

# Sanitation and Water for All

## Steering Committee Meeting

18 – 19 June 2024

### Minutes

#### Participants

##### Chair and CEO

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

##### Governments

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

- Abiy Girma, Ethiopia

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

-

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

-

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

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

###### *South Asia*

-

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

- Djoouro Bocoum, Mali

###### *Western European and Others Group*

-

##### Civil Society Organizations

- Ana Maria Acevedo Tovar, HOMAS
- Clair Grandadam, Water Integrity Network
- Sareen Malik, ANEW
- Syed Shah Nasir, Integrated Regional Support Program

##### Private Sector

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

##### External Support Agencies

- Cecilia Scharp, UNICEF

- Maarten Gischler, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- Nazim Khizar, UNICEF (DFAM)
- Paul Deverill, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom
- Rekiya Adamu-Atta, UNICEF

##### Research and Learning

- Daniel Ddiba, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- Russel Chidya, Mzuzu University

##### Utilities and Regulators

-

##### Observers

- Fiona Gore, WHO

##### Secretariat

- Muyatwa Sitali
- Lucinda O'Hanlon
- Ana Homem de Melo
- Christine Luby
- Filipa Raimundo
- Hannah Neumeyer
- Jose Gestí
- Mariana Dias Simpson
- Soumaya Benbouchta
- Vanessa Gandarillas

##### External

- Victoria Foster
- Ken Caplan

### SC Members and Observers who did not attend:

- A.C.M. Nafeel, Ministry of Water Supply, Sri Lanka, *South Asia*
- Diana Carlos, Secretariat-General of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, Portugal, *Western European and Others Group*
- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network, *Civil Society Organizations*
- Helene Bragori, Ministry of Sanitation and Health, Côte d'Ivoire, *West and Central Africa*
- Elizabeth Ugoh, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria, *West and Central Africa*
- Federico Properzi, UN Water, *Observer*
- Ivette Berrio Aqui, Ministry of Health, Panama, *Latin America and Caribbean*
- Lovemore Dhoba, Ministry of Environment Climate Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Zimbabwe, *Eastern and Southern Africa*
- Majeda Alawneh, Palestinian Water Authority, Palestine, *Middle East and North Africa*
- Makhosini Khoza, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini, *Eastern and Southern Africa*
- Oscar Pintos, Asociación De Entes Reguladores De Agua Potable Y Saneamiento De Las Américas, *Utilities and Regulators*
- Rashid Mbaziira, AMCOW, *Observer*
- Yim Chung, Ministry of Rural Development, Cambodia, *East Asia and the Pacific*

### Agenda

#### 18 June 2024

Session 1: Introductions and Overview

Session 2: Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee: Activities, Proposed Actions/Decisions and Workplan Update

Session 3: Update on Mid-term Assessment of SWA's 2020-2030 Strategic Framework

Session 4: Governance and Finance Sub-Committee: Work Plan Update

#### 19 June 2024

Session 4 (cont.): Governance and Finance Sub-Committee: Risk Matrix, Hosting Agreement and Secretariat restructuring

Session 5: Update on the Secretariat Budget and Workplan

Session 6: Decisions (Executive Session)

### Summary of Decisions

#### Decision 1: Agenda

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

#### Decision 2: Updated Budget and Workplan

Taking account of the budget and work plan approved in March 2024 by the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee approves the revised work plan and asks the Secretariat to continue implementing it as well as to continue working to close the funding gap.

***Decision 3: CSO Pooled Fund***

The Steering Committee welcomes the findings of the study on the feasibility of a CSO pooled fund undertaken by an independent consultant. Recognizing that SWA Secretariat does not currently have capacity to host such a fund, the Steering Committee welcomes the offer of regional CSO networks to follow up on the proposals within the study.

***Decision 4: Risk Matrix***

The Steering Committee approves the revised Risk Matrix as recommended by the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee.

