

# Minutes

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 30 March 2021

## Sanitation and Water for All Steering Committee meeting – 30 March 2021

### Minutes

#### Participants

##### Steering Committee Members

- Mr. Patrick Moriarty, Steering Committee Chair
- Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, SWA CEO

##### Governments

###### *Eastern and Southern Africa*

- Mr. Makhosini Khoza, Eswatini
- Mr. Dhoba Lovemore, Zimbabwe

###### *East Asia and the Pacific*

- Mr. Sok Saravuth, Cambodia - *alternate*

###### *Industrialized Countries*

- Ms. Diana Carlos, Portugal - *alternate*

###### *Latin American and Caribbean*

- Mr. Hugo Ruiz, Paraguay
- Ms. Maria Bethania Tellechea López (MBT), Paraguay - *alternate*

###### *Middle East and North Africa*

- Mr. Majeda Alawneh, State of Palestine
- Mrs. Rehab Thaher, State of Palestine (alternate)

###### *South Asia*

- Mr. Sunil Kumar Das, Nepal - *alternate*

###### *West and Central Africa*

- Mr. Djoouro Bocoum, Mali

##### Civil Society Organizations

- Ms. Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network
- Mr. Seetharam M.R., VILD foundation
- Mr. Mohammed Zobair Hasan, Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP) - *alternate*
- Ms. Sareen Malik, ANEW
- Mr. Ousséni Diallo, Green Cross Burkina Faso - *alternate*

##### External Support Agencies

- Mr. Dominic O'Neill, Sanitation & Hygiene Fund (SHF)
- Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, UNICEF
- Ms. Lisa Schechtman, US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Mr. Paul Deverill, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

##### Private Sector

- Ms. Alex Knezovich, Toilet Board Coalition
- Mr. Nicholas Igwe, Zenith Water Projects

##### Research and Learning

- Ms. Anna Virginia Machado, LabGea
- Ms. Sarah Dickin, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

##### Observers

- Mr. Federico Properzi, UN-Water
- Ms. Fiona Gore, WHO
- Mr. Kitchinme Bawa, AMCOW

##### Guests

- Mr. Chreay Pom, Cambodia
- Mr. Paul Orengho, AMCOW

##### Secretariat

- Ms. Alexandra Reis, Communications
- Ms. Anjani Kapoor, CSO Engagement (*session 3*)
- Mr. Joao Grilo, Constituency Engagement (*session 3*)
- Ms. Ludovica Bartoli, Governance and Partnerships
- Ms. Lucia Vidal, Administrative and Events
- Ms. Mariana Dias Simpson, MAM (*session 3*)
- Ms. Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali, Country Engagement (*session 3*)
- Ms. Rossy Almonte, Events Support
- Mr. Sergio Cooper Teixeira (*session 3*)
- Mr. Siddhartha Das, Country Engagement (*session 3*)
- Mr. Muyatwa Sitali, Country Engagement
- Ms. Soumaya Benbouchta, Executive Officer
- Ms. Vanessa Gandarillas-Rodriguez, Country Engagement (*session 3*)

##### **SC Member and Observers who did not attend:**

- Ms. Bragori Hélène Epse Yocolly, Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Nigeria
- Ms. Nathalie Seguin, Freshwater Action Network Mexico (FANMex)
- Mr. Oscar Izquierdo, Costa Rica
- Mr. Parameswaran Iyer, World Bank
- Mr. Khalid Massa, Tanzania

# Minutes

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 30 March 2021

#### Summary of Decisions

##### Decision 1: Agenda

The Steering Committee approves the agenda for the meeting.

##### Decision 2: Minutes

The Steering Committee approves the minutes of the January 2021 meeting.

##### Decision 3: The Regional Roadmaps

- The Steering Committee endorses the recommendation of the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee to approve the Regional Roadmaps for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Steering Committee also asks the Secretariat to further work with partners from the respective regions on the development of:

- An Engagement Strategy for the Partnership in the MENA Region
- Detailed Workplans for each of the three regions to complement the Regional Roadmaps

##### Decision 4: The Sector Ministers' Meeting

- The Steering Committee supports the recommendation of the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group (HLPDWG) and the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) to postpone the Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) to the first half of 2022.
- The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to work with the Government of Indonesia and the HLPDWG to identify the most strategic date for the SMM in the first half of 2022, taking into account other important high-level events, such as the World Water Forum in March 2022, as well as to identify opportunities to capitalize on other high-level events in preparation for the SMM.
- The Steering Committee further asks the Secretariat to continue its engagement on the priority focus area of climate action. Resources permitting, this includes preparations for and engagements at COP26, alongside other high-level global or regional events already being planned, and/or a high-level roundtable, at which Ministers can be further engaged on water, sanitation, and hygiene and climate action during 2021.

