



2 August 2011

6th World Water Forum

Regional and Thematic Commission

Concept Note

C - Introductions to Priority for Actions and Condition for Success

General Principles:

- *The International Forum Committee (IFC), in conjunction with the Thematic Process, will organize for each Priority for Action (PFA) and Condition for Success (CS) an introductory session to present the theme, the progress being made so far to address its main issues/challenges and to translate them into SMART targets, and highlight examples of key promising solutions and barriers to overcome with a view to kick-start the target-specific technical sessions and to call for strong commitments.*
- *Justification.* The 6th World Water Forum's Thematic Framework has guided and structured the Forum's various preparatory processes and working groups, notably the groups established through the thematic and the regional processes. Based on 12 Priorities for Action within 3 overall Strategic Directions and 3 crosscutting Conditions for Success, it identifies key themes where the water community and wider World Water Forum stakeholders contribute to tackling the major challenges our world is facing.
The idea is to dedicate a 2h introductory session that will set the scene for the week for each one of the 12 Priorities for Action and 3 Conditions for Success.
Each introduction session will present the theme, outline its relation to the relevant Strategic Direction as well as its key issues and set of targets, and highlight examples of key promising solutions as well as barriers to overcome with a regional focus when appropriate. It will be an opportunity to kick-start the technical and/or regional sessions, galvanize action and call for strong commitments. It will be also an opportunity to remind the participants of the ambitious target-driven approach chosen for the 6th World Water Forum, the need to bring out concrete solutions to be implemented and followed-up towards next Fora, and the willingness to adopt actual commitments to reach the targets.
- *When:* 8 introduction sessions will take place in parallel on Monday 12 March during the 17:00 to 19:00 time slot, and 7 introduction sessions will take place in parallel on Wednesday 14 March during the 11:00 to 13:00 time slot.
- *Who:* The participants of these sessions are the various Forum attendees, especially professional and regional experts with a keen interest in the theme.
- *Structure:* The introduction session will be moderated by the thematic Core Group Coordinator in partnership with the regional coordinators/representatives when the theme has strong regional relevance and has been translated into one or more region-specific targets¹. An estimated 4 to 5 panellist would be chosen by the Coordinator(s) to headline the session. Panellists could be members of the Core Group, partners who are leading efforts on related targets or contributors who are heading a particularly promising solution. During the

¹ As of July 2011, all the PFA/CS, except the Priority 3.2 "Adjust pressures and footprints of human activities on water, are matching with at least one regional targets.



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moderated session, an opportunity will be given for each of the panellists to speak on the Priority for Action/Condition for Success, its relation to the relevant Strategic Direction, its key issues and set of targets, examples of key promising solutions which requires stronger commitments to become a reality and barriers to overcome. The session could also present hard-hitting, evidence-based facts and figures or research findings to provide updates on recent science and expertise of relevant issues and solutions. These updates could be delivered by keynote speakers and used to kick-off the panel discussions. Information will be presented in a powerful and engaging way with a view to raise interest for the following technical target-sessions and multi-stakeholder wrap-ups.

- *Topics:* Each introduction session will cover one of the Thematic Framework's 12 Priorities for Action and 3 Conditions for Success:
 - Guarantee access to water services for all and the Right to Water
 - Improve access to integrated sanitation services for all
 - Contribute to hygiene and health through water and sanitation
 - Prevent and respond to water-related risks and crises
 - Contribute to cooperation and peace through water
 - Balance multiple uses through IWRM
 - Contribute to food security by the optimal use of water
 - Harmonize water and energy
 - Promote Green Growth and value ecosystem services
 - Improve the quality of water resources and ecosystems
 - Adjust pressures and footprints of human activities on water
 - Respond to climate and global changes in an urbanising world
 - Good governance
 - Financing water for all
 - Enabling environments
- *How:* Each thematic Core Group is in charge of preparing its Priority for Action/condition for Success' introduction session. They will work in close conjunction with the regional working groups that are concerned with the same theme. A Q&A and Session demo meeting will be held during the Stockholm World Water Week to answer their queries and demonstrate ways of organising their sessions. Guidance on facilitation methods will then be circulated to the Coordinators to help them present information in a powerful and engaging way. Each Core Group Coordinator should submit to the IFC Secretariat the outline of their session (i.e. detailed schedule, speakers, list of selected promising solutions) by mid-December 2011.
- *Facilitation:* As with almost any session, the key will be to have above average facilitation to enthral the audience and raise interest for the rest of the week. The session will be moderated by the Core Group Coordinator with the contribution from regional representatives when deemed relevant.
- *Briefing:* The Core Group Coordinator will brief each panellist prior to the session. The briefings should take place as soon as possible once the session outline has been approved by the IFC Secretariat.
- *Expected outcomes:*
 - Clear understanding of the scope of the Priority for Action/Condition for Success
 - Clear grasp of the related issues, targets and targets action plans
 - Clear understanding of the Solutions and Commitments, especially those requiring a stronger support
 - Vivid interest to participate in the related technical sessions during the week
 - Key message and material to be taken and consolidated for the multi-stakeholders synthesis sessions