

Minutes

Steering Committee Meeting

20 – 21 June 2023

Sanitation and Water for All Steering Committee meeting – 20 & 21 June 2023

Minutes

Participants

Chair and CEO

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

Governments

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Abiy Girma, Ethiopia
- Dhoba Lovemore, Zimbabwe

East Asia and the Pacific

- H.E. Mr. Oak Rabun, Cambodia

Middle East and North Africa

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Latin America and Caribbean

- Alba Heredia Sena, Dominican Republic
- Carlos Cueto, Dominican Republic

South Asia

- Meena Shrestha, Nepal

West and Central Africa

- Djoouro Bocoum, Mali
- Bragori Helene Epse Yocolly, Côte d'Ivoire

Western European and Others Group

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Civil Society Organizations

- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network
- Nathalie Seguin, FANMex
- Sareen Malik, ANEW

Private Sector

- Alexandra Knezovich, Toilet Board Coalition (TBC)
- Nicholas Igwe, Zenith Water Projects

External Support Agencies

- Cecilia Scharp, UNICEF WASH
- Maarten Gischler, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands (DGIS)
- Paul Deverill, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom (FCDO)
- Rekiya Adamu, UNICEF (FSO)

Research and Learning

- Daniel Ddiba, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Utilities and Regulators

-

Observers

- Bruce Gordon, WHO
- Federico Properzi, UN-Water

Secretariat

- Alexandra Reis, Communications
- Angie Saleh, Governance and Partnerships
- Christophe Pasquier, Operations and Resource Mobilization
- Muyatwa Sitali, Country Engagement

SC Members and Observers who did not attend:

- Alexandra Carvalho, Portugal, *Western European and Others Group*
- Rashid Mbaziira, AMCOW (*Observer*)
- Costa Rica, *Latin America and Caribbean*
- Dominic O'Neill, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF), *External Support Agencies*
- Elizabeth Ugoh, Nigeria, *West and Central Africa*
- Majeda Alawneh, Palestine, *Middle East and North Africa*
- Makhosini Khoza, Eswatini, *Eastern and Southern Africa*
- Oscar Pintos, Asociación De Entes Reguladores De Agua Potable Y Saneamiento De Las Américas, *Utilities and Regulators*
- Russel Chidya, Mzuzu University, *Research and Learning*
- Seetharam M.R., VILD Foundation, *Civil Society Organizations*

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Summary of Decisions

Decision 1: Agenda

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

Decision 2: Updated Budget and Workplan

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

Decision 3: Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) Vice Chair

The Steering Committee approves the appointment of Sareen Malik as PSSC Vice Chair.

Decision 4: Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (GFSC) Vice Chair

The Steering Committee approves the appointment of Paul Deverill as GFSC Vice Chair.

Decision 5: Risk Matrix

The Steering Committee approves the revised Risk Matrix as recommended by the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee, and asks the Secretariat to work with the GFSC on presenting the top risks to the Steering Committee for discussion and decision.

Decision 6: Steering Committee Elections

1. The SC approves the proposal by the Secretariat to organize elections according to the approach and timeline presented in the proposal for 2023 elections.
2. The SC appoints Marissa Streyle as the elections officer for the 2023 SC elections.

Decision 7: New Partners

I. Regarding applicants that provided an update of their pending status from the December 2022 Steering Committee Meeting

A. After undertaking due diligence and having received further information, the Steering Committee accepts **the following pending CSO applicants from the December 2022 group:**

- Expert Asian Development Foundation, Bangladesh
- New Restoration Plan Malawi, Malawi
- Rural Development Organization RDO Kpk, Pakistan
- TUSHIRIKI, Tanzania

II. New applications received between October 2022 and May 2023

After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Steering Committee **accepts the following applicants**

A. CSO constituency:

- Action des Leaders pour le Développement des Communautés à la Base (ALDEC), Togo
- Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment (AGAHE), Pakistan
- Give a Shit, Portugal
- Mvuramanzi Trust, Zimbabwe
- Organisation communautaire pour la promotion du développement de service social (OCOPRODESS), Cameroon
- One Life Count Empowerment Foundation, Nigeria
- ONG KAWTAL, Niger
- PACOPA, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Parlement National de la Jeunesse Burkinabè pour l'Eau (PNJBE), Burkina Faso
- SAHAWA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, Nigeria
- Salam Humanitarian Foundation (SHF), Turkey
- Women Development Program, Bangladesh

