

REPORT ON  
NATIONAL NGO CONSULATIVE  
CONFERENCE ON WATER AND  
SANITATION

**ORGANISED BY AFRICAN NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT AND  
ECONOMIC JUSTICE (ANEEJ)**

SUPPORTED BY

HEINRICH BOELL FOUNDATION,  
NIGERIA

3<sup>RD</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2003

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## **FOREWORD**

This report is fallout of a National NGO Consultative meeting on Water and Sanitation held from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2003 at the Conference Hall of Heinrich Boll Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria. Invariably, it captures blow-by-blow all the critical processes set in place by conference host, ANEEJ, which eventually culminates in the formation of a Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation, the first of its kind in Nigeria. As the name implies, the network will henceforth lead civil society's dialogue, campaign, mobilization and participation in all issues related to national water/sanitation management in the country in collaboration with other sister organizations abroad. The formation of the network comes at a critical time when government water and sanitation policies are failing and a new Presidential Water Initiative (PWI) is in the works, propelled by the theme "Water For People, Water For Life", apparently to address the situation.

Basically, the report comprises, firstly, a section detailing the summary of all the papers presented during the conference; participants' reactions/comments on the papers; as well as all cognate discussions on the conference theme. Thus, this section provides an easy reference guide to events at the meeting. For instance, the reader, in this section, obtains at a glance a digest of the ideas and views as well as counter or consensus views canvassed by conferees. In addition, this section outlines the activities and reports of the two group discussions, which took place at the meeting. The discussions were centered respectively on the controversial subject of water privatization; and current civil society organization's role in water/sanitation policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in Nigeria.

The report's second section is reserved for the communiqué issued by the conference participants. A highlight of the communiqué is the establishment of a Civil Society Network On Water And Sanitation. This section also contains an Action Plan of the conferees to actualize their new vision of actively, constructive and collaborative engagement with stakeholders in all water/sanitation issues. The Action Plan amplifies the goal of the conference theme, which is "From Rhetorics To Action".

It is hoped that, all said, this report will be valuable treasure house of information on the current debate on water and sanitation issues in Nigeria at this august time the country is battling to meet her Millennium Development Goals on these twin issues by 2015.

Rev. David Ugolor  
President, ANEEJ

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We wish to thank the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nigeria office for providing the financial support that made possible for ANEEJ to organize the National NGO Consultative meeting on water and sanitation and the production of the final report.

**NATIONAL NGO CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WATER AND SANITATION**

**VENUE: Heinrich Boll Foundation, 9b, Omo Osagie Street, SW Ikoyi, Lagos**  
**Date: 3rd – 4th November 2003**

**AGENDA**

**DAY ONE - 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

- 9.00am – 9.30am Registration of Participants
- 9.30 – 10.00am Welcome remarks – Rev. David Ugolor (ANEEJ)
- 10.00 – 11.10am Comments
- o Representative of the Hon. Minister for Water Resources
  - o Representative of Heinrich Boll Foundation
  - o Representative of WaterAid
  - o Representative of Lagos State Water Cooperation
- 11.10 – 11.45am Lead Presentation on the Water Sector in Nigeria in the past ten years – A cursory look – Napoleon Shakamomodu
- 11.45 – 12.00pm Tea Break
- 12.00 – 12.45 Paper 2 – Participatory Budget making and Effective Water Supply system in Nigeria: Lessons from Porto Allegre, Brazil – Mike Odigbe
- 12.45 – 1.00 Questions and Answers
- 1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch Break
- 2.00 – 3.00pm Presentation by Akpan Aanthony Johnson  
Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)
- 3.00 – 3.45pm Presentation by Uche Igwe - CLEAN
- 3.45 – 4.15 Questions and Answers
- 4.15 – 5.15 Group discussions
- 5.15 – 5.30 Report back from groups
- 5.30 – 6.00 Discussion and closing

**DAY TWO – 4<sup>th</sup> December**

- 8.30 – 9.30am Plenary Report back including questions and answers
- 9.30 – 10.30am Presentation by Hope Ogbeide  
SWAPHEP
- 10.30 – 11.00 Discussion and coommunique
- 11.00 – 11.15pm Adoption of Communiqué
- 11.15 – 12.00pm Closing and departure

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### The Meeting

The National NGO Consultative Meeting on Water and Sanitation was organized by *African Network for Environment and Economic Justice* (ANEEJ) based in Benin City, Edo State and was sponsored by Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nigeria. The meeting took place in the foundation's conference room from 3 – 4 December, 2003. Participants at the meeting were drawn from a cross-section of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria. A representative of the Honourable Minister for Water Resources was in attendance. Also, the Director of *Heinrich Boell Foundation*, Dr. Axel Harniet-Sievers as well as the foundation's programme officer Yakubu Zakaria were present at the meeting. The invited representative of the Lagos State Water Corporation in addition to those of Northern NGOs in Nigeria working on water and sanitation issues were not present.

### Agenda

The meeting was convened to:

- *Sensitize the participants on the on-going mainstream debate on water and sanitation at the national and international levels*
- *Gain full insight into the National Water Management Policy with specific focus on the Presidential Water Initiative now in the works.*
- *Examine the National Policy on Sanitation and its contribution to environmental friendliness in the country*
- *Study the National Policy on Water and Sanitation with emphasis on whether it can supportively meet the Millennium Development Goal of Poverty reduction by the year 2015.*
- *Showcase sustainable, alternative, community based strategies for water and sanitation service delivery*
- *Draw up a roadmap for improving water and sanitation services which guarantees their availability and accessibility*
- *Establish a collaborative CSOs network on water and sanitation in Nigeria to push the agenda that all citizens are entitled to water and sanitation services in fulfillment of their fundamental human rights.*

### Papers

In all, 6 papers were presented

S/N	TITLES OF PAPERS	PRESENTER
1.	Water Supply and Sustainable Development (Lead Paper)	Mr. Napoleon Shaka Momodu (ANEEJ)

2.	Networking and Collaboration	Ms. Gloria Onyilo ( <i>WaterAid Nigeria</i> )
3.	Participatory Budget Making and Effective Water Supply Systems in Nigeria: Lessons from Porto Allegre, Brazil	Mr. Michael Odigbe ( <i>ANEEJ</i> )
4.	Civil Society Participation in Water Policy Dialogue: Necessary Partnership Towards Solving Water Problems	Mr. Akpan Anthony Johnson ( <i>PAVE</i> )
5	African CSOs' Network for Water (ANEW) – process and Progress.	Mr. Hope E. Ogbeide ( <i>SWAPHEP</i> )

### Sessions

The papers were presented and discussed in two sessions chaired respectively by:

- (i) *Mr. Leo Atakpu, Executive Director (ANEEJ)*
- (ii) *Mr. Odey Oyama, President (Rainforest Resources and Development Centre)*

At the end of the meeting, a communiqué and an action plan, which constitute a roadmap, outlining future concrete actions to be embarked on by participants to actualize their consensus positions, were drawn up.

### Welcome Remarks

The President of ANEEJ, **Rev. David Ugolor** presented the welcome address. He described the meeting as a groundbreaking event because it was the first organized effort to hold a National NGOs Consultative Meeting On Water and Sanitation in the country. So far, NGOs' response to the water and sanitation debate have been uncoordinated and weak, he admitted. Invariably, these NGOs have not been able to open a space for dialogue on these issues with the government. Hence, they were not contributing to the conceptualization, formulation, implementation and monitoring of water and sanitation policies/action plans of the government.

He bemoaned the attitude of international donor agencies for seemingly marginalizing national NGOs working on water and sanitation issues and which are working consistently to ensure they drive, own and control the water and sanitation policies of the national government. It was against this critical background, he commended the Heinrich Boell Foundation for its support in sponsoring the meeting.

