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NCPPP membership includes nearly 200 organizations, 45 percent of which are from the public sector

Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Independent Expert
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Re: Comments on the Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Inquiry

Dear Madam Independent Expert:

The National Council for Public-Private Partnerships is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose members include public agencies, educational institutions, and private firms interested in the potential for improved delivery of government goods and services through public-private partnerships (PPPs). We believe that your inquiry is an important one and the results will have an impact on public policy for years to come. Recognizing that importance, the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships respectfully submits our comment:

Ensuring citizens have access to safe drinking water and sanitation is one of highest-priority concerns of the public-sector. However; in many cases financial or other challenges limit the public sector's capacity to meet this need. Public-private partnerships can be an important tool to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to populations which might otherwise have long waits for these vital services. Accelerating and enabling such service delivery can be key benefits of PPPs.

In particular, the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships believes that in situations where the only realistic alternatives are to have safe drinking water and sanitation services delivered by a private-sector partner, allowing for a reasonable return on investment, or to allow citizens to continue laboring under the social, and economic handicaps created by a lack of these services the decision in favor of private participation in infrastructure should be clear. This is one of the reasons why UNECE is on record as supporting public-private partnerships, where appropriate, and is currently developing toolkits on water and waste management PPPs (see http://www.unece.org/ceci/ppt_presentations/2009/ppp/hamilton_2.pdf slide 4).

Thank you for allowing our organization to comment in regard to your inquiry. If, at anytime, the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships can be of any further assistance to you, please contact our offices and we will be happy to help. We look forward to seeing the results of your study.

Kind regards,

Arthur L. Smith
Chairman, International Institute of the NCPPP