B. Private Sector constituency:

- Kaka cesspool services, Uganda
- M/s TAZENV, Pakistan
- Avantu Water Inc., Canada
- EXIMTRADER S.A., Ecuador

C. Research and Learning constituency:

- Universidad Mayor San Simon, Bolivia
- Water, Science, Policy, Germany

After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Steering Committee **requests for additional information from the following applicants:**

A. CSO constituency

- Aerosan, Canada
- Children's Vision Uganda, Uganda
- Civil Society SDGs Campaign GCAP Zambia, Zambia

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- Empreinte Verte & Solidarité, Ivory Coast
- ETOILE DE LA PAIX, EP asbl, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Lotus Flower Community School, Zambia
- Nahugombe CBO, Kenya
- Rosa Care Organisation, Zimbabwe
- Youth for Change, Kenya

B. Private Sector constituency:

- AQREVOS safe and clean drinking water solutions LLC, United States
- Bluefields Investment Limited, Nigeria
- Resolins Technology LLP, India
- Water of Life Liberia Inc, Liberia
- DevAxle LTD/GTE, Nigeria

C. Research and Learning constituency:

- IPROGA, Peru

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Minutes (Note: decisions were discussed and agreed during the executive session, but are displayed in the minutes according to the relevant session for ease of reference)

Day One

Session 1: Introductions and Overview

Patrick Moriarty (PM) and Catarina de Albuquerque (CTA) welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) members. CTA mentioned that the Secretariat is in a team retreat during this week, starting with a Senior Management Team (SMT) retreat from 19-21 June, and a full team retreat on 22-23 June.

They also welcomed new SC members, Ms. Cecilia Scharp, representing UNICEF and Mr. Daniel Ddiba representing Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI).

PM presented an overview of the agenda of the meeting and asked the SC members for their approval or comments. PM then proceeded to give an update on the activities of the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) during the months of April and May. He also gave a quick recap of the EOC structure, mandate, and standing agenda items. He mentioned that among the topics discussed was the recap from the UN 2023 Water Conference, human resource issues, the budget and workplan updates (to be provided to the SC in this meeting), updates on resource mobilization, the UNICEF audit and the work around Heads of State engagement (HoS).

CTA updated the SC on the status of the implementation of SC decisions and actions. These included the decision on Governance Document review which she explained is pending the finalization of the hosting agreement with UNICEF, the decision on High-Level Meetings (HLMs) where an update will be presented during session 3, and the decision on updating the membership of the sub-committees which was implemented in March. CTA also provided an update on the pending actions including the one on Global Leadership Council (GLC) nominations which is currently being implemented and reintroducing the Governance Website to the SC which Alexandra Reis (AR) briefly presented.

CTA then presented the summary of feedback received from SC members on their activities during the past 6 months. She noted that the Secretariat has only received 11 Feedback Forms representing less than 50% of the voting members of the SC. She referred to the reported time dedicated by SC members to SWA, and the ways in which SC members reported their contributions to each of the three strategic objectives, with most members reporting activities relating to speaking about SWA in international events, as well as participation in Working Group (WG) or Sub-Committee meetings. There was a discussion on ways to encourage SC members to fill in the feedback forms, due to their importance. It was agreed that the Secretariat will start presenting who has responded by name.

Decision 1: Agenda

The Steering Committee approves the agenda for the meeting.

Action 1: SWA Governance Documents on Website

The Secretariat to include the UNICEF audit report of SWA under Governance on the SWA Website.

Action 2: Feedback Forms

The Secretariat to start presenting who responded to the feedback forms by name.

Session Two: Workplan and Budget Update

CTA started the session with an update on the 2023 workplan activities so far. She explained how this year has been a big year for the sector and showed a timeline of the main events of the year and how the partnership is using them as opportunities to build up for its HLMs, the HoS engagement and ultimately the achievement of SDG6 water and sanitation targets. **She explained that SWA's focus can be summarized in three approaches: reaching up to high-level decision makers, reaching out to other sectors, and reaching across different stakeholders.**

On reaching up CTA first presented the work on HoS engagement, explaining that sometimes the targets shift due to the changing circumstances at country level. She explained that SWA (together with its partners) is currently emerging as a thought leader on Heads of State engagement. She added that one of the goals is to have a HoS component during the next SMM in 2025. She also attributed the unprecedented progress for this area of work during 2023 to the opportunities that

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came up including the UN 2023 Water Conference (UNWC), the All Systems Connect Symposium, and the engagement at country level. She also mentioned that it has only been possible because SWA is working with government partners and also with partners like UNICEF, the Netherlands, IRC, and others. CTA also spoke about the benefits of **engaging the GLC** which was clearly demonstrated through H.E. Laura Chinchilla's participation on SWA's behalf at different events during the UNWC.