He revealed that the meeting was initially scheduled for 21 – 22 November, 2003 but had to be postponed to the 3 – 4 of December, 2003. Having said this, he gave a harrowing account of his effort to get the Federal Minister of Water Resources in Nigeria to come for the meeting or alternatively to send a high-level representative to it.

Finally, he outlined the main objectives of the meeting – namely, to form a strong NGO Network for Water and Sanitation in the country; and to fashion out a concrete civil society-based action plan on these twin issues. Ultimately, he urged the civil society to play a more leading role on the water and sanitation debate in the country. To him, this expectation was logical. According to him this was because Nigeria, as a whole, was taking the lead in water and sanitation discussions in Africa and only in August this year organized a debate on the *Presidential Water Initiative* (PWI) from which unfortunately the civil society was conspicuously excluded. Thus, given the nation's present posture, it was pertinent that civil society organizations rose to the challenge of also lending its voice to the current water and sanitation debate at the local, national and international levels.

## 1.0 FIRST SESSION

### 1.1 COMMENTS

(A) Representative of Honourable Minister for Water Resources –  
**Mr. Adetunji Idowu**

He assures the participants that the government is conscious of the role of NGOs in working for community-based water and sanitation policies. He states that the government has always realized that it cannot go it alone in meeting the country's water and sanitation needs. For this reason the government ensure that during its workshop on the *Presidential Water Initiative* (PWI) in August, 2003, it invited stakeholders on water and sanitation to it for their inputs.

He outlines the areas government is soliciting for cooperation to include those of:

- (i) *Favourable attitude change in civil society towards the water/sanitation policy of government*
- (ii) *Campaign and advocacy to mobilize the civil society to cooperate with the government in realizing its policies on water and sanitation.*
- (iii) *Providing technical capacity for the government's water and sanitation projects or services, etc.*

He promises that the government's window of dialogue is open to civil society on water and sanitation matters, emphasizing that he will ensure that all deliberations at the meeting are well reported to his superiors at the ministry.

## Reactions

In response **Rev. David Ugolor** acknowledges the federal appointment of **Alhaji Baba Gana** as a Special Adviser on Civil Society to **President Olusegun Obasanjo**. Thereafter, he expresses the hope that a space for civil society's dialogue with the government will, indeed, be opened.

(B) Representative of *WaterAid, Nigeria* ( **Ms. Gloria Onyilo** )

Her comments are encapsulated in a paper she titled **Networking and Collaboration**

### Summary:

- Provision of water/sanitation services faces the challenges of lack of maintenance culture, inappropriate technologies, poor implementation strategies, in co-ordination/duplication of effort, to mention a few. The key to success in providing sustainable water projects is collaboration and coordination of stakeholders' efforts within the sector
- NGOs have contributed considerably to the water sector in terms of project funding and capacity building of communities and government. This, notwithstanding, NGOs' input to policies and strategies for water projects has been minimal.
- *Water Aid Nigeria*, also faces this problem. Nevertheless, the NGO is dedicated to increasing the access of the vulnerable civil society to improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene in 15 countries in Africa and Asia. The NGO began operation in Nigeria in 1995 and currently is working in partnership in 3 states of the federation with both the government and civil society organizations to realize its goals.
- In both Plateau and Bauchi, two states where it has operational offices, it has set up a state-level forum of all stakeholders involved in water supply and sanitation delivery. Recently, networks and collaborations have been initiated to develop capacity among CSOs to uplift their advocacy skills in water and sanitation.
- The Northern NGOs in WASH (*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*) Forum, a network, has kicked off. The forum is facilitated by one of *WaterAid Nigeria's partners* – *The Development Exchange Centre* (DEC). Essentially, the goals of the Forum/Network, among other things, are to: develop a data bank of registered network members; and carry out surveys/advocacy on access to safe water and sanitation in northern Nigeria.
- *WaterAid Nigeria* made input to the workshop on the *Presidential Water Initiative* (PWI). A day to the workshop, *WaterAid Nigeria* organized a meeting of civil society groups, discussed and arrived at a consensus document which it presented to the workshop. Four NGOs ( *The Dass Women Multi-Purpose Cooperative Union/Women in Nigeria, Community- Level Environmental Action Network and WaterAid Nigeria* ) attended the meeting. At this meeting, these suggestions were arrived at and presented to the workshop. The are the need for:
  - *Sanitation and hygiene to form an integrated component of water supply projects*

- *A decentralized co-ordinated system of water/sanitation service delivery with clear roles for each tier of decision-making*
- *Inter-ministerial collaboration between the different ministries with complementary portfolios for water, sanitation and hygiene*
- *Low-cost efficient alternatives in water/sanitation project provision*
- *Community participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of water/sanitation projects to ensure their civil ownership and sustainability*
- *Negotiated community contribution to the WASH programme*
- *Community mobilization and participation in the programme using the services of indigenous man-power and civil society organizations already involved with the people*
- *CSO/NGO participation in WASH service delivery*
- *A monitoring system for water projects to ensure accountability within the sector*
- *Develop a database on water, sanitation and hygiene at federal, state and local government levels.*
- *Generating demands for water/sanitation projects from the local levels and beneficiaries*
- *Evolving a scheme that links water, sanitation and hygiene projects to poverty eradication/HIV/AIDS organization window.*
- In conclusion, there is need for networking and collaboration so as to bring together the various initiatives on water, sanitation and hygiene as well as maximize the use of resources within the sector.

## Reaction

- **Mr. Lucky Badom** (*HAPI AFRICA*) commended the role of *WaterAid Nigeria*. However, it should not only limit its activities to the North. The South also needs its services because it has water and sanitation problems equally.



## Other Issues

- **Later, Ms. Gloria Onyilo** distributed a 2003 Study Report, containing an analysis of the obstacles hindering access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene services to participants. The study report was sponsored by *WaterAid Nigeria*
- The study report identified four broad reasons for the crisis in the water and sanitation sector. They are:
  - Inappropriate policy environment
  - Implementation approaches
  - Financial inadequacies and
  - Institutional and organizational issues
- Issues related to inappropriate policy environment include:
  - *Poor governance*
  - *Absence of a comprehensive National Policy on Water Supply and Sanitation*
  - *Weak capacity of the different decentralized tiers of government to formulate, implement and manage water/sanitation projects*
  - *Predominance of political bias in identification of water supply/sanitation projects*
  - *Inadequate coordination and confusion in responsibilities/roles.*
- Issues related to inappropriate implementation approaches are
  - *Inadequate involvement of beneficiaries*
  - *Lack of operation and maintenance structure*
  - *Deficient monitoring of the sector*
  - *Poor data base on why water/sanitation coverage has been low*
  - *Flawed processes and inappropriate technologies*
  - *Low ranking of hygiene and sanitation*
- Issues related to institutional and organizational issues
  - *Low capacity*
  - *Mismanagement of service provision*
  - *Insufficient resource allocation and inefficient investment*
- (C) Representative of Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nigeria (**Dr. Axel Harniet-Sievers**)
- Dr. Axel Harniet-Sievers welcomed participants. He called for flexible, open, unbiased deliberations that should accept the true reality of the Nigerian condition. According to him, working solutions would not be found to the water and sanitation crisis in Nigeria if participants discuss them from fixed, narrow, ideological, pro-poor, moral high grounds.

