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IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre
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WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

Mid-Term Review 1996

Report of Review Meeting held 13-14 November 1996 in London, UK.

The Meeting was held at the Royal National Hotel, with administrative arrangements organised by WaterAid. It was attended by 42 members of the Collaborative Council and by Regional Managers of the UNDP/World Bank Water and Sanitation Program who held a back-to-back meeting with the Mid-Term Review. Developing country participants invited for that meeting also attended the Mid-Term Review (Annex 1 is the List of Participants).

1. Hugo Scheltema

At the opening of the meeting. The Council Chair, Margaret Catley-Carlson, invited participants to join in a short silence in memory of Mr Hugo Scheltema, former Dutch Ambassador, who had made major contributions to the sector, especially through his past chairmanship of IRC's Governing Board and his skilled chairing of The Hague Forum in 1988 at which the ESA Collaborative Council was created.

2. Chairperson Designate

The meeting enthusiastically endorsed the recommendation of the Council's Selection Committee to invite Richard Jolly to be the next Chairperson of the WSSCC. The Executive Secretary will inform Council members of the recommendation and seek their acceptance of the proposed appointment, which will be formally agreed at the next Global Forum in Manila. In the meantime, Richard Jolly will begin to undertake the Chairperson role with effect from January 1997.

A.	Working Groups	Coordination
Αl	Country Level Collaboration and National Sector Strategies	UNICEF
Α2	Community Management and Partnerships with Civic Society	ISW
Α3	Sanitation	WHO
Α4	Water Supply and Sanitation Development in Africa	Nigeria
A5	Water Demand Management and Conservation	Trinidad
A6	Advocacy and Dissemination Strategies	IRC
Α7	Water Supply and Sanitation Issues in Small Island States	Western Samoa
A8	Water Supply and Sanitation Issues in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States	Mountains Unlimited
Α9	Institutional and Management options including Decentralization	UNDP
A10	The Lusophone Initiative	Angola
В.	Networks	
Вl	Services for the Urban Poor	Habitat
В2	Operation and Maintenance	WHO
В3	Global Applied Research Network (GARNET)	WEDC
B4	Gender Issues	UNDP/WB & IRC
c.	Task Forces	
Cl	Documentation and Dissemination	IAWQ
C2	INTERWATER (Home Page for Water and Sanitation on the Internet)	IRC/South Africa
C3	Human Resources Development, Training and Education	UNDP
C4	Emergency Measures in the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector	R202.3

CIBHAHY IHC O Box 93190, 2509 AD THE HAGUE Tel.: +31 70 30 689 80 Fax: +31 70 35 899 64 ARCODE: (ルラ/よく Participants again recorded their appreciation of the unique contribution made by Maggie Catley-Carlson in her five years as Council Chair and warmly welcomed her promise to attend the Manila Forum for the formal handover.

3. Reports on Council Activities

Verbal reports were presented on progress and work programmes of the Council's 10 Working Groups, 4 Networks and 4 Task Forces (see panel). The presenters' own notes of these presentations, where available, are included in Annex 2. Conclusions from the presentations and discussions are reported here.

A1 Country Level Collaboration and National Sector Strategies (No notes)

The Executive Secretary pointed out that, though the original Council Working Group on Country-Level Collaboration was disbanded at Rabat, enthusiasm for implementation remained and there had been significant initiatives in Zimbabwe (1994) and Uganda (1995) through regional meetings supported by the UNDP/World Bank Program. In Barbados, UNICEF had agreed to coordinate the revived Council activity, including support for formulation of national sector strategies, and is planning workshops and pilot work to demonstrate the effectiveness of CLC. Support is anticipated from CIDA. CLC will be closely linked to the activities of the Africa Working Group (A4), and will Africa WG meeting will be held back-to-back with the CLC WG meeting in Abidjan in late February 1997. The aim will be to report in Manila on sensitizing countries to CLC mechanisms and encouraging their adoption.

Discussion showed that CLC is making progress in several African countries. The Zimbabwe experience has shown the possibility of involving all stakeholders in CLC; an Eastern and Southern Africa Group has its own initiative and plans a meeting in June 1997 to evaluate collaboration in rural water supply and sanitation; the UN Secretary General's System-Wide Initiative is also being seen as a coordination mechanism, and UNICEF is supporting coordination activities in four countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and planning further initiatives in West and Central Africa.

UNDP is looking favourably at ideas to set up facilities for sharing sector information via Res Reps offices in each country.

A2 Community Management and Partnerships with Civil Society (Notes in Annex 2)

The written report by Task Manager Raymond Jost of the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) outlines a workplan involving widescale consultation and meetings, including regional consultation meetings. The aim is to present in Manila frameworks which will facilitate more harmonious interaction among governments, civil societies and NGOs and best practices of community management approaches, and to influence governments and ESAs to adopt these approaches, including involving NGOs and civic society representatives in their planning processes.

Mario Vasconez of CIUDAD, Ecuador, reported on the progress so far, including the outcome of the recent Latin American Regional Meeting of the Working Group in Quito, and plans for two further regional meetings: one in Kathmandu for Asian countries; and the other in Nairobi for African countries. The Quito meeting, held alongside the WSSCC Regional Meeting for Latin America (reported separately), had helped to define key terms in community management and to explore financial frameworks to support community management of sector activities.

Discussion reinforced the need for liaison between the Group and the Africa Working Group (A4) in connection with the planned Nairobi meeting. The Group is assembling many interesting case studies over a range of scales of community management. The Council will want to develop a

framework for cooperation among governments, donors, NGOs, the private sector and communities, including ways of ensuring that the voice of the community is influential on programme development. It is already clear that Latin American experience on community self-mobilization, advocacy, training and technical aspects merits documentation and wide dissemination. Gender issues too will be significant.

Reference was made to a NGO Water and Sanitation Forum (Network) in Cambodia which meets monthly and is driving the ESA agenda in a transition from emergency relief to longer term development.

A3 Sanitation (Notes in Annex 2)

The written report by Mayling Simpson-Hébert (WHO) describes the background to the Group's development of a new paradigm for sanitation, which encourages planners and implementors to focus more on three aspects:

- Equity
- Human health
- Protection of the general environment (water, soils, other species)

The Group is producing a Sanitation Advocacy Resource Kit, which will include information sheets, leaflets and small reports giving information on the new paradigm, tips on new technologies, guidance on hygiene education programmes and advice on applying the new principles. A major conclusion is that more research is a high priority.

The Sanitation Group believes that its mandate will have been fulfilled before Manila, and that use of its recommendations and tools will help to raise the status of sanitation and stimulate better programmes.

The discussion noted that among the technologies offering prospects of new approaches, and requiring further research, was dry sanitation options. Some successes had been achieved, and there had also been some disappointments, but the great concern over water resources conservation suggests that there is a worthwhile future for dry sanitation, and research should focus on ways of applying it and on scaling up from pilot approaches.

A4 Water Supply and Sanitation Development in Africa (Notes in Annex 2)

The written report by Ebele Okeke (Nigeria) emphasises that this activity is Africa-driven and intended to develop African solutions to Africa's problems. Advocacy will promote a target 80% water supply and sanitation service level to be achieved in the next decade, and recommendations will focus on removing constraints and strengthening programming in liaison with many other Africa initiatives.

