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INTERNATIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION CONSULTATION

The Hague, The Netherlands — 2 to 4 November 1988

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Organization

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Cooperation

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the outcome of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Consultation held in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 2-4 November 1988. Co-sponsored by the Dutch Directorate General of International Cooperation (DGIS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Consultation was organized by the IRC Water and Sanitation Centre. It was attended by 54 participants and 12 observers, between them representing 40 external support agencies and including two representatives of developing country agencies. A full list of participants and observers is included as Annex 1 to the report. Mr Hugo Scheltema, chairman of IRC, was appointed Chairman of the Consultation.

The Hague Consultation was the fourth international consultation among support agencies active in the water supply and sanitation sector, following meetings in Königswinter, Federal Republic of Germany, in October 1984, Paris, France, in May 1985, and Interlaken, Switzerland, in October 1987. There have also been three regional consultations: one for Asia in Manila, Philippines, in October 1985; one for Africa in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in November 1985; and one for the Americas in Washington D.C., USA, in April 1986.

The Interlaken Consultation endorsed the concept of a "Framework for Global Cooperation Beyond the Decade"* and proposed that a Collaborative Council be established before the end of 1988 "to coordinate accelerated and expanded sector activities through to the year 2000." The UNDP/World Bank (UNDP/WB) Water and Sanitation Programme, with inputs from WHO, was asked to "prepare a descriptive document (to) outline the Collaborative Council's objectives, work plan, organizational framework and estimated funding requirements." Informal discussions with External Support Agencies (ESAs) would then lead to a final proposal for "the entire Collaborative Programme."

Following Interlaken, several bilateral donors, together with the UNDP/WB Programme and WHO, developed proposals for implementation of a "Framework for Global Cooperation." These proposals were further elaborated by the UNDP/WB Programme and discussed with interested ESAs. The process led to a working draft "Beyond the Decade," which was circulated jointly by WHO and the UNDP/WB Programme on 25 May, 1988, to all Interlaken participants for review and comment.

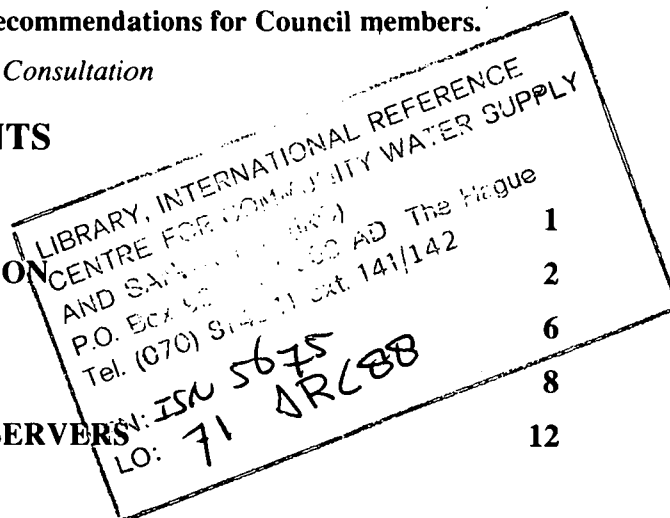
Several ESAs submitted comments. In addition, a number of informal discussions were held on the subject of the Framework, taking advantage of opportunities afforded by various meetings. This review process led to four background documents which were circulated to participants of the Hague Consultation shortly before the meeting. The background documents were the focus of discussions during the Consultation, in plenary sessions and in a series of working groups. The outcome of these discussions, in the form of an agreed structure for the Collaborative Council and proposals for future collaborative activities is described in this report.

It is important to recognize that this report is a summary of a number of consensus agreements reached during the Consultation. Not all participants were in full agreement with all of the conclusions. In particular, a number of participants expressed reservations about the establishment of the 1990 Committee as a formal method of developing policy recommendations for Council members.

* All quotes are taken from the Report of the Interlaken Consultation

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1. SUMMARY

During an international meeting on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Interlaken, Switzerland, in October 1987, bilateral, multilateral, governmental, and non-governmental organizations agreed to foster an International Framework for Global Cooperation to increase and extend Decade activities through joint action.