***Decision 5: New Partners***

I. Regarding applicants that provided an update of their pending status from the December 2023 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 2023 group:
  - Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization, Sri Lanka
  - Mohishbathan Samaj Kallayan Samiti (MSKS), Bangladesh
  - Redes del Agua - América Latina, Mexico
- B. After undertaking due diligence and having received further information, the Steering Committee rejects the following pending CSO applicants from the December 2023 group:
  - Al Mehran Rural Development Organ (AMRDO), Pakistan
  - Juba Aid for Peace and Development Organization, Somalia
  - Humankind Foundation, Nigeria
  - Mutuelle des Femmes Paysannes pour le Développement et la Santé en Afrique "MFPDSA" en sigle, Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Gazze Destek Association GDD, Turkey

II. New applications received between October 2023 and April 2024

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

- A. CSO constituency:
  - Nahar King Welfare Organization (NKWO), Pakistan
  - Aide rapide aux victimes des catastrophes, ARVC RDC, Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Initiative for Social Development Organization (ISDO), Rwanda
  - OIVA | Organización Internacional Valoramos el Ambiente, Spain
- B. Private Sector constituency:
  - LIXIL, Japan
  - Bacterial International Group, United Kingdom
- C. Research and Learning constituency:
  - International Training Network (ITN) Centre of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh
  - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Huanta Ayacucho - Perú (UNAH), Peru

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

- A. CSO constituency
  - Rural Care Ministries, India

## Minutes: Steering Committee Meeting

18 – 19 June 2024

- Keystone Foundation, India
- Water Rollers Africa, South Africa
- Olohashile (OLHA) em sigle, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH), France
- Blumont, United States of America
- Bilan Awdal Organization, Somalia

### B. Private Sector constituency:

- ABS Engineering & Construction Limited, Kenya

After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Steering Committee rejects the following applicants:

### A. CSO constituency

- Surge for Water, United States of America
- Ha Seqalaba, Lesotho

(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)

## Summary of Actions

### Action 1:

The Secretariat will share the current structure of the Secretariat with the Steering Committee.

### Action 2:

The Secretariat will work with External Support Agency Steering Committee representatives to communicate with GOAL Sierra Leone regarding their constituency status and report back to the Steering Committee.

## Day One

### Session 1: Introductions and Overview

Patrick Moriarty (PM) and Catarina de Albuquerque (CTA) welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) members.

PM presented an overview of the proposed agenda for the meeting. There were no objections.

PM welcomed new SC members to their first SC meeting and then proceeded to present a summary of activities discussed during the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) meetings of 2023.

The EOC met in January, February, March, April and May 2024 to discuss: Latin America and the Caribbean Finance Ministers' Meeting (LAC FMM) and Sector Ministers' Dialogue (LAC SMD) preparations, SWA events at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, operational processes, human resources, team well-being and the Secretariat restructuring, the Secretariat's resource mobilization efforts, and the draft hosting arrangement proposed by UNICEF.

Subsequently, CTA updated the SC on the status of pending SC decisions and actions:

- 1) As per the SC's decision, the CSO Pooled Fund was to be presented and discussed in this SC meeting (more details below);
- 2) The SC had asked the Secretariat to approve an updated budget based on the Secretariat restructuring, which was shared in March 2024 (more details below);
- 3) The SC had asked the Secretariat to adapt the approach to the feedback forms. The Secretariat has been reflecting on the most effective way to collect feedback from SC members on their work for the partnership, given the consistently low response rate to the survey. The Secretariat believes that targeted conversations with SC members will elicit more interesting inputs and feedback from SC members. This new system will be put in place for the next SC meeting in December 2024;
- 4) The SC had asked the Secretariat to follow up with UNICEF to determine which actions may be implemented while the hosting arrangement is still under development (more details below).

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

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

### **Session 2: Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee: Activities, Proposed Actions /Decisions and Workplan Update**

PM gave the floor to CTA. CTA provided a debrief on the LAC FMM, presenting: on attendance, commitments tabled under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM), and the LAC Sector Minister's Dialogue. CTA then gave the floor to Muyatwa Sitali (MS). MS presented on the FMM preparatory and follow-up processes.

