

Sanitation and Water for All Steering Committee Meeting

05 - 06 December 2023

Minutes

Participants

Chair and CEO

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

Governments

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Abiy Girma, Ethiopia
- Makhosini Khoza, Eswatini
- Lovemore Dhoba, Zimbabwe, Eastern and Southern Africa

East Asia and the Pacific

-

Middle East and North Africa

-

Latin America and Caribbean

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

South Asia

-

West and Central Africa

- Djoouro Bocoum, Mali
- Elizabeth Ugoh, Nigeria

Western European and Others Group

- Diana Carlos, Portugal,

Civil Society Organizations

- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network
- Nathalie Seguin, FANMex
- Sareen Malik, ANEW
- Seetharam M.R., VILD Foundation

Private Sector

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

External Support Agencies

- Cecilia Scharp, UNICEF WASH
- Dominic O'Neill, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund

- Joke Baak, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands (DGIS)
- Nazim Khizar, UNICEF (DFAM)
- Paul Deverill, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom

Research and Learning

- Daniel Ddiba, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Utilities and Regulators

- Oscar Pintos, Asociación De Entes Reguladores De Agua Potable Y Saneamiento De Las Américas, *Utilities and Regulators*

Observers

- Daniela Bostrom, UN Water
- Fiona Gore, WHO

Secretariat

- Alexandra Reis, Communications
- Christophe Pasquier, Operations and Resource Mobilization
- Lucinda O'Hanlon, Policy and Strategy
- Mariana Dias Simpson, Mutual Accountability Mechanism

SC Members and Observers who did not attend:

- Bragori Helene Epse Yocolly, Côte d'Ivoire, *West and Central Africa*
- Majeda Alawneh, Palestine, *Middle East and North Africa*
- Pramila Bajracharya, Nepal, *South Asia*
- H.E. Mr. Oak Rabun, Cambodia, *East Asia and the Pacific*
- Oscar Izquierdo Sandí, Costa Rica, *Latin America and Caribbean*
- Rashid Mbaziira, AMCOW, *Observer*
- Russel Chidya, Mzuzu University, *Research and Learning*

Summary of Decisions

Decision 1: Agenda

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

Decision 2: 2024 Budget and Workplan

The Steering Committee approves the 2024 budget of 5,237,287 USD and respective workplan, under the condition that the pending renewal of grants covers this. The Secretariat is requested to start implementing it.

Decision 3: CSO Pooled Fund

The Steering Committee decides to postpone the discussion on the establishment of a CSO Pooled Fund to its next meeting.

Decision 4: SWA Financial Situation (1)

The SC approves the revised organigramme of the SWA Secretariat as presented by the Chief Executive Officer.

Decision 5: SWA Financial Situation (2)

The SC requests UNICEF to abolish the following positions:

- Communications Specialist (P4)
- Digital Communications Specialist (P3)
- Governance and Partnerships Specialist (P4)
- Resource Mobilization and Programme Management Specialist (P4)
- Senior Budget and Administrative Associate (G7)

The Steering Committee requests UNICEF to prepare the necessary administrative arrangements, including letters to the affected individuals, for the abolishment of these posts, during the month of December 2023.

Decision 6: SWA Financial Situation (3)

The SC also asks the Secretariat to work on an updated budget based on the Secretariat restructuring before the end of Q1 2024.

Decision 7: New Partners

- A. After undertaking due diligence and having received further information, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts **the following pending CSO applicant from the June 2023 group**:
 - Youth for Change, Kenya
 - Nahugombe CBO, Kenya
 - Rosa Care Organisation, Zimbabwe
 - Empreinte Verte & Solidarité, Ivory Coast
- B. After reviewing the CSO applications, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following **new applicants from the CSO constituency**:
 - Aford Foundation, Ghana
 - Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) Coalition for Human Rights and Good Governance, Malawi
 - Femmes pour l'Eau le Climat et l'Environnement (ECEauFem), Benin

