

Briefing:

Recommended commitments to be made by governments at the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting

Commitments made at the High Level Meeting can reverse the political and financial neglect of the water and sanitation sector by:

Ensuring that enough resources are available

- Acting collectively, donors should at least double global aid flows to the sector, providing an additional US\$10 billion per year in the run up to 2015 and beyond
- Off-track countries in Sub-Saharan Africa should spend at least 1% of GDP on sanitation and at least a further 2.5% on water supply, and off-track countries in South Asia should spend at least 1% of GDP of sanitation.

... to be spent where they are most needed

- International aid for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to be coordinated and spent in countries which have the highest percentage of populations without access to water and sanitation, rather than for political expedience or historic partnerships
- to the populations most in need within countries, especially in the rural areas with least access, marginalised communities and the urban poor.

... and in the way that is most effective

- Substantially speed up support from SWA partners to the most fragile state. We recommend five countries per year for the next two years to graduate from the National Planning for Results Initiative (NPRI) which is the country-level component of the SWA.
- Identify financing gaps to achieve the water and sanitation MDGs in countries with strong plans and institutions to ensure that no credible plan fails for lack of finance
- National plans should be developed on the principles of devolving power and resources to the local bodies of governance. In turn, these local bodies should be capacitated to develop and implement integrated WASH plans for servicing their whole populations sustainably
- Civil society should be involved at all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring
- Donors should appoint a lead organisation in each country and coordinate efforts with the goals of reaching the most in-need with sustainable access to safe water and sanitation.