The discussion following this presentation included more details on invited ministers who could not attend due to funding constraints, as well as how the meeting is utilized to have bilateral discussions with key interlocutors. This FMM was, in particular, an opportunity to speak with governments which have not yet joined the partnership.

PM handed over the floor to Nicholas Igwe (NI). NI began by explaining the mandate of the PSSC and provided an update on the progress of the Sub-Committee workplan for January-June 2024. The PSSC workplan includes (i) supporting the Secretariat during the review of the Strategic Framework, (ii) discussing efforts by the Secretariat and partners to implement its communication strategy; (iii) working with the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group (HLPDWG); (iv) following the Working Groups and the Climate Task Team to ensure they deliver on their workplans; and (v) supporting the Secretariat during the process of reviewing the SWA Strategic Framework 2020-2030 by providing comments, guidance and inputs as needed. NI stated that all activities were currently on track. Then, NI presented the 2024 workplans for the PSSC, the HLPDWG, the Multi-Stakeholder Coordination Working Group, the Systems and Finance Working Group, as well as the Climate Task Team. NI encouraged SC members to join one of the Working Groups.

The discussion included observations on the functioning of the High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group, and how it could be organized to better benefit from the full expertise and experience of partners.

Lucinda O'Hanlon (LOH) then provided an update, stating that the Systems and Finance Working Group had convened two substantial meetings this year, focusing on critical thematic issues, and will continue this practice over the next six months. LOH also delivered a comprehensive summary of the Climate Task Team's accomplishments in the first half of the year. It was noted by various SC

members that there is an essential need for SWA to prioritize its efforts on climate, considering the global context of climate change.

PM invited LOH to give an update on the Feasibility Study for the Civil Society Organizations Pooled Fund. LOH provided an overview of the study's context and presented two options for moving forward, which had already been discussed in the December 2023 SC meeting, along with their pros and cons. LOH drew attention to the capacity constraints of the Secretariat to be able to take forward the findings of the study. A draft decision was submitted to be discussed and considered for adoption during the Executive Session.

SC members stressed the importance of the CSO Pooled Fund, especially considering the current global funding situation in combination with shrinking civic space in many countries. They emphasized the need for a unified approach and better coordination in funding. One SC member inquired whether the structure of the pooled fund would be affected by the new UNICEF Hosting Arrangement. Cecilia Sharp clarified that the hosting arrangement will not impact the transfer of funds, as it is more closely related to the larger risk management structure. Further discussion on the hosting arrangement took place during Day 2, in session 4.

### ***Decision 3: CSO Pooled Fund***

The Steering Committee welcomes the findings of the study on the feasibility of a CSO pooled fund undertaken by an independent consultant. Recognizing that SWA Secretariat does not currently have capacity to host such a fund, the Steering Committee welcomes the offer of regional CSO networks to follow up on the proposals within the study.

### **Session 3: Update on Mid-Term Assessment of SWA's 2020-2030 Strategic Framework**

PM welcomed Ken Caplan (KC), an independent consultant hired by SWA to conduct a mid-term assessment of SWA's 2020-2030 Strategic Framework.

KC gave a brief overview of the purpose of the Mid-Term Assessment, which is to provide a high-level understanding of how SWA is currently situated and how it can position itself in the future. This involves considering SWA's strengths and weaknesses, as well as global trends that affect the world, especially the WASH sector. KC also briefly explained how the assessment is being carried out and mentioned a few preliminary findings. KC expressed his intention for the upcoming Steering Committee meeting to encourage members to discuss the ongoing trends within the WASH sector, focusing on both internal and external factors, and to consider their potential impact on the work of SWA. The members of the SC were split into two breakout rooms for discussions.