## 1.2 PAPER PRESENTATIONS

**Lead Paper:** *Water Supply and Sustainable Development* Mr. Napoleon Shaka Momodu (ANEEJ)

### Summary

- The importance of water as a constant factor in human development is put by him in proper perspective. Thereafter, the paper outlines the current mainstream debate on water as centred around what means or methods can global water security for all be achieved
- Paper expresses concern over privatization of state-owned water corporations and the problems the poor face paying for privatized water services in Nigeria, granted that 70% of them live on less than one dollar a day by World Bank estimates. It highlights the Millennium Declaration (2000) and Monterrey Consensus (2001) on Financing for Development and how they call for reforms in water delivery systems globally. The paper discusses also the International Conference on Fresh Water in Bonn (2001), which calls for openness, transparency and public accountability on water issues. Five areas of emphasis during the conference were:
  - Equitable access and sustainable water supply for the poor
  - Need for sustainable and equitable management of water resources
  - Linking water supply with sustainable development and poverty reduction
  - Ensuring water policies and services are people or community based
  - Developing the perspective that water supply programmes cut across urban, semi-urban and rural areas which need to be harmonized.
- African NGOs reactions on these issues, he states are stated they are: need for debt cancellation so as to release funds for water and sanitation services in the third world; privatization of these services is unsustainable because it is fuelled by profit motives; and the provision of free, safe water should be the goals of all water policies.
- Also, discussed in the paper is the Third World Water Conference in Japan (2003). which recommends, among other things, the urgent need for local communities' capacity to be built to protect their water rights in addition to the establishment of a network on water issues. In response, according to the paper, African NGOs denounce private sector participation in water supply and the use of large-scale infrastructural dam projects in water delivery instead of community-based decentralized water schemes
- Next, the water and sanitation initiatives of NEPAD come for mention. These initiatives are condemned by African NGOs as capitalist because they are exploitative and do not address the immediate, urgent needs of the poor. Much more, the initiative does not provide dialogue space for the civil society.
- The paper explains the World Bank's new Water Resource Sector Strategy (WRSS). Its goal is assisting client membership states to meet the challenges of their water

resources management. African NGOs' response: WRSS sidelines the needs of the rural poor, ignores the ugly lessons of water privatization and may further degrade fresh water ecosystems.

- Later, the National Water Resources Management Policy is analyzed. The position of the paper is that it has failed in spite of the fact that there are abundant water sources to meet the household, industrial and agricultural requirements of Nigerians.
- The paper, then focuses on the World Bank's assistance to the Lagos State's multi-track privatization strategy in managing its water services. Basically, the strategy is seen by the Lagos State Government and World Bank as the only viable option for addressing the Lagos State Water problem. In the first track of this strategy, Lekki and Victoria Island water schemes are to be privatized through open bidding while the other parts of Lagos are to be served by other means.
- At present, the World Bank is using Lagos as a case study in its multi-track Water Resources Supply Strategy (WRSS) to revive its collapsed water delivery system. The bank is providing both funding and some level of protection of its capital and human investment.
- Other features of the nation-wide World Bank's strategy involves:
  - A second track of combining the nation's Urban Water Management Strategy with family-based Fadama Irrigation Project
  - A third track of laying a ground work for longterm uses of the under-utilized/abandoned river basin development authorities
- Finally, the paper talks about Ghana's drive towards urban water privatization following pressure by external creditors. The paper raises fears however that such an action will make water unaffordable to the poor, thus forcing them into the traditional mode of sourcing water from contaminated wells, ponds, rivers, dams and creeks.

### 1.3 DISCUSSIONS/REACTIONS TO PAPER

#### Hope Ogbeide (*SWAPHEP*)

- There is no guarantee that the bidding for the Lagos Water Privatization Projects will be open since experiences have shown that it goes to the financiers or their proxies.
- Privatization raises tariffs and end up providing poor services as we find in the GSM case
- The World Bank's Water Resources Supply Strategy (WRSS) will not address the water crisis in Nigeria as long as it pursues its traditional policy of water delivery using dams and river basin development authorities. There is the need to try non-conventional methods of water delivery that are community-based like rainwater harvesting etc.

**Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ofong** (*WorldWide Network: Nigeria Women in Development and Environment*)

- Water privatization is based on cost-recovery. Hence, it will not make water available to all. Only people who can pay for privatized water will get it therefore privatization of water will negate government philosophy of *"Water for life, Water for People"*.
- Water and sanitation issues should always incorporate a gender element. After all, women (and children) bear the brunt of water/sanitation crisis. Always bring women on board whenever water/sanitation issue is being discussed.



**Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers** (*Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Nigeria*)

- The Lagos acceptance of the World Bank's initiative namely, the Water Resources Supply Strategy (WRSS)- is an appropriate option for addressing its water crisis. Wholesale condemnation of water privatization is shortsighted because it ignores certain hard realities on the ground which simply call for some water privatization.

**Yakubu Zakaria** (*Programme Officer, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nigeria*)

Following an invitation from Dr. Axel Harniet-Sievers to contribute to the debate, Yakubu Zakaria made the following submission:

- *The Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC)* in Ghana carried out some studies on water privatization when the IMF decided to engage the Ghanaian

government on the subject. ISODEC chose Ivory Coast and Bolivia- two countries with water privatization schemes for its studies.

- Discovery: In Ivory Coast, water privatization is failing because of:
  - *High water tariff which the poor cannot pay; so, their pumps are often cut off*
  - *The goal of water-for-all therefore cannot be achieved since water services only go to the rich which can afford to pay the high tariff for them.*

In the case of Bolivia, water privatization made tariffs high. Following this, the poor resorted to rainwater harvesting, thus abandoning the privatized public water services. When the government found out it was losing out in terms of low patronage and cost recovery for its water scheme, it engaged the services of security agencies to coerce the people to continue to patronize its water scheme.

- ISODEC in its field study discovered that there is a community called *Savulgu* in Northern Ghana was a successful joint private/public/community partnership is ensuring that there is accessible and affordable water services to the community.
- Currently, Ghana's drive towards water privatization has been slowed down by ISODEC's effort. But for how long will it be able to do so? He demanded.
- There is one snag about Ghana's water privatization scheme. It is that its development partners do not want to fund the exercise. They however only want to manage it.

**Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers** (*Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Nigeria*)

- It is inappropriate to engage in wholesale condemnation of the intentions of the World Bank, IMF and other donors to provide water for people, even though it is at a price. Financial institutions are not necessarily out to exploit the poor in developing countries, he argues.
- It is unrealistic to ideologize about the poor and recommend free water services for them without considering the hard realities of the water crisis in Nigeria. Such realities for a viable sustainable option being pursued by international donors which, anyway, have a comprehensible data base on which they are basing their water delivery strategies.
- Wholesale privatization of water services may not be realistic; hence, the need for some level of commercialization because it is only through this approach private water investors may be encouraged to participate in water service delivery.
- Water privatization is paying off in Lagos State in terms of improved water service delivery and revenue generation according to reports from the government.
- There is the practical need to study how communities can be involved in water provision through a strategy of community funding, building and managing of water schemes.
- The present indiscriminate sinking of private/individual boreholes in Lagos is unwholesome. If unregulated, the practice may disrupt ground water system.

- Suggestively, one can say the poor can pay for water services. In Kano, up North, for instance, a study shows that a household already spends about N20 – N80 daily to purchase water. So the debate should be: How much regulated tariff should be imposed on privatized water service?



**Leo Atakpu (ANEEJ)**

- Nigerian NGOs are not totally opposed to water privatization. They are, however, against the take-over of existing ailing state corporations. The appropriate thing for local and international financiers to do is to obtain licences and establish new enterprises. The government, on its part, should seek solutions for the ailing state enterprises through a policy of good governance, transparency, public accountability and multi-stakeholder consultations. This will ensure civil society's ownership and efficient control of water (and power, telecommunication, etc) service delivery.