A major input to the Group's meeting in Addis Ababa in October was an Africa Sector Review prepared by Len Abrams (South Africa). The meeting was very well attended by countries and ESAs. It identified ten key issues (see Annex 2 notes) and plans to look in depth at five topics (amplified in the notes):

- Water policy development in Africa
- Institutional and legislative reform
- Conditions of service
- Cost recovery
- Sustainability at local level

In addition, the group is developing strategies among its members for advocacy to achieve acceptance of key sector approaches and enhanced status for water supply and sanitation. The Addis Ababa Plan of Action includes seeking to make the Africa Working Group an advisory body for other Africa initiatives, identification of a sector ambassador, and enhanced attention to water supply and sanitation in the OAU. Ms Okeke requested all other Working Groups to let the Africa WG have a one paragraph note indicating key issues of relevance to the Africa group. The Africa group would also like to have a representative on each of any future WSSCC Working Groups.

Support from UNICEF was being complemented with funds from the Netherlands and Norway, which are most welcome, as the group faces serious resource constraints. It is hoped to stage another meeting in Abidjan, and to improve participation of Francophone countries in the group's work.

In the discussion, reference was made to a possible Pan-African Forum on the water supply and sanitation sector in 1998 to be organized by the Working Group. This was being viewed favourably by the UNDP/WB Program and many ESAs active in Africa. The Group was referred to a UNDP/UNICEF report on conditions of service, which may be relevant to the analysis of this topic. The plan will be to present the Africa WG findings in Manila, together with advocacy materials. It is hoped that a sector ambassador for Africa may be identified at the Global Forum. The Group is convinced that its work will continue after Manila, and a work plan will be prepared ahead of the Forum.

A5 Water Demand Management and Conservation (Notes in Annex 2)

In his written notes and attachment, Lester Forde (Trinidad & Tobago) explains how financial constraints hampered the Group's activities. Plans are now moving ahead for two workshops, in Trinidad in January 1997, and Europe in May or June. A few members of the group have met twice and the plan is to develop the proceedings of the two planned workshops, supported by case studies, into a report for Manila. It is expected that development of a position paper on Demand Management Strategies will be prepared after Manila.

The discussion made clear that the group is in need of financial support to move forward what all recognise to be a critical issue. Norway has recently agreed to provide some funding and preliminary discussions have been held with Germany and the Netherlands.

The group's aims include looking at the wider sector, including irrigation demand management, and the March 1997 Caribbean Meeting on integrated water resources management organised by ECLAC is being seen as an opportunity for advancing the group's thinking. Ramesh Bhatia is preparing a paper on the economics of water management. Three Canadian specialists are also expected to provide expertise. Saul Arlosoroff is acting as Advisor to the Working Group. The economic theme is seen as important, with the economics of food security v water security a critical issue to be explored.

A6 Advocacy and Dissemination Strategies (Notes in Annex 2)

The written report explains the gradual shift in emphasis of this council activity from Information, Education and Communication (IEC) to Improved Programming through Communication (IPC). Amplifying the written report, Hans van Damme (IRC) noted that the common theme through the Working Group's activities has been strengthening of people's decision making. The challenge is to find ways of stimulating improved dialogue involving government agencies, NGOs, users and other stakeholders. Because communities have multifold interests, water sector agencies need to be able to talk cross-sectorally, fostering understanding and respect.

The Guinea-Bissau pilot project (details in written report) has been in operation for more than a year and the first phase is likely to run for another one or two years. A further project in Mali is

under consideration and will produce interesting contrasts. An IPC concept paper has been produced in English and is being translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese. It is also being developed into a short strategy paper.

The advocacy issue remains the Council's greatest challenge. Analysis shows that the Barbados meeting identified 20 potential Council activities, including 37 specific advocacy requirements and some 23 separate advocacy messages. The need for consolidation and guidance is vital, but also very difficult to achieve. The Group intends to present in Manila a report on results from the pilot projects, along with proposals for priority actions on advocacy.

A7 Water Supply and Sanitation Issues in Small Island States (No notes)

The Executive Secretary explained that the Group has major communication and coordination difficulties because of the spread of the small island states. Because of pressure of work, the WG Coordinator Peter Cox of Western Samoa had not been in communication with the Secretariat or others. Alf Simpson of SOPAC, Fiji, may be able to bring together the Pacific states and the Commonwealth Science Council is looking at ways of trying to achieve coordination involving the Pacific islands, the Caribbean, and as many other island states as possible.

Siyan Malomo of CSC confirmed that action was under way. In liaison with SOPAC, a WG meeting is being convened in February in Suva, a venue is also being sought in the Caribbean, and the intention is to host a meeting in the Mediterranean to involve other islands. It was suggested that the Asian Development Bank's interest in small islands may make AsDB a possible source of support. The Caribbean Development Bank is also seen as a possible supporter. The special needs of the small island states remain an important interest for the WSSCC, and the Secretariat urges possible supporters to come forward quickly to help CSC and SOPAC to develop proposals for Manila.

A8 Water Supply and Sanitation Issues in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (Notes in Annex 2)

In his written report, which was also presented verbally, Helmut Weidel of Mountain Unlimited highlights the difficulties in establishing communications with and among the *Newly Independent States* and particularly the Central Asian Republics. Nevertheless, the report indicates progress achieved by the focus group *Group 29*. Two regional communication nodes have been established in Vienna (for CEECs) and Kiev (NIS). There is an option for a future third node for the Central Asian Republics. A Group 29 presentation at a Moscow Symposium reinforced the view that communication is a key problem. Group 29 has produced a flyer in Russian and English and initiated a two-monthly Newsletter.

Fund-raising for the Working Group has been a major activity, but not wholly successful. SDC and DGIS have committed support so far and more is needed. Helmut Weidel believes the Group is making progress in most areas, but still needs to establish good links with other groups and foster contacts in Central Asia. A regional conference is planned in April in Romania, and the group will then seek to draft an inventory of best practice in time for Manila.

Discussion reinforced the WG conclusion that the CEE and NIS countries share problems relating to sharing knowledge and experience and translating knowledge into operational practice. The Central Asian Republics have many common problems with Asia and Africa. The WG intends to present its completed sector review of the countries of Eastern and Central Europe in time for the Manila Global Forum. It was suggested that the Group 29 Newsletter should include donor agencies in its circulation. Contacts may also be made with EBRD as a potential source of funding support.

A9 Institutional and Management Options including Decentralization (No notes)

Frank Harvelt (UNDP) reported verbally. The IMO report to Barbados had focused primarily on the private sector and resulted in a major publication. The work had been based heavily on French and British experience. The intention in the current phase was to add recommendations related to public sector water and sewerage agencies. The Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) has commissioned a study by IHE, Delft, to address this topic. Ger Ardon (VROM) explained that the Dutch work will be directed towards producing a booklet to complement the French book, but related to public sector agencies. It will include theoretical analysis, case studies and elaboration of the political preconditions for success. The aim will be to produce the booklet in English and French in time for Manila, along with a brochure in several languages.

The discussion focused mainly on further elaboration of private sector involvement. It emphasised that many developing countries fear the implications of a remorseless drive towards privatisation, in which sector issues may be ignored (particularly those relating to equity and services for the urban and rural poor). The World Bank and others have done substantial work on analysis of privatization and private sector participation. The Bank was represented on the original IMO WG, and it would be highly desirable that the current group should benefit from current Bank activities, including the development of a training package on private participation in water supply and sanitation programs. The Philippines has major programmes to expand privatization, including the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage system in Metro Manila and the Local Water Utility Administrations.