#### Minutes

*Note: formal adoption of decisions took place during the Executive Session, but for clarity they are included in the minutes in sessions where the main discussion happened.*

#### 30 March 2021

Session 1: Introductions and Overview

**Mr. Moriarty welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) members. He gave an overview of the agenda, which was approved by the SC along with the minutes of the January 2021 SC Meeting.**

Ms. de Albuquerque guided the SC members through the list of decisions and actions from previous SC meetings, with the corresponding progress and status.

On the financial update, Ms. de Albuquerque pointed out that a written update was provided ahead of this meeting (document 1.3). She also informed the SC members that since August 2020, the Secretariat was in negotiations with Sida regarding a new funding agreement, which were interrupted by Sida in February 2021. Ms. de Albuquerque explained that, as a result, SWA can no longer count on the USD800k funds for 2021. She stated that if the SC was to approve the recommendation of the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee to postpone the SMM and to focus on climate in 2021, the Secretariat would need to undertake additional fundraising activities for this year to ensure the work on climate and the activities approved by the SC in January 2021. The Secretariat has provided preliminary numbers on potential cuts and it will submit the fully revised budget to the SC at the June meeting, following today's SC decision on the SMM.

# Minutes

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 30 March 2021

Regarding the delegation of authority, Ms. de Albuquerque confirmed that UNICEF, as the Trust Fund host and a Governance and Finance Sub-Committee member, has been involved in the discussions on the delegation of authority.

#### **Decision 1: Agenda**

The Steering Committee approves the agenda for the meeting.

#### **Decision 2: Minutes**

The Steering Committee approves the minutes of the January 2021 meeting.

### ***Session 2: The Regional Roadmaps***

Ms. Schechtman presented the background and overall objectives of the Regional Roadmaps. She explained that the SC took the decision to develop the Regional Roadmaps to ensure that the new SWA global strategy be operationalized in the context of regional objectives. The task was delegated to the regional coordinators from the Secretariat with the goal of identifying regional priorities through consultations and of drafting a first set of roadmaps. The Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee was pleased with the results of the consultations, which revealed interesting regional focuses, challenges, and opportunities. Following the revision of the first draft in late 2019 and 2020, the Secretariat was requested to conduct a revision i) to emphasize the findings of the regional consultations, ii) to make these SMARTer, iii) to have integrated and structured roadmaps and iv) to have clearer and more concise language.

Ms. Schechtman explained that the Regional Roadmaps have been built on SWA's recognized strengths in advocacy and high-level convening with a focus on strengthening country engagement. These place particular emphasis on Leaving No One Behind, an improved collaboration with regional platforms, the link between WASH and climate change and other thematic priorities as well as on attracting new partners.

Ms. Schechtman then described what the next steps would be assuming SC approval, explaining that the Asia-Pacific, LAC and Sub-Saharan Africa Roadmaps will be integrated into the 2021 workplan and widely disseminated while for MENA, an engagement plan will be developed.

#### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Ms. Malik presented the Sub-Saharan Africa Roadmap, introducing the context and listing the challenges identified: i) low access to safely managed WASH facilities, ii) low prioritization and poorly coordinated implementation which compromise commitments made and iii) limited WASH funding. She then described how the Regional Roadmap is built around the three strategic lines of action. Ms. Malik also listed the key activities that were selected and that fall under the three objectives. She concluded by explaining how the high-level country engagement plans would be implemented, highlighting the need for active engagement and participation from partners, SC members as well as from GLC members.

#### **Asia Pacific**

Mr. Hasan presented the Asia Pacific Roadmap by giving an overview of the context and describing the main challenges. He explained that i) funding needs better coordination, ii) donors, civil society and private sector must hold the Government accountable and abide by same standards and iii) that proven multi-stakeholder approaches for the SDGs should be better promoted and supported. Mr. Hasan then illustrated the six strategic lines of action contained in the roadmap, as well as a sample of key activities. He explained that the activity highlight will be the implementation of sub-regional-body alignment reviews and he concluded by describing the specific aim, targets, roles, and steps.

#### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

Mr. Ruiz presented the LAC Roadmap, drawing attention to the main challenges identified. These included i) social inequity in access to basic services in the region, ii) lack of information, iii) the impact of climate change, iv) lack of inclusion and collaboration in planning and v) lack of support to the

# Minutes

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 30 March 2021

community managed systems. He then presented the key objectives and needs. He concluded stating the need to focus on supporting the monitoring of investments and the creation of financing instruments.

