

CARIBSAN 2008
Kingston, Jamaica
April 28 and 29, 2008

“Integration of Sanitations Policies into National Development Plans in the Caribbean Region”

KINGSTON RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the Representatives from the countries of Antigua/Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Kitts/Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, that took part in the Caribbean Workshop on Sanitation (CARIBSAN 2008) in Kingston, Jamaica, from April 28 to 29, 2008, with the participation of Ministers, Ministers of State, professionals of institutions of the sector, scholars, members of the civil society, non governmental agencies, donor agencies, development agencies and the private sector hereby:

- i) **Acknowledge** that access to and improvement of basic sanitation services together with the appropriate management of waste water and solid waste and compliance with good hygiene practices significantly contribute to human wellbeing through the protection of health, environmental conservation, and the reduction of poverty;
- ii) **Recognise** the fact that the majority of the people with no access to an improved sanitation system belong to the poorest and most vulnerable groups of the population, including rural communities, informal settlements in peri-urban areas, women and children in particular and that economies of most of our countries which rely on tourism are at risk due to the inadequate management of sanitation;
- iii) **Agree that** although existing published statistical data suggest high levels of sanitation coverage, the situation on the ground reveals that, despite some improvement through work of government, civil society and private sector, much is still to be done;
- iv) **Taking note** that in December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly concerned by the slow and insufficient progress in achieving the sanitation targets declared **2008 the International Year of Sanitation**, and is *“Convinced that progress can be achieved through active commitment and action by all States, including at the national and local levels, as well as United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders”*
- v) **Affirm our commitment** to achieve the basic sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives of the International Year of Sanitation, and commit ourselves to enhance progress toward the provision of appropriate sanitation systems, based on specific planning.

In support of the main objectives in the International Year of Sanitation we aim to:

- a. Ensure real commitments to develop **national sanitation policies** to establish the legislative and institutional frameworks to improve sanitation, allocate clear responsibilities to achieve this objective within the national and international context as

well as develop and implement effective actions leading to the implementation of sanitation programs by:

- *Prioritizing and integrating sanitation in national development policies and plans, including the sustainable management of waste water, solid waste, sanitary disposal of excreta, and the promotion of good hygiene practices, in order to improve health and environmental protection, especially with regard to the population in informal settlements, urban-marginal and rural zone*
 - *Incorporating sanitation issues in Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Plans based on the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters*
 - *Incorporating sanitation issues in national physical development (land use) plans and policies to effectively promote public health and safety in the siting and approval of developments*
 - *Agreeing on the definition of sanitation across the region, evaluating the real situation across the region and standardizing modalities for monitoring sanitation in Caribbean countries and for presentation of realistic data*
 - *Establishing a multi sector body at the national level, including civil society to oversee and monitor the implementation of sanitation policies and to report on progress*
 - *Mobilising additional resources for sanitation by signing on to other regional environmental agreements*
- b. Assess the financial needs and explore alternative and innovative options to ensure increased financial support to facilitate sustained progress through national budget commitments, and from other sources, including cooperation agencies, financial institutions, private sector and civil society in order to:
- *Provide specific sources of financing for household on-site sanitation solutions*
 - *Provide sanitation solutions for communities at an affordable price*
 - *Provide income generating opportunities for the community in development and/or application of on-site sanitation*
 - *Provide incentives to individual home owners, community based organisations, private sector entities, hoteliers and industries for water conservation and wastewater reuse and recycling*
- c. Increase awareness and commitment of actors at all levels, both inside and outside the sector, regarding the importance of attaining the sanitation MDGs, including health, gender equity, economy and environmental issues, with convincing communication, strong monitoring data, revealing evidence, and inclusion of the youth by specifically:
- *Promoting the participatory approach to addressing sanitation issues*

- *Instituting education and outreach programmes to change public perception of the latrine as a viable sanitation solution where water supply is inadequate and where unsuitable soil conditions exist*
 - *Providing public education on hygiene and sanitation to promote positive behaviour change*
 - *Providing capacity building for communities to prepare documentation to source financing, implement solutions and evaluate projects*
 - *Developing and implementing mechanisms to facilitate and enhance the role of Civil Society in contributing to sanitation programmes and projects*
 - *Developing and implementing mechanisms to enhance cooperation among NGOs in the region*
- d. Mobilize governmental counterparts (regionally, nationally and locally) and existing alliances by engaging, financial institutions, sanitation service providers, industrial groups, manufacturers, Chambers of Commerce, the private sector, United Nations agencies, through quick cooperation agreements determining by whom and how the necessary steps shall be taken.
- e. *Promote sustainable and traditional solutions based on demand*, and make informed decisions that acknowledge the importance of working upward from the baseline with both professionals and the communities;
- f. *Develop and strengthen human and institutional capacity* through the acknowledgment, at all levels, of the progress attained in sanitation toward the MDGs, involving inter-sectoral programs on hygiene, household installations (such as bathrooms and lavatories), access to safe water and sanitation services, and waste water treatment. This can be achieved by:
- *Strengthening of civil society organizations at all levels to enable them to support community initiatives in water and sanitation*
- g. *Increase sustainability as well as the effectiveness of available sanitation solutions*, to enhance the impact on health, social and cultural acceptance, technological and institutional appropriation, and the protection of the environment and natural resources by:
- *Ensuring that water projects and programmes always include provisions for sanitation*
 - *Promoting waste as a resource, as an income generating stream at the national, regional and local levels*
 - *Ensuring that there is gender mainstreaming (identification and consideration of the specific roles and responsibilities of men and women) in sanitation projects and programmes*

- *Developing alternative mechanisms for solid waste management especially in rural areas where curbside collection is not possible*
 - *Developing standards and templates for on-site sanitation solutions in rural areas*
 - *Focusing attention on schools and implementing programmes to upgrade and maintain acceptable levels of sanitation in schools*
 - *Ensuring that the effects of climate change are considered when designing and selection sanitation solutions*
- h. Promote and give priority to sanitation at the regional level and establish mechanisms to cooperate regionally to achieve the required sanitation targets and goals by:
- *Including sanitation on the agenda of the next CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting and on other relevant Ministers Meetings; provide information on the likely environmental, social and economic costs of not addressing sanitation*
 - *Establishing mechanisms to share information and promote technology suitable to the region at Government and Civil Society levels regionally*
 - *Sharing experiences on best practices for addressing sanitation issues among Caribbean and Latin American countries*
 - *Strengthening inter-governmental cooperation in the region through the enablement of a work team of CARIBSAN countries, composed of high level representatives from member countries, who will work together on sanitation strategies and monitor progress towards improving access to sanitation within their countries and will organize a similar conference in 2 years -CARIBSAN 2010- in order to report on the progress attained.*

We acknowledge the commitments made by donor, technical cooperation and development agencies who have pledged support for future initiatives geared at addressing sanitation issues in the region by offering technical assistance, promoting awareness and providing an opportunity for financial support.

We are indeed grateful for the support and sponsorship of our partners who assisted in making this Workshop a reality: the United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs; Water and Sanitation Programme - World Bank; Global Water Partnership - Caribbean; Ministry of Water and Housing; Pan American Health Organisation; Water Resources Authority (Jamaica); CAN CARA; Environmental Foundation of Jamaica.

Finally, we express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Jamaica and its people, for their successful participation as the host country of the Caribbean Workshop on Sanitation, CARIBSAN 2008, for their most warm and friendly welcome and for decisively contributing to the success of this Workshop.