

Minutes

Steering Committee Meeting

29 March 2022

Sanitation and Water for All Steering Committee meeting – 29 March 2022

Minutes

Participants

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

Governments

Eastern and Southern Africa

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

East Asia and the Pacific

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

Latin American and Caribbean

- Mr. Oscar Izquierdo Sandí, Costa Rica

Middle East and North Africa

- Ms. Majeda Alawneh, State of Palestine

South Asia

- Ms. Meena Shrestha, Nepal
- Mr. Rajit Ojha, Nepal - *alternate*

West and Central Africa

- Mr. Djoouro Bocoum, Mali

Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Civil Society Organizations

- Ms. Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network
- Mr. Jorge Luis Ramírez González, Fundación para el Medio Ambiente de Baja Verapaz (FUNDEMABV) - *alternate*
- Ms. Kimberly Lemme, Water for People – *alternate*
- Mr. Mohammed Zobair Hasan, Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP) - *alternate*
- Ms. Sareen Malik, ANEW
- Mr. Seetharam M.R., VILD foundation

External Support Agencies

- Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, UNICEF
- Ms. Lisa Schechtman, US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Ms. Sue Coates, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF) - *alternate*
- Mr. Nazim Khizar, UNICEF (DFAM)
- 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. Sarah Dickin, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Observers

- Mr. Federico Properzi, UN-Water
- Mr. Bruce Gordon, WHO
- Mr. Kitchenme Bawa, AMCOW

Secretariat

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

SC Members and Observers who did not attend:

- Ms. Anna Virginia Machado, LabGea
- Ms. Bragori Hélène Epse Yocolly, Côte d'Ivoire
- Ms. Diana Carlos, Portugal
- Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Nigeria
- Mr. Khalid Massa, Tanzania
- Ms. Maria Bethania Tellechea López, Paraguay

Summary of Decisions

Decision 1: Agenda

The Steering Committee approves the agenda for the meeting.



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Session 1: Introductions and Overview

Mr. Moriarty welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) members and observers. He gave an overview of the agenda and proposed one adjustment to expand the time allocated to session one, which was approved.

Mr. Moriarty then congratulated the SC members who have been re-elected in the recent SWA elections and expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the outgoing members; stressing that he will be looking forward to welcoming the SC with its new structure during the upcoming June SC meeting.

Ms. de Albuquerque guided the SC members through the list of pending decisions from the previous SC meeting with the corresponding progress and status. All decisions were on track. She gave a detailed update on election results and mentioned that updates on the communications campaign, as well as the new governance website would be delivered during the meeting.

Mr. Moriarty then presented his report on the activities of the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) giving a short summary of its standing agenda items, and the other main issues it has deliberated on during January and February 2022. He also presented a list of all the decisions the EOC took, which regarded time sensitive matters that required action. He explained that with all COVID developments there was a need to take a decision regarding the Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM), and after evaluating the different alternatives, it was decided to maintain it in Indonesia. He then stressed that the commitment and dedication demonstrated by the Government of Indonesia especially the team at BAPPENAS (the Ministry of National Development Planning) has been exceptional, and that the collaboration has demonstrated a true sense of partnership throughout this process.

Ms. de Albuquerque then gave an overview of the implementation of the 2022 workplan during the first quarter of the year. She mentioned that so far, all work has been on track, with the SMM occupying most of the Secretariat's time and efforts. She explained the unprecedented positive replies and momentum being witnessed around the SMM, and stressed it was not a surprise, but the result of active engagement in many ways to secure strong participation at the SMM.

Ms. de Albuquerque also summarized all the efforts being made to address the Secretariat's funding gap. She mentioned that there are some opportunities being negotiated. She also mentioned that the Secretariat is working with UNICEF to see how to conclude potential agreements with new donors, as the UNICEF SCA is not a funding modality that works for all donors. She hopes flexible solutions will be found.

She also mentioned that there were two areas where the Secretariat lacked the capacity needed to achieve its objectives, and where more engagement by the partnership at large is needed. Those include the development of the regional roadmap for the MENA region, as well as on the development of regional workplans for other regions. She said that to take this forward, the following actions are suggested: 1) MENA regional Steering Committee members to help with the follow-up on the MENA roadmap and, to identify institutions which would have the capacity and interest to jointly prepare the workplan for it. 2) Other regional SC members to work with the Secretariat to identify lead institutions for all other regions from among partners including other SC members who can help to directly support the process of the regional workplan development. She mentioned that the Secretariat can help with coordination and supporting the SC leads for each regional workplan but that direct support from SC members and partners is essential.