On reaching out CTA explained that SWA's **focus on finance** remains one of its distinguishing features. She briefly spoke of the ambition of SWA as the partnership scopes possible opportunities for Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs) this year and explained its capacity limitations. She then moved to the focus on human rights which remains part of SWA's identity, elucidating that the efforts this year focused on the principle of maximum available resources. She explained that the partnership is also prioritizing work on gender and has hired a consultant to work on creating a gender strategy. This would include positioning how SWA can integrate gender in its activities and processes, how to reach out to gender processes and actors, and what should be our messaging and targets. CTA also presented progress on the climate priority area especially relating to SWA's efforts on coordinating the sector towards a unified submission of a WASH component for the Global Goal on Adaptation. CTA mentioned that SWA is also testing new waters by exploring the value added it can have in humanitarian and fragility settings.

On reaching across, CTA spoke of progress on the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM). She said that accountability is now no longer the elephant in the room, but the Socratic fly¹ reminding everyone to be accountable. In this context she also mentioned how the Secretariat is taking forward one of the main findings of the first MAM global report and holding another session to promote more enhance accountability amongst global partners.

CTA then concluded here mid-term update on the 2023 workplan with a summary of the Secretariat's **main priorities for the rest of the year**. She said that the fear of not reaching SDG 6 is a real concern, but that SWA and its partners cannot give up. Amongst the focus areas the Secretariat have been reflecting on for 2024, she mentioned HoS engagement; working with countries to support national compacts that elevate water and sanitation to the highest political levels by HoS. She also mentioned another major focus on finance and finance ministers' meetings, the launch of the second MAM Global Report, the review of SWA's 2020-2030 Strategy, and preparing for the 2025 SMM.

During the discussion a few points were raised including how the Secretariat reports on the Activity Monitoring System and activities that could be off track. There was also another point raised about how partner work is featured and accounted for by SWA including the impact stories and other routes.

PM then gave the floor to Christophe Pasquier (CP) to present **the update on the budget**. CP showed a snapshot on the major activities of the workplan that are happening in the second half of 2023 and those that are delayed. He then presented the actual vs the forecast budget for SWA so far. He explained that the level of expenditure is in line with expectations at this moment of the year with approximately 31% of the budget spent in the first 4 months. He mentioned that to date, the Secretariat has more than \$4.5M secured for 2023 spending in addition to a carry forward of \$1,2M from 2022 which means that it's expected to cover the full year budget. CP then presented the SWA funding history and the forecast for the coming two years. He also presented the efforts undertaken for resource mobilization including the conclusion of a resource mobilization strategy. This also included the Secretariat's efforts to continue reaching out to new and existing partners, the creation of a donate button which will be soon live on the SWA website, and the additional funding secured this year from the European Commission, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gadfly_\(philosophy_and_social_science\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gadfly_(philosophy_and_social_science))

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Decision 2: Updated Budget and Workplan

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

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

PM started the session and gave the floor to Nicholas Igwe (NI) to present the progress on the PSSC workplan so far. NI started by explaining the mandate of the PSSC and the way it works. He gave an update on the Sub-Committee workplan where all activities were currently on track. He also mentioned that in the last meeting there was a discussion on the role of the PSSC Vice Chair and that Sareen Malik (SM) was nominated for the role. NI then gave an update on the work of each of the three WGs - the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group (HLPDWG), the Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Working Group (MSCWG) and the Systems and Finance Working Group (SFWG). He gave a brief summary of progress against the planned activities of each working group so far.

A discussion followed regarding the regional workplans being coordinated by the MSCWG and the potential for cross-sectoral focus on activities.