#### **Middle East and North Africa**

Ms. Malik clarified that for the MENA region, the term engagement plan will be used instead of Regional Roadmap. She explained that during the initial phase of the plan's development, it has been important to assess the quantitative and qualitative presence of SWA within the region. She stated that interesting conversations took place, which highlighted issues requiring attention, such as low female participation in decision-making in the WASH sector. She also listed other important issues such as population displacement, transboundary and geopolitical water issues, conflict, refugee crises and densely populated informal settlements. Ms. Malik emphasized the strong focus identified on disproportionate use of water resources for agriculture and on climate change and environmental degradation.

She then gave an overview of SWA's engagement challenges and opportunities. She mentioned that engagement is currently limited to five countries in the region, and almost exclusively to government actors. Ms. Malik called for further support to SWA in the MENA region in order to build a critical mass and get additional countries on board.

In terms of opportunities, she explained that i) governments see SWA as a convening, consultative body that can facilitate networking and funding opportunities, ii) CSOs seek SWA's technical support and legitimacy and iii) there are several research institutions, which SWA could supplement. Ms. Malik concluded by illustrating the timeline for the development of the engagement plan.

#### **Discussion**

Climate change was raised as a particularly important issue in the regional roadmaps, and it was emphasized that the Secretariat is already working with countries focused on climate action. An overarching internal strategy on SWA's work on climate is being developed, including work at global and country levels.

The value of Latin America's approach to disaggregated data collection was highlighted in the discussion, with an emphasis on the possibility to use it as a lesson for other regions or at global level. Discussions between the Secretariat and AyA and IADB took place about how Latin America's approach could be used in other regions. Mr. Ruiz agreed and explained that the Latin American Water and Sanitation Observatory (OLAS) is providing a lot of support in this area, especially regarding the work on SDGs. He encouraged all regions to use the same approach.

Ms. de Albuquerque thanked all presenters and those involved in the development of the Regional Roadmaps, mentioning that she believes this is moving in the right direction. She highlighted that these Regional Roadmaps would need to be appropriated by SWA Partners and that the Secretariat is here to provide support. She invited everyone to continue strengthening the work being conducted within the constituencies to make the implementation of these Regional Roadmaps a reality. The responsibility of partners in SWA to implement the Regional Roadmaps was further emphasized in the ensuing discussion.

#### **Decision 3: The Regional Roadmaps**

- The Steering Committee endorses the recommendation of the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee to approve the Regional Roadmaps for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Steering Committee also asks the Secretariat to further work with partners from the respective regions on the development of:

- An Engagement Strategy for the Partnership in the MENA Region
- Detailed Workplans for each of the three regions to complement the Regional Roadmaps



# Minutes

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 30 March 2021

#### ***Session 3: The Road to the Sector Ministers' Meeting***

Mr. Deverill gave an update on the process of the Sector Ministers' Meeting. He explained that the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group discussed the following points: i) vaccination rollout is uneven between countries, which makes a truly global gathering unlikely, ii) global trends predict that large business meetings and conferences will be in the last to recover amongst all business-related travel (McKinsey) and iii) building from SWA experience with virtual FMMs, the SC has discussed a strong preference for a face-to-face meeting.

Mr. Deverill informed the SC members that representatives from BAPPENAS joined the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group meeting, and that the CEO has had discussions with the Sector Minister. He stated that several key points have emerged from these discussions, two in particular: i) for the Government of Indonesia (GoI) it is important to have a firm date as soon as possible for planning purposes, as well as to manage reputational and financial risk, ii) GoI also emphasized that in addition to attention to climate action, it will be important to frame the focus of the SMM in the wider reality of COVID response and economic recovery.

Mr. Deverill explained that the working group's recommendation is to postpone the SMM to the first or second quarter of 2022 and that it be a physical meeting in Indonesia. He emphasized that the momentum on climate change and action must continue this year, including the support to country level processes, as well as engagement at key high-level events like World Water Week and COP. Mr. Deverill highlighted the importance of identifying opportunities for a dedicated high-level meeting on WASH and climate ahead of COP. He concluded by saying that the SMM will still have an emphasis on climate and that the work in 2021 will be important input to the 2022 SMM.

Mr. Deverill explained the recommended decision in further detail and thanked the Secretariat, in particular Ms. O'Hanlon, Mr. Gesti and Ms. Saleh, for the support provided to the group in this regard.

