

Minutes

Steering Committee Meeting

23-24 June 2021

Sanitation and Water for All Steering Committee meeting – 23 & 24 June 2021

Minutes

Participants

- 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. Oak Rabun, Cambodia
- Mr. Sok Saravuth, Cambodia - *alternate*

Latin American and Caribbean

- Mr. Oscar Izquierdo Sandí, Costa Rica
- Ms. Maria Bethania Tellechea López (MBT), Paraguay - *alternate*

Middle East and North Africa

- Ms. Majeda Alawneh, State of Palestine

South Asia

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

West and Central Africa

- Mr. Djoouro Bocoum, Mali
- Ms. Aïssata Cisse, Mali (*alternate*)
- Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Nigeria

Civil Society Organizations

- Ms. Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network
- Ms. Kimberly Lemme, Water for People – *alternate*
- Mr. Mohammed Zobair Hasan, Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP) - *alternate*
- Ms. Nathalie Seguin Tovar, Freshwater Action Network Mexico (FANMex)
- Ms. Sareen Malik, ANEW
- Mr. Seetharam M.R., VILD foundation

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)
- Mr. Rekiya Adamu Atta, UNICEF (FSO)

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
- Mr. Bruce Gordon, WHO
- Mr. Kitchinme Bawa, AMCOW

Guests

- Mr. Nazim Khizar, UNICEF DFAM
- Mr. Chreay Pom, Cambodia

Secretariat

- Ms. Alexandra Reis, Communications
- Ms. Angie Saleh, Governance and Partnerships
- Mr. Christophe Pasquier, Resource Mobilization
- Ms. Lucinda O'Hanlon, Policy and Strategy
- Ms. Ludovica Bartoli, Governance and Partnerships
- Mr. Muyatwa Sitali, Country Engagement
- Ms. Rossy Almonte, Events Support

SC Member and Observers who did not attend:

- Ms. Alexandra Carvalho, Portugal
- Ms. Bragori Hélène Epse Yocolly, Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Khalid Massa, Tanzania
- Mr. Parameswaran Iyer, World Bank

Summary of Decisions

Decision 1: Agenda

The Steering Committee (SC) approves the agenda for the meeting.

Decision 2: Minutes

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

Decision 3: Updated Budget and Workplan

The Steering Committee approves the updated budget and workplan and asks the Secretariat to start implementing it as necessary.

Decision 4: Sector Ministers' Meeting

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The Steering Committee supports the recommendation of the High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group (HLPDWG) and the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) to hold the SMM during the week of 16 May 2022.

Decision 5: Delegation of Authority to EOC

The Steering Committee approves the suggestion by the GFSC to address the delegation of authority from the SC to the EOC in the Governance Document review.

Decision 6: New Partners

- The Steering Committee approves the suggested recommendations **to accept new partners under the Civil Society Organizations, External Support Agencies, Private Sector, Research and Learning and Utilities and Regulators constituencies** according to what was presented in *Document #5.2 - Note on New Partner Applications*.
The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat **to take the necessary steps to welcome these applicants to the partnership and to add them as partners to the website.**
- The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat **to request more information from the three CSO applicants** that did not comply with all the admission criteria.
- The Steering Committee approves the suggested recommendations **to reject the CSOs and Private Sector applicants** according to what was presented in *Document #5.2 - Note on New Partner Applications*.
The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to take the necessary steps **to inform these applicants of its decision.**
- The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat **to inform Foro Argentino del Agua that they are already part of the partnership** through the current SWA member, Global Water Partnership.

Decision 7: Steering Committee Elections

The Steering Committee agrees to extend the current term of Steering Committee members who were started their three-year term in December 2018 by an additional six months, until June 2022.

The Steering Committee further asks the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee to work with the Secretariat on a detailed elections timeline to be presented during the December 2021 meeting.

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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.

23 June 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 March 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. All the pending decisions and actions were on track. She also explained that there will be detailed updates and discussions around some of the items in later sessions of the meeting including on the MENA engagement strategy, the delegation of authority to the EOC, the SMM timing, and high-level engagement on climate.

