reality for all (at an affordable price).

In rural areas, efforts must be stepped up to develop access to water and cut down the distances that people, often women or girls, have to carry water every day.

The number of drinking water and sanitation projects worldwide is totally insufficient to meet the needs. A renewed effort is needed urgently.

People expect a better level of access to water than is currently called for through the water MDG. People expect a better level of access to water than is currently measured to monitor the water MDG. They dream of not having to queue to fetch water and of not having to carry water home every day. In developed countries almost everybody has piped water at home and accepts it as an essential service. But in developing countries **more than 1 out of every 2 families (3 billion people) do not have tapwater at home or even nearby.** Water sources are often far away, forcing people to suffer the daily burden of fetching all the water they need.

More ambitious goals and Integrated Sanitation Management (ISM) are necessary to master all sanitation needs. It is urgent to develop more sanitation projects with more ambitious targets. People need their solid and liquid waste to be removed from their homes. They also need to be protected from contamination by neighbours. Their waste waters need to be collected. In many parts of the world, pollution needs to be removed from these waste waters to protect the environment and the people living downstream. The International Year of Sanitation should be about more than "just toilets". More must be done.

To deliver more projects will need to mobilise all expertise available. This includes the contribution that private sector operators make.

AquaFed is the International Federation of Private Water Operators. Open to companies and associations of companies of all sizes and from all countries, it aims to contribute to solving water challenges by making Private Sector know-how and experience available to the international community. It brings together more than 250 water companies that serve hundreds of millions of people in 38 countries.

For more details, see attachment.

Press Contact:

Thomas van Waeyenberge | +32 479 23 78 26 | thomas@aquafed.org

www.aquafed.org

¹ Decisions by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005.

² 2005-2008, *Progress on CSD13 decisions on water and sanitation, perception of private operators*, AquaFed, http://www.aquafed.org/pdf/AquaFed_Contribution_to_UNDESA_report_toCSD16_Pc_2007-09-21.pdf