The Framework for Global Cooperation, comprising developing countries and external support agencies (ESAs), would promote, review, and mobilize resources for country and intercountry programmes in a systematic way. A Collaborative Council of ESAs would support developing country efforts to capitalize on past experiences and incorporate lessons learned into full-scale development projects.

During the consultations and discussions that followed the Interlaken Consultation, there was a clear consensus that the prime objective of implementing a *Framework for Global Cooperation* was to assist developing country governments in achieving the widest possible provision of sustainable water supply and sanitation services in the years ahead. The focus of the proposals was therefore to promote actions to increase both the quality and the quantity of investments in water supply and sanitation programmes *at the country level*.

The Hague Consultation sought to formalize the outcome of Interlaken and the subsequent discussions. The Framework endorsed by the participants involves cooperation at three levels:

(i) Country-level Cooperation

The major focus of the Framework will be on coordinated sector support at the country level, aiming at substantially extending service coverage, wherever this is a government priority. Activities will be initiated in response to requests from developing country governments, encouraged and supported by UNDP Resident Representatives, the UNDP/World Bank Regional Water and Sanitation Groups (RWSGs), WHO and other ESAs. The goal of extended coverage will be accomplished through increasing the quality and quantity of investments in well-prepared water and sanitation projects, within sound policy and institutional frameworks. Periodic meetings, called by the host government and attended by involved sector agencies, NGOs and ESAs active in the country, will be an important mechanism for cooperation.

(ii) Intercountry Cooperation

To take advantage of the recognized benefits of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), regional research and development, and joint training programmes, and to share experiences of successful and less successful approaches, periodic topic-specific consultations will be organized on an intercountry basis. Participants will include sector agency representatives from the countries concerned and ESAs. Such meetings will need ESA support and could, for example, be hosted by the appropriate regional development bank.

(iii) Global Cooperation

Global cooperation is needed to coordinate efforts in information exchange, training, and resource mobilization and in raising the profile of the sector. In addition, coordinated efforts are needed to address unresolved sector issues through applied research. Consultative meetings are planned approximately every five years, to review sector policies and to update global action plans, targets, and approaches. Such meetings will also provide a forum for discussion of global issues.

ESA Collaborative Council

To ensure that the donor community is best able to support the Framework and the resulting workplans, and to keep the spotlight on sector needs and approaches, the Interlaken Consultation proposed the formation of an ESA Collaborative Council. The Hague Consultation established the Collaborative Council, and agreed that its membership should be open to all interested multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, and appropriate international research institutions, with observers from developing countries invited to attend its biennial meetings and to assist in the development of its work programme. The Council will be supported by a Secretariat, formed initially by the existing Secretariat of the IDWSSD Steering Committee based in the World Health Organization, with appropriate strengthening to perform its new role.

Work Programme

The Hague Consultation identified three major components of a Work Programme for the Collaborative Council:

1. Country-level Sector Support

Aimed at helping developing country governments to coordinate sector support, by matching ESA interest in providing support with government priorities. Activities will include support for sector studies and capacity building, the preparation of sector development guidelines, and recommendations on ways of linking water supply and sanitation sector programmes with broader environmental issues.

2. Communication of Information

The targets will be to help raise the profile of the water and sanitation sector, to assist developing countries to take maximum advantage of available experience, and to support improved collaboration among ESAs at national and international level. A detailed work programme is to be prepared covering public information, technical information, management information and project and sector information.

3. Applied Research

The aim is to see that all outstanding research issues are addressed in a coordinated and efficient way, making best use of the resources already provided by various ESAs. A comprehensive review of research needs and existing activities will lead to identification of a research priority list including topics and resources. The work programme will also include recommendations for dissemination methodologies for the research results.

2. FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION

Objectives of a Framework for Global Cooperation

The overall objective of a Framework for Global Cooperation will be:

“To maintain Decade momentum beyond 1990 and accelerate the provision of water supply and sanitation services to all, with emphasis on the unserved rural and periurban poor, by using a coordinated programme approach.”

It will achieve this objective by seeking to:

- (a) expand the scope of activities to ensure these services are provided on an environmentally responsive and economically sustainable basis for the respective target groups;
- (b) improve the effectiveness of programmes, projects, and individual activities through increased coordination and collaboration among developing countries, ESAs, and other concerned organizations with respect to water and sanitation issues which transcend national and regional concerns; and
- (c) support activities in the countries by increasing cooperation among developing countries themselves and by promoting closer collaboration among ESAs that are assisting sector development in particular countries.