- Coordination Technique pour le développement (CRD), Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Integrated Community Development Society (I.C.D.S), Bangladesh
 - Fondo de Agua para Lima y Callao – AQUAFONDO, Peru
 - Clean the World Foundation, Inc, United States of America
 - Drink Local, Drink Tap, United States of America
- C. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicant from the **External Support Agency constituency**:
- General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
- D. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicant from the **Private Sector constituency**:
- Xylem, United States
- E. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicants from the **Research and Learning constituency**:
- Onushandhani Creeds Ltd. (O.Creeds), Bangladesh
 - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- F. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicant from the **Utilities and Regulators constituency**:
- Male' Water and Sewerage Company Pvt Ltd, Maldives
- G. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee requests for additional information from the following applicants:
- CSOs**
- Mohishbathan Samaj Kallayan Samiti (MSKS), Bangladesh
 - Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization, Sri Lanka
 - Al Mehran Rural Development Organ (AMRDO), Pakistan
 - Humankind Foundation, Nigeria
 - Mutuelle des Femmes Paysannes pour le Développement et la Santé en Afrique (MFPDSA), Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Gazze Destek Association GDD, Turkey
 - Juba Aid for Peace and Development Organization, Somalia
 - GOAL, Sierra Leone
- Private Sector**
- Nearctic LLC, United States
 - Revista Agua, Nicaragua
 - Assisteo Septigia Sarl, Madagascar

Decision 8: 2024 Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee has decided on the following dates for the 2024 Steering Committee meetings:

- 18 – 19 June 2024: Virtual Steering Committee Meeting
- 3 – 4 December 2024: Steering Committee Meeting (virtual or face-to-face)

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. PM congratulated re-elected SC members and thanked those who are stepping down in January for their time and support. PM acknowledged that one of the SC members, Majeda Alwaneh, the MENA sub-constituency representative, is from the Government of the State of Palestine. He took a moment to remember the suffering and terrible loss of life over the last weeks and hoped that Majeda and her loved ones are safe, and for quick and just resolution to the ongoing war.

PM presented an overview of the agenda proposed for the meeting. There were no objections. PM then proceeded to present a summary of activities discussed during the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) meetings of 2023. The Committee met in June, July, October and November 2023 to discuss :

- Options for the 2023 FMM, the UNICEF audit and programmatic updates on the Heads of State Initiatives and donor coordination (June meeting)
- The launch of the Head of State Initiatives at SWWW and the Global Leadership Council recruitment process (July)
- SWA's liquidity issues and compliance with UNICEF's rules regarding salaries of SWA staff hosted by UNICEF (October)
- Secretariat restructuring process, LAC FMM preparations and the CEO's mission to Japan and South Korea (November).

CTA updated the SC on the status of pending SC decisions and actions: 1) As per the SC's request, an updated risk matrix was to be presented and discussed on day 2, under the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (more details below); 2) The SC had approved the proposal by the Secretariat to organize the 2023 SC elections, and they were carried out in accordance with the approved plan. One ESA seat has not yet been filled, and the Secretariat will continue to work with this constituency to identify a new SC member before the next meeting.

Decision 1: Agenda

The Steering Committee approves the agenda for the meeting.

Session 2: Mobilizing the Partnership

PM explained that only 5 SC members responded to the feedback survey. He then gave the floor to Lucinda O'Hanlon (LOH), who facilitated discussions on how to improve the feedback process and better capture how SC members are representing the partnership and bringing SWA's messages to the work they do.

Examples shared by members of how they are ingraining SWA's outcomes and practices in their work included reaching out beyond the WASH sector, replicating multi-stakeholder approaches at

the regional, national and local levels, and approaching potential partners and donors. At the same time, having SC members joining SWA's governance bodies was suggested as a way to further engage and work more closely with the Secretariat.

Having more clarity on the objectives of the feedback survey as well as 'twisting' the survey to show how the partnership can help partners achieve rather than asking what partners are doing to support the partnership were mentioned as potential ways to attracting more respondents. For the SC meetings, it was also recommended that a permanent session is created for constituency representatives (at a rotational basis) to present how their work is supporting and being supported by the partnership. The results of Country Self-Assessments could also be presented to the SC.

Joint efforts around the Heads of State Initiatives and the Global Goal on Adaptation were mentioned by members as positive examples of the Secretariat and partners working together.

Action 1: The Secretariat will adapt the approach to feedback forms for the next Steering Committee meeting in 2024 in order to take account of the discussions at the current meeting.

Session 3: Updates on 2023 Budget and Workplan

CTA started the session with a reflection on how much the partnership collectively realized in 2023 – an important year for water with the UN 2023 Water Conference, All Systems Connect, the High-Level Political Forum focused on SDG 6, SDG Summit and the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting. A report documenting the achievements, challenges and milestones of the year has been shared as part of the meetings' documentation.

