

**United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on
Space Applications to Support the Plan of Implementation
of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

**“Space systems: protecting and restoring water resources”
(Graz, Austria, 13-16 September 2005)**

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSONS

“Developing and funding projects”

Chairpersons: S. Donkor (Economic Commission for Africa)

Presented by: O. Abraham (African Regional Centre for Space Science & Technology Education (ARCSSTEE))

The objectives of this session included the identification of financial requirements for projects aimed at using space technology to protect and restore water resources. The session also aimed at identifying potential sources of funding for projects that use space-based data and information for water resource management.

The following presentations were made during this session:

- Developing projects that use space technologies for provision of safe drinking water, by P. G. Diwakar, Indian Space Research Organisation, India;
- Developing and funding projects for water management in Samoa, by P. Kerslake, Samoa Water Authority, Samoa;
- Funding projects in water resource management: a World Bank perspective, by J. Ingram, World Bank;
- Funding projects in Africa, by S. Donkor, Economic Commission for Africa;
- Team projects at the International Space University relating to water resource management, by O. Abraham, African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education, Nigeria;
- Towards integrated water management in Africa: space technologies for bridging the water information gap, by L. Fusco, European Space Agency; and
- Follow-up exercise to UN/Austria/ESA Symposium on “Water for the World: Space Solutions for Water Management”, Graz, Austria, 13 – 16 September 2004, by S. Sulaymanov, United Nations

Recommendations/conclusions

Based on the above presentations and the discussions that followed the presentations, the chairperson and interested panel members and participants of the session made the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. It is important to emphasize outreach activities in order to involve younger generations in the criticality of global and local water situations.
2. Project developers should take into consideration the need to ensure that interdisciplinary approaches are incorporated in any water-related project.
3. Private and public partnership should be established for development and execution of projects.
4. Counterpart funding by projects' host governments should be the basic prerequisite in seeking international donor support.
5. There is a need to develop mechanisms for testing and further developing innovative ideas coming from "think-tanks", such as the International Space University.