**Lucky Badom (HAPI AFRICA)**

- There is the need to involve the civil society and Nigerian NGOs in the management of water services.
- Community-based water schemes founded on well-conducted studies are successful in providing sustainable water services. It is inappropriate to assume that all communities prefer the same water scheme. For instance, in one survey carried out in

a community in Rivers State, it was discovered that the people preferred spring water to pipe-borne water.

- The water crisis in Niger Delta has reached alarming proportions. Although the region is water logged, there is hardly clean, safe water for use. So, the critical issue should not be working for free water service but making water flow at an affordable tariff.

**Mr. Odey Oyama** (*Rainforest Resource and Development Centre*)

- In 16 out of the 18 existing local governments of Cross Rivers State, there is no pipe-borne water. Thus, people are already paying to get water. Invariably, they seem to prefer an affordable, privatized water services that is functioning to the old order of non-availability of water. The main issue, therefore, is how to regulate the tariff of privatized water services so as to make them affordable to all.
- Some streams in the Cross Rivers State are drying up while boreholes sunk in some areas are dry. There is need for the national government to look into this problem.

**Adetunji Idowu** (*Representative of the Federal Minister for Water Resources*)

- The Federal Water Resources Ministry is not aware of the dry streams and boreholes in Cross Rivers State. However, the problem will be reported to the relevant authorities.

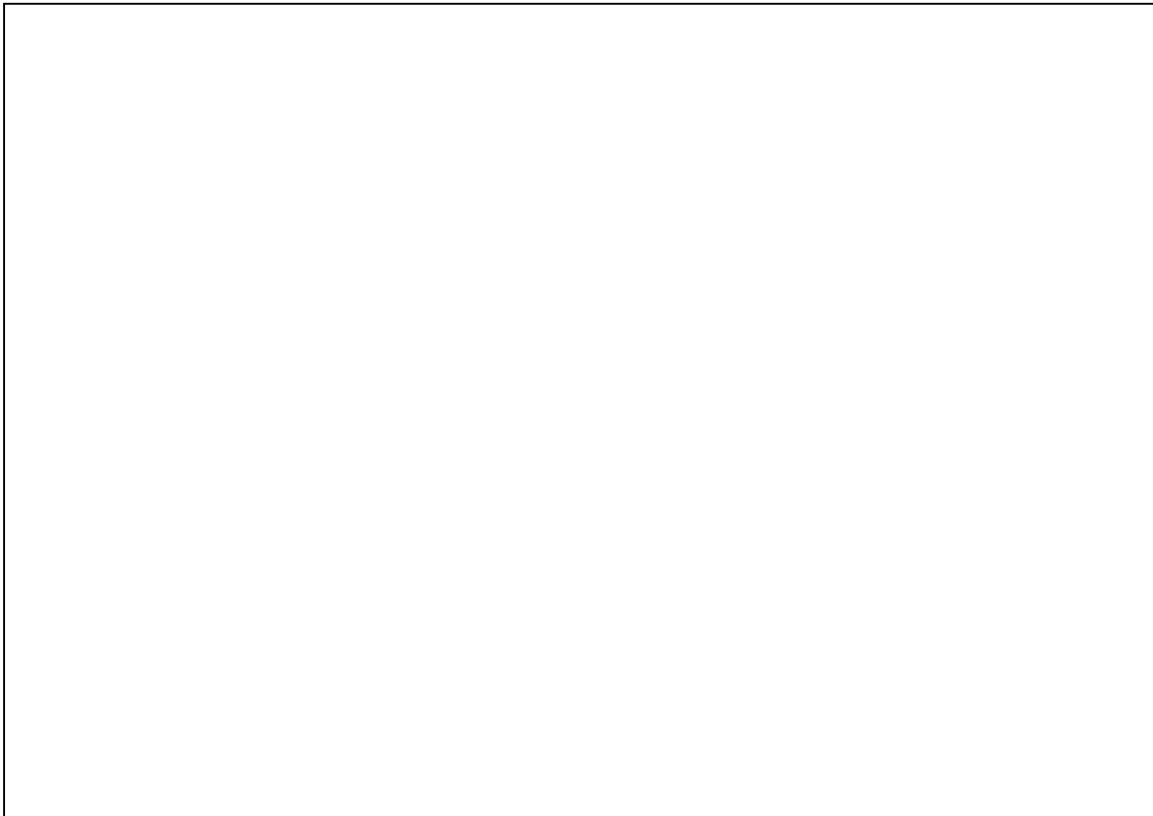
**Rev. David Ugolor** (*ANEEJ President*)

- It is incorrect to use the argument that people are already paying for water services to call for water privatization. You do not use a wrong benchmark to formulate public policy.
- People are paying for water service presently because of system failure arising from bad governance and corruption. The recent government white paper on the failed Nigerian Airways, which acknowledges that the parastatal collapsed because of widespread corruption, is cited. If only the government conducts a probe into the water corporations, it will discover too that corruption is responsible for their failure also.
- In Canada, etc., national water supply schemes are functioning because of good governance. It is imperative Nigeria takes a cue from such a country where public utilities are still providing efficient services as part of the government's social investment in water provision as a fundamental right of its citizens.
- 70% of Nigerians, according to the World Bank, are poor. So, paying for water is not a feasible, sustainable option. This is because it will further impoverish the citizens making the millennium goal of reducing poverty considerably by 2015 difficult to realize.
- It is correct to say that the World Bank and IMF have conducted extensive studies on development issues. But it is illogical to assume that, because of this, they only have

the right answers to them. Given this, it will not be realistic to use their study on water systems to call for water privatization. No person, agencies or institutions can play God in development issues.

**Mrs. Comfort O. Hassan** (*Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team NEST*)

- Nigerian NGOs should undertake an advocacy on why the water system has failed so as to sensitize the government on how to avoid the pitfalls that caused the system failure.
- It is the government's responsibility to provide water for its citizens at an affordable fee. Issues of sentimentality and ideology should not be used to confuse the water debate because present realities show the citizens need to pay a soft fee for water services.



**Mr. Okeke Anya** (*Gender And Development Action*)

- Water privatization is unconstitutional because it violates Chapter 2 of the Nigerian Constitution. This chapter prohibits the transfer of ownership of the nation's economy to a few, core investors. When water is privatized, it will fall into the hands of these investors who alone will have the resources to acquire water licences to establish new or buy up the old ailing water schemes.

- Campaigns and advocacy on water issues are not enough. NGOs should also engage the government in the courts to test the legality and constitutionality of government decisions on water privatization.

