

DIVIDES FOR WATER

Topic 6.4. Conclusions, recommendations and proposals

Rapporteur

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In all three sessions of the Data For All Theme, 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 the responses is not; indeed in many regions, availability is decreasing.

There is an inverted pyramid, a great deal of global activity often supported on a very narrow data base.



Lack of *integrated* water data is 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, social and economic relations as well as environmental dimensions



Data provision and interpretation should be demand driven and reflect the needs of different disciplines and different users at different levels.

We need programmes that are clearly specified, well designed, and adequately funded.

Priorities should be established and hot spots recognised and the benefits from these activities better explained.



Need strong legal and institutional arrangements at country level, encouraging cooperation and coordination

But this will only be helpful if we increase the resources for data collection, integration and dissemination (donors to support).

The role and contribution of the data suppliers should be recognised and they should receive systematic feedback



It was also agreed that these findings should guide the existing work of UN Water, WWAP, UNCSD and the SEEA-W on national accounting systems and indicators and data.

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 and application must be elevated on the agenda at the next World Water Forum.
- There is a need for leadership with clear goals and timelines.
- Ongoing process should be established to bring together hydrologists, economists, social scientists, accountants, statistics, to strengthen coordination and cooperation between the institutions building on existing processes.