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Development Goals' marks
important step in preparation**

Report on “Financing basic utilities for all” highlights need to extend utilities to the poor

The report is based on multi-stakeholder consultations on “Financing basic utilities for all” on 23-25 April 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia, organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with FfDO. The event brought together African experts from governments, municipalities, utility providers, regulators, civil society and the private sector.

The consultation addressed long-term financing mechanisms and cost recovery strategies for providing water and electricity to the poor with a focus on Africa. Participants discussed challenges faced by Zambia's largest power utility ZESCO in extending basic utilities to poor rural areas, the experience of the African Development Bank in devising and offering long-term financing mechanisms for water investment, efficiency improvements at the National Water and Sewerage Corporation of Uganda, as well as strategies to increase government revenue through taxation.

The debate also highlighted macroeconomic challenges to be taken into account in the African context, such as ensuring absorptive capacity to deal with inflows of development aid and maintaining sufficient policy