

**SUMMARY OF THE JOINT STATEMENT BY THE LCG - SUBGROUP WATER  
On A National Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction prepared by the  
Economic Relations Division under Ministry of Finance Government of the People's  
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**1: MAIN POINTS FROM AN IWRM-PERSPECTIVE:**

Water resources management is not presented as a separate sector; in Chapter 5.35 the water sector is mentioned, although the context of the overall framework is lacking. PRS should be formulated for the IWRM sector under NWMP covering the planning aspects. The implementation aspects (by BWDB and LGED) should also be addressed in PRS for IWRM. Strategic issues like land reforms, equity, poverty focussed interventions in the water sector, poverty alleviation measures through sustainable O&M and through implementation of the GPWM are notably absent in this document.

In spite of the fact that the framework (i.e. the National Water Management Plan) is currently under consideration for approval by GOB, this PRS does not mention the importance of this document and its anticipated effect on development policy. It is highly appreciated that the three types of measures (*management of both risks and consequences, community involvement, and non-structural mitigation measures*) are being identified in this document. For the last decade, the water sector has moved from a compartmentalised setting to a more coherent and sector-oriented approach. This latter remark should be placed in the right context, as a sector-approach in the water sector is still far-fetched at this particular moment, but at least there is a convergence of ideas, plans and activities.

At the moment, GOB is standing at the brink of making a tremendous step forward by operationalising the National Water Policy in the National Water Management Plan, which would enhance co-ordination with 14 different Ministries/Agencies. This major institutional issue has not been addressed in the document. Although institutional reform programs are ongoing and further planned to be intensified in the medium-term, it should be emphasised again that the current three-year rolling plan of GOB in the water sector should also have poverty profiles attached to it.

**2: SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON CHAPTER 3: PARTICIPATORY CONSULTATIONS  
ON POVERTY REDUCTION:**

This Chapter reveals *A: Positive Achievements* while *B. Areas of Key Concerns* does not reveal any main relationship to the physical, economic and social vulnerability of the regions in the country due to the seasonality of extreme weather conditions. The delegation of powers to local government can bring about an important change in the planning cycle, its turnaround time between planning and implementation etc. It should be mentioned that major institutional changes should take place to achieve a higher level of accountability, better planning tools and a better overview of all the activities. This requires a different attitude towards planning from the customary top-down planning. The continuous involvement of the public at large in various development processes in the Bangladeshi context is a crucial factor.

Various attempts have been made in the past to involve stakeholders at the various levels, such that useful interaction, feedback mechanisms etc would occur in order to enrich the various levels of decision making. However, the practical reality is that the majority of these interactions among