Ms. de Albuquerque then presented the results of the SC feedback forms and explained that only 12 responses were received at the time the presentation was prepared. She encouraged SC members to fill it in and to send the Secretariat and herself updates on work they are doing in the context of SWA all year round, and not just ahead of SC meetings.

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Session 2: Workplan and Budget Update

Updates on Workplan

Ms. de Albuquerque offered a quick overview of activities and results achieved since the beginning of the year and highlighted some of the tasks that the Secretariat will be undertaking in the second half of the year. Her presentation included information on:

- 1- **The Global Leadership Council (GLC)** which was launched in February, has grown to 7 members. She explained that the GLC's work has taken off including multiple high-level engagements by most Global Leaders, with plans coming up for the rest. For instance, Laura Chinchilla penned a joint op-ed with Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, on International Women's Day. And on 10 June, Alan Jope teamed up with Jose Manuel Barroso, the Chair of GAVI, former Prime Minister of Portugal and President of the European Commission, for a discussion broadcast by Washington Post Live on the need to ensure continued attention to water, sanitation and hygiene as vaccines are rolled out across the world to respond to COVID.
- 2- **Climate Action** which is the partnership's priority focus area for 2021. This focus was initially identified with a vision towards an SMM with a strong climate emphasis to feed into the COP 26. Despite the March 2021 decision of the Steering Committee to postpone the SMM, the Secretariat has been working hard to position SWA and WASH strategically in climate discussions. She explained how the work on climate cuts across SWA's efforts on all three strategic objectives, and it is an excellent example of how interlinked those are. Ms. de Albuquerque referred to the numerous high-level events where SWA and partners contributed, such as the Climate Adaptation Summit, the Petersberg Dialogue, and the Roundtable convened by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on Water and Climate Finance. She explained how SWA has also joined numerous important global initiatives to work together with partners. She equally referred to SWA's webinar series and country support aimed to equip the partnership as momentum is built towards COP26, and then start preparations for the SMM in Q4.
- 3- **Gender Equality** is the other priority area for SWA in 2021. Ms. de Albuquerque explained that SWA is working to ensure that gender is more and more central in all work, and not just an "add-on" specialty topic. This is a fundamental part of SWA's promise to leave no one behind. On International Women's Day, SWA launched a campaign, which aimed to direct attention to women as active agents and leaders. By getting out of the more traditional WASH space, SWA was able to connect with and be followed by organizations outside its usual sphere.
- 4- **Human Rights**. This year, with World Water Day and UN Water focused on "Value of Water campaign", SWA is focusing its human rights work on affordability. SWA has a communications toolkit about affordability– what it means, how countries and organizations are enforcing it - ready to be launched in July.
- 5- **Country engagement** is a central part of how SWA is working to deliver on its three objectives – political prioritization, multi-stakeholder platforms and systems and finance. Ms. de Albuquerque explained that to maximize its limited resources, and in light of increasing partner governments, the Secretariat is testing an approach to strategically focus on priority countries in 2021. She explained the criteria for prioritization and touched upon the ongoing activities in all the priority countries by region, per objective and activity. This approach is already delivering results in some countries, while Ms. de Albuquerque also acknowledged that in some places there have been obstacles
- 6- **The Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM)** is a signature SWA tool which is a central feature of the efforts to reach Objective 2. Ms. de Albuquerque explained that this has been an important year of reflection for the MAM as the partnership has carried out important research to help us learn from other accountability mechanisms and processes, and considered how far

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we have come in our first three years as we work on drafting the first MAM Global report, which will be launched in Q4.

- 7- **The work on and with youth** has also become increasingly important based on demand from our partners to ensure that we do better in including youth voices in our efforts. Ms. de Albuquerque explained how this is being done including through a Youth Strategy being presented at this meeting, which aims to strategically bring in the youth perspective into SWA activities.
- 8- **Repositioning WASH & Campaign** – we have been exploring ways to reach out to audiences outside WASH more effectively – both vertically and horizontally. Our recommendation was to reframe the sector as the undisputed foundation from which to tackle any of the world's pressing needs. Ms. de Albuquerque said that since January, we have developed a strategic framework for a campaign to target external audiences, and that now we are in the stage of operationalizing this framework based on our shared conviction that access to WASH is a matter of social and economic justice. We are also targeting our messaging with key audiences – namely key priority sectors outside WASH like climate, gender, human rights, humanitarian, health, etc.; and high-level decision makers such as Heads of State. She added that through this audience research, we hope to understand better how to frame messages in a more impactful way.

