Open letter to Johannesburg Summit
Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations
Presented for the PREPCOM 2, 28 January - 8 February 2002, New York, USA
By Fax to: 1-917-367 2341 and to all delegates, observers, NGOs and journalists
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Sustainable Sanitation is a key to Sustainable Development!
- Conventional sanitation can only operate with high water consumption
- Conventional sanitation has been developed without consideration of water and fertiliser reuse thus depriving the served region of valuable resources
- Mixing the small amount of dangerous faecal matter with large amounts of water spreads pathogens to receiving waters - often without treatment as it can be seen all around the world
- Conventional sewerage systems do flood the streets with raw wastewater in countries with heavy rainy seasons in too many cases

- Sustainable sanitation is designed for low water consumption (demand side management) and aims for full reuse of water and fertiliser
- Sustainable sanitation is often based on source control of faecal matter to secure highest hygienic standards and keep it apart from freshwater
- Sustainable sanitation is adaptable to the socio-economic conditions trough the use of high- to low-tech technologies
- Sustainable sanitation allows economic water reuse by separate collection and treatment of greywater, the fraction of wastewater not polluted with faecal matter
- Sustainable sanitation is often decentral and is capable to provide high performance at low costs – user involvement and proper maintenance is a key to success

Please do consider these key issues for sustainable development for the Johannesburg summit!

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