Following this, LOH and KC presented the key ideas that arose during the conversations. The conversation emphasized SWA's strength in political prioritization and its effectiveness in supporting mission-critical issues, highlighting the importance of visibility and implementation following high-level political commitments. The role of the partnership was noted as a connective tissue, ensuring partners have access to global information and translating it into national action. Discussions covered the need for securing financing for sanitation from both private and public sectors, with the latter responsible for creating an enabling environment. The importance of intersectoral work was stressed, connecting water and sanitation to broader issues such as climate change, humanitarian settings, disaster risk reduction, and gender equality. Participants acknowledged the rapidly changing global landscape, emphasizing the need for SWA to evolve in response to new realities and power dynamics, which will be relevant for post-2030 discussions. They noted opportunities arising from upcoming elections to engage politicians, increasing global insecurity, and the necessity of preparedness for future pandemics. The strength of SWA as a partnership was



emphasised, suggesting that maximizing this potential will better position SWA to face future challenges. Additionally, the discussions addressed the differentiation between internal and external trends. The focus was on enhancing the WASH sector's appeal to other sectors, ensuring a transversal approach that impacts healthcare, climate, and more.

#### **Session 4: Governance and Finance Sub-Committee Workplan Update**

Paul Deverill (PD) started by presenting the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee (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 Arrangement 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 met virtually in April and May, to discuss the Hosting Arrangement, necessary changes to the Governance Document, the five-year action plan for the GFSC, the progress of the GFSC 2024 workplan, the Mid-Term Assessment, and the Risk Matrix.

PM then gave the floor to Muyatwa Sitali (MS). MS began by presenting the updates on the SWA Risk Matrix, which was implemented at the end of 2022. The presentation included risk descriptions, financial consequences, and mitigation actions. MS reported that the Secretariat considers some risks to be decreasing. For instance, SWA's ability to generate momentum on SDG 6 has been enhanced by the Heads of State Initiatives (HOSI), regional Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs), and new additions to the Global Leadership Council (GLC). MS highlighted the impact of resource constraints on mitigating actions. Specifically, the Secretariat could not hire full-time personnel to support Objective 3 and had to operate with generally reduced budgets for this objective. However, in the first semester of 2024, the Secretariat worked on managing internal risks resulting from restructuring while continuing to strengthen external engagements to ensure strategic outreach. Additionally, the results of the mid-term assessment will be incorporated into the updated risk matrix for the next SC meeting.

One SC member suggested that the Risk Matrix be summarized in one slide for the next SC meeting.

#### ***Decision 4: Risk Matrix***

The Steering Committee approves the revised Risk Matrix as recommended by the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee.

### **Day Two**

#### **Session 4 (cont.): Governance and Finance Sub-Committee Workplan Update**

PM welcomed everyone back to the second day of the SC meeting and proceeded to give the floor to CTA. CTA presented an update on the UNICEF Hosting Arrangement. She explained that the Hosting Arrangement had been received from UNICEF on 25 March 2024 and shared with the GFSC and the EOC. Subsequently, comments were sent to UNICEF, which were later discussed. UNICEF is still considering SWA's inputs. The main concern that was raised relates to the accountability lines of the Secretariat and the CEO, and the role of the SC in overseeing the partnership's workplan. CTA expressed that she is confident there will be an arrangement that respects both UNICEF and SWA's needs.



Nazim Khizar (NK) took the floor and explained that the review of the Hosting Arrangement is far advanced and is expected to be shared with SWA in the coming weeks. NK reminded the SC that UNICEF is attempting to draft a Hosting Arrangement that applies to all its hosted funds (of which SWA is one among four) and added that the document is not expected to undergo many revisions, but that the comments from SWA are being taken into account.

CTA continued by presenting an update on the Secretariat Restructuring. CTA explained that in December 2023, the SC approved a restructuring of the Secretariat due to UNICEF's liquidity rules and the Secretariat's financial situation. This led to abolishing five UNICEF positions effective 1 July 2024. Despite efforts to ensure business continuity, the Secretariat has been severely understaffed, notably in Communications, Operations, Resource Mobilization, and High-Level Political Engagement. A call for expressions of interest from partners was issued for hosting the positions of the Head of Communications, Influencing and Advocacy; and, Junior Communications Officer. The Head position has been filled, and interviews for the Junior position are ongoing, with the new team set to start in July, reporting directly to the CEO.

