

16th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Review of water and sanitation decisions made by CSD13
New York, 15 May 2008

Interactive Discussion with Major Groups

Statement by MAJOR GROUP “Business and Industry”

STATEMENT BY Mr. Gerard PAYEN, President of AquaFed, on behalf of the Business and Industry Major Group.

Check against delivery

Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to express our gratitude for the increased opportunities that have been given to Major Groups to engage during this 16th session of CSD.

As the past two weeks have revealed, there are many areas which require immediate and effective action to address sustainable development. The business and industry sector believes there are several key policy points which would provide a framework for action:

1. **Encourage and invest in research and the dissemination of technologies and techniques for sustainable agriculture and water management:** in particular, in the context of climate change, technologies such as drought, heat and salinity resistant crops need to be developed and made accessible.
2. **Increase stewardship training in agricultural best practices at the local level:** stewardship must be seen as a cornerstone for sustainable agriculture as it is the primary mean of encouraging integrated approaches to crop management
3. **Deliver extension and agronomy programming at a local level to ensure productivity increases are sustainable:** the benefits of investment in research and innovation can only be realized if these can be adequately disseminated. Farmers should also be rewarded for the implementation of sustainable practices.
4. **Establish secure land tenure as promoted by UN-Habitat in the previous discussion, and in particular recognize women farmers as land owners as commented by the distinguished representative of India:** women play a key role across sectors and at all level of society and their contribution must be recognized and valued.
5. **Foster public-private partnerships to implement locally national water and sanitation policies:** Local Authorities must be enabled through national frameworks to choose the best available options on a case-by-case basis.
6. **Target all sanitation needs** – not only toilets but also wastewater management and pollution removal - in an integrated manner. **Integrated Sanitation Management** is necessary to master all sanitation challenges and to protect the environment as well as the population.

We would also like to take this opportunity to note that addressing the current situation regarding food must be done in a manner which meets immediate needs while supporting and fostering long-term solutions. If short-term aid programs circumvent local farmers, ag-retailers, grain handlers, and extension programs, it will undermine the infrastructure and investment they provide. Farmers and agri-businesses are the engines that will allow productivity to increase. Please make them part of the solution and problem-solving. I assure you we are all eager to help.

Distinguished Delegates, let's work together to solve the food and water challenges.