The meeting recognised the complexity of the privatization issue and the parallel difficulties in establishing sound economic principles in public sector water supply and sanitation agencies. Inputs are being sought from the African Utility Partnership run by UADE, which has activities relating to utility strengthening in Africa. The Manila report will address both public and private experiences.

A10 The Lusophone Initiative (No notes)

The Executive Secretary reported that communication and shortage of resources was proving a serious handicap to this Initiative. Preparation of an operation plan for submission to donors and governments is urgent, but has not been completed. The Netherlands will provide some funds and SIDA has indicated that it may have funds for some translation. The Group wants to focus on ways of transferring knowledge and experience and systems for literature/information exchange and training from Brazil to the Lusophone African countries. IRC and the Working Group on Operation and Maintenance are expected to provide assistance.

B1 Services for the Urban Poor (No notes)

The participants sent greetings and a get well soon message to Ivo Imparato (Habitat) who was unable to attend the meeting because of illness. The report was presented verbally by Alex Abiko (Brazil). Since Barbados, the SUP Network has concentrated on implementation of pilot projects and on advocacy for the approaches developed during earlier work.

Pilot projects have been initiated in three places: Caracas, Venezuela; Cape Town, South Africa; and São Paulo, Brazil (favela upgrading). In each case, the projects are applying the SUP principles on land tenure, community participation, cost recovery and appropriate technology. Advocacy efforts aim to diffuse the network's influence to encompass a wider audience, including municipalities, utility companies and the professional engineering sector. A SUP presentation was made at Habitat II in Istanbul and the SUP findings have been promoted at meetings in São Paulo, Cape Town, Recife and Belo Horizonte. CERFE is producing a book on research findings on

settlement upgrading projects, which will be published initially in English. Funds are being sought for translation into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Also as part of its advocacy and dissemination brief, the SUP Network is organizing workshops and mini-courses in Venezuela, Brazil, South Africa, East Africa and Asia, though financial constraints cause some difficulties. Conscious that much past work has focused on Latin America, the Network is seeking to diversify to other regions, but cuts in financial support have created some problems.

The discussion revealed admiration and support for the SUP Network's activities. Planned regional WSSCC meetings provide a platform for further promotion of the Network's approaches. The case studies will be reported in Manila, following evaluation of the results in June 1997.

B2 Operation and Maintenance (Notes in Annex 2)

José Hueb (WHO) supplemented the detailed written report on the O&M Group's work with a presentation on the activities undertaken since the Barbados Forum. There are currently some 300 network members and the number is still growing, with powerful promotional messages available for both urban and rural water supply and sanitation agencies on the merits of improved O&M. Activities now are designed to promote the cause of better O&M and use of the O&M Group's ten tools. Promotion has included five workshops already held – in Maputo (2), New Delhi, Dhaka and Quito – and another four scheduled before Manila (details in the Annex 2 written report). O&M training course agreements have been concluded with the National Directorate of Water in Mozambique and with ONEP in Morocco, and initial contacts have been made with environmental health centres in Thailand and Indonesia.

CERFE (Italy) is helping to develop an O&M database with information on Network members and the O&M tools and reports. Dissemination over the Internet is an option. Posters and flyers are being prepared.

Decentralization will be an important element of the O&M Group's future work and regional centres of excellence are being sought as nodes for regionalized activities. The focus on promoting use of existing tools and extending backup support has delayed start of work on new tools recommended in Barbados, but work is under way on a manual on handpump O&M.

The discussion noted the O&M group's impressive progress and emphasized the important links between the group and many other Council activities. Particular reference was made to the Groups on Institutional and Management Options (A9) and on Demand Management and Conservation (A5), and it was noted that the Groups share common members.

B3 Global Applied Research Network - GARNET (Notes in Annex 2)

Amplifying the written report, Andrew Cotton (WEDC) stressed GARNET's continual need to develop links with other Council Groups, because of the aim to highlight current research needs and findings. Formal links are established with the Gender Network (B4), but response from other Groups has been poor.

Regionalization of GARNET is a key activity now. Regional Network Centres (RNCs) are being planned at CINARA (Colombia), CREPA (Burkina Faso) and ICDDR,B (Bangladesh), though funding constraints are slowing progress with CREPA. Translation remains a big constraint to multilingual networking. Contacts with the UNDP/World Bank Program regional offices and with NETWAS in Kenya have provided opportunities for local networking and electronic information exchange.

GARNET's Worldwide Web site has settled at about 1200 visits a month. There are 281 subscribers to the electronic mailing list.

Discussion emphasized the need for other Council Groups to communicate with GARNET and with each other on research issues. Either GARNET or the proposed *Interwater* website (see Task Force C3 report) could be the focal point for information sharing among groups and for publishing of Working Group findings on the Internet.

Funding sources need to be identified for GARNET activities beyond April 1998, and the RNCs will require funding support.

B4 Gender Issues (Notes in Annex 2)

Dick de Jong (IRC) presented the report on the Gender Network on behalf of Christine van Wijk, who has taken over from Wendy Wakeman (UNDP/WB Program) as interim coordinator until the Manila Forum. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the work done by Wendy Wakeman and the achievements of the Gender Group both through its own activities and through its members' influence on other groups.

The Network now has 50 members. The first Gender Sourcebook (operational level) is being translated into French and Spanish and the second Sourcebook (policy/decision-making level) has been published in English and is being widely distributed. Copies were handed to Working Group Coordinators on the second day of the meeting. Current tasks include dissemination of gender information via a newsletter, assessment of equity in education (particularly ways of fostering entry of women into the water supply and sanitation sector as professionals), and advocacy of gender-sensitive approaches.

A gender tool kit is coming into use for World Bank staff; IRC is updating its publications on women, water and sanitation, and expanding their coverage to encompass the wider water sector. The Gender Network staged a display at Habitat II in Istanbul.

The Network is collecting information on gender implications of other groups' work from its representatives in those groups, and expects to be able to present its findings in time for the Manila meeting.

Discussion focused on ways of ensuring that the excellent tools and guidance offered by the Gender Network reach a wide audience (the UNDP/World Bank Program distributes documents to a 2,500 mailing list compiled by PROWWESS). The objective is to extend guidance outside the already committed gender specialists, to see the guidelines adopted more widely, and to influence decision makers in the broader sector of integrated water resources management. This is recognized to be a difficult task and it was noted that, even within ESAs, the comparatively advanced gender awareness of water supply and sanitation specialists does not generally cross sector boundaries. The UNDP/WB Program expressed willingness to participate in the thinking prior to the Manila Forum on where we want to go with the gender issue.

C1 Documentation and Dissemination (Notes in Annex 2)

The written report by Tony Milburn of IAWQ was amplified verbally at the meeting, and supplemented by a presentation from Tim Robinson of UK publisher Chapman Hall in relation to possible commercial publication of some of the WSSCC output.

Work is under way to produce a catalogue of Council publications and those working groups which have not responded to the Task Force questionnaire are urged to do so quickly. It is suggested that as well as a hard copy version, the catalogue should be published on the Council's Internet Home Page.

Discussions have been held with Chapman Hall, to try to establish whether involvement of a commercial publisher would be cost effective for some Council publications. This requires careful

analysis in terms of the market for different tools, the Council's desire to disseminate information to as wide an audience as possible, and the option to disseminate reports, etc, over the Internet.

