

*March 1, 2005 Aaron Salzberg, Senior Advisor, U.S. Statement Water (Morning Plenary)
During CSD-13 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 13th Session of the UN
Commission on Sustainable Development*

Mr. Chairman, without prejudice to the internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation, the U.S. has a number of policy options related to the themes of this session that we would like to put forward. These include policy options to:

- Increase the priority of water, sanitation and hygiene issues;
- Promote full cost recovery and financial self-sufficiency;
- Encourage public-private partnerships;
- Support small scale service providers; and
- Promote integrated water resources management.

With the chair's permission, rather than go through all the policy options, I would like to focus on just a few and pass the rest to the chair as a short bulleted list at the conclusion of this plenary session. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The first set of policy options relates to the chair's request for us to focus some attention on integrated water resources management (IWRM). We would like to put forward three policy options on IWRM:

- The first policy option – and we heard a similar thought from Mauritania - is to **establish governmental mechanisms for coordination among ministries and local entities with responsibility relating to water.**
- The second policy option is to **strengthen the capacity of, and provide budgetary support to basin organizations – in country and among countries – for joint management of shared water resources.**
- The third is to **develop inter-sectoral planning process that engage affected stakeholders and take into account social, economic and environmental needs.** We will put these forward to the chair in writing along with case studies from the Mississippi River Basin Initiative and the Tennessee Valley Authority that demonstrate some of these options.

The two additional policy options I would like to highlight relate to safe water. The first policy option is, as an interim solution, **support point-of-use household water treatment to provide safe drinking water from unsafe and/or unimproved water sources.** Now, we recognize that household disinfection is not a permanent solution. In the long term, to provide safe water we need to look more broadly. This brings me to the second policy option related to safe water. The option is to **develop and implement water safety plans to ensure safe water supplies.**

I realize that “water safety plans” is a new term for many of you. These plans are health based risk assessments that identify vulnerabilities in water supply systems from the catchment to the consumer. Managers of water systems – at any level – can use these plans to ensure safe drinking water supplies and set priority actions and investments by determining the most cost-effective solutions to reduce risks to human health caused by

vulnerabilities that exist within that system. By mapping the water supply system and by identifying the vulnerabilities that exist within that system and in source water, governments, communities and water service providers can make better decisions and do a better job at ensuring safe water supplies. Our written contribution will contain a case study demonstrating how this has been carried out in Uganda.

We believe these are proven approaches that we can scale up to make real progress towards the goals.