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Conclusions, Recommendations, and Proposals

Rapporteurs

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Overall Conclusions

- A. The lack of integrated water related data is re-affirmed as a systemic impediment for informed decision making related to the sustainable use of water resources.
- B. Progress has been hampered by a range of factors, including a lack of an overarching framework for data integration and lack of effective institutional and legal arrangements for data collection, integration and dissemination.



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Overall Conclusions, cont.

- C. The SEEA-Water promises a way forward.
 - adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2007.
 - based on the existing, well established system of national accounts and is linked to hydrological systems.
- D. What is needed are the enabling legal and institutional arrangements to collect, integrate and disseminate data.
- E. This requires strong leadership at the country and international levels.



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Recommendations

- F. That the issues of data collection, integration and dissemination needs to be elevated on the agenda of next World Water Forum.
- G. In the interim an on-going process should be established to address the issues of data collection, integration and dissemination.
 - This requires a process for bringing together hydrologists, economists, social scientists, statisticians, etc.
 - Strengthening of the institutional processes to promote data sharing, the use of common standards and classification as well as the establishment of best practices (e.g. for metadata and data quality assessment). These processes need to involve countries and international organizations and all those institutions involved in the production and use of environmental (hydrological), economic and social data.



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Recommendations

- H. Countries need to develop strong legal and institutional arrangements to support data collection, data integration and dissemination.
 - Including establishing policies and procedures for the sharing of data and the development of metadata and quality assurance frameworks.
- I. Countries need to increase the resources devoted to data collection, data integration and dissemination in countries, and where appropriate with assistance from the international donor community.



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Proposals

- J. Promote the SEEA-Water and demonstrate its usefulness for different audiences
- K. Pilot the implementation of the SEEA-Water in additional countries.
- L. Statistical capacity building and its funding should be scaled-up in developing countries to remedy data availability and data quality and to promote the application of SEEA-Water.
- M. Need to further develop the SEEA-Water to more fully integrate social data and water quality, under the auspices of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Accounting and Environmental Statistics (UNCEEAA).



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- N. Need to better utilize the numerous global web based hydrological and water quality databases.
- O. Some databases are already linked and exchanging information but the latest data dissemination and exchange technologies need to be used for data sharing at the local, national and international levels.