Ms. de Albuquerque received positive feedback from the members of the SC on the work being done. There was a lot of appreciation for the work on climate and on gender and how vital it is to accelerate progress. This also raised some comments on the need for better data, particularly in relation to gender disaggregation. It was thus mentioned that the upcoming [JMP report on 1 July](#) will provide new gender related data (e.g. on Menstrual Hygiene and Health).

Budget Update

Ms. de Albuquerque then introduced Mr. Christophe Pasquier who has recently joined the Secretariat as the Resource Mobilization and Programme Manager. Mr. Pasquier presented the updated budget and requested the SC to approve a revised budget of \$5,300,000 (instead of \$6,500,000 as approved in January). This reduction is mainly driven by the SC decision to postpone the SMM to 2022.

He then went through each of the three strategic objectives to show the areas of the workplan where costs have been decreased and those that remained the same or slightly increased.

Ms. de Albuquerque then presented SWA's funding outlook with details on funds secured from different donors up until 2025. She also presented the ongoing efforts for resource mobilization which include approaching nine government entities, and ten different foundations also in an attempt to diversify the funding sources for the partnership. She explained the status of these discussions indicating that there seems to be some positive developments with prospects of Spain hopefully financing SWA soon. She highlighted that there are still resource mobilization needs for 2022, and a funding gap of approximately 2 million US dollars (figure 1).



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Figure 1: Funding Outlook

Income (US\$)	2021			Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	TOTAL
	Carry forward	Funds Received	Payment Schedule	Payment Schedule	Payment Schedule	Payment Schedule	Payment Schedule	
SDC (Swiss) Trust Fund Account	171,487	250,000	250,000	500,000				500,000
FCDO (United Kingdom) Trust Fund Account	131,576	545,703	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	400,000		2,400,000
DGIS (The Netherlands) Trust Fund Account	685,949		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000
US Fund for UNICEF (Gates) hosted under PD	265,285	500,000		500,000	500,000			1,000,000
USAID hosted under PD		1,000,000		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000
Total Income	1,254,297	2,295,703	1,750,000	4,000,000	3,500,000	2,400,000	2,000,000	11,900,000

The SC members had generally positive reactions to the budget update, highlighting the importance of aligning the Secretariat's fund raising capacities with the workplan.

Decision 3: Updated Budget and Workplan

The Steering Committee approves the updated budget and workplan and asks the Secretariat to start implementing it as necessary.

Session 3: Updates from the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC)

Efficient Work Modalities

Ms. Schechtman started the session by presenting a quick update on progress made around establishing more efficient work modalities for the Sub-Committee and its Work Groups (WGs). This effort has included a review of WGs, their structure, and terms of reference (TORs), as well as introducing new ways of working to ensure alignment and coordination, as well as to promote strategic thinking. She noted the rollout of a governance calendar that has the dates for all Sub-Committee and WG meetings until the end of the year with planning around key dates and milestones to assist members in advance planning with a view towards securing more active participation. WG Chairs are also now invited as observers to Sub-Committee meetings to stay up to date on strategic discussions and reflect the discussions within the Sub-Committee in their WGs and vice versa.

Work Groups Review

In terms of the review of WGs structures and ToRs, Ms. Schechtman explained that a sub-group had been established specifically for this task. She mentioned that the general consensus at the PSSC was towards a WG model that aligns with the three objectives articulated in the [SWA Strategic Framework 2020-2030](#). The three WGs are the High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group (HLPDWG) for Objective 1, the Country Process Work Group (CPWG) for Objective 2, and the Systems and Financing Work Group (SFWG) for Objective 3. As for proposals that partners might put forward for thematic engagement on other areas, these should either fit within the mandate of one of the WGs or, if needed, through the establishment of a time-bound Task Team that is more project-oriented. The current WG on Nutrition will hence be dissolved but has the potential to be reconvened in the form of a Task Team as needed. The sub-group of the PSSC is also developing suggested criteria for the establishment, functioning and dissolution of Task Teams.