In order to achieve these objectives, the ESA community needs to be able to:

- (i) Promote collaboration of ESAs in support of developing country initiatives to provide sustainable low-cost water supply and sanitation services for poor communities.

- (ii) Coordinate support for country-level activities designed to develop sound sector strategies, to mobilize and make effective use of domestic and external resources, and to compile realistic data on sector coverage.
- (iii) Maintain, review and distill sector experience and disseminate results through consultative meetings.
- (iv) Promote broadening of the scope of water supply and sanitation to include sector activities that improve environmental quality.
- (v) Support efforts to raise the profile of the water supply and sanitation sector in developing countries and within the ESA community.

The Framework

To achieve the objectives of the Framework, collaboration is needed at country, intercountry, and global levels. The main Framework activities will be at the country level, initiated by developing country governments, with national-level support coordinated by UNDP Resident Representatives, the UNDP/World Bank RWSGs and WHO, and with national NGOs playing an influential part. For the ESAs, including international NGOs, a collaborative mechanism is needed to enable them to respond most effectively to the needs identified by these country-level activities. The Framework is illustrated in Figure 1 and Table 1 lists its main elements and the purpose of the collaborative efforts.

Administrative structures and procedures are to be kept as simple and unbureaucratic as possible, provide for flexibility and decentralization, and emphasize activities at the country level. Thus, no new institutions are planned. Rather, the Framework will work through existing institutions suitably modified to broaden participation at all levels.

Country-level Cooperation

The primary actors in water and sanitation development have been and will continue to be the developing countries themselves. Although external support is vital, success depends on the national efforts of individual countries. The need for closer cooperation in this area is perceived by an increasing number of donors. To achieve it in practice, the Framework involves closely coordinated sector support activities, facilitated by regular programme-oriented planning meetings of the government, national NGOs, and ESAs providing assistance in the country. Strong interministerial and inter-ESA relationships will be promoted.

Specifically, country-level activities, which will be operationally oriented, will:

- (a) examine operational issues, sector constraints, and assistance priorities;
- (b) explore possibilities for improving human resource and institutional development;
- (c) identify projects for consideration of the ESAs working in the country following national priorities in determining target areas and beneficiaries;
- (d) exchange information on current activities, projects, and programmes and their future plans;
- (e) explore possibilities for closer linkage of activities and joint action in priority areas, including cofinancing of projects;
- (f) coordinate policies and practices in such areas as standardization of equipment and spare parts supply; and
- (g) gradually move toward more systematic joint work programming by ESAs to the extent that policies and aid cycles permit.

Figure 1: Outline of the Framework for Global Cooperation in Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation

