

urban water resources, including the elimination of unsustainable consumption patterns, can make a substantial contribution to the alleviation of poverty and improvement of the health and quality of life of the urban and rural poor. This situation is particularly serious in developing countries. A high proportion of large urban agglomerations are located around estuaries and in coastal zones, leading to pollution from municipal and industrial discharges combined with overexploitation of available water resources and threatening the marine environment and the supply of freshwater resources.

Objectives

43. The development objective of this programme is to support local and central governments' efforts and capacities to sustain national development and productivity through environmentally sound management of water resources for urban use. Supporting this objective is the identification and implementation of strategies and actions to ensure the continued supply of affordable water for present and future needs, and to reverse current trends of resource degradation and depletion.

44. [Countries should strive to achieve by the year 2000:
- a. All urban residents would have access to at least 40 litres per capita and day of safe water and 75% are provided with on-site or community facilities for sanitation.
 - b. All countries would establish and apply quantitative and qualitative discharge standards for municipal and industrial effluents.
 - c. 75% of solid waste generated in urban areas would be collected and recycled or disposed of in an environmentally safe way.]

Activities

45. [All countries, especially developing countries, according to their possibilities and through regional and international cooperation, and with the support of NGOs and the private sector, could undertake the following activities:]

- a. protection of water resources from depletion, pollution and degradation
 - introduction of sanitary waste disposal facilities based on ecologically sound low-cost and upgradable technologies
 - implementation of urban storm water runoff and drainage programmes
 - promotion of recycling and reuse of waste-water and solid wastes.
 - control of industrial pollution sources to protect water resources
 - protection of watersheds from depletion and degradation of their forest cover and from harmful upstream activities
 - promotion of research into the contribution of forests to sustainable water resources development
 - limitation of the intensive use of agrochemicals with a view to minimizing their impact on water resources
- b. efficient and equitable allocation of water resources
 - reconciliation of city development planning with the availability and sustainability of water resources
 - satisfaction of the basic water needs of the urban population
 - introduction of water tariffs, where affordable, which reflect the marginal and opportunity cost of water, especially for productive activities
- c. institutional/legal/management reforms