

Open letter to Johannesburg Summit

February 2002

Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations

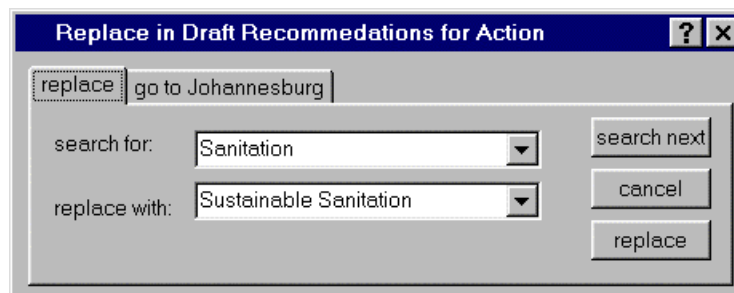
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By Fax to: 1-917-367 2341 and to all delegates, observers, NGOs and journalists

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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 (just to name a few of the many problems)



- 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 through 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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