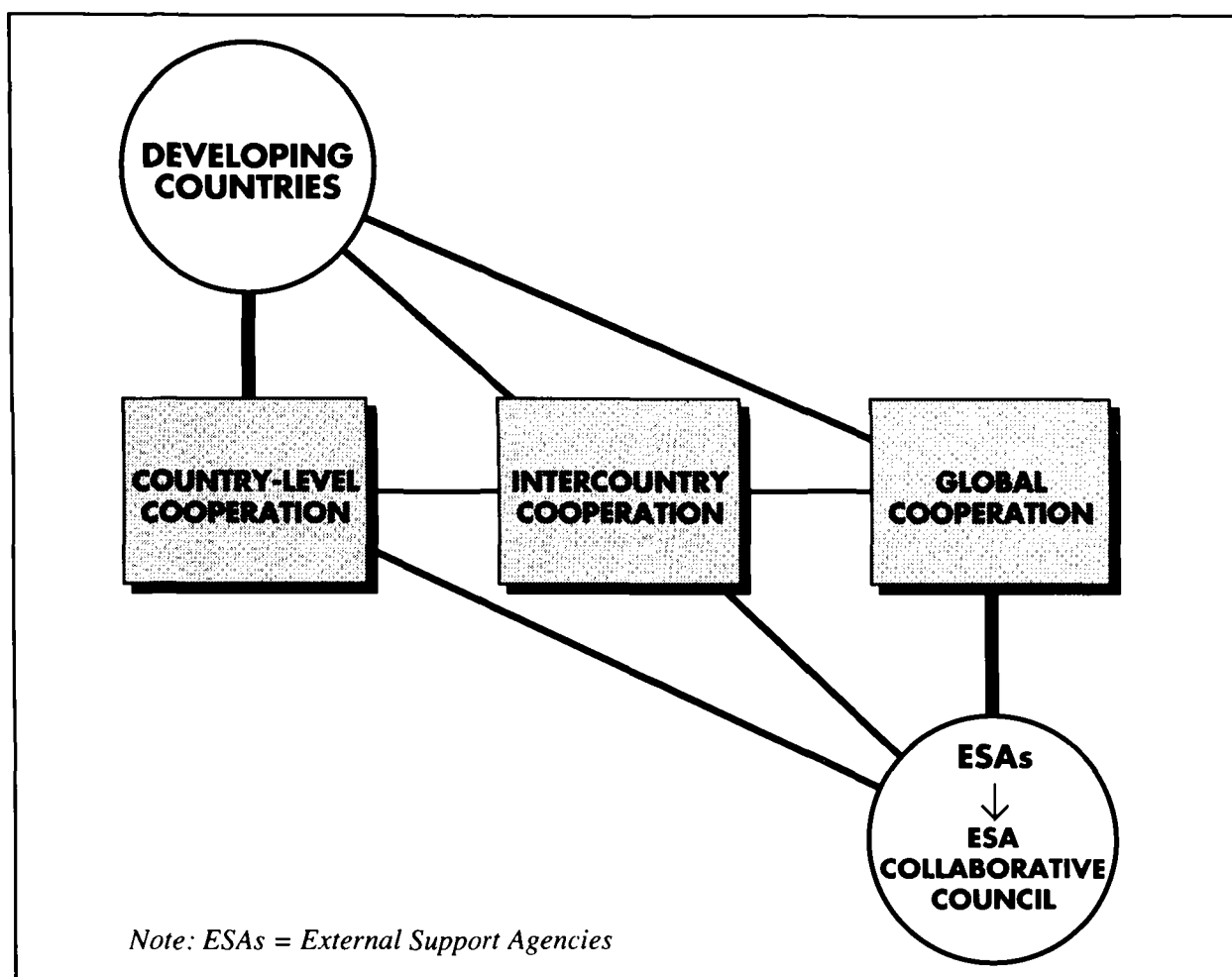


Table 1: Elements of the Framework

<i>Description</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Country-level Cooperation	National sector institutions and agencies (government and non-government), ESAs active in the country, and UNDP Resident Representatives. Participants will differ from country to country, but activities will be led by government.	Coordinated sector support at the country level, aiming at substantially extending service coverage. This will be accomplished through increasing the quality and quantity of investments in well-prepared water and sanitation projects, within sound policy and institutional frameworks. Periodic meetings called by the host government and attended by involved sector agencies, NGOs and ESAs active in the country will be an important mechanism for cooperation.
Inter-country Cooperation	Developing country governments and ESAs active within a region or subregion. Meetings might be hosted by regional development banks.	Inter-country meetings will be convened on an ad hoc basis on specific subjects. They will foster TCDC, formulate specific proposals of relevance to countries involved, and provide a forum for information exchange on the particular subject.
Global Cooperation	All interested ESAs (bilaterals, development banks, funds, UN organizations, international research institutions and NGOs) and individual developing country governments.	Global cooperation is needed to coordinate efforts in information exchange, training and resource mobilization, and in raising the profile of the sector. Cooperation is also needed to address unresolved research issues through applied research. Consultative meetings will be held about every five years to review sector policies and to update global action plans, targets, and approaches, and to provide a forum for discussion of global issues.

These activities are intended to ensure that the global-level cooperation of the ESAs also occurs at the country level, where it is needed most and where it will provide the greatest benefits. To ensure it, ESAs should encourage or instruct their staff responsible for country activities (resident and non-resident) to promote cooperation, to implement collaborative actions, and to participate in national consultations. UNDP Resident Representatives, the UNDP/World Bank RWSGs and WHO will help to coordinate collaborative actions in sympathy with the Collaborative Council's work programme.