There was a discussion around suggested avenues to ensure there are no impediments for SWA to receive funding from new donors under the trust fund modality. Ms. de Albuquerque confirmed that she

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is having direct discussions with UNICEF on this matter, and has requested flexible solutions, that at the same time guarantee UNICEF's legal protection.

Another related discussion point was around potential risks faced by the partnership and how SWA manages them. This concerns financial matters but also goes beyond that. Ms. de Albuquerque explained that the Secretariat is working diligently on a new risk matrix to address all potential risks including its ability to deliver on the vision and mission, its strategy, safeguarding mechanisms and many other aspects. The risk matrix will be ready for discussion at the June Steering Committee meeting.

Decision 1: Agenda

The Steering Committee approves the agenda for the meeting.

Action 1: Regional Workplans and MENA Roadmap

- a) MENA regional Steering Committee members to help with the follow-up on the MENA roadmap and, to identify institutions which would have the capacity and interest to jointly prepare the workplan for it.
- b) Other regional SC members to work with the Secretariat to identify lead institutions for all other regions from among partners including other SC members who can help to directly support the process of the regional workplan development.
- c) The Secretariat to support the SC leads for each regional workplan.

Session 2: The Results Framework

Ms. Lucinda O'Hanlon started her presentation by mentioning that after one year of adopting the Results Framework in January 2021, this was a good moment to reflect on how the process for adopting and implementing it has been so far. She explained the different stages that have been followed starting with raising awareness amongst country level partners and the Secretariat to familiarize everyone with the process. She then mentioned that another necessary step was to refine the indicators and make sure they reflected the work foreseen in the workplan – this meant for example that a new indicator on objective three was added. She then gave an update on the status of implementation of the results framework focusing especially on the outputs and the intermediate outcomes levels. Seven countries have concluded their self-assessments, eight more are on track to complete them in the first quarter of 2022 and 15 more during the course of 2022. Ms. O'Hanlon stressed that the purpose of these self-assessments is not meant for comparison amongst countries, but more importantly for tracking progress over time in each country.

Ms. O'Hanlon reflected that the time it takes to gain and maintain momentum around the Results Framework has been a challenge. A discussion around how to get the partnership more engaged on the Results Framework was then conducted. Some of the main points made included the importance of government ownership and leadership of the process. Suggestions were made as to how the Results Framework could also potentially be linked to existing processes such as GLAAS or other national monitoring processes/frameworks. The role of other constituencies was also discussed, and it was mentioned that the countries engaging with the Results Framework are also, for the most part, SWA priority countries, which also includes outreach to other constituencies. Another point made was how the Results Framework can foster learning and exchange of experiences across countries. Ms. O'Hanlon stressed that for now, the implementation of the Results Framework has required substantial investments in terms of staff time and effort. Mr. Moriarty then concluded the session, affirming that this has been quite a good start for implementing the Results Framework, yet more advocacy and championing are needed across the whole partnership.



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Session 3: The Communications Campaign

Ms. Alexandra Reis presented an update on the Communications Campaign. She reiterated that the purpose is to gather water, sanitation, and hygiene champions in other sectors and reach the highest level of decision makers continuing the reaching out and reaching up strategy for SWA. She reminded the SC that the purpose of the campaign has been to connect water and sanitation to issues of social justice. water, sanitation, and hygiene is foundational, it is achievable, yet it's unequal. Limited access leads to exacerbating inequalities— therefore, access to water, sanitation, and hygiene is a matter of social and economic justice.

Ms. Reis then spoke about the target audience and mentioned that the idea has been to trigger two pressure points which are youth and the elders (as a synonym of political leaders) to try to enact change, and also have them work together. She said that the campaign will connect water, sanitation, and hygiene to 4 different themes, to allow breadth of action and multiple champions. These are: climate, health, education, and economic development. She also mentioned that the proposed campaign tag line has been “Justice Begins Here” and that it is to be associated with strong water, sanitation, and hygiene imagery.

Ms. Reis stressed that ultimately, we want high-level decision-makers to pay attention to water, sanitation, and hygiene and we want to campaign to contribute to one of the activities we are already implementing at SWA which is securing Heads of State National Compacts, meaning a high-level declaration that water, sanitation, and hygiene is a priority for the country. She also mentioned that we want to ensure that all campaign materials are easily adaptable to our different partners' needs, and that materials and content were created around different topics, also to support different needs. She also mentioned that the timeline will not be ultimately defined by the Secretariat, but by our partners, so that the campaign fits nicely with their own activities and workplans.

During the discussion, Ms. Reis confirmed that elders and youth are the recommended groups but other target groups can also be engaged by partners if it fits their model and context better. It was also mentioned that youth definitely want a seat at the table and that we need to explore how we can link them at the country level to political processes so that we empower them to influence more. One example that was given was the Dushanbe youth platform that will be coming to the 2023 conference.