Whatever the outcome of these deliberations, the Task Force sees a need to settle on a mandate for each Working Group which sets out the desired outputs in terms of purpose, audience and content. There is also a need to establish a format for Council publications which helps to promote the Council and give credibility to the products themselves (a range of options are described in the Annex 2 notes)

The Task Force feels that it has gone as far as it can on the Terms of Reference under which it worked and that its work is virtually complete. It is recommending that the Secretariat takes over responsibility for documentation and distribution, as it is important to coordinate the work of so many different groups and to maintain a uniform approach which will help to establish a high credibility for the Council. The Task Force itself should therefore be dissolved.

Tim Robinson explained a process under which Chapman Hall (E & FN Spon) works with other agencies, including WHO, UNESCO and UNEP, to produce high quality publications under a mutually beneficial commercial arrangement. This involves Chapman Hall undertaking the publishing work (sometimes including additional advice and editing) on the basis that the agency commits itself to purchasing an agreed number of copies at a substantially discounted price, then allowing the publisher to market and sell extra copies at a commercial price. It was recognized that such an arrangement would only be viable for part of the Council's output, but proposals were being put together for Council consideration.

Issues raised in discussion included: the need for clear specification of document purpose, circulation and content; the consideration of "added value" when opting for high quality production rather than desktop publishing; the question of intellectual copyright and the mandates of some supporting agencies that all sponsored publications must be freely available; the potential conflict over commercial marketing and free Internet access; and the wide range of Council publications, many of which would not be commercially attractive.

The meeting concluded that the proposed new Communications/Information Officer should explore commercial publishing as a viable option for some Council publications and should pursue that option on a case-by-case basis. Management of Working Group publications will be a key task for the new recruit. Production and dissemination are only part of that job, which also includes directing the products towards the right audiences and ensuring that they are used. Council members with wide documentation experience such as IRC and EHP will need to help guide the Secretariat on appropriate avenues to explore.

C2 INTERWATER (WSSCC Home Page on the Internet) (Notes in Annex 2)

Stephen Parker (IRC) explained that, following comments in Barbados, the original acronym WENDY had been changed to INTERWATER as a better way of conveying the role as a gateway to water information on the Internet. Amplifying the notes in Annex 2, he forecast that the Interwater Home Page would be operational at the end of November 1996 as part of the IRC Home Page...

The Task Force had decided that initially the Interwater page would provide links to other sources of information, rather than attempting to become an immediate source of comprehensive information in its own right. It would later evolve into a Council Home Page with information from Council Working Groups, etc.

The main element of the initial Home Page will be the full text of IRC's *Interwater Guide to Information Sources*, with links to the Internet addresses of 100+ sources of sector information.

In discussion, it became clear that availability of a Council Home Page with direct access to text is a priority for the Council, particularly to enable Working Groups to share and disseminate

information (this issue was also raised in the subsequent discussion of the Council's Communications Strategy – See Section 9). The Task Force is also concerned that referenced sources should be evaluated, which requires inputs from Council members to ensure relevance and quality. Developing country participants point to the difficulty of individuals obtaining access to Internet information and request guidance on possible nodes from which they might obtain access.

C3 Human Resources Development, Training and Education (No notes)

Frank Hartvelt reported verbally on progress by the Task Force, which is a spin-off from the Working Group on Institutional and Management Options. An issues paper has been produced and circulated. It divides needs into three categories of education and training: the formative years (schooling of youngsters); vocational training; and professional/academic education and training.

The distance-learning approach is seen as having some potential for HRD in the water supply and sanitation sector and several institutions have expressed interest in sector-related distance-learning initiatives. The potential of the Internet is also being explored, and the Task Force expects to focus its Manila report on distance-learning prospects.

In discussion, it was noted that the European Union has published a White paper on Education and Training, which may be relevant. One aspect referred to in the paper is the prospect of evaluation of competence on a global scale, using the Internet.

C4 Emergency Measures in the Water Supply And Sanitation Sector (Notes in Annex 2)

Brendan Doyle (UNICEF) described how the current emergency in Zaire confirmed the urgent need for coordination of such relief operations, and the cost of past failures to cooperate. The Council Task Force has sought to find and plug gaps in existing programmes for training etc in the field of emergency relief, without duplicating what other agencies are doing. In fact, a great deal is being done by agencies such as MSF, UNHCR, WHO, Oxfam. The NGO Forum is also studying similar topics, so it is important to cooperate rather than duplicate.

The Task Force is compiling evidence for best practice, promoting professionalism in emergencies via a code of conduct, promoting cooperation at national, regional and global levels among support agencies, and preparing a road map (vision for the future) for consideration by the Council in Manila. It also plans to draw up a register of individuals and resources available for different kinds of emergency relief.

The discussion centred on the desperate need for coordination and the great difficulty in achieving it in the field, however committed heads of international agencies were to it. Emphasis was also placed on the need to bridge emergency operations with longer term solutions in refugee areas. Again there is a dilemma, because relief agencies wish their support to be directed at refugees, whereas local communities often suffer greater depravation while seeing the refugees benefit from external support. The need for water supply and sanitation specialists in emergency teams was stressed.

In view of the serious situation in Eastern Zaire, the meeting agreed that the Council Chair should write to the Heads of involved agencies urging coordination of their activities and highlighting the need for appropriate water supply and sanitation interventions to avoid repeating past disasters. A letter was drafted and endorsed by the meeting (Annex 3). Agreeing to send the letter at the request of the meeting, Maggie Catley-Carlson warned against seeing this action as a precedent for instant Council interventions in other major events.

4. Crosscutting themes

Because a number of themes are relevant to more than one working group, the Review Meeting considered how these crosscutting themes might best be addressed, without several groups having to go over the same ground. It was recognized that some overlap is inevitable and that the effort in avoiding duplication may be greater than the savings in some cases.

Having considered a long list of crosscutting themes and acknowledged the need for improved communication among the working groups in dealing with many of them, the participants concluded that special effort was merited in dealing with three in particular:

- communication
- gender
- capacity building

Under the communication heading, one immediate need is for each group to identify five or six key advocacy messages which will be important in elaborating the Council's Communication Strategy. On gender, coordinators and task force managers are asked to assess their groups' recommendations and conclusions and satisfy themselves that gender issues have been adequately addressed, that the reports are "gender aware" and that any tools and guidelines issued reflect the recommendations of the Gender Network. In relation to capacity building, the groups are asked to consider what the relevant implications are for developing countries if their recommendations are implemented. They should highlight requirements anticipated for human resources development, institutional development, awareness raising, etc.

Ideally, each group should know as soon as possible about conclusions reached on these crosscutting themes in other groups. The suggestion is that the three themes should be on the agenda for the next meeting of each group and the conclusions should be made known as soon as possible afterwards. Present mechanisms for spreading the word include the Secretariat, the IRC and GARNET newsletters and, soon, the Interwater Home Page. Andrew Cotton and Stephen Parker have agreed to try to provide simple communication links on the Interwater page to enable working groups to share information on the crosscutting themes specifically.

5. Regional Meeting of the Council in Latin America

Alex Abiko (Brazil) reported on the first Regional Meeting of the WSSCC in Latin America, which took place on 16-18 October 1996 in Quito, Ecuador. It had been organised by the regional groups ANDESAPA and CAPRE, working closely with AIDIS and supported by GTZ. The 56 participants came from 19 countries and also included representatives from CIDA, GTZ, ODA, UNICEF and WHO.