#### 1.4 Second paper: *Participatory budget making and effective water supply system in nigeria – lesson from porto alegre, brazil* Micheal A. Odigbe (ANEEJ)

##### Preliminary Observations

Before the paper is delivered, the presenter makes these observations:

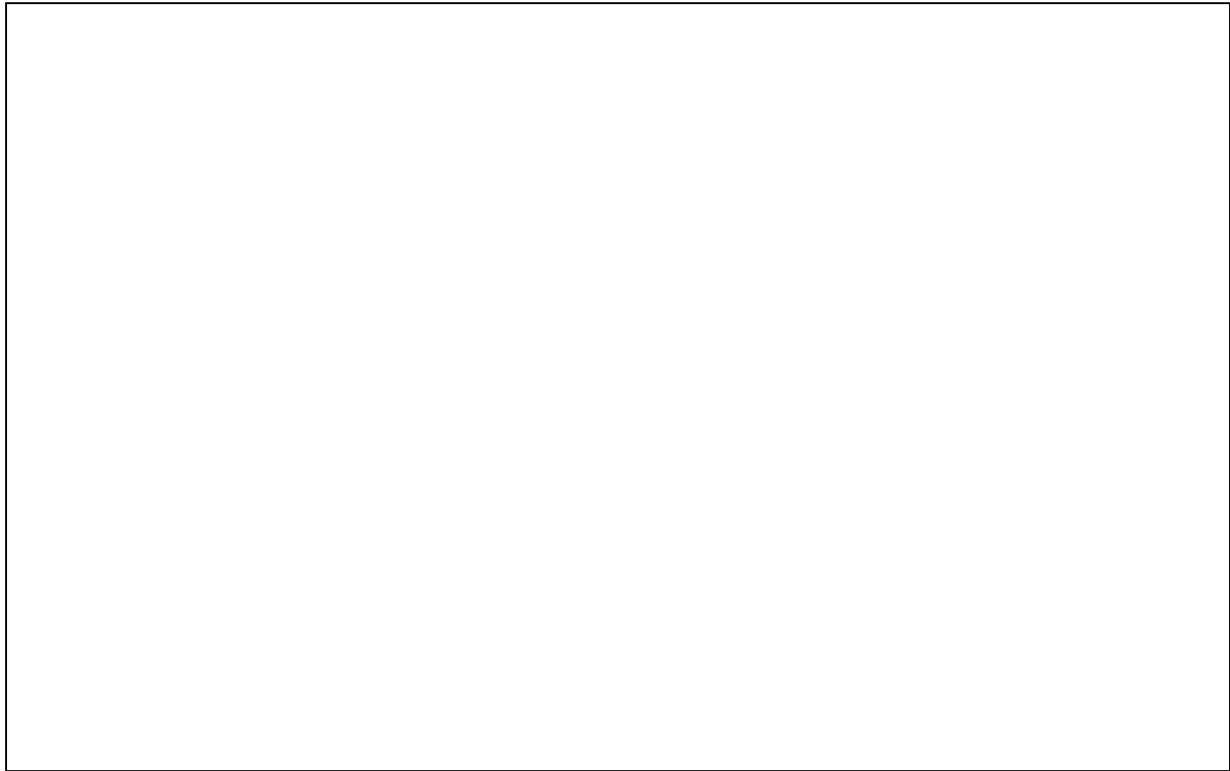
- Government should subsidize water services to enable it provide them as a social need, instead of a privatized commodity. After all, the government is subsidizing education
- There is, for instance an Education Tax Fund into which national and multi-national companies pay a percentage of their annual profits. This fund is used to subsidize tertiary educational services. Similarly, a fund to subsidize water services should be set up by the government. The rich should be taxed to raise money for this fund, using the Pareto Optimum of *"taxing the advantaged rich to advantage the disadvantaged poor without disadvantaging the advantaged rich."*

##### **Summary of Paper**

- Budgeting for water in Nigeria is largely an issue of patronage politics and is being subject to cost-benefit economic calculations. Hence, the government has lost touch with the fact that water provision is a social/public service in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Nigeria is a signatory.
- The state of water services in Nigeria is not inspiring. Reasons: The Federal, 36 states and 774 local government have disjointed, separate water programmes. Water budgeting is done arbitrarily from air-conditioned rooms without inputs from the civil society. There is a glaring lack of good governance, public accountability, openness and transparency in water budgeting by government. Private, exploitative water schemes, therefore, are now common features. Sectoral budgeting for water is disproportionately accorded a low priority; for instance, a pittance is going for water service provision at a time the government budgeted \$300 million for building the Abuja Stadium, allocated N30 billion for the 8<sup>th</sup> All-Africa Games and is spending N13 billion for the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government
- Attention is drawn to the fears of participants at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg early this year that millennium goals will be a pipe dream in 2015 for any nation which does not allocate adequate resources for water and sanitation
- A look is taken at world reports on the water/sanitation condition in developing countries, including Nigeria. These reports are not pleasing. For instance:

- UN Habitat Report (2003) considers water and sanitation services as failing
  - IMF and World Bank Report (2003) say 2 out of every 10 people have no access to safe water, 5 out of 10 live without adequate sanitation, while 9 out of 10 people live without their wastewater being treated in any way.
  - World Development Report (2004) reveals that full pressure water supply remains unrealizable in many cities that between ¼ and ½ of urban water supply are lost because of leaking pipe and that there is a limited network of water points resulting in increased waiting periods for water access.
- Given all these, the share of people with access to water and sanitation services in Africa and Asia – with a concentration of the World's poor – has either fallen, remained constant or increased slowly.
  - There is, therefore, a need to forge a new water delivery strategy that ensures openness, transparency, public accountability and good governance in water matters; and that employs consultative, plural and concrete democratic means in planning water schemes and transfers political power, authority, influence and decision-making in water issues to the civil society.
  - The Porto Alegre city government's political/development model is cited as a viable, sustainable option for water schemes that meet these criteria. The model took off in 1989 in the city. Essentially, it incorporates the principles and practices of participatory budgeting for development in which the city government working in genuine partnership with the civil society, fix budget priorities and collaborate in allocating resources to them as well as implementing and monitoring them.
  - Warri, a city in Delta State, should take a cue from Porto Alegre in its effort to find a lasting solution to its water and sanitation problem. It is unfortunate that although Warri is a water-logged city, water services has collapsed resulting in the emergence of private borehole schemes, the hawking of unsafe water and the scavenging for water from polluted creeks, rivers, etc.
  - The Delta State Urban Water Board is in dire straits while an ADB-assisted scheme to provide water services for Warri in the 1980s failed. Rather than delivering water to the city inhabitants, the scheme led the Delta State government into huge foreign debts, the payment of which leaves a gaping hole in its monthly allocations from the national government.
  - All the same, Warri needs a functioning, public-funded water service as economic, social and ecological rights. After all, it is in the heart of the Niger Delta Region from where Nigeria earns the oil revenues that drive the economy of Nigeria, as a whole.
  - The national government's *Presidential Water Initiative* (PWI) is also examined. Will it provide "Water for People, Water for Life"? Will it ensure Nigerians have access to improved, affordable drinking water? By 2007, will Nigeria achieve full sustainable water supply coverage for all state capitals; ¾ of urban and semi-urban settlements; and 2/3 of all rural communities? Also, will Nigeria by 2007 develop an efficient, integrated water resource management and water security on the platform of the Presidential Water Initiative? The verdict is that these targets will not be realized because of the insufficient dialogue space opened for consultation by the government,

on the one hand, with the civil society as well as with the Nigerian NGOs on water and sanitation, on the other hand.



### 1.5 DISCUSSIONS/REACITONS TO THE PAPER

#### MR. AKPAN A. JOHNSON (*PAN AFRICAN VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT*)

- The budget participatory Porto Allegre model is encouraging. Nigeria should give it a trial
- All said, there is a need for the civil society to be more dynamic in water agenda setting and realization. This calls for capacity building for concrete engagement with government at all levels. It is not enough to hold workshops and arrive at deliberations that are locked away in NGOs office cabinets.