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Progress of WGs against their Work Plans

Ms. Schechtman then moved to give a quick update on the progress made by each WG against their workplans. There was good progress being made by the HLPDWG, and the SFWG, while both the CPWG and the Nutrition WG have been on hold pending the WG review. She also mentioned that a new Task Team on Climate Action has now been established under the PSSC, cutting across all three objectives and WGs and has already had its first meeting.

Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) Update

Mr. Paul Deverill gave an update on the SMM, noting the target date for the week of 16 May 2022. He explained that the choice of venue is still the subject of ongoing discussion with the Government of Indonesia in terms of cost effectiveness, with proposals on the table for both Bali and Jakarta. He mentioned the continued uncertainty about the possibility to convene a face-to-face meeting given the ongoing pandemic and implications for health, safety and travel. He also added that the HLPDWG will begin its work in earnest on the SMM around September/October.

Mr. Deverill then alluded to an emerging opportunity for a potential event hosted by USAID focused on Climate Action and WASH in early October. Ms. Schechtman intervened to explain that the proposal is still being developed, but that the intention is to secure high-level participation at such event with the objective of influencing senior government officials who have the ability to impact the outcomes of COP26 and the framing of their respective countries' National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

There was a general discussion on the work of the PSSC, with some questions on WGs and their membership as well as their roles – especially the HLPDWG. The suggestion was put forth that it should include work on other high-level meetings and engagements beyond the SMM and FMM, such as the Dakar Water Summits and the World Water Forum. An idea was to develop a set of SWA key messages to promote during all the upcoming high-level meetings.

Decision 4: The Sector Ministers' Meeting

The Steering Committee supports the recommendation of the High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group (HLPDWG) and the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) to hold the SMM during the week of 16 May 2022.

Youth Engagement Strategy

Ms. Sareen Malik presented the draft SWA Youth Engagement Strategy, and mentioned it was produced in light of more youth organizations joining SWA, especially within the CSO constituency and in Africa. Also, there is recognition among partners of the importance of collaboration with youth to increase the partnership's effectiveness.

Ms. Alex Knezovich then presented the objectives of the Strategy and how it was developed, as well as its main content. She said the main objective was to use the SWA processes and activities to support youth in their role as dynamic agents of change in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. She mentioned there was a focus on the intersectionality of age and gender, which the Private Sector constituency is pursuing and encouraging others to follow.

MENA Engagement Strategy

Mr. Muyatwa Sitali presented the MENA Engagement Strategy, requested by the Steering Committee at its March 2021 meeting. The Secretariat and partners identified three factors to measure engagement: 1) reach: the size and growth of the partnership in the region, 2) intensity: the extent to which partners come together to engage with SWA and its framework, and 3) outcomes: progress of countries on key performance indicators.

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The plan is to focus the roll-out of the Strategy on the current partners within the 5 countries whose governments are already SWA partners. He then presented the priorities according to the engagement plan and how these should be put into effect in each of the partner countries.

Action 1: The Secretariat to share with the SC members the detailed description of WGs and their mandates.

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Session 4: Updates from the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (GFSC)

The day started with a presentation from Mr. Nazim Khizar, UNICEF Deputy Director of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM), covering the newly issued UNICEF Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for all hosted funds and partnerships. He presented the main points that could have implications on governance, human resources, and management.

As hosted funds within UNICEF have grown, there has been recognition of the need for more standardized and documented procedures and processes. The SoPs lay out the criteria for the establishment of UNICEF hosted funds (UHF), on the basis of full cost recovery. On human resources, he said that all personnel with UNICEF contracts are subject to UNICEF rules and regulations. In terms of reporting lines, the SoPs provide that staff accountability is to the Steering Committee on items related to the work plan and programmatic issues, and all other issues are within reporting lines to UNICEF. He then added that there are other provisions that are provided to avoid any conflict of interest such as that the Secretariat staff will not be subject to rotation exercises, and will be considered as external candidates when they apply to UNICEF positions.

He also indicated that steps will be followed to agree a hosting agreement with each of the hosted funds, which will be important for clarifying roles and responsibilities on all sides. This will be developed by the legal department and will be ready around the fall.