UNDP will reinforce the role of the UNDP Resident Representatives as focal points for national IDWSSD activities. Resident Representatives will be strongly encouraged to involve ESAs and host country officials in regular meetings and consultations on programme activities.

Intercountry Cooperation

Intercountry Consultations will serve as a channel of information from country to country and around the globe. Experience during the Decade has shown that these efforts can be substantially reinforced through mutual cooperation among countries in areas such as information exchange, regional research and development, joint training programmes, and exchange of programme experience. Such cooperation is growing steadily more important as some countries make more rapid progress than others and can share valuable experiences. There is a particularly urgent need for transfer of implementation and sector institutional models which have proved successful in a number of countries.

To build on existing progress, the Framework provides for periodic topic-specific Intercountry (or Subregional) Consultations to be organized on an ad hoc basis as agreed among the potential participants. For participating countries, the objectives of these Intercountry Consultations will be to exchange information and experience gained through their national programmes; to encourage replication of successful programmes; to examine issues of mutual interest as well as constraints impeding more rapid progress; to explore possibilities for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) initiatives; and to expose participating ESAs and regional banks to technical assistance and investment needs. For the ESAs, the consultations will serve as a forum to provide information on their ongoing assistance programmes and future plans and to exchange views with countries and one another on sector issues, priorities, and programmes.

The meetings could be hosted by the regional development bank that covers the region. Participants should include country representatives and ESAs active in the participating countries. The Intercountry Consultations will be followed by further contact among countries and ESA representatives with common interests to explore ways of strengthening ESA cooperation in individual countries.

Global Cooperation

The main theatre for sector development activities is the individual country. There are, however, important issues and constraints that need to be dealt with at the global level. These include promotion of the sector; resource mobilization; applied research and development; development and transfer of programme implementation and institutional models based on experience in different regions; information collection and dissemination; and development of strategies for intersectoral linkages between water and sanitation programmes and health, agriculture, environment, and wastes management.

Periodic global consultations will provide a forum for wide-ranging analysis of the sector by both developing countries and ESAs, in the same way as the 1977 UN Water Conference in Mar del Plata laid the groundwork for the IDWSSD. A meeting scheduled for 1990 in India as part of the UNDP/World Bank Programme may provide the next opportunity for a comprehensive review of goals and approaches by all participants. The Framework for Global Cooperation envisages similar meetings being held every five years.

3. ESA COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

To ensure that the donor community is able to coordinate its support for the Framework at the different levels, and to make country-level activities more effective, an ESA Collaborative Council was established at The Hague Consultation. Membership is open to all interested multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and appropriate international research institutions, with invited members from developing countries. Initially, the membership consists of all those agencies participating in the Hague Consultation. This initial membership will be expanded to include ESAs which participate in subsequent Council meetings.

The chief aims of the Council will be to:

- (a) raise international awareness of the need for intensified efforts to expand water and sanitation coverage during the 1990s;
- (b) achieve collaboration among the ESAs within the countries in which they are active;
- (c) serve as a forum for exchange of information on achievements, sector strategies, projects and programmes, and analysis of issues and needs to alert members to opportunities for collaboration and support; and
- (d) mobilize support from members and others in the international community for development of the sector, including support for proposals emanating from Country-level, Inter-country, and Global Consultations.

The first two years of the Collaborative Council's existence will be seen as a transition period. The end of the IDWSSD and the launch of a programme beyond the Decade represent an appropriate milestone at which the Council's initial operation can be reviewed and the need for more permanent structures considered.

Coordination of ESA country-level and regional/global efforts in preparation for 1990 will be an important role for the Collaborative Council. A meeting of the full Council is likely to be needed in 1989, to help to progress these activities (France is a possible venue). Linked to the preparatory work for a possible Global Consultation in 1990, the Council's role will also be to prepare appropriate strategies and work programmes for continuing the momentum of the IDWSSD into the 1990s. Together with the need to review the recommendations of temporary working groups charged with developing Council work programmes, the 1990 preparatory activities make up a list of functions which will need to be monitored by the Council Secretariat and managed by a Committee.