Session 4: The Road to the Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM)

Mr. Paul Deverill presented a progress update on the Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM). He mentioned that during March, the Secretariat organized a preparatory mission to Indonesia where some of its members had meetings with the Government, UNICEF, and other partners. Mr. Deverill also mentioned that quarantine requirements have been reduced and it is expected that by the time of the Meeting there will be no quarantine. He added that there are contingency plans for a bubble scenario in case a quarantine is back in effect.

He also mentioned that invitations to ministers have been sent out, and that up to the time of the Steering Committee meeting, about 50 ministers from 40 countries had confirmed. He then explained how the SMM Task Team has been diligently working on the agenda development, with the elaborated agenda now available on the SMM website, which has recently been revamped and also includes relevant documents, a live blog on country preparations, and updates on ministerial confirmations.

Mr. Deverill then explained the detailed agenda with the different moments it consists of, the themes it captures, and the objectives for each session.

Mr. Muyatwa Sitali offered a brief update on the preparatory process for the meeting, mentioning that the Secretariat has held more than 70 bilateral calls with more than 50 countries, as well as calls with all constituencies. He also mentioned the upcoming milestones including the last preparatory webinar,



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the country overviews being prepared by country teams, and different activities taking place at country level to prepare ministers for the meeting.

During the discussion, the issue of facilitators for the Ministerial Dialogues and how important it was to carefully choose them, brief them, and train them was stressed. It was also mentioned that the unprecedented rate of ministerial confirmations exceeds what we had budgeted for travel. In case the total number of confirmations exceeds the venue's capacity, ministers should be prioritized to attend the Meeting. The Secretariat has been working very hard to secure funding for the Meeting including through cost sharing with some partners.

Session 5: Governance and Finance Updates

Budget Update

Mr. Christophe Pasquier started his update by showing the available funding in comparison to the planned budget. He mentioned that there was a deficit of 628,061 USD which needs to be filled. He also gave a summary of the donor pipeline including all additional confirmed payments for 2022, as well as all fundraising efforts. He said that since the beginning of 2022, SWA has submitted proposals/concept notes to 5 donors which are: FCDO, Spain – AECID, the Conrad Hilton Foundation, the European Commission and the Rockefeller Foundation. He also mentioned that the Secretariat has invested unprecedented efforts to request support from donors and partners to co-finance the SMM, by supporting travel and other SMM related activities.

Mr. Pasquier then presented the funding outlook for the coming years until 2025; highlighting the efforts with existing donors to secure follow-on funding for grants that are expiring in 2022 such as Gates Foundation and SDC. He then mentioned that if 75% of what is in the pipeline so far is secured, SWA's budget for 2022 will be covered. He stressed that we are in a much better place than two months ago. He also confirmed that for the June SC meeting, we should have a much better picture with total actual costs of the SMM and hopefully confirmation of funding from some more donors.

During the discussion, it was stressed that there is an important role that SC members can play especially through introducing SWA to some of their donors. Ms. De Albuquerque thanked Mr. Moriarty for having introduced SWA to the Hilton Foundation with whom SWA has already now reached the stage of submitting a funding proposal.

Governance Website

Ms. Lucinda O'Hanlon mentioned that the idea for the Governance Website first came based on discussions at the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee around efficient work modalities. She mentioned that one of the gaps identified was the absence of an internal online space where all minutes, documents, meeting times, and all other relevant internal documents would be [available](#).

Ms. Ludovica Bartoli then presented and described the website as an internal private network accessible by the Secretariat and by all members of SWA's Governance Bodies. She gave a brief run through of the website's main features which include:

- A governance library, including all SC meetings documents
- A centralized calendar, including governance and other SWA events
- A dedicated page for each Governance Body, including a list of its members, its own document library and its own calendar highlighting relevant events.

She also mentioned that the main objective the website serves is to facilitate and further improve collaboration, as well as streamline and improve communication with the Secretariat and between the members of the Governance Bodies.

During the discussion SC members were invited to examine the new website and its features and functionalities in order to give the Secretariat any feedback or ideas on things that need to be improved or changed.



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Session 6: Decisions (Executive Session)

There were no additional decisions to be taken.

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Ms. de Albuquerque expressed her sincere thanks to her Secretariat colleagues for their hard work and engagement in finalizing and coordinating multiple processes including resource mobilization, developing a global communications campaign, revising the governance document and preparing for the current meeting, finalizing the governance website and running SC elections, during an immensely intense period of preparations for the Sector Ministers' Meeting.

Ending

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