Celebrating the **Heads of State Initiatives (HOSI)**, co-led with the Government of the Netherlands, IRC WASH and UNICEF, CTA identified the successful meeting with Heads of State and Government which took place in New York in March as part of SWA's main achievements of the year. While SWA has engaged with Heads of State for several years, efforts are now strategic and planned, with 11 countries engaged in HOSI. With the 'Justice Begins Here' campaign, SWA also supported civil society in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Pakistan to actively promote water and sanitation in election campaigning. She observed that these two initiatives combine high-level and grassroots approaches to create political will for the sector.

CTA informed that the **Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM)** was held virtually on 31 October and co-convened with UNICEF and AMCOW. Over 40 ministers confirmed, and 27 ministers were in attendance, including 10 ministers of finance (five more than in 2020 AFMM). She reported that discussions and messages successfully fed into the subsequent AfricaSan and World Bank meeting in Addis Ababa. SWA is also actively contributing to the African Investment Programme's work on raising resources for water and sanitation and developing guidance on how human rights can inform financing decisions. CTA remarked that the preparatory process for the Africa FMM was the shortest ever conducted, and though we were pleased with the results, more time would have yielded even better results.

CTA proceeded to update SC members that preparations for the **Latin America and Caribbean Finance Ministers' Meeting (LAC FMM)** are underway, with the Inter-American Development Bank and UNICEF as co-convenors. The LAC FMM will convene ministers from all of LAC, not just partner countries, on the sidelines of the World Bank spring meetings on 19 April 2024.

In relation to SWA's **cross sectoral work** ('reaching out'), CTA informed that, in addition to our focus on climate action, SWA also started exploring links with gender and crisis settings in 2023, creating a clear vision of how all of these priority focus areas converge with water, sanitation, and hygiene. Still on climate, SWA coordinated the sector through participation in the COP28 Water

Pavilion and other key events, and directly contributed to the negotiations on the Global Goal on Adaptation.

CTA briefed the SC about new members who joined the **Global Leadership Council** in 2023: H.E. Dr Joyce Banda, former President of the Republic of Malawi, H.E. Dr Han Seung Soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Kinya Seto, CEO of LIXIL Corporation. Moreover, she recognized that H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla was extremely active on behalf of the partnership throughout the year. Ms. Chinchilla was highly visible at the UN Water Conference, bringing forth SWA's call for more ambition, action and accountability.

CTA thanked all partners who supported the finalization of the **regional workplans** pertaining to the regional roadmaps through a series of meetings. Linked with the SWA Strategic Framework, she explained that each workplan focuses on one Strategic Line of Action, identifies a key activity by partners in each region and aligns this with a key activity by the Secretariat, thereby identifying where most synergies exist for partners.

Next, CTA communicated that, by the end of 2023, 11 countries (Benin, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Kenya, Maldives, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe) will have conducted **Country Self-Assessments**. Six of these countries have already done assessments previously which, according to her, provides the baseline for comparing progress and better understanding how partners are working towards collective goals.

CTA explained that the **Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM)** continued to be the SWA vehicle for strong multistakeholder engagement and the promotion of accountability. She highlighted that a strong showing at the UN Water Conference meant that accountability was the buzzword of the UN Water Conference and that, given the alignment with the Water Action Agenda, the Secretariat has been working to bring Water Action Agenda commitments into the MAM. With 33 new commitments and 27 commitments reviewed in 2023, partners remained engaged. The second MAM Global Report is planned for 2024.

On **resource mobilization**, CTA shared that SWA onboarded 3 new donors and secured a large grant together with UNICEF from the European Commission in 2023. Discussions with FCDO, Gates and Hilton for contract renewals in 2024 are ongoing with good perspectives. The Secretariat reached out to over 40 potential donors and CTA undertook a fundraising mission to Japan and South Korea in November. She expressed that the partnership is facing liquidity challenges (further explained in the next session).

CTA concluded by saying that 2023 was a year of both achievements and challenges for SWA that have led to difficult managerial decisions. For her, the uptick in country self-assessments, the engagement around Heads of State Initiatives, the collective presence of the partnership and SWA's visibility and events at the UN Water Conference, as well as the efforts to prepare the Africa FMM were all positive signals of the political will supporting the partnership, as well as of its convening power and reputation. She expressed her gratitude to SC members for their support and continued engagement.

During discussions, different SC members congratulated SWA for its convening power, in particular in relation to the ongoing HOSI in 11 countries, the good AFMM turnout and the GLC, with its five former Heads of State and Government. It was acknowledged that this convening power enables our goal to raise political support for water and sanitation. SWA's increasingly strategic activities and climate work were also applauded.