PM then gave the floor to CTA to present on the UNWC. CTA started with a reflection on SWA's strategic objectives and priorities at the Conference. She explained the process of engagement early on and the agreement to focus on high-level political engagement which was achieved. She then gave a summary of the meetings SWA decided to prioritize including the Ministerial Meeting on Good Governance and Finance with the World Bank, where the Bank announced a commitment of USD 7 billion for 9 countries in the room. She also gave a summary of the meeting with HoS on Compacts and the follow up process, thereto culminating in good progress in a number of countries such as Ghana, Ethiopia and Liberia. She also mentioned the meeting where the Sahel Alliance Statement was signed and an action plan was agreed, for which AFD provided SWA with a small grant to support implementation.

CTA also gave a summary of the MAM meeting and the process of following up on commitments made through the Water Action Agenda (WAA).

There was a discussion on how SWA can play a very useful role in showcasing how the WASH commitments of the WAA can be improved and included under the MAM.

PM then gave the floor to Muyatwa Sitali (MS) who presented the different options for HLMS with finance ministers this and next year. For 2024, for a regional meeting in Asia, the Secretariat has been in touch with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). There is currently a leadership transition in the water and sanitation team at ADB, which means a meeting in the region will only be possible next year. For Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Africa meetings in 2023, there are currently three options:

- 1- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is convening a meeting in Guyana in October focused on disaster risk insurance, and SWA can be given a chance to speak to the ministers of finance present for that meeting. This is mainly focused on Caribbean countries – many of which are not SWA partners.
- 2- Spain is leading on a meeting in September that will convene finance ministers from CELAC and the European Union. The Secretariat has reached out to Spain to explore whether SWA could co-host with the Spanish Presidency of the EU a side event that would focus on water and sanitation. This request is still pending a response.
- 3- AfricaSan is happening in Namibia in November and there have been discussions with AMCOW on having a meeting with ministers of finance on the side lines. This would likely have budgetary implications because those ministers do not usually attend AfricaSan.

There was a discussion about the process of involving the relevant governance bodies in this discussion and the SC was assured that these options have all been discussed with the HLPDWG and/or its Co-Chairs. A few SC members expressed the preference to prioritize the meeting in Guyana which seems to have a higher probability of success. There was also a discussion on the capacity of the Secretariat to organise all those meetings combined and the Secretariat confirmed

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that capacity is indeed a consideration in prioritizing which meeting(s) to proceed with. It was explained that there are opportunities that cannot be missed, such as the meeting convened by Spain which will gather 60 finance ministers but is still not confirmed. It was also mentioned that perhaps a combination of two meetings would be possible since the one in Guyana will probably be easier to implement. A fourth option for an Africa focused meeting was put forward by SC members indicating that the annual meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) could also represent a good opportunity. The Secretariat agreed that this would be a viable option however it requires a big investment in political capital from African partners to make it happen. It was agreed that there is a need to be opportunistic and flexible when deciding the way forward.

Decision 3: Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) Vice Chair

The Steering Committee approves the appointment of Sareen Malik as PSSC Vice Chair.

Action 3: Meeting for Africa Finance Ministers on the side lines of the AfDB annual meeting

The Secretariat to consult with Africa partners and SC members on the possibility of having a Finance Ministers' Meeting on the side lines of the AfDB annual meetings.

Day Two

Session Four: Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (GFSC) Updates

Barbara Schreiner (BS) started by presenting an **update on the planned activities of the GFSC** for 2023. She mentioned that most activities are on track. She explained that the Governance Document update is still pending the hosting agreement with UNICEF. She also mentioned that the GFSC has not done much work on resource mobilization and mainly depends on the efforts of the Secretariat.

PM then gave the floor to Christophe Pasquier (CP) to present on **the risk matrix and the audit implementation plan**. He started with a brief update on risks and mentioned that SWA has already started to implement some of the agreed mitigating activities. There was a discussion on the main categories of risk and CP presented some of the main categories in the risk matrix including the risk of not having enough funds. There was also a discussion on the Secretariat capacity to address risks and the role of partners. It was stressed that it was important to capture the time partners spend on supporting SWA and also, just as important, for partners to know what it means to join a partnership and how it enhances the collective strength and efficiency of all partners. It was also duly noted that the risk matrix is only 6 months old and that it's an ongoing process including working with the GFSC to assess how SWA is doing on implementing the actions. It was agreed that for the future, the Secretariat should work with the GFSC to identify the top risks that need to be discussed at the SC meeting.

