



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEAKER'S NOTES FOR MINISTER MOKONYANE AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POST 2015: THE NEW WAY, HELD AT THE EXHIBITION CENTRE, DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA, DURING THE WORLD WATER FORUM 7.

15th APRIL, 2015

Introductory Comments:

The Global Water Partnership defines Integrated Water Resources Management as: “a process which promotes co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.” In a sense IWRM, when considered in all its dimensions, can be seen as the nexus approach using a water perspective.

It is worth noting, that the nexus approach is a decision-making framework which employs systems thinking to identify cross-sectional impacts (externalities), explore feasible trade-offs and help policy makers achieve greater policy coherence as efforts are made to move development pathways which are resource efficient, equitable and sustainable. It is an approach which can be applied at all levels of governance from local to the international

IWRM principles are easier to apply if a good governance framework is in place at all administrative and hydrological levels. As you know, Good Governance can best be expressed through principles such as social equity, transparency and accountability.

THE PROCESS AND KEY PRINCIPLES CAN BE OUTLINED AS FOLLOWS:

- *The scene has already been set at a global stage for policy makers to implement IWRM by the final report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;*
- *The Open Group proposed that countries should 'by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels;*
- *IWRM must also be implemented through trans-boundary co-operation;*
- *The report was supported by the Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda as resolved on 4 December, 2014;*
- *This report inspires governments to work towards implementing IWRM plans both nationally and regionally through river basin plans;*
- *As water is central to the implementation of this plan; and this is also a sound base to advocate for a dedicated water goal;*
- *There is no one single blue print (one size fit all) for Integrated Water Resources Management, but there is a common approach;*
- *It is important to note that IWRM is **not an end in itself**, but rather **a means to an end**;*
- *The challenge in South Africa to ensure that water is available for meeting both economic and social needs and that water is considered both an economic and a social good;*
- *In a water scarce country, where a growth rate of 6% is aimed at, the development of water resources infrastructure such as dams and inter-basin transfers must be twinned with significant programmes of investment and water conservation and demand management;*

- *These parallel programmes must also serve the process of transformation and reallocation of water.*

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF IWRM THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO LEAD ON DURING IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDE:

- *mainstreaming IWRM in the national policies, plans and laws;*
- *ensuring **strategic alignment** and integration of **water resources programmes** and associated strategies at **national**, provincial and local government level;*
- *ensuring **integration of water availability information into provincial and local development** planning processes;*
- ***designing and capacitating** appropriate institutional and regulatory frameworks;*
- *forming partnerships with the private sector and civil society; and*
- *building capacity for the sector.*

IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE IWRM AGENDA MUST ADDRESS SOME OF THE KEY CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES WE FACE, NAMELY:

- *Water scarcity, which will be compounded by climate change.*
- *Defining equitable allocation and benefit sharing with limited available water resources.*
- *Effectively involving stakeholders at basin level given assymetry of capacity including access to information, water planning and skills.*
- *Optimising operation of available infrastructure and transparent planning.*
- *Exploring innovative partnerships and continuing to leverage funding for priority programmes*

THE CLEAR MESSAGES FOR MAKING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) WORK FOR ALL OF US ARE:

- **We must sharpen the message:** *The potential contribution of water to poverty eradication needs to be strengthened in national policies and legislation;*

- **We must stretch the imagination:** *The provision of domestic water to be widely used for productive purposes and can make a difference to the livelihoods of poor people;*
- **We must argue the case more effectively:** *Improving water supplies and sanitation bring a wide range of benefits. These include health and welfare benefits as well as reduced income losses and medical expenses, as well as improving equity and social organization;*
- **We must create awareness:** *The huge challenges inherent in improving sanitation, together with hygiene promotion, are identified as a particular cause for concern. The need for advocacy to increase knowledge of and support for large-scale efforts to improve sanitation, along with the need to find ways to increase coverage without greatly increasing water demands in areas of water scarcity, were identified as particular areas for action;*
- **We must focus on actions:** *Many positive experiences were identified but there are formidable challenges to scaling these up and replicating them. This process of learning from and transferring positive experiences is a key to more effective water management for poverty reduction;*
- **We must bring sectors together:** *Addressing a range of vulnerabilities related to health risks, ecosystems degradation and disaster management must be a central component of pro-poor water policies and management. These vulnerabilities have traditionally been the responsibility of agencies outside of the water sector but must be central to integrated water resources management;*
- **We must bring people together:** *The importance of all stakeholders contributing in their own way is a central theme. These are governments, civil society, the private sector, the international community and not least, poor people themselves. Partnerships to put the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities into practice are essential if the synergies between these different contributions are to emerge. The basis for creating these synergies is to empower the poor and then see how different stakeholders can support and respond to the needs of poor people;*

- **We must make action possible:** *Capacity building is needed at all levels, but is particularly important at local government and community levels. Creating or enhancing institutional, legal and policy frameworks to support this is a critical challenge;*
- **Financing is needed:** *One critical area is the mobilization of new funding sources. Again, much potential exists but the potential of local, small-scale private sector involvement in service provision; especially in rural areas is one area where particular actions are needed. Such entrepreneurial development produces more appropriate, cheaper and more sustainable service provision, and generates many additional multipliers through the local economy;*
- **We must build understanding:** *there are many knowledge gaps that need to be bridged, including the development of effective indicators and monitoring systems to assess progress in reaching water-poverty targets. There is also a need for major advocacy programmes to increase political and public awareness of and support for pro-poor water management;*
- **Knowledge must be strengthened:** *Lessons learnt in implementing the IWRM need to be documented and shared for refining as we implement. Various countries are doing different things as part of the roadmap to the implementation of IWRM. The knowledge gained and lessons learnt become key in driving the implementation of IWRM. This will go a long way in positioning water as a game changer at national and regional levels.*

Conclusion:

*As leaders in various capacities we should not rest until every woman, every girl child has access to basicsafe water and decent sanitation. This therefore requires that we take a **‘Business Unusual Approach’** in accelerating service delivery and ensuring that women play a key role in the water and sanitation sector.*

Living sustainably means recognizing that we are an inseparable part of the web of life and the environment and that enhancing the dignity and sustainability of any one of us will enhance all others.

Therefore, to achieve this proposed social development goal on water, governments are inspired to work hard in the application of IWRM both at national and at shared river basin points. This is even more important as we are moving towards the adoption of a dedicated social development goal from 2015 upwards.

Thus the implementation of IWRM in South Africa must contribute to the implementation of the National Development Plan towards poverty eradication, rural development, job creation and economic growth and to the transformation of society, particularly with regard to inclusivity in relation to race and gender.

Therefore, for governments, it makes socio-economic sense to apply IWRM as it enhances economic development and social transformation.

END.