The session ended with CTA thanking the Secretariat team and stating that the more stakeholders engage, the more they understand the power of the partnership.

Session 4: 2024 Budget and Workplan

Introducing the session, PM observed that SWA's pressing liquidity challenges will be reflected on the budget and workplan for 2024 and that difficult decisions need to be made.

PM then gave the floor to Christophe Pasquier (CP). CP showed that resources secured from 2023 to 2027 gradually reduce, declining significantly in 2026 and 2027. He explained that although most, if not all, donor contracts ending in 2024 are expected to be renewed, the projected combined funding between secured and expected resources is also below our current levels of ambition, particularly as UNICEF rules require hosted funds to always have sufficient liquidity to cover 12 months of salaries, which in the case of SWA would require a permanent bank balance of no less than USD 2,611,548.

Zooming in on the 2024 funding coverage, CP showed that SWA has secured almost USD 4,500,000 for 2024 – composed of 9% of the 2023 budget that is being carried forward, as well as contributions that are contractually committed by donors.

CP then presented two scenarios for 2024 for SC approval: 1) a realistic budget of USD 5,237,187 based on current funding visibility for 2024 (15% decreased compared to 2023); and 2) an aspirational budget (for fundraising purposes) of 7,041,194 to fully deliver on current and new ambitions.

Considering the 'realistic budget' (v1), CP explained that activities prioritized in 2024 include:

- HOSI,
- FMMs for LAC (Spring, in person) and Asia & Pacific (Fall, virtual)
- Engagement of the GLC in key events
- Work on climate, gender and humanitarian crisis (strategic also for fundraising)
- Release of the 2nd MAM Global Report
- CSO grants
- Technical support to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms
- Technical support on finance

If more funding is secured, CP informed that SWA would partner with Global Citizen to support public mobilization around HOSI; convene a high-level roundtable on crises; commission a study on WASH as a feminist issue; implement MAM Catalytic Support; support partners' participation in global political events; promote SWA's 15th anniversary; and organise one in-person SC meeting.

PM then opened the floor. Some SC members showed reticence in approving an 'aspirational budget'. It was also recommended that SWA acts as a 'conduit' connecting partners with ongoing initiatives, to which CTA responded that this is her goal. CTA also answered questions detailing the direct support planned for countries (e.g., grants and technical support).

Decision 2: 2024 Budget and Workplan

The Steering Committee approves the 2024 budget and workplan of USD 5,237,187 under the condition that it is covered by pending renewal of grants and asks the Secretariat to start implementing it as necessary.

Day Two

Session 5: Updates from the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC)

PM welcomed all participants and gave the floor to Nicholas Igwe (NI). NI started by explaining the mandate of the **PSSC**. He gave an update on the implementation of the Sub-Committee workplan for June-December 2023, where all activities were currently on track, and presented 2024

workplans for the PSSC, the High-level Political Dialogue WG, the Multi-Stakeholder Coordination WG, the Systems and Finance WG, as well as the Climate Task Team. NI highlighted the importance of the PSSC for objective 1 and for ensuring the different WGs remain aligned in their efforts.

SC members showed interest in linking their ongoing activities with the different WGs, for instance, on themes such as WASH accounts, sanitation financing and climate resilience in WASH. The High-level Political Dialogue WG co-chair informed that the High-level Political Dialogue WG is currently looking for volunteers to support the organization of the LAC FMM and also invited SC members to join the Systems and Finance WG.

PM then gave the floor to Sareen Malik (SM) to summarize the findings of the '**Civil Society Organizations Pooled Fund Feasibility Study**'. The study which evaluated the rationale for creating a resource pool fund with other organizations to support CSO WASH advocacy efforts and activities, centralizing resources and increasing accountability.

After SM's intervention, CTA presented two options for moving forward, with their pros and cons: 1. Existing SWA CSO catalytic funding is expanded and the current governance system is maintained; 2. Fund is hosted by another existing organization with management systems and stronger donor relationships, and governance is moved to this other organization outside the UNICEF/SWA system. The creation of a new organization to host the CSO pooled fund was also considered, but not detailed by CTA as it was not considered feasible in the current funding environment. A draft decision was submitted to be discussed and considered for adoption during the executive session.