The Regional Meeting created four working groups of its own:

- Strategies for Management and Treatment of Wastewater Coordinator Vicente Jongtuid (Mexico)
- Modernization of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Coordinator José Luis Castagne (Brazil)
- Regulation and Certification on a Regional Basis Coordinator Rafaél Martinez (Venezuela)
- Rehabilitation for Water Supply and Sanitation Systems Coordinator Manuel Romero (Honduras)

The Regional Meeting received presentations from the Council's Working Groups on Operation and Maintenance (B2), Sanitation (A3), and Community Management and Partnerships with Civic Society (A2). The last-named conducted a parallel meeting in Quito of its regional membership.

The meeting was judged a success. It had shown that two of the most crucial sector issues in Latin America are O&M and fears over privatization. Participants decided to form a Chapter of the WSSCC for Latin America and the Caribbean. Alejandro Castro (Ecuador) was selected as ad hoc Secretary of the new Chapter and negotiations are in hand to house the Secretariat either in the UNICEF office in Bogota, or at CEPIS in Lima. Funding support is being sought from CIDA, SIDA and JICA.

A Task Force has been formed to prepare a report on the Quito meeting and to develop a working programme for the next six months.

In discussion, the Review Meeting participants sought further amplification of the regional issues on privatization. These relate to worries that low-income groups may be excluded from the rapidly progressing privatization process in LAC, because they cannot afford privatized services. There is therefore a strong desire to exchange experiences and anticipate problems. The Executive Secretary noted that privatization fears also stem from the feeling that it has been supply-driven and that the demand side has not been adequately articulated. The WSSCC has an obligation to help provide a proper balance and the meeting planned by Habitat and UNDP in early 1997 in South Africa may provide an opportunity.

The work of the Council's WG on Institutional and Management Options had been noted, but there were language problems in making use of the report which originated in French and has been translated into English, but not yet into Spanish.

The LAC Chapter of the Council will have the flexibility to meet either for a single topic discussion on a critical issue or for a general discussion of regional sector issues. It will facilitate WSSCC contacts with donors and governments and establish its own links with local NGOs and community groups.

6. UN Secretary-General's Special Initiative for Africa

Richard Jolly described the background to the UN Initiative, which was an inter-agency response to Africa's special problems. Water supply and sanitation is an important component of the planned activities, and so it is right that the sector should cooperate fully with the Initiative, while recognizing the scepticism about its capacity to generate extra funding.

Ebele Okeke added that the Council's Africa Working Group had welcomed the Initiative and agreed to work alongside it in an advisory capacity. There was no wish to become part of the Initiative, which is very much UN agency-driven. The Africa WG, in contrast, wants to remain African-driven seeking African solutions to African problems. In that context, it can be an important feed for the Initiative, but will resist imposed projects and technical assistance which are not directed towards indigenous capacity building.

Discussion confirmed the scepticism about the Secretary-General's Initiative, but a desire to point it in the right directions so far as water supply and sanitation is concerned. That means creating communication channels to ensure that the advice and views of the Africa WG are appropriately incorporated in the Initiative. Further discussion will be held at the proposed Africa WG meeting in Abidjan

7. Regionalization of Council activities

Attempts to regionalize the working group activities have had mixed success. Responding to a request from the Barbados Forum, the Sanitation WG attempted to establish regional networks in

Latin America and in Asia/Pacific. So far there was no progress and the feeling was that resources were difficult to find, unless existing networks existed as a launchpad. GARNET is experiencing similar difficulties.

The O&M WG has managed to work regionally and feels that regional and national activities are the most productive. "Piggy-backing" on other organizations has helped to overcome resource constraints and the popularity of the O&M tools is a good selling point. The WG held a specialist session during the Regional Meeting of the Council in Latin America and has had national workshops in Mozambique, India and Bangladesh, with more planned in Africa, China and Vietnam.

It is felt that joint activities by Council Working Groups and a willingness to link workshops or presentations to conferences organized by others could be a way forward. In particular, the regionally focused working groups (Africa, Small Islands, Eastern Europe and NIS) could benefit from associating with other specialist groups when organizing meetings. The new Latin America Chapter of the Council will provide opportunities for other groups to meet and to promote their activities, as will the proposed conversion of the Africa WG to a Forum. Other opportunities in Africa come via the Secretary General's Special Initiative, the Africa 2000 Initiative and other multinational gatherings.

8. Executive Secretary's Report (Written Report as Annex 4)

In presenting his report, Ranjith Wirasinha drew special attention to the following points:

- Advocacy for the Council and the sector could be readily improved if Council members and particularly Working Group coordinators took advantage of the IRC and GARNET newsletters to broadcast news of their activities
- Consideration is being given to the possible timing and form of an evaluation of the Council. The consensus from the meeting was that an evaluation would be valuable, the topic should be discussed in Manila, with a view to having an evaluation during 1998. Preliminary work can commence on terms of reference and the Chairperson will work on this with an ad hoc group in early 1997.
- The resource constraints faced by working groups are often aggravated by the lag time following pledges caused by administration arrangements for transfer of funds from ESAs to the UN system. There are also shorter delays within the UN system in transferring funds to the Council Secretariat.
- The Fourth Global Forum will be hosted by the Government of the Philippines and the Asian Development Bank and held in Manila on 3-7 November 1997. The Steering Committee planning the Global Forum is to be chaired by the National Economic Development Agency of the Government of the Philippines, which will give the meeting a high profile.
- The financial status of the Secretariat and working groups has been assisted by recent additional funds pledged by the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway and Canada. On the other hand, hoped for contributions from Japan in the form of seconded staff would not be forthcoming following recent cuts in the overseas development assistance budget.

9. Communications Strategy for the Council

A wide-ranging discussion took place on the draft Communications Strategy prepared by Richard Reid and the associated proposal to recruit a Communications Officer. Participants see the early appointment of an Information/Communications Officer (CO) as very important for the Council's development. The consensus is that an experienced person is needed and that the post should

therefore be at level P5 not P3. In view of the urgency and the need to obtain a well-qualified person, the suggestion is that a recruitment agency should be asked to help find the right person.

In formulating the Communications Strategy, it was agreed that different forms of communication should be categorized, to make it easier to assign tasks to the new officer, the Secretariat, the Chairperson, and others, including Working Group Coordinators and Task Force Managers. For convenience, the outcome of the discussions is presented under the five suggested categories.

9A Internal Communications

This category includes Secretariat communication with members, exchange of information among working groups, and links between WSSCC and regional sections. Most would be the responsibility of the Communications Officer (CO), supported by the Secretariat. Much more use is expected to be made of electronic mail and the Internet, and part of the CO's work will be to stimulate coordinators to communicate their findings and share conclusions with one another. IRC and WEDC will help to establish electronic links among the working groups.

It has to be noted that many DC members have difficulties with Internet access and they should not be disadvantaged because of this constraint. UNICEF and UNDP offer local offices as a means of disseminating specific E-mail or Internet documents where appropriate. A mix of communication methods will be needed, so that, for example, the Secretariat and Working Group Coordinators may communicate with regional sections by E-mail, while those sections need to convert to hard copy and regular mailing to send information to their collaborators.

There is a danger of people being swamped with too much information. Dissemination of full WG reports for example should be on demand, stimulated by much more concise summaries with a wide distribution. Some surprise was expressed at the draft strategy's survey result showing little enthusiasm for a Council Newsletter.

9B Public relations for the Council

Subdivided into the production of written PR materials (brochures, flyers, press releases, etc) which will be a task managed principally by the CO, and direct contacts/verbal PR undertaken by the Chairperson and Executive Secretary.

