

the water cycle, water quality protection, source control measures and water-borne disease control

- awareness building on ecological and water quality issues at all levels.]

Means of Implementation

36. [The implementation by developing countries of specific programmes and actions envisaged under Agenda 21 will be subject to the provision of adequate new and additional financial resources and of technology on concessional, preferential and non-commercial terms.

Proposals for means of implementation will include the following headings:

- Financing and cost evaluation
- Scientific and technological means
- Human resources development
- Building capacity of developing countries for preventive and corrective action in the field of environmental protection and promotion of development.]

D. DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Basis for action

37. Safe water supplies and environmental sanitation are vital for protecting the environment, improving health and alleviating poverty. An estimated 80 percent of all diseases and over one third of deaths in developing countries are caused through the consumption of contaminated water and on average as much as one tenth of each person's productive time is sacrificed to water-related diseases. Concerted efforts during the 1980s brought water and sanitation services to hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people. The most outstanding of these efforts is the launching in 1981 of the UN International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSS) which resulted from the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the UN Water Conference in 1977. The commonly agreed premise was that "all peoples, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs." The target of the IDWSS was to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990. But even the unprecedented progress achieved during this decade was not enough. One in three people in the developing world still lacks these two most basic requirements for health and dignity. It is also recognized that human excreta and sewage are the main causes of deterioration of water quality in developing countries, and the introduction of available technologies, including appropriate technologies, and the construction of sewage treatment facilities could bring significant improvement.

Objectives

38. The New Delhi Statement formalized the need to provide, on a sustainable basis, access to safe water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all, requesting "some for all rather than more for some". Four Guiding Principles provide for the programme objectives:

- a. protection of the environment and safeguarding of health through the integrated management of water resources and liquid and solid wastes;