One SC member suggested SWA joins efforts with NGOs that are considering similar initiatives to flexibly reach grass roots organizations (e.g., Water Witness International and End Water Poverty), to which CTA answered that this possibility is covered by option 2. Another member questioned the investment of SWA's limited staff capacity to manage these small grants and if SWA could, instead, partner with other initiatives that are dedicating larger amounts of money to support CSO advocacy, such as the Government of the Netherlands.

SC members representing CSOs emphasized the need to increase resources made available for advocacy by CSOs (currently of USD70,000) and welcomed the possibility of mobilizing more resources to the constituency through other existing initiatives, yet ensuring SWA is involved in decision-making and engagement between donors and recipients (i.e., Option 1, but with more funds channelled by partners through SWA). It was also recalled that CSO grants used to be managed by an external organization (WaterAid), but management needed to be transferred to the Secretariat for a number of reasons.

The discussion ended in this session, with an agreement to return to the topic during the Executive Session. However, during the Executive Session, there was insufficient time for further discussion. Hence, a decision was taken to postpone the discussion to its next meeting.

Decision 3: CSO Pooled Fund

The Steering Committee decides to postpone the discussion on the establishment of a CSO Pooled Fund to its next meeting.

Session 6: Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (GFSC) Updates

Barbara Schreiner (BS) started by presenting the **GFSC workplan** for 2024. Activities include following up on the risk management matrix and mitigation plan, proposing changes to the Governance Document following the finalization of the Hosting Agreement with UNICEF, receiving

and reviewing finance and grant updates, evaluating working modalities of all governance structures, and following up on the UNICEF audit recommendations and the FCDO due diligence assessment. It was explained that the GFSC will prepare a four-year plan based on the Governance Document in order to ensure clarity on periodic governance tasks for the Sub-Committee.

PM then gave the floor to Christophe Pasquier (CP) to present **the UNICEF audit implementation plan**. He reported that, among the 18 actions agreed, 10 have already been implemented and are under review with UNICEF OIAI; 4 are pending finalization of the UNICEF Hosting Agreement; and 4 are being implemented with a target date of 31 Dec 23 or Q1 2024. CP informed the SC members that the **draft UNICEF Hosting Agreement** has not yet been received. Once the agreement is reviewed and agreed upon, SWA will initiate the review of governance documents.

Nazim Khizar (NK) explained that UNICEF/ DFAM is currently adjusting standard operating procedures (SOP) for hosted funds. He expects that the SOP will be finalized in the first half of 2024. NK also suggested a follow up meeting with CP to understand: 1. if SWA is able to start implementing changes to its governance document without needing to wait for the hosting agreement and 2. what type of documents showing SWA's links with UNICEF may be provided for resource mobilization purposes in the interim.

CP proceeded to present updates to the **risk matrix**, including risk description, financial consequences, and mitigation actions. The three risks highlighted related to: finance (SWA not receiving enough funds to deliver on its Strategy 2020-2030 or workplans); objective 1 (SWA not generating enough momentum and inspiration around SDG6); and, external factors (conflicts, climate change, pandemics, economic and other crisis).

Next, the floor was given to LOH, who updated the SC on the Grants Review Committee's (GRC) activities and 2024 workplan. After outlining the GRC's mandate and ways of working, LOH shared that, in 2023, 35 applications were submitted to the CSO catalytic grant and that eight were recommended by the GRC for SC approval (CSOs from Bhutan, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Timor Leste, Uganda and Central America/ FANCA were awarded). In 2023, the GRC also received 11 applications for technical assistance in the areas of system strengthening and finance. Four were recommended to the SC and awarded (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Maldives). In 2024, the GRC will continue to review applications for CSO and Objective 3 grants and reports from grantees.

There was a question about how grantees report on the implementation of their activities and if reports can be shared with the SC. LOH answered that grantees report to the Secretariat, and it was agreed that including such activities in the annual report would be interesting.

Action 2: SWA Secretariat to follow up with UNICEF in order to determine which actions may be implemented while the hosting agreement is still under development.

Session 7: 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.

All decisions were adopted by consensus.

The bulk of the session was dedicated to an extended discussion of the CEO's proposal for restructuring (downsizing) of the Secretariat due to SWA's obligation to ensure respect for UNICEF's Financial and Administrative Regulations and Procedures mandating that funding must be available to cover at least 12-months of UNICEF staff salaries at all times and as a pre-condition

to be able to renew staff contracts in the future. No members of the Secretariat, other than CTA, were present during the executive session.

