

July 29th 2009
The Khartoum Declaration

We, the Ministers of Government of National Unity of Sudan responsible for sanitation, together with Community representatives, professionals from sector institutions, academia, civil society organisations, and development partners, under the auspices of the 1st National Sanitation Workshop in Sudan held on 28th and 29th July 2009:

Recognize: that approximately 61% of the population of Sudan currently do not have access to safe sanitation;

Mindful; that sanitation and hygiene related diseases are a major cause of death, illness and poverty in Sudan and that improving sanitation, in particular eliminating open defecation, reduces the disease burden and improves household and national economic development;

Recognize: that behaviour and social change is fundamental for the scaling up of sanitation.

In line with the commitments made by Sudan as a signatory to the e-Thekwani Declaration in 2008 at Africasan 2 in Durban, South Africa;

Noting: that the associated human, social, health and economic costs of open defecation are a major burden in Sudan and that investments in sanitation positively impact on related Sudan Development Goals including poverty reduction;

Recognize: that sustainable access to sanitation is one of the Millennium Development Goals, which we have all committed to support:

We do hereby pledge ourselves to the following “Khartoum Declaration” commitments:

1. To bring the messages, outcomes and commitments made at the National Sanitation Workshop to the attention of our colleagues, partners and wider community to raise the profile of sanitation and hygiene in Sudan;
2. To ensure that an accountable institution takes clear leadership of the National sanitation portfolio; establish one coordinating body with specific responsibility for sanitation and hygiene involving all stakeholders;
3. To manifest our commitment to sanitation and hygiene through the consensus on keys problems and policy solution based on both country and regional leaning, establishment of one costed and actionable national plan for accelerating progress on sanitation by July 2010.
4. To increase sanitation coverage we recognise the importance of evidence based community led approaches for the achievement of open defecation 2010 free rural and semi-urban communities. As a matter of urgency at least 10 ODF communities/villages shall be evolved in each state over the next 12 months and used as a demonstration for scaling up.
5. To initiate a process of joint and participatory learning on appropriate, safe and sustainable technology, monitoring and extension in full partnership with the Natural Leaders emerging from the ODF communities/villages.
6. To ensure school based WASH interventions are prioritized and an integral component of FMoH , SMoH ,WASH and Education policies, states plans and budgets.

We further call on:

1. **Our colleagues in Government, external support agencies, academia, the media, religious leaders, NGO's, communities and the private sector to increase their support to our**

efforts, provide financial and technical assistance and improve partnerships and coordination in the areas of sanitation and hygiene.

2. National and regional actors to make use of the opportunities provided by this workshop to enhance and scale up efforts in sanitation and hygiene throughout Sudan.
3. Communities to take a central role in sanitation and hygiene development and in the realization of an Open Defecation Free Sudan.

And in recognition of this, we make this declaration on 29th July 2009 in Khartoum, Sudan.

Signed:

Dr. Tabitha Botros Shokaia Federal Minister of Health, Sudan	Eng. Kamal Ali Mohammed Federal Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Sudan
Dr. Hamid Mohamed Ibrahim Federal Minister Education, Sudan	Mr. Ahmed Babikir Nihar Federal Minister of Environment & Physical Development, Sudan
Dr. Azhari Eltigani Awad Elseed Federal Minister of Religious Guidance & Endowments, Sudan	Gen .Engineer Abdul-Rahman Saeed Abdul- Rahman Federal Minister of Chamber Federal Governance, Sudan