9C Document dissemination

Managing the production and distribution of documents is the task of the CO, who may make use of the services of a commercial publisher where appropriate (see C1 discussion). The job will also involve progress chasing to ensure timely production of WG documents.

9D Putting results to work

Both the CO and the Executive Secretary have an important role in raising awareness about the availability of Council tools, guidelines, and other publications. This means maintaining regular contact by E-mail, fax, and regular mail with organizations in developing countries and donor agencies who may be able to make use of the outputs, and liaising with working groups about availability, costs, etc. Feedback is also important and a strategy is needed to follow up on the use of documents and seek to disseminate experiences and suggestions for updating or revising tools.

9E Advocacy

Developing a Council strategy on advocacy has proved very difficult. The Executive Secretary, Chairperson and individual Council members all have roles to play. Uniformity is needed in the messages, and target audiences need to be identified for different approaches. The meeting

concluded that a small Task Force should be set up to assemble suggestions from the WGs and help to draft an advocacy strategy in time for Manila.

It will be helpful if advocacy messages are consistent among the different sector advocates, including the Global Water Partnership (see section 10) and the World Water Council (Section 11). Dick de Jong (IRC) has abstracted advocacy recommendations from the Barbados report and will make this information available to the Secretariat for dissemination to the Working Groups and to the advocacy Task Force members.

10. The Global Water Partnership

Frank Hartvelt (UNDP) described the origins and purpose of the GWP, which was established at the Stockholm Water Conference in August and has its Secretariat at SIDA. Co-sponsors are the World Bank, UNDP and SIDA. Its prime function is to build contacts among international agencies for action at country level. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is charged with ensuring that programmes follow the Dublin/Rio principles.

The GWP will operate globally and also at regional and country level. The TAC has held a meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, and developed guidance for the SADC Secretariat on ways of addressing regional problems in the sector. The GWP has close links with the World Water Council (see Section 11), drawing overall policy-oriented guidance from the WWC and translating it into specific actions at country level.

11. The World Water Council

Brian Grover (UNDP/World Bank Water and Sanitation Program) presented an update on the WWC. Since the WSSCC Global Forum in Barbados, the WWC has been established. Its Secretariat is in Marseilles with Guy Le Moigne as Executive Director and a Board of Governors has held two meetings to date, with a third scheduled for December 9-10.

The WSSCC has an invitation to join as a founder member of the WWC Board of Governors and to help develop the WWC's forward looking strategy for integrated water resources management: 2020 Vision for Water, Life and Environment. Following a meeting of the ACC inter-agency committee on water resources, the WWC may have responsibility for organising events for World Water Day 1997. This will include a Morocco Forum, to which the King of Morocco will invite heads of state and other dignitaries. The first General Assembly of the WWC will be staged at the same time.

Brian Grover recommended that the Review meeting should decide on behalf of the WSSCC to become a founder member of the WWC Board of Governors and ensure that the voice of the water supply and sanitation sector in the WWC came from the Council and not from others.

A wide-ranging discussion revealed a mixture of feelings about the WWC's accessibility to all sections of society, including the private sector, contrasting with reservations about the difficulties faced by developing countries in achieving adequate representation in a subscription-based organization. Reservations were also expressed on the possibility of WSSCC's own distinctive role being diluted by more influential voices from the larger agricultural and industrial sectors in an organization with a broad-based multisectoral approach to water resources. In particular, some participants feared a swing in emphasis away from concerns for the poor and underserved. Queries were raised about the "neutrality" of the organization in relation to its origins and support arrangements.

Critical comments were also levelled at the proposed Morocco event, which was seen as a potential embarrassment for the King of Morocco if dignitaries decline to attend, and possibly embarrassing to countries which, having attended the event found themselves not wishing to

WSSCC Mid-Term Review

implement recommendations from a Forum to which they had been invited by the King. The Swedish arrangement for the Stockholm Symposium was seen as a more appropriate model.

The conclusion was that the WSSCC voice does need to be heard in the WWC and that membership may be the best way to move the WWC towards the Council's agenda for the urban and rural poor. The Meeting accepted with reservations the suggestion of the Chairperson that the Council participate in WWC activities with immediate effect and review its membership at the Global Forum after Manila. Participation will include attempts to sway the WWC towards policies which will answer reservations of WSSCC members in relation to the participation of developing country representatives. Noting that participation may sometimes be an extra burden on the Chairperson or Executive Secretary, diverting them from the WSSCC's own priorities, the meeting suggested that other Council members may at times be delegated to attend WWC meetings on behalf of the WSSCC.

12 Planning for the Fourth WSSCC Global Forum

The Executive Secretary explained the process for planning the Forum, and preliminary ideas about the Manila programme. The intention is that the Forum Steering Committee will consider ideas for the programme at its meeting in January 1997. These ideas will be developed by the Secretariat, the Chief Facilitator and the Chief Rapporteur and then circulated to Council members for comment.

Initial ideas are that the presentation of formal reports from all the Council Working Groups and Task Forces would occupy too much plenary time. One suggestion is to replace those presentations with a panel session in which the Working Group topics will be grouped into a series of themes, such as *Policy, Structure, Operations, Research, Cooperation, Capacity Building*. Coordinators would be asked to identify issues from their own Working Groups' reports under the different headings, as an introduction to subsequent Group sessions. The Group sessions would be regional rather than thematic, with each regional group reporting back to plenary on conclusions related to each theme.

The discussion recognized the complexity of trying to deal with so many topics and activities. The consensus was that previous meetings have had too rigid a reporting format and timetable. Provision needs to be made for the Forum to develop issues and recommend actions and that requires more quality discussion time. The suggestion was made that the Secretariat should consider hiring the services of a professional conference planner/facilitator to advise on the best way to make use of the planned 4-5 days. Meanwhile, the Secretariat will welcome suggestions ahead of the January Steering Committee Meeting and will aim to circulate a preliminary programme in late February or early March.

13 The way ahead for the Council

This free-ranging discussion covered the issues of governance, the financial base of the Secretariat which though adequate needs to iron out cash-flow problems, the pros and cons of setting goals, ways of promoting the Council's activities and use of its tools, and the benefits to come from an evaluation.

The consensus was that the Council and particularly the Secretariat has achieved a great deal in elaborating sector issues and developing guidelines and tools, despite severe resource constraints. The constraints are likely to remain and attention has to be given to curtailing any broadening of the number of activities and concentrating on finding ways of applying the many recommendations already on the table. Collaboration with the Global Water Partnership and the World Water Council will add a further dimension. Reference was also made to the 20/20 initiative adopted at the Copenhagen Social Summit in 1995 at which countries agreed to invest 20% of

their development budgets on basic social services. It is suggested that the Manila Global Forum should include discussion on ways in which the WSSCC can support the 20/20 initiative by promoting expansion of sustainable water and sanitation services as a key poverty alleviation measure.

Discussion on whether the Council would benefit from setting global or regional goals, either for itself or for the sector, was inconclusive and it was agreed that this issue should be discussed during the Manila Forum. The Chairperson will work with an ad hoc group in early 1997 to put together some proposals.

Recognizing that there have been difficulties in the past in setting up any formal Executive Committee to help in its governance, the Council has adopted arrangements such as the Mid-Term Review, the Post-Forum Administrative Meeting and canvassing communications from the Secretariat to deal with issues and decisions.