The Council Secretariat will be formed initially* by the existing IDWSSD Steering Committee Secretariat provided by WHO. With the support of SDC, the Secretariat has been reinforced in anticipation of this new role and no further funding support is expected to be needed. A temporary working group will be formed to assess the long term Secretariat needs of the Collaborative Council. The Secretariat is called on to organize meetings of a Committee of Council members and invited members from developing countries, to carry out the functions identified above.

A majority of Consultation participants agreed that such a Committee should be formed, and that its interim nature will be properly reflected by calling it the *1990 Committee* and by specifying that it will cease to exist before the end of 1990. Some agencies expressed reservations, related to the creation of a Committee, in which a number of agencies would find it difficult to participate, developing policy recommendations on behalf of the fuller Council.

* A majority of participants in The Hague Consultation agreed that the word "initially" should be included, pending agreement on the detailed administrative arrangements for the Collaborative Council, to be worked out later.

In summary, the 1990 Committee will have three main functions:

- Assistance to developing countries and ESAs in the organization of preparatory activities for a Global Consultation in 1990;
- Assistance in the preparation of strategies for maintaining the momentum of the water supply and sanitation sector beyond 1990; and
- Consideration of temporary working group reports on the Council's work programme and transmission of recommendations to Council members.

Total membership of the 1990 Committee should not exceed 20, and should properly reflect the composition of the Collaborative Council, as follows:

- Up to 7 representatives of multilateral agencies or regional banks
- Up to 7 representatives of bilateral agencies
- Up to 3 representatives of non-governmental organizations
- Up to 3 invited members from developing countries

The UNDP/WHO IDWSSD Coordinator will be an ex-officio member of the 1990 Committee.

Table 2: The ESA Collaborative Council

<i>Description</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Function</i>
Collaborative Council	Open to all interested multilateral and bilateral agencies, international non-governmental organizations and appropriate international research institutions. Meetings of the Council may be attended by invited observers from developing countries. The Chairman will be selected by the Collaborative Council from among its members, with a term of office running until the next Council meeting.	Meetings will be held regularly, approximately every two years, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) consult on policies and action plans of participating ESAs; (ii) review progress on the current joint Work Programme; (iii) define and agree on responsibilities for a continuing Work Programme; (iv) provide a forum for information exchange on sector strategies and approaches.
Secretariat	Initially, the existing Secretariat of the IDWSSD Steering Committee will also serve the Collaborative Council. Detailed administrative arrangements will be worked out, to ensure that the Secretariat can be fully responsive to the needs of the Work Programme.	Assist in organizing meetings (global, intercountry, and national). Monitor and report on Work Programme implementation, calling committee meetings as necessary to review and make recommendations on programme progress. Provide a clearing house role for the activities of temporary working groups, and respond to requests from ESAs for up-to-date information.
1990 Committee	Up to 20 members, selected by the Secretariat, to properly reflect the composition of the Collaborative Council, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 7 representatives of multilateral agencies or regional banks • Up to 7 representatives of bilateral agencies • Up to 3 representatives of non-governmental organizations • Up to 3 invited members from developing countries. The 1990 Committee will cease to exist before the end of 1990.	Meetings will be called by the Secretariat, at approximately six-monthly intervals, to review and make recommendations on progress of collaborative activities in connection with three functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance to developing countries and ESAs in the organization of preparatory activities for a Global Consultation in 1990 • Preparations for maintaining the momentum of the water supply and sanitation sector beyond 1990 • Consideration of temporary working group reports on the Council's Work Programme and transmission of recommendations to Council members.

The Committee will need to establish temporary working groups and/or advisory panels for specific tasks. The cost of these will be covered by programmes they serve, except that ESAs will cover costs of their own representatives. Participation of developing country representatives will be funded through ongoing ESA programmes in the country.

The agreed interim structure of the Collaborative Council, its Secretariat and the 1990 Committee is summarized in Table 2. The Secretariat was called on to organize the first meeting of the 1990 Committee in December 1988, accepting the invitation of France.