He also indicated that UNICEF would undertake a review of costs incurred, including both direct and indirect costs. In the coming months there will be a transparent exercise to calculate the actual costs of services and clarify them with clear key performance indicators for the services being provided in return. This will also be ready in the coming three months.

He added that the SoPs foresee increased UNICEF representation on the Steering Committee, explaining that in addition to a representative from the programmatic section of UNICEF, there will also be a representative from the administrative side for better flow of information in both directions.

In the discussion, the costing exercise was welcomed, as this would enable greater clarity on the services that SWA pays UNICEF for. There was a concern raised about the quorum requirement [whereby the Steering Committee cannot achieve quorum without all UNICEF representatives], indicating that this could undermine the efficient functioning of the partnership. A question was also asked about voting rights of UNICEF representatives on the Steering Committee.

Clarity was also sought on the hiring and firing of staff, and where the final decision for such human resources decisions lies.

In terms of costs, it was emphasized that both the direct and indirect costs need to be factored in. UNICEF confirmed that they would assure their presence in order for the quorum requirement to not pose difficulties to the smooth work of the Steering Committee. It was also confirmed that UNICEF only seeks to have one vote on the Steering Committee. Regarding the official hiring and firing decisions, it was emphasized that since these are UNICEF contracts, UNICEF must retain oversight in terms of ensuring that UNICEF procedures are respected and followed. In this sense, Nazim clarified that when it comes to Secretariat staff who are UNICEF staff members, even before these SOPs entered into force, the final decision on hiring and firing has always been with UNICEF. The reason for this, is that since these SWA colleagues are part of the UNICEF staff force, UNICEF has a certain level of oversight in terms of rules and procedures that protect these staff members.

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For example, on firing, there are review bodies that can re-assess the decisions and there is also a process and a support system for all UN staff. UNICEF has to make sure that rules and procedures are followed because otherwise, if the hiring process is not managed properly or if there are grievances raised to the review bodies or the ombudsman, these can result in heavy financial penalties for the agency.

He further clarified that the decision of hiring and firing will stay with UNICEF and will remain as part of the SOPs. However, UNICEF will make sure that there is consultation with SWA. Nazim also added that if the SWA Steering Committee is not recommending a candidate for hiring, he doesn't foresee that the UNICEF ED would still proceed with the recruitment knowing the Steering Committee's position. He emphasized that this is not written down, but it is assumed despite that the official legal hiring and firing will remain with UNICEF.

The fact that a hosting agreement will be in place soon was also welcomed, and it was noted how important this is for SWA donors. SWA's distinctive characteristics – the fact that it does not actually disburse large amounts of money despite being a “fund” – was also highlighted. SWA Secretariat's structure with non-UNICEF staff was also raised in terms of how they may be impacted by the SoPs. The need to test the SoPs was also emphasized in order to reassure donors that they work in practice. In this regard, Ms. de Albuquerque expressed appreciation for the presentation, and for UNICEF's readiness to test how the SoPs function, and to adapt as needed for the best functioning. She also appreciated the open spirit of cooperation and partnership.

UNICEF indicated that on testing the SoPs, they are confident that these are in the right direction, but that there would be a review in 6-8 months in order to assess any needed adjustments. It was clarified that UNICEF oversight only pertains to UNICEF staff.

Concern was also raised in terms of ensuring that the SoPs help SWA in its outreach with donors rather than posing obstacles. The example of audit authority was specifically raised. UNICEF explained that it has a single audit system through the Office of Internal Oversight and Investigations, and that SWA could also seek its own external auditor in addition if necessary.

Mr. Moriarty said the SoPs are timely and welcome, and thanked UNICEF for the discussion.

Updates on the GFSC Workplan

Ms. Barbara Schreiner gave a quick update on progress against the workplan, citing generally good progress on all items. She mentioned a few additional tasks that were added to the workplan, such as the review of the Governance Document and the delegation of authority to the EOC.

Governance Document Update

Ms. Schreiner mentioned the timeline for the update of the Governance Document and that the process has started with the aim to present a new draft to the SC at its December meeting. She also explained that the discussions on delegation of authority are linked to the update of the document and that it will be addressed within that context.

