

Submitted by the United States to the
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the
13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

Policy Options and Practical Measures to Expedite Implementation on Water

Based on the broad range of experiences and best practices that emerged from CSD-12, the policy options and practical measures highlighted below can advance progress toward internationally agreed objectives related to strengthening monitoring and evaluation as well as securing financing for water-related investments (including, inter alia, Agenda 21, Chapter 18; CSD 6, paragraphs 11 and 14-19; Monterrey Consensus, Chapter 2; and, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Chapters IV and X). Although these options may find widespread applicability, not all of them are necessarily relevant to every circumstance.

Themes:

- **Strengthening monitoring and evaluation programs**
- **Securing finance for water-related investments**

- Establish water regulatory authorities to monitor and enforce standards, promote cost recovery and support public participation and dispute resolution.
- Support the development of institutions to collect and disseminate chemical and biological data along with information on hydrology, land use, chemical use and natural features to facilitate planning at the local, national and regional level.

To improve water and land management

- Develop and distribute water supply forecasts.
- Establish networks to collect and distribute real-time information on stream flows.
- Support and make use of earth observation systems, such as the global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Case study: The National Water-Quality Assessment Program (<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa>)

*Case study: The National Water Quality Monitoring Council
(<http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/monitoring/>)*

Case study: Water Watch (<http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/>)

Case study: Upper Klamath Lake (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/klamath/>)

*Case study: The Global Earth Observation System of Systems
(http://www.epa.gov/geoss/fact_sheets/earthobservation.html)*

To improve financing for water-related investments

- Develop mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in financial management at all levels.
- Establish regulatory bodies for independent oversight of water and sanitation service providers.
- Obtain independent credit ratings to promote the growth of local and national capital markets.
- Establish national or regional project development facilities to assist in preparing infrastructure projects for investment and creating opportunities for private sector development.

Case study: Balkans Infrastructure Development Facility for Private Sector Participation in South East Europe (www.bidfacility.com)

- Establish financing mechanisms such as pooled or revolving funds to provide low-interest loans to municipalities for water and sanitation infrastructure projects.

Case study: Tools for Mobilizing Finance

(http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/wwf3.factsheets/tools.for.mobilizing.finance.pdf)

- Use partial loan guarantees to mobilize domestic capital for water and sanitation related infrastructure.

Case study: Designing Loan Guarantees to Spur Growth in Developing Countries

(http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/economic_growth_and_trade/development_credit/designing_loan_guarantees.pdf)