

SESSION OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Session N°: 6.4.4

Session Title: Action to ensure data for all

1) Updated List of Session Conveners, Speakers and Panelists:

Session Conveners

- International Association of Hydrological Sciences
- United Nations Statistics Division
- World Meteorological Organisation

Session Chairs

- Mr Mike Muller (WWAP Expert Group on Monitoring, Indicators and Databases)
- Mr Rob Vertessy (Bureau of Meteorology, Australia)

Presenters

- Mr Hafzullah Aksoy (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey)
- Mr Michael Vardon (United Nations Statistics Division)
- Mr Mohamad Tawfik (World Meteorological Organisation)

Panelists

- Mr Gordon Young (International Association of Hydrological Sciences)
- Mr Ivo Havinga (United Nations Statistics Division)
- Ricardo Martinez (National Water Commission, Mexico)
- Mr. Bruce Stewart (World Meteorological Organisation)

2) Main Issues Discussed in the Session:

Session 6.4.4 summarised the discussion of the preceding three sessions, namely:

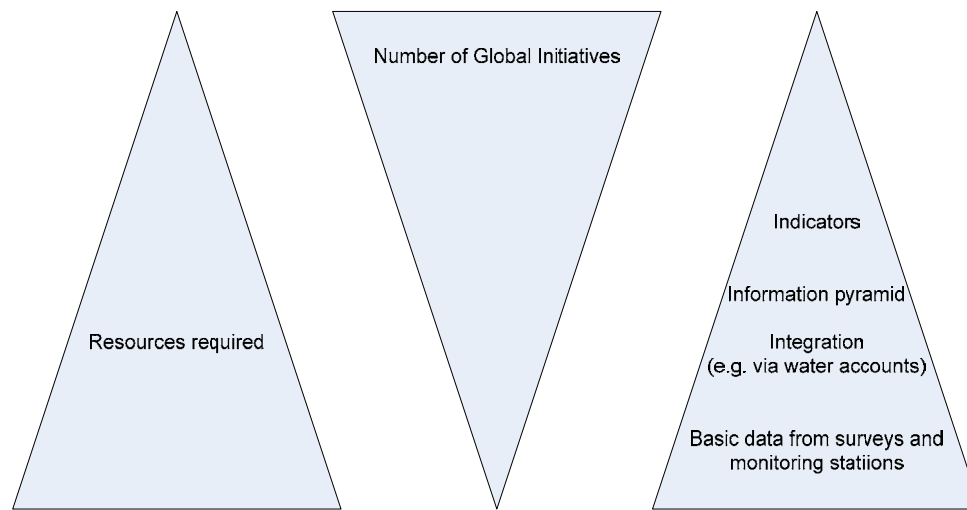
- 6.4.1 Data Needs and Data Acquisition
- 6.4.2 Data Integration and Dissemination
- 6.4.3 Barriers to Data Availability

SESSION OUTCOME DOCUMENT

3) Outcomes of the Session*:

In all sessions of the Data For All Topic (sessions 6.4.1 Data Needs and Data Acquisition, 6.4.2 Data Integration and Dissemination and 6.4.3 Barriers to Data Availability) there was a repeated message: the challenges faced in the water sector are growing but the data available to provide the information to guide and monitor water management and decision making is not. In many regions, data availability is decreasing. One particular problem was described as a series of inverted information pyramids, with a great deal of global activity at the top focused on the development and population of indicators, but that this was supported by a very narrow data base.

Figure 1. The inverted information pyramids



It was recognised that the lack of integrated water data was a systematic impediment to informed decision making related to the sustainable use of water resources. Data are needed to provide information not just about water quantity, both on the surface and underground, but also about its quality, socio and economic relations as well as other environmental dimensions.

It was noted that data provision and interpretation should be demand driven and reflect the needs of different disciplines and different users at different levels. What is needed are information programmes that are clearly specified, well designed and adequately funded. Priorities for information need to be established and hot spots recognised and the benefits from establishing priorities and identifying hot spots for information need to be better explained to decision makers and others using information.

There is a need for strong legal and institute arrangements in countries, encouraging cooperation and coordination between agencies with countries and between countries and other agencies using information. The role and contribution of the data suppliers should be recognised and they should receive systematic feedback.

There is a clear need to increase the resources devoted to for data collection, integration and



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dissemination and donors to recognise and these support these activities.

It was also agreed that these findings of the Topic Data for All should guide the existing work of UN Water, WWAP, UNCSD and the SEEA-W on national accounting systems and indicators and data. It was recognised that the SEEA-W offers a coherent and valuable framework to support national data collection and is an important part of the way forward.

Finally, data collection, integration and dissemination must be elevated on the agenda at the next World Water Forum. There is a need for strong leadership to achieve this, and clear goals and timelines to support data for all need to be established by an ongoing process. This process should bring together hydrologists, economists, social scientists, statisticians, etc, to strengthen coordination and cooperation between countries and international agencies.

Please provide your name and contact information in case we need to clarify some of the information you have provided.

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