

Arbitrator's Draft

We, the Heads of State and Governments of the G20 member countries, after intense deliberations, hereby

Recognize:

- (i) the role and responsibility of the international community to ensure universal access to unserved basic human needs, such as of drinking water and sanitation, food, health care, education, energy and other challenging manifestations of poverty and inequity
- (ii) the limitations of the current international architecture in converting the challenges of globalization, democratic governance, disparities and consequent conflicts into an opportunity for promoting peaceful progress on the planet, despite the good intentions of the UN and proclamations at various summits and conferences
- (iii) the comparative advantage of G20 as the core group for dealing effectively with emerging opportunities and challenges by virtue of its sizeable share of, and impact on, the global economy and polity, North-South commonality of interests on outstanding international issues, and the scope and space for forging collaborative partnership without the constraints of [wide ranging] multilateralism
- (iv) the lack of access to assured supply of safe drinking water and basic needs of sanitation, involving hundreds of millions of humans, who therefore are afflicted by disease, debility and deprivation, with untold consequences, including heavy costs to society, to say the least
- (v) the limited progress so far in attaining the targets for safe drinking water supply included among the Millennium Development Goals and reaffirmed by the Heads of Governments and States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development together with the provision of sanitation to unserved billions of appropriate indigenous, innovative and advanced technologies are at hand and progressively improved SDS systems can be installed as development goes forward, and embedded political and power structures are not involved or threatened [so much] in the process
- (vii) that the investment costs for SDS services are relatively reasonable, hardly equalling the annual consumption cost of pet food in order to reach the agreed upon targets and even lower cost -also in comparison with any of the other MDGs, while the benefits are enormous with ratios ranging well above six

- (viii) that redeemingly the UN Water for Life Decade is symptomatic of the emerging understanding of the global importance of SDS issue, which could be leveraged for convergent policy paradigms, international cooperation and resource mobilization, among other things
- (ix) that the largest mass of the poorest of the poor and those devoid of access to SDS are in the G20 countries; policies and action for redressing the situation are therefore not only in our own interest but would also deliver the already agreed upon WSSD targets well within reach of our comity of nations, and even more so along with our associates
- (x) that there is much less possibility for any other group to do so effectively, for the UN system at one end of the spectrum is diluted by multifarious agenda generally aimed at reaching agreements after years of negotiations and it has no agency devoted specifically to SDS, while G-8 at the other end is limited in its membership and does not have the same global legitimacy and coverage as G20 and is often quagmired in issues of national security and the like

Endorse:

- (xi) the need for urgent and concerted action for charting a way forward to address the plight of poverty on the planet, among which none is hardly of such compelling urgency as the supply of safe drinking water and sanitation
- (xii) the highest priority given to water and sanitation under the WEHAB plan of implementation adopted at WSSD -but with up-scaled goals for complete coverage than those indicated in the MDGs and WEHAB in order not to leave this outstanding issue to a half-hearted business-as-usual targets which may otherwise remain unattained for decades to come through the course of the millennium
- (xiii) the inclusion of associate members in the G20 Leadership Forum according to their specificities vis-à-vis thematic and geographical contexts, such as regarding the requirements of SDS and water stressed regions
- (xiv) the strengthening of delivery capability of the composite group of G20 in order to concert at highest leadership levels and to act together with SDS associate members at various levels

South and South –South cooperation, which G20 leadership would guide, catalyse and promote

(xxvii) reinvigorate and refocus the World Day for Water as the World Water Day (WWD) for information sharing and dissemination, awareness and fund raising with focus on safe drinking water supply and sanitation for the forthcoming five years

(xxviii) invite and designate 20 good-will ambassadors from all regions of the world willing to dedicate their time and energy for advocacy of SDS on their own and at events organized by the WWF and for campaigning the cause of the reinvigorated WWD

Seek:

- (xxxii) to set an example for ourselves and others in the international arena how good global governance, committed leadership, national action and international cooperation can help speedily and effectively deliver the various MDGs and other interrelated dimensions of water resource management, all of which we consider to be important and some of which we would be willing to lead likewise but without losing focus on the process for an assured way forward on SDS, and
- (xxxiii) to work with resolve in being an effective and active global forum of forums for our common endeavour to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation by or before 2025