The meeting saw a valuable role for an ad hoc Task Force which would assist the Chairperson and Secretariat. Specific tasks to be assigned to the group included:

- Formulating a forward-looking strategy for the Council, including consideration of any goals which should be set.
- Developing terms of reference for the proposed evaluation.
- Reviewing and consolidating the advocacy messages from Council Fora and from the Working Groups and Networks, and developing a comprehensive advocacy guideline for consideration in Manila.
- Advising the Chairperson and Executive Secretary on responses to the World Water Council, particularly in relation to the development of the 2020 Vision.

Richard Jolly requested information from Council members on case studies or other documentary evidence of the role of water supply and sanitation in poverty alleviation. These may be helpful in the preparation of next year's *Human Development Report*, the theme of which is poverty alleviation.

14 Acknowledgments

The Meeting extended its thanks and appreciation to WaterAid for administrative support and hospitality, wished the new Chairperson well, and congratulated the Executive Secretary on a remarkable year of accomplishment, mainly achieved single-handed.

WSSCC Mid-Term Review

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

Action Agenda from Mid-Term Review 1996

To be read with the report of the Review Meeting held 13-14 November 1996 in London, UK

1. Actions by Secretariat and/or Chairperson

- Institute early recruitment process for the Information/Communications Officer, preferably at P5 level. Consider use of a recruitment agency Minute 9
- Join the World Water Council and participate in Board Meetings Minute 11
- Circulate the preliminary Manila Programme after the Steering Committee Meeting –
 Minute 12
- Establish a Task Force to assist the Chairperson and Secretariat on key issues requiring action before Manila – Minute 13

2. Actions by WG Coordinators/Task Force Managers

- All Groups provide Tony Milburn (IAWQ) with listings of publications for inclusion in a catalogue of Council publications Minute C1
- All Groups share information on cross-cutting themes (communication, gender, capacity building) Minute 4
- All Groups give the Secretariat a list of 5-6 key advocacy messages Minute 4
- ISW (*Raymond Jost*) liaise with Africa WG (Ebele Okeke) in relation to planned Nairobi Meeting Minute A2
- Mountains Unlimited (*Helmut Weidel*) distribute group 29 Newsletter to donors –
 Minute A8
- IRC (Stephen Parker) and WEDC (Andrew Cotton) help Working Groups to share information on the INTERWATER Home Page Minute 4

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- 3. Actions by Individual Agencies/Council Members (vou the was also
- 3.1 UNDP (Frank Hartvelt) Minute A1

 Seek cooperation of Res Reps for water supply and sanitation sector people to take advantage of E-mail/Internet facilities.
- 3.2 IRC (Dick de Jong) Minute 9E

Give the Secretariat the summary of advocacy recommendations abstracted from the Barbados Report.

3.3 All Members – Minute 13

Suggest to Richard Jolly case studies for inclusion in next year's *Human Development Report*.

4. Funding requests to donors

- Water Demand Management and Conservation Group seeks finance for meetings –
 Minute A5
- Small Island States Group seeks finance to help CSC and SOPAC Minute A7
- CEE & CIS Group seeks extra funds to help spread its influence Minute A8
- Lusophone Initiative seeks finance for preparing an operation plan Minute A10
- GARNET seeks support for regional centres, translation, and longer term activities
 Minute B3

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Professor Alex Kenya Abiko

Escola Politécnica - University of Sao Paulo

Department of Civil Engineering

Ave. Prof. Almeida Prado

Sao Paulo Brazil

2. Mr Ingvar Andersson

Head of Division

Swedish Int'l Development Coop. Agency (Sida)

Sveavagen 20 10525 Stockholm

Sweden

3. Mr Willem Ankersmit

Technical Adviser

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

P.O. Box 10061 2500 EB The Hague

Netherlands

4. Mr Brian Appleton

Consultant (Rapporteur)

9 Prospect Road

Prenton, Wirral L42 8LE

UK

5. Mr Gerrit Ardon

Head, Drinking Water Division Ministry of the Environment

Willistry of the Environ

P.O. Box 30945

2500 GX The Hague

Netherlands

6. Mr Guy Carrier

Senior Adviser

Canadian Int'l Development Agency (CIDA)

200 Promenade du Portage Hull, Quebec K1A 0G4

Canada

7. Mrs Margaret Catley-Carlson

President

The Population Council

One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

New York, N.Y. 10017

USA

Tel: +55-11-818 5234

Fax: +55-11-818 5715

E-mail: alkabiko@usp.br

Tel: +46-8-698 5386

Fax: +46-8-698 5653

E-mail: ingvar.andersson@sida.se

Tel: +31-70-348 5518

Fax: +31-70-348 5956

E-mail: ankersmit@dst.minbuza.nl

Tel: +44-151-608 7389

Fax: +44-151-608 6939

E-mail: appleton@prenton.u-net.com

Tel: +31-70-339 4248

Fax: +31-70-339 1288

Tel: +1-819-997 1466 Fax: +1-819-953 3348

E-mail: guy.carrier@acdi-cida.gc.ca

Tel: +1-212-339 0500 Fax: +1-212-755 6052

E-mail: catleycarlson@popcouncil.org

8. Mr Andrew Cotton

GARNET Network Coordinator

WEDC

Loughborough University

Ashby Road, Loughborough

Leics. LE11 3TU

UK

9. Mr Brendan Doyle

Senior Programme Office, WES

UNICEF

Three United Nations Plaza

WES Cluster (TA-26A)

New York, N.Y. 10017

USA

10. Dr Lester Forde

Director, Special Projects

Water and Sewerage Authority

19 Bates Terrace

Santa Margarita, St Augustine

Trinidad & Tobago

11. Mr Bruce Gross

UNDP/World Bank Water & Sanitation Program

The World Bank

1818 H Street NW,

Washington, DC 20433

USA

12. Mr Brian Grover

Manager

UNDP/World Bank Water & Sanitation Program

The World Bank

1818 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20433

USA

13. Mr Armon Hartmann

Head, Water & Infrastructure Division

Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation

Eigerstrasse 73

3003 Bern

Switzerland

14. Mr Frank Hartvelt

Deputy Director, STAPSD

UNDP

One United Nations Plaza

New York, N.Y. 10017

USA

Tel: +44-1509-22 28 85

Fax. +44-1509-21 10 79

E-mail: a.p.cotton@lboro.ac.uk

Tel: +1-212-824 6662

Fax: +1-212-824 6480/82

E-mail: bdoyle@unicef.org

Tel: +1-809-662 2301/7 ex. 4023

Fax: +1-809-645 793; 628 7608

Tel: +1-202-473 3080

Fax: +1-202-522 3228

E-mail: bgross@worldbank.org

Tel: +1-202-473-0693 Fax: +1-202-522-3228

E-mail: bgrover@worldbank.org

Tel: +41-31-322 3407; 325 5252

Fax: +41-31-324 1695; 325 9363

E-mail: armon.hartmann@sdc.admin.ch

Tel: +1-212-906 5858 Fax: +1-212-906 6350

E-mail: frank.hartvelt@undp.org

15. Mr José Augusto Hueb

International Adviser, REH World Health Organization

1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland Tel: +41-22-791 3553 Fax: +41-22-791 4159 E-mail: huebj@who.ch

16. Mr Bengt Johansson

Senior Programme Officer

Swedish Int'l Development Coop. Agency (Sida)

Sveavagen 20 10525 Stockholm Sweden Tel: +46-8-698 5341 Fax: +46-8-698 5653 E-mail: bengt.johansson@sida.se