Decision 5: Delegation of Authority to EOC

The Steering Committee approves the suggestion by the GFSC to address the delegation of authority from the SC to the EOC in the Governance Document review.

CSO Grant Oversight Task Team ToRs

Ms. Schreiner gave the background to why it is necessary to establish the proposed Grant Oversight Task Team to oversee the process of catalytic grants being provided to CSOs. She proposed that for 2021, a time-bound Task Team be created under the GFSC to oversee the allocation of the catalytic funding to some of the SWA Civil Society partners until a more permanent body is established. She added that the Task Team will be required to conduct a due diligence review of all sub-grantees before final approval. The review will be conducted with the support of the UNICEF Funds Support Office and in accordance with UNICEF's CSO policy for subgrantee assessment. She then touched upon the

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criteria for granting these funds, as well as the composition of the Task Team and how it is expected to operate besides the principles for funding that it will follow.

In the discussion, the need to ensure that the process of disbursing these grants is aligned with the new SoPs and more generally with UNICEF procedures was emphasized.

Session 5: Decisions (Executive Session)

Mr. Moriarty reminded SC members that there is only one vote per seat. He established that there was quorum necessary for the executive session. He also asked anyone with a potential conflict of interest to come forward. No conflict was raised. SC members approved decisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Then they also approved decisions 6 and 7 which were not discussed in previous sessions.

Decision 6: New Partners

- The Steering Committee approves the suggested recommendations to accept new partners under the Civil Society Organizations, External Support Agencies, Private Sector, Research and Learning and Utilities and Regulators constituencies according to what was presented in Document #5.2 - Note on New Partner Applications.
The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to welcome these applicants to the partnership and to add them as partners to the website.
- The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to request more information from the three CSO applicants that did not comply with all the admission criteria.
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Decision 7: Steering Committee Elections

The Steering Committee agrees to extend the current term of Steering Committee members who were started their three-year term in December 2018 by an additional six months, until June 2022.

The Steering Committee further asks the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee to work with the Secretariat on a detailed elections timeline to be presented during the December 2021 meeting.

AOB

Mr. Moriarty raised an AOB on some changes within the Steering Committee. This included a) the fact that Mr. Madhav Belbase, the main representative of the Government of Nepal has retired and that the Secretariat is in touch with the Government on who would replace him, and b) that Mr. Jorge Mora Portuguese, Alternate Representative of the Latin American Civil Society Organizations has resigned, because his presence on the SC limits the ability of his organization to apply for the SWA catalytic funding for CSOs under the current rules.

Ms. Nathalie Seguin raised two questions under AOB. She requested an update on the hiring process for the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Regional Coordinator and the CSO Coordinator. She also inquired about the process of determining, and engaging with priority countries, within the SFWG. On human resources, Ms. de Albuquerque explained the difficulties of filling these posts. As for the LAC RC, the position was advertised, interviews conducted, and a candidate chosen. The process took however longer than anticipated, as this position is being hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank while SWA is hosted by UNICEF, which required the signing of an MoU between the two organizations. As for the CSO Coordinator, unfortunately this position was advertised twice and no suitable candidate – meeting all the required criteria - found. However, the Secretariat is in the process of finding another solution soon. To conclude, the LAC RC should start on the 1st of September and the CSO Coordinator by mid-July. In terms of the determination of priority countries, she explained the

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criteria for choosing priority countries, that the list of priority countries would change every year and that new candidates would be most welcome.

Mr. Djouuro Bocoum, asked if there will be a decision to ask the HLPDWG to support on the preparations of the World Water Forum (WWF). Mr. Deverill responded that the HLPDWG cannot cover all high-level events due to limitations especially relating to the interest and availability of its members. Ms de Albuquerque added that the Secretariat is already engaged with the WWF organizers and indicated that this is in SWA's workplan. There was agreement that the Secretariat will provide an update on this matter during the December 2021 SC meeting, as not only the WWF, but also the two Dakar Summits will be important opportunities to engage with high-level decision makers on all three strategic objectives.

Action 2:

- The Secretariat to provide an update on SWA's engagement in WWF during the December SC meeting.

Ending

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