To Mr. Moriarty's question on SWA's position in the World Water Forum and Africa Heads of State Meeting, Mr. Deverill replied that until now the working group's focus has been on the SMM and that it will be working on these engagements, following today's SC decision.

Ms. Naylor commented that UNICEF had connected with its country office in Indonesia, where there is an encouraging accelerated vaccination plan. In terms of the focus, she highlighted the importance of balancing the interests of the host with the international themes and emphasized Indonesia's important ending open defecation and sanitation program as one of their priorities.

Ms. de Albuquerque explained that, as Mr. Deverill mentioned, she had a call with the Indonesian Ministers, who showed an overwhelming support to SWA and a strong enthusiasm in hosting the SMM. They pointed out to her that a face-to-face meeting in 2021 would not be possible. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms. de Albuquerque explained that she supports the recommendation of postponing the meeting given that a large part of the reach of SWA High-Level Meetings is in the interactions and good synergies built in person. Independently of the SMM, she reassured SC members that the Secretariat has already started to work on climate action and is fully committed to start working on the SMM in 2021.

Ms. Schechtman reiterated that the work on climate is at the center of discussions within the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group and the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee, who recognize the original vision of the SMM creating a big moment to highlight WASH and climate change leading into COP. She also highlighted the importance of Mr. Deverill's insights, given FCDO and the UK's strong leadership on G7 and COP. Ms. Schechtman reassured SC members that there is the idea of formulating intermediate steps on climate action leading to the SMM. She explained that the partnership is discussing great ideas for collaboration with each other to avoid missing important work



# Minutes

## Steering Committee Meeting

### 30 March 2021

on climate. Discussions include activities at COP, World Water Forum, the UN General Assembly, World Water Week, etc.

Mr. Moriarty described the recommendation as a sensible way forward and seconded the point about the importance of face-to-face meetings.

Mr. Deverill emphasized that it is not about the vaccination roll out in specific countries, but about the roll-out worldwide and not considering that, would pose a political, safety and reputational risk.

#### **Decision 4: The Sector Ministers' Meeting**

- The Steering Committee supports the recommendation of the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group (HLPDWG) and the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) to postpone the Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) to the first half of 2022.
- The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to work with the Government of Indonesia and the HLPDWG to identify the most strategic date for the SMM in the first half of 2022, taking into account other important high-level events, such as the World Water Forum in March 2022, as well as identify opportunities to capitalize on other high-level events in preparation for the SMM.
- The Steering Committee further asks the Secretariat to continue its engagement on the priority focus area of climate action. Resources permitting, this includes preparations for and engagements at COP26, alongside other high-level global or regional events already being planned, and/or a high-level roundtable, at which Ministers can be further engaged on water, sanitation, and hygiene and climate action during 2021.

#### **Session 4: Decisions (Executive Session)**

Mr. Moriarty reminded SC members that there is only one vote per seat. He also asked anyone with a potential conflict of interest to come forward. No conflict was raised. SC members approved decisions 1, 2, 3 and 4.

#### **AOB**

Mr. Bocoum thanked SWA, the Secretariat and Ms. de Albuquerque in particular, for the support provided to Mali in implementing its mandate. He also conveyed to Ms. de Albuquerque the gratitude of the Minister of Water and of Energy for the wonderful support during the event they organized at World Water Day 2021. He explained that Mali has been undertaking bilateral negotiations and working with different partners to implement activities. Mr. Bocoum asked whether it would be possible to develop a specific initiative for the Sahel. Mr. Moriarty explained that this has been discussed when talking about SWA's next steps in driving serious engagement and support to SWA partners in country. Ms. de Albuquerque explained that herself and Mr. Godara have been working with different partners from the Sahel Alliance but moving forward has presented challenges. Ms. de Albuquerque proposed to set up a bilateral meeting with Mr. Bocoum to discuss how to define a strategy and best approach.

Ms. Schreiner notified the SC members that the alternate SC member of the Northern CSOs, Mr. John Sparks, is stepping down. In accordance with the Governance Document, Mr. Sparks has nominated Ms. Kimberly Lemme, from Water for People, to take his place, who has been accepted by the CSO constituency.

Ms. Naylor thanked SWA for its engagement in the event on the Triple Nexus on looking how to bring together system strengthening in countries with fragile settings. She also mentioned that the work with the German WASH Network and SWA on a collaboration note is now advancing and that this has been in the books since the December 2019 meeting. She flagged it as a potential update point in a future SC meeting.

#### **Ending**

Mr. Moriarty thanked SC members and the Secretariat and adjourned the meeting.