#### Mr. Efod Kingsley (*NGO Coalition for the Environment*)

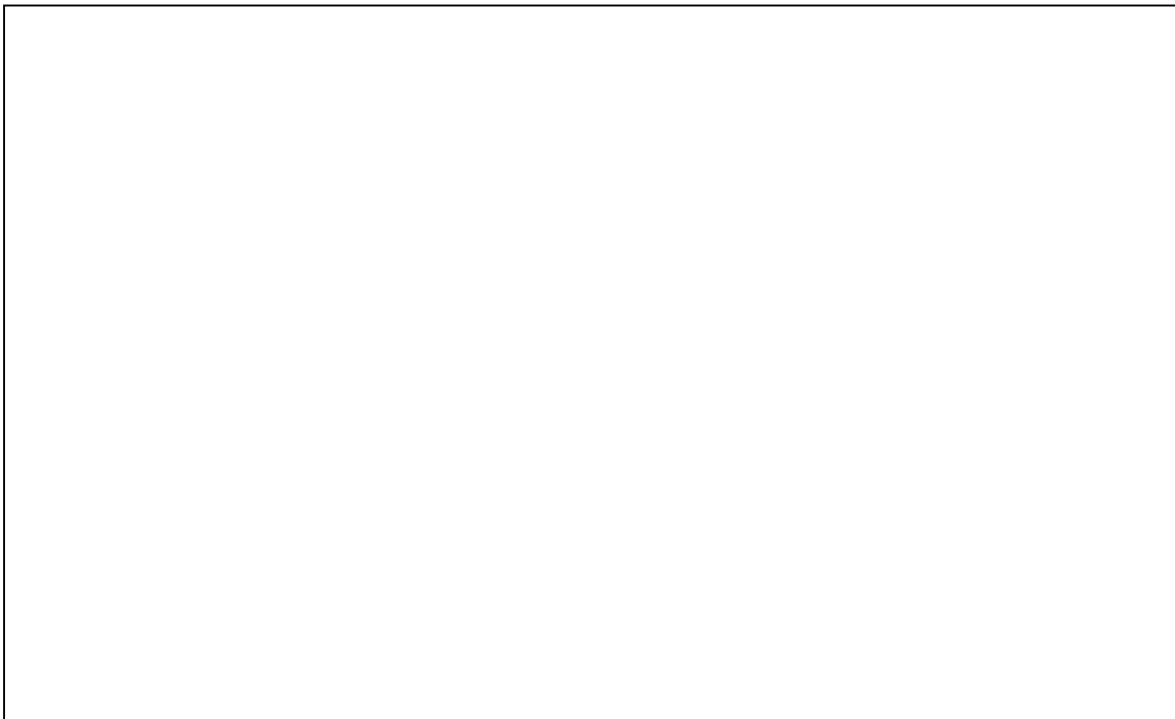
- The boardroom approach in water budgeting highlighted in the paper is real. It is responsible for the failure of DFFRI's water projects. DFFRI did not consult communities before siting its boreholes in them. Much more, it did not build rural capacity to enable the communities to manage their water services.
- Consequently, the government must incorporate a community-based water delivery system into all its water schemes.

**Mr. Promise Okorafo** (*Nigeria Habitat Coalition*)

- The government alone cannot provide water services for the people. So, there is a need for government/private sector/community partnership in meeting the people's water demand.
- Already, the private sector is contributing significantly to water provision at a time government has demonstrated its inability to provide a comprehensive water supply scheme for the people.
- A 4-P paradigm is a feasible option for handling the water crisis. The 4-P acronym stands for: Private/Public/People/Partnership.
- To ensure water service provided by the 4-P paradigm is not priced out of the reach of poor Nigerians, the government should establish a water tariff regulatory agency.

**Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ofong** (*WorldWide Network: Nigeria Women in Development and Environment*)

- There is the need for Nigerian NGOs to be watchdogs of the civil society and continue to be the voice of the voiceless members of the society.
- The responsibility of the NGOs should be, therefore, to ensure the government provides water services because it is its primary duty to do this. Water provision is a birthright like education and the right to life.
- It is high time the NGOs mobilize to sensitize the government to put its money where the hearts of the people are



**Mr. Luck Badom** (*HAPI Africa*)

- The debate is too one-sided. Everyone is emphasizing the need for efficient water services. Only little attention is, therefore, paid to sanitation. But, then it is equally a sensitive issue. For instance in Rivers State, a survey conducted by *HAPI AFRICA* discovered that out of 50 secondary schools, only 2 have toilets.
- So, all hands must be on deck to address the sanitation crisis in the states as well as at the local and national levels of government.

**Ms. Gloria Onyilo** (*WATERAID Nigeria*)

- NGOs should avoid confrontational strategies on water and sanitation. They do not open up dialogue space with the government which NGOs need in their effort in addressing the problems at hand.
- Let us not wait always for the government to invite NGOs for dialogue on water and sanitation matters. If the government does not come to NGOs for discussions, the NGOs should go to it for the same purpose.
- The meeting, suggestively, should have been held in Abuja so that the ripples created by it will be felt by those on the corridors of power.

**1.6 Third paper: civil society participation in water policy dialogue – necessary partnership towards solving water problems - AKPAN ANTHONY JOHNSON (PAVE)**

**SUMMARY**

- Freshwater is a precious and finite resource central to sustainable development, economic growth, social stability and poverty alleviation.
- The civil society's input to ensuring water for all has been considerable during:
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Water Forum in the Hague (2000)
  - The International Freshwater Conference, Bonn (2001)
  - World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002)
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum in Kyoto (2003)
- Nevertheless, back home, the civil society's contribution to the water debate in Nigeria is minimal because of the lack of enabling environment for its participation in the water debate and the formulation of sustainable policy on water services.
- It is the responsibility of the government to provide water for the people. It should, therefore, not abdicate this responsibility. This, notwithstanding, the fact remains that government alone cannot act to guarantee adequate water supply for all. It has to collaborate with the civil society and industry to achieve this target while creating a new ethic of responsible water use in society to avoid water wastage.
- Water is a public good and access to safe affordable water is a human right – a fact recognized by the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights.
- It is essential government integrates water issues with issues relating to health, food security, sustainable ecosystem, forestry and agricultural management.

- Civil society is opposed to the commodification of water and the Public/Private Partnership (PPP) model of water service delivery because of the model's drive for profit maximization and the pursuance of a commercial policy of making water available to those who can pay for it- not necessarily those who need it.
- Nigerian NGOs should mobilize the civil society to exercise their universal right to water. Also, they should ensure that water issues are excluded from trade agreements and that they work in partnership with the governments to develop water policies that prioritize ecosystem security and the environmental health of river basins.
- Finally, all Nigerian NGOs should continue to campaign against the privatization and commodification of water everywhere.

## 1.7 DISCUSSIONS/REACTIONS TO THE PAPER

### Mr. Hope Ogbeide (*SWAPHEP*)

- Nigerian NGOs are working hard as social vehicles of change. However, they need to build up their capacities for discussing water issues by educating themselves on the studies conducted on water matters, worldwide. It is only through this approach they can match the World Bank's or IMF's intellectual credentials during water debates

### Mr. Michael A. Odigbe (*ANEEJ*)

- Nigerian NGOs have achieved a lot putting forward an alternative water service delivery option. What they need now is active collaborative support from the civil society, without which community-based water services (the goal of NGOs), will not be realized

### Mr. Leo Atakpu (*ANEEJ*)

- NGO mobilization of the people is always a difficult task. A recent experience is cited: A water workshop was holding and delegates from the Northern part of Nigeria were being sensitized on the need to mount a campaign/advocacy to encourage their leaders to provide community-based water schemes for the region. However, in response, the delegates remarked that since the Almighty God put their leaders (who cannot supply them with water in power) it is only the same God who can replace them with leaders who will provide them with water.
- Certainly, these fatalist dispositions kill the NGO's mobilization of civil society for change in such a region.
- This experience demonstrates the need for Nigeria to be broken up into cultural/religious zones before fashioning out mobilization tactics/strategies on water issues.