4. THE WORK PROGRAMME

The overall objective of the Framework for Global Cooperation is defined as: *"To maintain Decade momentum beyond 1990 and accelerate the provision of water supply and sanitation services to all, with emphasis on the unserved rural and periurban poor, by using a coordinated programme approach."*

This sets a focus for the Council's Work Programme, in which the major emphasis should be concentrated on country-level activities to plan and implement sustainable programmes. In support of the country-level activities, ESAs will cooperate and seek to avoid duplication in addressing priority issues which contribute to the goal of accelerated and sustainable development. The Interlaken Report presents both an Action Agenda and Amplification of Global Sector Concepts, which identify many of the gaps and actions needed. Establishment of the Collaborative Council has provided the opportunity to review these proposals, to assess what is being done and what gaps remain, and to mobilize resources for addressing the priority issues in a structured way.

The Hague Consultation established the need for coordinated action under three headings:

1. Sector Support (Country-level);
2. Communication of Information; and
3. Applied Research.

Lists of activities were developed under each heading, and will be reviewed by the 1990 Committee at its December meeting. Recommendations will then be made to Council members for initiation of agreed activities. In a number of cases, the activities include preparatory work by temporary working groups, to identify priorities and establish interest among developing country agencies and ESAs for future work.

Sector Support (Country-level)

This task is the main focus of the Council's proposed activities. The objective is to enhance significantly the assistance to developing countries in coordinating sector support at the country level, aiming at substantially extending service coverage. This will be accomplished through increasing the quality and, in some cases, the quantity of investment in well-prepared water and sanitation programmes, within sound policy and institutional frameworks. Six main activities have been identified:

1. *Determine developing country government interest in receiving assistance in strengthening sector strategies, policies and institutions, as well as preliminary identification of needs*

The target will be to establish dialogue with the majority of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the end of 1989, with emphasis on the least-developed nations. Actions will be taken by UNDP Resident Representatives, by the UNDP/World Bank Regional Water and Sanitation Groups and by the World Health Organization Regional Offices, and will endeavour to make optimum use of the work of Regional Development Banks. No incremental funding is expected to be needed for this preparatory activity.

2. *Identify ESA interest in supporting specific country requests for sector development assistance*

The target will be to canvas the complete Collaborative Council membership by March 1989, and to match requests with potential support by the end of 1989. The Council Secretariat is called on to canvas Council members, and no incremental funding will be needed for identification of potential support. Major funding will be needed for implementation of agreed country activities.

3. *Extend and adapt the Decade Consultative Meeting (DCM) mechanism, as a powerful tool for coordination of the sector development process. Support governments wishing to host meetings*

The target will be to enable as many governments as possible to host organized Consultative Meetings at different levels, to coordinate activities planned, initiated or under way with ESA support. WHO and other interested ESAs will help with the organization and financing of meetings, with incremental funding needed for specific meetings.

4. *Gradually strengthen the role of the Regional Water and Sanitation Groups (RWSGs) as a regional focus for well-managed, experienced and multi-disciplinary technical assistance from the ESA community.*

The RWSGs provide demand-driven support to governments requesting assistance in sector strengthening. The target is to increase the staff of the RWSGs in West Africa, Asia and Latin America to full strength, including representation from most ESAs active in the region concerned, by mid-1990. The UNDP/World Bank Programme will implement this activity with support from interested ESAs, and incremental funding will be needed for specific staff positions.

5. *Prepare sector development guidelines, based on analysis of experience in different countries, to include institutional, social, financial, technical and human resource development issues and the appropriate policy implications.*

The guidelines will facilitate and improve the quality of sector support activities by governments and assisting ESAs. The target is to produce draft guidelines for extensive review by March 1989. The activity will be undertaken by the UNDP/World Bank Programme, and no incremental funding is required.

6. *Establish a temporary working group on environmental pollution (including toxic waste), to prepare recommendations on linkages with the water and sanitation sector, and propose appropriate actions.*

The target is to produce a discussion paper for presentation to the Collaborative Council meeting at the end of 1989. The paper will be prepared by a working group including representatives from WHO, the World Bank and other interested ESAs. The Asian Development Bank has offered to contribute to the work of this group. No incremental funding is needed.

Communication of Information

This heading encompasses a variety of issues that are of importance to the Collaborative Council, and that call for differing, though overlapping, approaches. The objective is to develop a strategy of communication and information, optimizing existing information resources and opportunities, with a view to:

- raising the profile of the water supply and sanitation sector at national and international level;
- assisting developing countries to take maximum advantage of available experience; and

- supporting improved coordination and collaboration among ESAs at the national and international level.