17. Mr Dick de Jong

Public Information Officer

Int'l Water & Sanitation Centre (IRC)

P.O. Box 93190 2509 AD The Hague Netherlands Tel: +31-70-306 8930 Fax: +31-70-358 9964 E-mail: general@irc.nl

18. Mr Richard Jolly

Special Adviser to the Administrator

UNDP

One United Nations Plaza New York, N.Y. 10017 USA Tel: +1-212-906 5764/5198 Fax: +1-212-906 6661

E-mail: richard.jolly@undp.org

19. Mr Raymond Jost

Secretary-General

International Secretariat for Water (ISW) 157 rue St-Paul Ouest, Bureau 106 Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1Z5

Canada

Tel: +1-514-849 4262 Fax: +1-514-849 2822 E-mail: isw@webapc.org

20. Mr Yuji Koresawa

Deputy Director for International Cooperation International Affairs Division Ministry of Health and Welfare 1-2-2, Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100-45 Japan Tel: +81-3-3591 8983 Fax: +81-3-3501 2532

21. Mr Jon Lane

Director WaterAid 27-29 Albert Embankment London SE1 7UB UK Tel: +44-171-793 4500 Fax: +44-171-793 4545

22. Dr Rainer E. Lotz

Head, Infrastructure Division

German Ministry for Economic Cooperation

and Development (BMZ)

Friedrich-Ebert Allee 114-116

D-W-53113 Bonn 1

Germany

23. Mr Siyan Malomo

Chief Project Officer

Commonwealth Science Council

Marlborough House

Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX

UK

24. Mr Charles Marville

Engineer, Operations & Maintenance

Barbados Water Authority

Pine East-West Boulevard

Pine, St Michael

Barbados

25. Mr Anthony Milburn

Executive Director

Int'l Association on Water Quality (IAWQ)

Duchess House

20 Masons Yard, Duke Street

St James's, London SW1Y 6BU

UK

26 Mr B.S. Minhas

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011

India

27. Mr Abbey Mpamhanga

Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Local Government

Post Bag 7706

Causeway, Harare

Zimbabwe

28. Mr Felix Matias Neto

National Director

National Directorate for Water

Rua Rainha Ginga, 210

Luanda

Republic of Angola

Tel: +49-228-535 3760

Fax: +49-228-535 3755

Tel: +44-171-747 6211

Fax: +44-171-839 6174

E-mail. comsci@gn.apc.org

Tel: +1-246-433 2689

Fax: +1-246-433 1041

Tel: +44-171-839 8390

Fax: +44-171-839 8299

E-mail: 100065.3664@compuserve.com

Tel: +91-11-301 8255

Fax: +91-11-301 4459

Tel: +263-4-79 06 01/9 or 7

Fax: +263-4-79 23 07

Tel: +244-2-39 06 77

Fax: +244-2-33 40 37

Ms Ebele Okeke 29.

Deputy Director

Federal Ministry of Water Resources & Rural Development

P.M.B. 159 Garki, Abuja

Nigeria

30. Mr Stephen Parker

Publications Manager

International Water & Sanitation Centre (IRC)

P.O. Box 93190 2509 AD The Hague Netherlands

31. Mr Dinesh Pyakural

Director-General

Department of Water Supply & Sewerage

Panipokhary Kathmandu Nepal

32. Mr Orville Roque

Programme Manager

Water Supply & Sanitation Programme Office Dept. of Interior and Local Government 5th floor, A. Francisco Gold Condo. II EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street Quezon City · Philippines

33. Dr Mayling Simpson-Hebert

Technical Officer, REH World Health Organization 1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

34. Mr Hans Van Damme

Director International Water & Sanitation Centre (IRC) P.O. Box 93190

2509 AD The Hague

Netherlands

35. Dr A. Van der Beken

Co-ordinator TECHWARE

TECHWARE c/o CIBE/BIWM Wolstraat 70 1000 Brussels Belgium

Tel: +234-9-234 2733

Fax: +234-9-234 3714; 234 2509

+31-70-306 8930 Tel:

Fax: +31-70-358 9964

E.Mail: general@irc.nl

Tel: +97-71-41 37 44; 41 45 39

Fax: +97-71-41 98 02

Tel: +63-2-928 6357

Fax: +63-2-925 0362

Tel: +41-22-791 3531 Fax: +41-22-791 4159

E-mail: simpsonhebertm@who.ch

Tel: +31-70-306 8930

Fax: +-31-70-358 9964 E.Mail: general@irc.nl

Tel: +32-2-518 8893 Fax: +32-1-502 67 35

E-mail: techwarectb@innet.be

36. Mr Mario Vasconez

Subdirector

Centro de Investigaciones CIUDAD

Meneses 265 y la Gasca Casilla Postal 1708-8311

Ouito Ecuador

37. Mr Hannu Vikman

Adviser, Water and Sanitation Ministry for Foreign Affairs Dept. for Int'l Development Cooperation Katajanokanlaituri 3

00160 Helsinki

Finland

38. Mr Ramon Stephen Villaflor

Water Supply & Sanitation Programme Office Dept. of Interior and Local Government 5th floor, A. Francisco Gold Condo. II EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street **Ouezon City**

Philippines

39. Dr Dennis Warner

Manager, REH World Health Organization 1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

40. Mr Helmut Weidel

Mountain Unlimited Spiegelgasse 8 1010 Vienna

Austria

41. Mr Ranjith Wirasinha

Executive Secretary WSS Collaborative Council c/o World Health Organization 1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland

42. Mr Alistair Wray

Senior Water Resources Adviser Overseas Development Agency 94 Victoria Street London SW1E 5JL UK

Tel: +593-2-22 51 98; 22 70 91

Fax: +593-2-50 03 22

E-mail: mvasco@ciudad.ecx.ec

Tel: +358-9-1341 6426 Fax. +358-9-1341 6428

E-mail: hannu.vikman@formin.mailnet.fi

Tel: +63-2-928 6357 Fax: +63-2-925 0362

Tel: +41-22-791 3546 Fax: +41-22-791 4159

E-mail: warnerd@who.ch

Tel: +43-1-512 6590 +43-1-513 8658/9

E.Mail: mountain-unlimited@blackbox.at

Tel: +41-22-791 3685 Fax: +41-22-791 4847 E.Mail: wirasinhar@who.ch

ciprianom@who.ch

Tel: +44-171-917 0396 Fax: +44-171-917 0072

E-mail: engoagw.vs4@oda.gnet.gov.uk



WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

CONSEIL DE CONCERTATION POUR L'APPROVISIONNEMENT EN EAU ET L'ASSAINISSEMENT

Our ref. CCW/O/OA/2 Tel. (direct) +41 22 791 3685 To invitees to the Mid-Term Review Meeting

16 December 1996

Dear Colleague,

WSSCC Mid-Term Review, 13-14 November 1996, London, UK Minutes of Meeting

I am pleased to send you a copy of the Minutes of the above meeting. Also attached is a Summary Action Sheet prepared by Brian Appleton to remind those who are responsible for follow-up action. Your cooperation in attending to follow-up activity which falls within your domain will be greatly appreciated.

I take this opportunity to thank Brian on our behalf, for the valuable assistance provided.

With my warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ranjith Wirasinha
Executive Secretary
WSS Collaborative Council

cc: Mr Brian Appleton, Rapporteur

ENCL. as stated

P.S. Notes of each WG have not been included due to the bulk in the postage. Copies are available on request from the Secretariat. Copies of the other annexes are also available on request.