## 1.8 Fourth paper: Mr. Uche Igwe (*Community-Level Environmental Action Network*)

### Summary

- Civil society's emphasis is on water. Hence, no priority is given to sanitation. But this should not be the case. Water and sanitation issues demand equal attention.
- After all, 2.4 billion people worldwide have sanitation problems while 6,000 children die monthly throughout the world from childhood-killer diseases triggered off by poor sanitation or lack of it.
- Sanitation problem is everybody's problem. This is why it is wrong to hold the "Not-In-My-Backyard" attitude to the problem. Unless every space is clean, the benefits of sanitation are not fully enjoyed by even the most hygienic individual.
- It is high time Nigeria experiments with waste exportation. It is a source of earning hard currency. Tax holidays for investors in such export business may encourage them to engage in it.
- The national government is working towards launching a Water-Sanitation-Hygiene (WASH) campaign/initiative in the near future. Two components of the campaign involve the washing of hands after using the toilets or before eating; and the washing of all fruits before consuming them.
- Women are drivers of sanitation; so, it is important they are integrated in all sanitation processes, projects and campaigns. Without them, the WASH campaign is bound to fail.
- A lot of wastes are "wasted" in our environment. For this reason, Nigeria requires a sustainable waste recycling policy.

## 1.9 DISCUSSION/REACTIONS TO THE PAPER

### **Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ofong** (*WorldWide Network: Nigeria Women in Development and Environment*)

- It is instructive the paper takes an integrated look at the issue of water and sanitation – not just water. It is unhealthy to focus only on water issues.
- The government and NGOs should always sensitize communities on the need for sanitation before providing water services. This ensures that communities use available water services to uphold a healthy sanitation system as a poverty reduction strategy.

### **Mr. Hope Ogbeide** (*SWAPHEP*)

- A national WASH campaign is overdue. It should no longer be toyed with because there are lots of benefits to be derived from it.
- Washing of hands alone, for instance, prevents a lot of diseases. It is unfortunate that the general public does not know that the Nigerian currency sometimes passes through unhygienic places and hands – including, the toilets; used by some people to hide away their money.

### **Mrs. Comfort Hassan** (*NEST*)

- The WASH idea is commendable. Everyone needs to imbibe it .

- We need to re-introduce hand washing culture in our schools. In the past this culture was strictly upheld. Hence, there was always a basin of clean water, soap and a dry, clean towel mounted on a stand in a corner of the classroom. The teacher and pupil/student washed their hands each time after handling dirty items.

•  
**Mr. Michael Odigbe (ANEEJ)**

- It is not enough to simply talk of lack of sanitation in our schools. It is important also to look at how the toilet needs of the pupils/students are addressed. On close examination, one discovers that this need has not been fully met. For instance, student/pupil toilet ratio is low. Given this, there is a long waiting period at toilet points in our schools – a situation that can lead to the use of open spaces as toilets.
- To uphold environmental hygiene, functional public toilets should therefore be re-introduced.

**Mr. Adetunji Idowu (Government Representative)**

- Sanitation and water service provision are always jointly pursued by the government. It is aware water brings life to a community only when it has also a sustainable sanitation culture.

## GENERAL

- At the Johannesburg meeting in January early this year, the WASH initiative was adopted. It was expected that it would have been a lunched by the national government by now. But this is not the case. Following this government failure, Nigerian NGOs all agreed that they should work out modalities to launch it.

### 1.10 GROUP DISCUSSIONS

With the submission of Mr. Uche Igwe's paper and the resultant discussion of it, the first session ended. The participants are broken into two groups with specific responsibilities.

#### Group One

- *To brainstorm on the topic: Should Water/Sanitation services be privatized*

#### Group Two

- *To examine : CSO participation in water/sanitation Policy and network*

### REPORT OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

#### GROUP ONE

- Privatization in a deregulated economy is expensive. It would lead to a monopoly of water supply, thus making water and sanitation services priced out of the reach of the poor. Also, it was discovered that from 1995 – 2000, funding for water and sanitation was insignificant. The situation has not improved.
- Given all these, the group resolved that :
  - Government should allocate more funds for water and sanitation services because it is its statutory responsibility to do so.
  - Access to water and sanitation services should be vigorously pursued through a government policy of openness, transparency, good governance and public accountability.
  - Privatization of water and sanitation services is not a viable, sustainable option if the millennium development goal of reducing poverty by 2015 is to be achieved.
  - Government should always involve the communities in the planning, execution and monitoring of water/sanitation projects.

### Reactions to Group One's Report

#### Mr. Adetunji Idowu (*Federal Government Representative*)

- Privatization of water/sanitation services is not a workable solution. The public should always be made to pay "something" for such services either in cash or kind. This encourages them to use them efficiently. Free things are unsustainable. Also, the government does not have the resources to singularly provide water/sanitation services.
- The government is not pursuing a policy of total privatization. Its policy is to work in partnership with the private sector to run functional and efficient water/sanitation services subject to government regulatory control.
- It is wrong to say the government does not give communities an opportunity to contribute to the planning, implementation and monitoring of water/sanitation projects. In fact, the government consults the communities on project location and seeks their approval on project completion before paying the project contractors.

#### GROUP TWO

- Participation of Nigerian CSOs in water/sanitation issues is marginal. Hence, they need a wider dialogue space in government.
- Funding NGOs is very important in actualizing their goal of ensuring workable sanitation/water services as a human right.
- NGOs should adopt these strategies to realize their goals:
  - Establish a coalition/network on water/sanitation issues
  - Build their capacity (*A man that is not informed is deformed*)
  - Develop a strong ICT base

- Sensitize the civil society on the current issues in the water/sanitation debate and the NGOs perspectives on them
  - Conduct researches into water/sanitation issues in their bid to build a solid knowledge base on them with which to join the debate on them.
  - Engage in water/sanitation policy dialogue with the government
  - Organize regular multi-stakeholders' meeting on water/sanitation matters
  - Undertake advocacy on water/sanitation to the national/state assembly and presidency/state governors.
- Opportunities exist which Nigerian NGOs can harness to facilitate the realization of their water/sanitation goals  
The opportunities:
    - The anti-global water/sanitation movement which these NGOs can link up with
    - Local facilitators, like oil companies, embassies, bank, etc. which are willing to fund the NGOs activities in cash or kind.
    - African network, etc, on water/sanitation. Their resources can be tapped by the NGOs to enhance their activities.

### Reaction to Group Two Report

**Dr. Axel. Harniet-Sievers** (*Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nigeria*)

- Nigerian NGOs should avoid confrontational strategies or else they will not be given dialogue space by the government.
- It is high time Nigerian NGOs organize themselves into an association just as manufacturers have done with their Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN). This move will ensure there is a credible institutionalized association of Nigerian NGOs. Such a body will have a directory containing all the names and contact addresses of these NGOs including those working on water and sanitation. Possession of this directory by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources will enable it know which NGO to contact when it needs consultative inputs on water/sanitation projects in a community.
- The government needs input both from the communities and NGOs in all its water/sanitation projects.

**Mr. Lucky Badom** (*HAPI Africa*)

- Having an NGO directory and an association of NGOs is a good idea. It is important the government identifies with NGOs that are fully on the ground. Some NGOs are fakes so, they should appropriately be called NGIs (*Non-Governmental Individuals*)

**Mr. Adetunji Idowu** (*Federal Government Representative*)

- UNICEF has a directory of NGOs working on water and sanitation. However, I am not aware if the government is using the directory in reaching out to these NGOs.

**Dr. Axel Harniet-Sievers** (*Heinrich Boell Foundation, Lagos*)

- One is not talking about a limited directory of water/sanitation NGOs but a comprehensive one that will be updated regularly. The government, civil society and all NGOs will benefit from the sanitization of civil service organizations.



