

**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON
WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY IN AFRICA:
THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
15-17 December 2008

2nd Technical Committee Meeting
Tuesday 24 June 2008 - 09:30-10:30 hrs
Room B-503

Meeting Report

List of Participants

Mr Parviz Koohafkan	NRL
Mr Paolo Groppo	NRLA
Mr Hervé Levite	IPTRID
Ms Nicoletta Forlano	NRLW
Mr Jean-Marc Faurès	NRLW
Mr Carlos Garces	IPTRID
Ms Sally Bunning	NRLA
Ms Claudia Casarotto	NRL

The Meeting

The final stage of the formulation process of the Concept Note has been reached and great improvements made thanks to comments originating from the Division. The Concept Paper is now stating the problem, proposing a vision and showing how to get to that vision, but there is still room for improvement.

A quick reaction was received and implemented in the new version of the Concept Note: it was noted that the theme on “Sharing water technologies” had been dropped, because it was thought that, since a technological expo will take place in Sirte, no more emphasis was required. But this was not agreed upon by several members of the Technical Committee who, instead, pointed out that since a technology fair will take place, it would be fundamental to attract the attention of the private sector giving a privileged position to the topic also in the Conference itself.

Thus, it was agreed that the section on water technology remains but it needs to be reshaped. The actual version concentrates on Sub-Saharan Africa, but also North Africa - and particularly Morocco and Egypt- should be included due to the importance of the theme in those countries. Moreover, the water technology theme should be addressed focusing on the role that capacity building can play as well as on the reasons why in the last twenty years water technologies appear not to have advanced and, at a global level, they seem literally stagnant. Therefore, the Technical Committee decided to reincorporate the water technology theme, but with the due modifications suggested by the various members.

A brief progress report was made on the preparatory process that will lead to the technology fair to be held in Sirte, in parallel to the Conference. The Libyan government

ensured that all the private companies that will participate in the fair will not be charged with any tax or duty; the only commitment required from them is to carry their products to Sirte and most probably they could make use of the Sirte international port. The technology fair will be a formidable platform that will serve on one side to the governments in understanding the state of technology, on the other side to the private companies that could establish contacts with the ministers of the various countries. But amongst all the private companies contacted through the IES website, an unsatisfactory number of answers has been received. As a practical measure it was, therefore, suggested to follow up with these companies and to eventually contact them directly. It was also underlined the importance of identifying which firms are active in the various African countries in the field of water technologies. Most of them are registered in the IES website, but a particular support from the Libyan government would be necessary to identify the companies dealing with irrigation equipments in the country.

It was noted that during the next week the Federation of Italian Companies for Energy and Water will visit FAO. This would be a useful occasion to get together some of the companies that operate in the fields related to the Sirte Conference, and contacts have already been taken.

Concerning the Concept Note, an important remark was made highlighting that the topic of water rights has not been tackled. The members of the Technical Committee agreed on the need to bring this subject into the picture, and it was suggested to consider it as a cross-cutting issue that could touch some of the individuated themes, in particular “investments in water for agriculture and energy” and the introductory background. It was also agreed to produce a case study on water rights.

The documents to be prepared for the Conference were listed as follows:

- 3 Issue Papers to be presented in the opening day by eminent speakers.
- 5 Thematic Papers.
- 10 Case Studies.
- Up to 53 Voluntary National Reports.

The structure of the first day of the Conference will include the opening speeches given by the authorities and the organizers, which will be followed by the three keynote speeches and by several statements made by governments and, possibly, also by the representatives of the civil society (as occurred in occasion of the ICARRD Conference). For the afternoon of the first day and the remaining two days the Conference will be organized in two parallel Committees: the first will be destined to the continuation of the statements of governments and other organizations, the second will tackle the various themes proposed and will see the presentation of the Case Studies.

The three Issue Papers should reflect and give answers to the seven questions reported in the Concept Note. These papers will be produced by eminent speakers, but the role of the Technical Committee, upon request of the speaker, will be to provide inputs for the preparation of the paper. The issues proposed for the keynote speeches were the following, but there is still need to further elaborate the issues, clearly define the title and propose the list of names of possible keynote speakers:

- Implementation: why in spite of all the declarations signed and the commitments taken things did not work?
- How to combine investments in water and energy and how to make them equitable and sustainable?
- Rainfed vs Irrigated Agriculture.

A brainstorming among the members of the Technical Committee produced a series of possible eminent speakers who will be contacted to undertake the three keynote speeches:

- Mr Marcel Mazoyer;
- Ms Maria Mutagamba;
- Mr Albert Wright;
- Mr Tony Blair;
- Mr Ismail Serageldin;
- Mr Erik Orsena;
- Ms Wangari Maathai.

The elaboration of the thematic papers has already begun, but some of the themes have not been assigned to any person for the draft of the paper:

- *Agriculture-Energy Nexus in Africa*: the paper produced, and never published, for the Sirte 2004 Conference can be utilized.
- *Investment in Water for Agriculture and Energy*: assigned to Mr P. Riddell who will also explore an appropriate scenario to consider the impact of climate change.
- *Climate Change and Agriculture in Africa*: assigned to IIASA and, particularly, to Mr Mahendra Shah.
- *Inter-basin Cooperation in Water and Energy Transfer*: to be defined.
- *Sharing Water Technologies*: to be defined.

Some possible topics to be undertaken as Case Studies and produced by national experts are listed as follows:

- Water and fertility (to be produced by DFID);
- Water rights;
- The Lake Chad basin (to be produced by Libya);
- Inter-basin cooperation – the case of River Nile or river Zambezi;
- Water and energy transfers;
- Bioenergy in Africa – the case of Jatropha (Malawi);
- The environmental project on the Lake Victoria;
- Rainfed vs Irrigated Agriculture (to be produced by IWMI or by FAO-IFAD) – this could also be considered as an issue paper;
- Land degradation (to be produced by Mr Kalbermatten or by the LADA group);
- Rural electrification for rural development;
- International speculation on in the land market;

The objective of the Conference is to present at least ten Case Studies, but other papers are welcome though they may not fit under a specific theme.

At this stage there is a need for detailing the programme, individuating topics for Case Studies, defining the issues to be addressed by the keynote speakers and individuate and communicate with the persons in charge of the preparation of each of the documents.