The work programme needs to include separate components dealing with: public information; technical information; management information; and project and sector information. In each case, the tasks to be accomplished are:

1. *Identify the major needs for information and promotion in the water and sanitation sector in developing countries and among ESAs*
2. *Review and appraise existing sources and activities, including canvassing contributions from all members of the Collaborative Council*
3. *Use the results of activities 1 and 2 to identify the areas in which present programmes are not fulfilling sector requirements*
4. *Recommend a programme of activities, including a detailed timescale and resource requirements, matching where possible the needs of the developing countries with the potential support of interested ESAs.*

The target is to gather information from as many developing countries as possible on needs for each of the three types of information, and to prepare a programme of recommended activities for consideration by the 1990 Committee by the end of April 1989. The task of gathering the necessary information and preparing recommendations was assigned to a temporary working group. Agencies expressing willingness to assist in the task include UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, GTZ, INSTRAW, IRC, CEFIGRE, IDRC, WASH, IWSA, and World Water. No incremental funding is needed for this task, except that GTZ and UNDP have offered to support participation of developing country representatives in the temporary working group. The activities will be coordinated by a core group consisting of UNDP, WHO, IRC and CEFIGRE, with IRC acting as lead agency. This group will have the sole purpose of developing recommendations for the 1990 Committee, and it will be disbanded once this task is accomplished.

Applied Research

The Interlaken Action Agenda and discussions in The Hague on outstanding sector issues make it clear that there is still a need for studies and demonstration of new approaches over a wide spectrum, covering both technological and socio-economic aspects of water supply and sanitation and wider environmental issues. The research should be pragmatic and field oriented, not basic or fundamental in nature. It should also serve to strengthen local institutions and capabilities.

The key objective is to respond to developing country needs and priorities. In doing so, the preparatory tasks need to be realistic and practical, rather than attempting exhaustive reviews of ongoing activities, capabilities, resources, needs and gaps. They must also address the issues involved in dissemination and utilization of research results. With this in mind, the 1990 Committee is being invited to consider establishing a temporary working group with the following tasks:

1. *Review the key issues requiring applied research identified at Interlaken, those in the UNDP/ World Bank paper on research issues, and elsewhere, and assess priorities.*
2. *Provide a listing of existing, completed and proposed applied research linked to key identified issues. The listing is to be prepared on a best effort basis, within available resources, and should not become an exhaustive research programme in itself. It is stressed that information gathering based on donor responses does not often include developing country research, and effort must be made to address this problem.*
3. *Identify gaps and develop a research priority list, including both topics and resources. Priorities should respond in a practical way to the needs of project planners and managers in overcoming problems facing implementation of their programmes.*

It will not be the responsibility of the temporary working group to coordinate new projects or to mobilize support from ESAs for specific research activities. These responsibilities will lie with the Collaborative Council itself, assisted by the Secretariat and the 1990 Committee. Membership of the temporary working group will be voluntary, with an estimated time requirement of 2-3 person-weeks per member organization. It will be expected to conduct its business first through a preliminary meeting of a smaller number of members, leading to a full meeting after adequate and timely distribution of documentation.

Nine agencies indicated agreement to participate in the temporary working group, with a further six expressing interest but no firm commitment until further details were available. USAID offered to lead the temporary working group, with IDRC acting as deputy. Participation of developing countries is felt to be essential, and some agencies have indicated a willingness to support developing country representatives. Membership of the temporary working group will be limited to about 10-15, with at least half coming from developing countries. All funding of the work of the temporary work group will come from participating members.

Annex 1: List of Participants and Observers

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations used in this Report

DCM	Decade Consultative Meeting
DGIS	Dutch Directorate General of International Cooperation
ESA	External Support Agency
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IDWSSD	International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Centre for the Advancement of Women
IRC	IRC Water and Sanitation Centre (formerly International Reference Centre for Community Water Supply and Sanitation)
IWSA	International Water Supply Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RWSG	Regional Water and Sanitation Group
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/WB	United Nations Development Programme/World Bank
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water and Sanitation for Health Project
WHO	World Health Organization

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