CTA presented a list of the proposed posts to be abolished, and a brief overview of the process to be followed.

SC members inquired about the different scenarios that the CEO had considered, the additional workload for the Secretariat after the proposed posts are abolished, as well as the content of the mitigation plan that the CEO has prepared. The SC suggested that the EOC has a standing agenda item in the next 6-9 months to follow up on the implementation of the restructuring, considering in particular, the Secretariat workload.

An SC member raised the question of whether UNICEF's rules and regulations – in particular pertaining to human resources - were being respected in the context of the proposed restructuring, to which UNICEF (Nazim Khizar) answered affirmatively and confirmed that the need for the restructuring originated in a liquidity management issue related to a UNICEF rule requiring 12 months permanent liquidity to cover salaries.

The same SC member further inquired whether UNICEF would support SWA in implementing the decisions, and UNICEF confirmed that they will be supporting the implementation of the decisions.

Due to time constraints, the Steering Committee was unable to discuss the CEO, Secretariat and Steering Committee performance evaluation. It was suggested that more time be allowed for SC members to complete the survey and that the results would be shared in the January SC update.

Decision 4: SWA Financial Situation (1)

The SC approves the revised organigramme of the SWA Secretariat as presented by the Chief Executive Officer.

Decision 5: SWA Financial Situation (2)

The SC requests UNICEF to abolish the following positions:

- Communications Specialist (P4)
- Digital Communications Specialist (P3)
- Governance and Partnerships Specialist (P4)
- Resource Mobilization and Programme Management Specialist (P4)
- Senior Budget and Administrative Associate (G7)

The Steering Committee requests UNICEF to prepare the necessary administrative arrangements, including letters to the affected individuals, for the abolishment of these posts, during the month of December 2023.

Decision 6: SWA Financial Situation (3)

The SC also asks the Secretariat to work on an updated budget based on the Secretariat restructuring before the end of Q1 2024.

Following the discussion of the restructuring of the secretariat, two additional items (new partners, and dates for the next SC meetings) were dealt with. There was insufficient time to come back to the discussion on the CSO Pooled Fund as had been intended, and this was postponed until the June 2024 SC meeting.

Decision 7: New Partners

H. After undertaking due diligence and having received further information, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts **the following pending CSO applicant from the June 2023 group:**

- Youth for Change, Kenya
- Nahugombe CBO, Kenya
- Rosa Care Organisation, Zimbabwe
- Empreinte Verte & Solidarité, Ivory Coast

I. After reviewing the CSO applications, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following **new applicants from the CSO constituency:**

- Aford Foundation, Ghana
- Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) Coalition for Human Rights and Good Governance, Malawi
- Femmes pour l'Eau le Climat et l'Environnement (ECEauFem), Benin
- Coordination Technique pour le développement (CRD), Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Integrated Community Development Society (I.C.D.S), Bangladesh
- Fondo de Agua para Lima y Callao – AQUAFONDO, Peru
- Clean the World Foundation, Inc, United States of America
- Drink Local, Drink Tap, United States of America

J. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicant from the External Support Agency constituency:

- General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

K. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicant from the Private Sector constituency:

- Xylem, United States

L. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicants from the Research and Learning constituency:

- Onushandhani Creeds Ltd. (O.Creeds), Bangladesh
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

M. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee accepts the following applicant from the Utilities and Regulators constituency:

- Male' Water and Sewerage Company Pvt Ltd, Maldives

N. After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Secretariat recommends that the Steering Committee requests for additional information from the following applicants:

CSOs

Minutes: Steering Committee Meeting

05 – 06 December 2023

- Mohishbathan Samaj Kallayan Samiti (MSKS), Bangladesh
- Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization, Sri Lanka
- Al Mehran Rural Development Organ (AMRDO), Pakistan
- Humankind Foundation, Nigeria
- Mutuelle des Femmes Paysannes pour le Développement et la Santé en Afrique (MFPDSA), Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Gazze Destek Association GDD, Turkey
- Juba Aid for Peace and Development Organization, Somalia
- GOAL, Sierra Leone

Private Sector

- Nearctic LLC, United States
- Revista Agua, Nicaragua
- Assisteo Septigia Sarl, Madagascar

Decision 8: 2024 Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee has decided on the following dates for the 2024 Steering Committee meetings:

- 18 – 19 June 2024: Virtual Steering Committee Meeting
- 3 – 4 December 2024: Steering Committee Meeting (virtual or face-to-face)

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