

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE
UN ENVIRONNEMENT POUR L'EUROPE
ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ
ДОВКІЛЛЯ ДЛЯ ЄВРОПИ
Kyiv, 21-23 May 2003



FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

KIEV, UKRAINE
21-23 May 2003

DECLARATION

by the Ministers of Environment of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXTRACT

J. Water for sustainable development

50. We are committed to the goals of the WSSD on water, in particular to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, and to develop Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans by 2005. We welcome the recent decision of the UNCSD to have water, sanitation and human settlements as a priority thematic cluster for 2004-2005, and to invite the UN regional commissions and other regional groups to focus on these issues.

51. We welcome water-related initiatives and partnership from all donors and the support they will provide to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, including: the “Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development” launched at the WSSD by the EU and the twelve countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, aiming at urban water supply and sanitation including work on innovative financing mechanisms for water infrastructure and water resources management, including transboundary river basin and regional seas issues among countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia; the US Water for the Poor initiative launched at WSSD, focusing on increasing access to clean water and sanitation services, improving watershed management, and increasing the productivity of water; the US initiatives on:

- Central Asian transboundary water planning for water management,
- Caucasian data for integrated water management, and
- The Infrastructure Development Facility.

We further welcome the Statement on the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development – East European, Caucasian and Central Asian Component of the EU Water Initiative. We invite other countries in the region and other interested parties to consider joining these important initiatives so that a critical mass of resources can be mobilized to achieve their goals. We look forward to the multi-stakeholder conference that will be organized in 2005 within the framework of the EAP Task Force to promote the implementation of the 2000 Almaty Ministerial Conference on Urban Water Sector Reform.

52. We welcome the initiatives and intentions of the countries of South-East Europe and the Mediterranean to promote peaceful and productive cooperation for introduction of integrated water resource management approaches for transboundary waters. In this context, we note the outcomes of the International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”, organized by Greece and the World Bank, in May 2003, as a building block of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative.