

B. Report on the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue by Director General of IUCN, Mr. Achim Steiner

Mr. Steiner and Vice Minister for Environment Ms. Carmen Elena Arevalo Correa co-chaired the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for which a panel was formed consisting of representatives of the National Civil Society Committee on Interlinking of Rivers, India, Wetlands International office in Mali, Freshwater Action Network in Central America, scholars in The Hague, Directorate of Water, FAO, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Malawi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands.

Mr. Steiner stated that the whole conference was one big MSD. It was noted that what has been written is not yet an action plan, but comes from experiences on the ground. He recalled that five years ago the dialogue on water for food and ecosystems started. Things have changed since then, as it is no longer food or ecosystems, but water for food and ecosystems. There is no food without water, but no water without ecosystems. Unfortunately this is not a common thought yet. Referring to Sachs' report on the implementation of the MDGs, he stated that it is needed to bring aloud the outcome of this conference in the next weeks in order to drive investments for the coming years in the triangle of water, food and ecosystems.

Who determines who will do what? Valuation is a key issue. Who is to do this, a neutral body or should it be done collectively? It was concluded that it has everything to do with interaction and realisation of the limitations. The set timeline of donor projects was mentioned as one example of a limitation. The MSD touched upon the question of 'how' to implement. A recurring suggestion was implementation through private-public partnerships (PPP). He emphasised that it actually did not matter, as long as the used methods and institutions are transparent. Perhaps a fourth P, people, should be added to PPP.

Mr. Steiner concluded by stating that water is no longer a precious resource, but a threatened resource. The interplay between institutions is important, both at the global and at the national level and between various groups: government, NGOs, donors, research. All involved institutions have to align themselves and use and improve the existing tools.