## 2.0 SECOND SESSION

### PAPER PRESENTATION

#### 2.1 *AFRICAN CSO's NETWORK FOR WATER (ANEW) – PROCESS AND PROGRESS*

- Hope E. Ogbeide (Director, SWAPHEP)

#### Summary

- *African CSOs Network for Water* (ANEW) is the beginning of a response to African government's challenge that civil society need to become more organized, accessible and accountable so that they can become valued partners in water/sanitation initiatives.
- A group of 42 representatives of African CSOs from all regions of Africa met in Nairobi, Kenya on October 2 – 4, 2003 to deliberate on ANEW. *Freshwater Action Network* (FAN) organized the workshop where ANEW deliberations were held. The process involved in arriving at the formation of ANEW include:
  - The assignment of three working groups to address the question of how to strengthen civil society's participation in the various regional water/sanitation initiatives; how the CSOs can build capacity to articulate sustainable

- water/sanitation alternatives; and how to ensure all regional water/sanitation initiatives are African driven
  - The conduct of a plenary session in which the reports of these three groups were considered. At the end of the day, it was agreed to form ANEW
  - A task force was set up to take the development of ANEW
- A task force was set up to take the development of ANEW forward. Specifically, the forum/network will ensure:
  - Water resources in Africa are managed sustainably and everyone has access to safe water and sanitation
  - A coordination of the diverse African voices on water and sanitation
- ANEW's organizational chart is based on 5 sub-regions each with their representative namely:
  - East Africa - **Rosemary Rop**, Majini Ufanisi, Kenya
  - West Africa - **Malick Graye**, ENDA-RUP, Senegal
  - Central Africa - **Alhonse Issi**, MNC, Cameroon
  - North Africa - **Essam Nada**, Arab Organization of Youth and Development, Egypt
  - Southern Africa-**Bethwel Netshiswinshe**, Mvula Trust, South Africa
- FAN is committed to the ANEW initiative and will assist with funding the task force on ANEW for a stipulated time.
- ELCI is the hosting organization secretariat for an initial period of one year
- The Nigerian Conservative Foundation (NCF) pledges to help in the development of a Nigerian network and a Watsan database for the sub-region, host meetings as well as disseminate information about the network.
- Similarly, SWAPHEP pledges to contribute to the growth of the Nigerian network, disseminate report about the network on the website, in its newsletter, the mass media, etc, inform the Federal Ministry of Water Resources about the network; as well as host meetings.

## 2.2 DISCUSSION / REACTION TO PAPER

- Participants endorse ANEW and commend SWAPHEP's contributions at the African CSOs' meeting in Kenya.

## 3.0 COMMUNIQUE/ACTION PLAN

- The communiqué/action plan of the meeting was drafted by
  - **Michael Odigbe** (ANEEJ), The Rapporteur; and
  - **Leo Atakpu** (Executive Director ANEEJ)

- The communiqué/action plan was discussed by a plenary session of participants, amended through consensus and finally adopted by all.

### Details of the Communiqué/Action Plan

**COMMUNIQUE OF A TWO-DAY NATIONAL NGO CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WATER AND SANITATION HELD FROM 3 – 4 DECEMBER, 2003 AT HEINRICH BOELL FOUNDATION, SW IKOYI, LAGOS, NIGERIA.**

The consultative meeting organized by the African Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ), a Benin-based NGO, with the support of Heinrich Boll Foundation, drew participants from a cross-section of civil society organizations across the country with the representative of the Honourable Minister for Water Resources in attendance.

The meeting considered the major issues, challenges and opportunities around water and sanitation in Nigeria.

Specifically, the *National Water Management Policy* still in the process and the *Presidential Water Initiative* enunciated by the present administration came under sharp focus.

The meeting also deliberated on the need for a National Sanitation Policy and the yawning communication gap between the government and the civil society as it affects water harnessing, procurement and distribution.

It also considered access of the poor – who make up over 70 per cent of Nigerians living below poverty line – to water in line with the *New Partnership for Africa Development* (NEPAD) and the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs).

The role of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) particularly the World Bank and IMF were also reviewed in line with the drive for the privatization of public

water/sanitation corporations and organizations.

The poor sanitary conditions in the country as well as waste management issues were discussed.

Community participation in project conceptualization, implementation and monitoring were discussed and the Porto Alegre, Brazil experience was shared among participants.

The consultative meeting frowned at the long absence of a *National Policy on Water Management* and the non-participation of the civil society in the preparation of the National Sanitation Policy.

It also expressed deep concern on the non-inclusion of civil society organizations networks in the conceptualization, community mobilization, implementation and monitoring of water and sanitation projects in the country.

The meeting also submitted that for NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved, there must be openness, transparency and public accountability in the water and sanitation sub-sectors, which will take on board the civil society organizations in Nigeria.

The forum agreed that there is the need to bridge the gap in communication between the

water and sanitation sectors. Also, considering the importance of water and sanitation to the people and the poverty of citizens, the meeting frowned at the on-going water privatization agenda being promoted by the IFIs.

The meeting noted the collapse of public water sector across the country and suggested that only good democratic governance, transparency and accountability can revive the water sector- not privatization of such utilities. The meeting also opined that private sector interested in setting up their water and sanitation outfits should be encouraged by government to make their own investments which should not be at the peril of the public utilities.

In the light of these, the National NGO Consultative Meeting resolves as follows:

1. That the Federal Ministry of Water Resources should open a space for civil society's participation in water and sanitation issues more than what currently obtains and calls for speedy action on its management policy.
2. The meeting raised eyebrows over the on-going privatization in the water sector and demanded for

more consultation, participation and dialogue especially with civil society organizations and affected local communities.

That a *Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation* is hereby established with its name, mission statement, structure and secretariat.

3. That the steering committee of the network should in the next three months facilitate the launching of a *Millennium Development Goal on Water and Sanitation* Campaign in Nigeria
4. That the Federal, States and Local Governments should adopt the bottom-up approach of project location and implementation and rejects the top-down approach which has led to project failure in the country. Only the former gives adequate participation and ownership to the community.
5. That we welcome the *Presidential Water Initiative* of the Federal Government and demand civil society participation in the process, community mobilization, project preparation, project monitoring / evaluation and sustainability plan.

## ACTION PLAN

### THE NGO

1. That a network known as *National Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation* is hereby established.
2. Secretariat  
The national secretariat shall be at ANEEJ Secretariat in Benin City which will serve as a clearing house.

3. Structure:

There shall be a national steering committee drawn from the 6 geopolitical zones headed by **Rev. David Ugolor**, President of ANEEJ. The other zonal coordinators are:

South South.....**Hope Ogbeide** .....SWAPHEP  
 South West.....**Akpan Anthony Johnson**.....PAVE  
 South East ..... **Mrs. Ofong Ifey**.....WIDE  
 North East.....**Yakubu Zakaria**.....HBF  
 North Central.....**WaterAid Plateau**.....WATERAID

4. Ex-Officio members

WaterAid  
 NEST

There shall be zonal / state offices and community cell units. There should be zonal meetings within the next one-month to elect their representative to the national steering committee.

5. Membership

All civil society organizations in Nigeria

6. Responsibility of steering committee

- To organize a second phase NGO Consultative Conference to share experience/findings and develop a road map
- Launching of MDG on Water by March 2004
- Research on water and sanitation in the six zone in Nigeria so as to develop a strong data base
- Policy dialogue with government
- Developing strong ICT base
- Publication of periodicals for contract watch on water and sanitation
- To organize preliminary participatory meetings/workshops to sensitize and generate stakeholders' opinion on water and sanitation.