



Commission on Sustainable Development

Side Event, New York, 26 April 2004

Financing for Water and Sanitation

Chairman

Roberto Lenton

*Co-Chair of the Task Force on Water and Sanitation
for the Millennium Project*

Speakers

William Cosgrove

President, World Water Council

Pierre Dusquesne

Administrator, World Bank and IMF

Pierre Jacquet

Chief Economist,
French Development Agency

Bernard Poignant

Adviser,
International Department,
Veolia Environment

Camilla Toulmin

Director,
IIED

Moderator

Laurence Tubiana, Director, IDDRI

Since the WSSD and the Millennium General Assembly of the United Nations, the global world has passed through fundamental changes. International negotiations have been quite chaotic both on trade, social and environmental fields, leading to the temptation to promote bilateralism rather than multilateralism. The global economic context has also been quite unfavourable, with major financial crisis in emerging countries, pushing the private sector towards more careful intervention, restricting the capacity of developed economies to significantly increase their official development assistance and delaying the application of the Monterrey Consensus.

There is a true necessity to follow the discussions on the progress made since Johannesburg and on the crucial need of broader view on the possible involvement of all the stakeholders. How to increase possible involvement of private actors and of the civil society? How to mobilize private funding? How to strengthen regulators to ensure a more stable economic environment? Could we improve the efficiency of the different type of financial resources? According to the limited amount of ODA, could we discriminate projects only achievable with public funding from those where private finance could play a major role?