

CONCEPT NOTE ON PROPOSED NOVEMBER 2009 WSLG AGENDA: FOR EXCO DISCUSSION

Theme

The WSLG is broadly responsible for guiding the sector dialogue and subsequent actions towards achievement of the water sector goals. Achievements in the water sector can only be truly measured to the extent that water (and activities of the sector) contributes towards the realisation of the country's socio-economic development objectives. Over the years it has been acknowledged that the country has developed good policies and programmes, and that to a larger degree, shortcomings of the current policies and programmes are mostly attributed to the implementation of these programmes than the essence of the policies and programmes themselves. Whilst other factors such as institutional design, human resource capacity and availability of funding impact on efficacy, the impact of disintegrated planning and incoherent systems is noted as a fundamental challenge towards improving government programmes. This challenge is not only found in government but also in areas where government, civil society and private sector operate to achieve a shared objective. The water sector is one such area where coordination and collaboration must underpin programmes to achieve sustainability.

The new government administration has noted this challenge, and has since introduced the National Planning Commission to facilitate integrated planning within government. The water sector has over the years developed some key instruments to engender integrated sector planning at various levels. These instruments include collaboration (and planning) forums and sector plans (formal and informal). Horizontal (inter-departmental) and vertical (inter-sphere) integrated planning and alignment between sectoral (water) and spatial (area) planning have proved to be difficult to achieve. The nature of water resource planning, as espoused in the Water for Growth and Development, strongly suggests that sustainable water resources management cannot be truly achieved without considering integration of different inputs into water resources planning. The National Water Resources Strategy clearly recognises the involvement of different government and non-state institutions in the planning of water resources and the need to ensure that water resource planning also considers ecological, economic and social factors.

Whilst it is fully acknowledged that the water sector recognises and values the need to ensure sectoral integrated planning, it has become extremely important to align the sector approaches towards achieving this objective with government approaches as represented by the National Planning Commission. It is therefore proposed that, noting the need to strengthen integrated planning within government and between government and non-government institutions, the next WSLG meeting should focus on the following key questions under the theme of integrated planning:

- How should the water sector refine its instruments to align more effectively with broader government approaches on integrated planning?
- How inter-sectoral integrated planning could be improved given the critical nature of water resource planning and the influence of water availability on key socio-economic sectors such as human settlements, agriculture, mining and energy.

Format/Design

The meeting will take the normal two-day format as follows:

I. Day 1: Interactive Workshop

1. Presentation by the National Planning Commission: Emerging National Framework and the role of the NPC in institutionalising intergovernmental integrated planning
2. Presentation by Cooperative Governance (COGTA): Achieving Integrated Development Planning at local level
3. Presentation by DWA: The Water Sector Planning Framework and Instruments
4. Presentations by Key Government Departments (Agriculture, Human Settlements, Energy, Rural Development & Land Affairs, Environment): Key Planning Tools and implications for the water sector
 - *What is the overarching planning approach?*
 - *Where are the key planning decisions being made?*
 - *How is water integrated in the planning?*
5. Group Discussions
 - a. Intergovernmental Planning
 - i. *National Level*
 - ii. *Provincial Level*
 - iii. *Local Level*
 - b. Sectoral Planning

II. Day 2: WSLG Business

1. Minutes of the previous meeting and Report back on actions
2. MCC and STT Reports
3. Review of Outcomes of the Ministerial Provincial Water Indabas
4. Topical issues on sector initiatives