CP then proceeded to present the UNICEF audit implementation plan. He mentioned that the management response was sent in March, and this resulted in an audit implementation plan, with 18 actions agreed. He also mentioned that 10 out of the 18 actions have already been implemented by SWA and that 5 of the remaining 8 actions need UNICEF's support to implement. Some of those are related to compliance and governance and there is a need for joint action.

Another discussion point related to the opportunity to discuss bigger topics in light of risks and their mitigation as well as the audit implementation. This includes the question of whether SWA is delivering on its mission (which is also a point from the audit). It was agreed that such big items are best discussed in face-to-face SC meetings where there is a chance to have more in-depth discussions and, also, probably better to be scheduled for the end of the year where the Secretariat is reporting on the workplan for the whole year. It was also agreed that the Secretariat would work with the GFSC to establish ways to maintain the quality of SC meetings in a way that enhances its accountability as the decision-making body for the partnership.

PM then gave the floor to Cecilia Scharp (CS) to present **the findings of the report related to UNICEF's role as host for partnerships**. CS confirmed that partnerships are core to all of UNICEF's programming as they allow the organization to expand its reach, influence policy and programmes and leverage resource for children's rights. She added that the objective of this audit was to review the extent to which the hosted partnerships are managed in accordance with UNICEF rules, regulations, standard procedures and partnership arrangements; and assess the adequacy

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and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and control processes over the provision of hosting arrangements and services. The overall conclusion of the report was that the assessed governance, risk management or control processes by UNICEF were **Partially Satisfactory with Major Improvement Needed**. CS then presented the main areas identified by the audit which mainly related to governance, risk management, and control processes. CS mentioned that the hosting agreement is expected to be shared very soon.

PM then gave the floor to Muyatwa Sitali (MS) to present **the Steering Committee elections plan**. MS started by explaining the governing background of the SC elections and its evolution through different governance reviews. He also mentioned a few principles in the election process mainly related to maintaining a system for continuity, where new members join the SC and others remain with a staggered approach that implies an election for half the SC seats every 18 months. MS then presented the SC seats that will be included in the election this year, including which ones are eligible for a second term and which ones are not. He also presented a proposed timeline which starts by the announcement of the election process on 6 July and concludes with the election results being announced by the end of November and the new members inducted in January 2024.

Decision 4: Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (GFSC) Vice Chair

The Steering Committee approves the appointment of Paul Deverill as GFSC Vice Chair.

Decision 5: Risk Matrix

The Steering Committee approves the revised Risk Matrix as recommended by the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee and asks the Secretariat to work with the GFSC on presenting the top risks to the Steering Committee for discussion and decision.

Decision 6: Steering Committee Elections

1. The SC approves the proposal by the Secretariat to organize elections according to the approach and timeline presented in the proposal for 2023 elections.
2. The SC appoints Marissa Streyle as the elections officer for the 2023 SC elections.

Action 4: Quality of SC meetings

GFSC to work with the Secretariat to establish approaches for maintaining the quality of SC meetings and reinforce the SC's accountability as a decision-making body.

Action 5: Renaming the Industrialized Countries sub-constituency

The Secretariat to change the name of the sub-constituency for industrialized countries to be "Western European and Others Group (WEOG)".

Session Five – Decisions (Executive Session)

PM announced the beginning of the Executive Session. He thanked the observers for their participation and confirmed quorum for decision making. He then went through the proposed decisions. There was agreement on all decisions. There was a discussion on the decision relating to the risk matrix and it was agreed to add a sentence relating to the presentation of top risks to the SC. This is reflected in the decision. There was also a question on the elections officer and CTA explained that historically this has been Ludovica Bartoli who is currently on maternity leave, and that the Secretariat is therefore asking for Marissa Streyle to assume this role. Another discussion was on adding a decision relating to the Africa FMM option. It was agreed that this would be tabled as an action instead in order to maintain flexibility and gather the inputs of other Africa SC representatives and partners.

Before ending the meeting, PM thanked the SC for all the time they put in for the meeting and the engaging discussions.

Decision 7: New Partners

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- Bluefields Investment Limited, Nigeria
- Resolins Technology LLP, India
- Water of Life Liberia Inc, Liberia
- DevAxle LTD/GTE, Nigeria

F. Research and Learning constituency:

- IPROGA, Peru