

The 6th Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Multi Stakeholder Forum (MSF-6)

**Opening Remark by His Excellency Ato Alemayehu Tegenu , Minister of
Ministry Water, Irrigation and Energy and Chairman of the National
WaSH Steering Committee**

**Gihon Hotel, Addis Ababa
04 February, 2014**

Excellences,.....

Respected Development Partners,

Regional Bureau Heads,

Invited guests,

Workshop participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of welcoming you on behalf of the National WaSH Steering Committee and Myself to this important the 6th Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Multi Stakeholder Forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As all you know, the main purposes of today's Forum is to account for progress on sector development program implementation, ~~dialogue on policy issues,~~ and strategies. It is also a forum for stakeholders engaged in the sector program development to discuss, receive feedback, and generate consensus and commitment for priority actions for the year ahead. The outcomes of the MSF are recorded into a statement which was prepared immediately following the forum. The statement and its implementation shall be subject to similar review in the next meeting.

Today, on this important forum, I would like to take this opportunity to synchronize to how far we have travelled in the past one year impressively. and also, to take stock of what is left to do, and to agree on some homework for the

coming years, because the journey is far from over, and also much more important is how this Forum managed to put the importance of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene together. The 5th Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Multi Stakeholder Forum smartly linked WASH to poverty, the environment, culture and social-economic development and it defined the key challenges:

Thanks to the great leadership of the country. The importance of WASH for poverty reduction was now fully recognized. And MDG 7C clearly spelt out the aim of ensuring 'access to safe drinking water', and access of basic sanitation as a central element of this great endeavour.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We went to every corner of the system to make the voice of water and sanitation heard and to promote synergies between all those whose mandate mattered to WASH, such as World Bank, UNICEF, ADB, DFID etc...

Because repetition breeds recognition and recognition is what we need to make people act. And that's why we have to tell our story again and again. The story is about million poor and vulnerable people who lack adequate Water supply and basic sanitation facilities. It is on their behalf we have to get the country moving.

The government of Ethiopia has made remarkable progress in the past few years in the water and sanitation sector, in which the legal basis for the right to water and sanitation services emanates from the 1994 constitution. Article 90 of the constitution explicitly states that “ To the extent the country’s resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security”. Article 44 of the same constitution also states that “All Persons have the right to clean and Healthy environment”. In order to implement the fundamental principles and objectives of the water and health sector policies and the national priorities defined in the WaSH Sector strategies, the Government of Ethiopia developed a 15 years Water Sector Development Program WSDP (2002-2016) and successive Health Sector Development programs(HSDP I-IV). Their targets were subsumed by the Plan to the first Universal Access Program (UAP-1, 2006-2012) which was launched in 2005 and basically was designed to achieve full access. The plan set out national and region-specific targets for the construction and functionality of water supply

facilities and sanitation systems, and set out a strategy to achieve these goals based on low cost technologies.

Mass mobilization of the community and self-supply was also promoted to accelerate the access to water supply and sanitation. To date, the self-supply concept has become an integral part of the One WaSH National Programme. With the preparation of the Growth and Transformation Plan in 2010/2011, the UAP had undergone its second major revision, taking into account a revised end date (2015) and spiralling costs of service delivery. The revision has included school & health post WASH facilities, catchment management, capacity building, water quality management, reinvestment, special emphasis to pastoral regions, program coordination etc. to make the effort of achieving sustained WASH universal access comprehensive and complete.

In parallel with the revised UAP, a Hygiene and Sanitation Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was also prepared and aligned with the 4th Health Sector Development Plan. The SAP largely focused on the scaling up of Community Led total Sanitation, a strategy – or movement – that links mass mobilization with the community wide rejection of open defecation and the construction of rudimentary home built toilets (with no subsidy).

Furthermore, WASH Memorandum of Understanding (MoU, 2006) and the Wash Implementation framework (2009) were reviewed and signed by MoFED, MoH, MoE and MoWE in November 2012 and March 2013 respectively to operationalize the National WASH Programme for both Government and Development Partners. These documents together with the preparation of One WaSH program document (that builds on the former UAP and SAP documents) prepared during the past four months' time in consultation with regions and development partners has led to the launching of One WaSH National Program that integrates water supply, sanitation and hygiene today.

The main features of the Program that originate from the principles of the Paris declaration are:

- One plan for WASH; meaning there will be one government-led WASH plan for all partners
- The four principles stated in the WIF: Harmonization, Integration, Alignment and Partnership, will govern Program implementation.

- A WASH organization will be established in regions, zones, woredas, towns and kebeles.
- The role of Government, donors and CSOs in the Program will be defined in accordance with the WIF.
- Donor's financial and procurement procedures will be brought increasingly aligned with GoE procedures.
- NGOs can become collaborating partners of the Program; The effective involvement of HEWs and the Health Development Army are considered essential for Program success.
- Accountability will increase since the Program will be owned by the Government.
- The role of the Joint Technical Review (JTR) and Multi Stakeholder Forum (MSF) in assessing progress and evaluating the Program will increase.
- Joint participatory planning will be promoted (e.g. kebeles and communities will be involved in WASH planning with assistance from woredas and other service providers). Community ownership of the improved WASH facilities will be enhanced.

The One WASH National Program (OWNP) will be the main instrument for achieving the universal goals (i.e. 98.5 % in water supply, 100% in basic sanitation, 77% in hand washing and 80% in achieving Open defecation free status respectively).

In the One WaSH National program that takes account of the national WaSH inventory undertaken in 2011, water supply and sanitation software and hardware activities will be implemented at a total cost of 2.411billion USD. Of the total estimated financial requirement Technical assistance, program management, rural water supply, Urban Water supply, urban sanitation and Rural &per- urban sanitation &hygiene.

Water supply activities in the One WaSH program require additional 20,000 artisans, experts, technical groups, consultants, contractors and specialists. On the other hand sanitation activities require about 5,000 junior health professionals to be assigned in all the health centers of the country for providing support to health extension workers. Increasing the number of health staff at regional and federal levels is also required. Cascaded training is required to enhance the capacity of the existing staff in the WaSH sector. The capacity of the private sector shall also

be quickly built immediately to undertake the huge task of achieving the GTP targets under the One WaSH program.

The huge financial and human resource requirement necessitates for the involvement and contribution of communities, development partners, bilaterals, multilaterals and all other stakeholders.

Finally I would like to thank you greatly for your engaged participation, for your enthusiasm and moving WASH forward. I would like to also extend my gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make this forum a success – both inside and outside of government. I would particularly like to thank all of our developing partners for their unwavering support and their true belief in the goals we have set ourselves.

God's blessing you, your work and all who will benefit from it.