The Head of Partner Engagement (MS) now oversees operations and budget under the Management and Partner Engagement team, while the Policy, Accountability, and Results team (led by LOH) now manages the results framework and knowledge management. Regular updates have been provided to the EOC on restructuring progress and staff well-being, with appreciation for their guidance. The CEO acknowledged the team's dedication during challenging times.

CTA noted the current governance structure's heavy burden on the Secretariat, with significant time dedicated to governance tasks. The mid-term assessment and new UNICEF Hosting Arrangement are seen as opportunities to streamline operations, aligning with practices of other UNICEF Hosted Funds.

#### ***Action 1:***

The Secretariat will share the current structure of the Secretariat with the Steering Committee.

### **Session 5: Update on Secretariat Budget and Workplan**

#### ***Workplan update***

CTA started by referencing the Secretariat restructuring, and its renewed commitment to SWA's mission. She emphasized the importance of the partnership's work amidst numerous global crises and stressed the necessity of ensuring universal access to water and sanitation as a pivotal priority.

CTA presented the Heads of State Initiatives (HOSI) as an SWA flagship initiative, reporting that compacts have been signed in South Sudan and Indonesia, with ongoing engagements in several other countries. She highlighted the transformative impact of HOSI and their showcase at major international events such as a High-Level Summit with current and former Heads of State and Government at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

CTA provided a brief update on the LAC FMM, noting the participation of nine finance ministers and six sector ministers. She acknowledged the positive impact of a regional approach and the high-quality exchanges between ministers.

Furthermore, CTA discussed the partnership's efforts to influence key political spaces, including negotiations and outcome documents under Brazil's G20 Presidency and the establishment of a Water Coalition by the G7. She mentioned the interactive dialogue on water and health at the Dushanbe Water Conference and ongoing discussions for the One Water Summit. The role of the

Global Leadership Council (GLC) in high-level advocacy was emphasized, and CTA shared that three former Heads of State and Government have been asked to join the GLC.

Additionally, CTA underscored the importance of national-level work and multi-stakeholder engagement. She highlighted efforts to establish or strengthen multistakeholder platforms in several countries, including Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Key achievements, such as the creation of a multi-stakeholder task force in the Democratic Republic of Congo, were noted.

CTA discussed dedicated efforts to support partner countries in securing sustainable financing and ensuring efficiency in spending. She mentioned the development of a financial strategy in Ethiopia, water resource managements plans in the Maldives, and enhancing eligibility for climate funds in Madagascar. CTA noted the upcoming call for technical assistance under Objective 3 and catalytic grants for CSOs.

CTA emphasized the role of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) in ensuring follow-up on commitments. She noted the evolution of the understanding of accountability since the launch of the MAM in 2018, with many successes in number of commitment and progress reports. She highlighted the importance of high-level meetings in making commitments and showcased specific commitments from Argentina, Brazil and Honduras.

CTA also discussed SWA's work on climate, particularly adaptation. She underscored the partnership's role as the designated Water Envoy to the GGA climate negotiations, participation in key events, and support to countries like Sri Lanka and Chad. CTA mentioned upcoming activities for COP 29 in Baku and continued advocacy for water and sanitation in climate discussions. She explained the relevance of these meetings, as they build rapport and establish SWA as an expert and trusted partner.

CTA reported impressive results from communication efforts despite staffing challenges. She shared key statistics from different events, including high engagement rates on social media and extensive media coverage. Highlights include 48,359 impressions on organic (unpaid) posts, an average engagement rate of 2.5% on LinkedIn and 2.1% on X, and 2,052 views on SWA's LAC FMM landing page. In addition, the OpEd written by CTA was published in local media in ten countries in the region, featured in nine major media outlets, and reached 4,693,800 people, marking the first time that SWA received top-tier coverage in all of the targeted countries. For the Bandung Summit, SWA posted 54 times, garnered 48,000 views, and saw a 2% engagement rate, resulting in 306 new LinkedIn followers. CTA also highlighted World Water Day activities and key publications.

CTA acknowledged challenges due to the impact of the restructuring on team capacity in certain thematic areas, such as gender, crises and human rights,. She discussed efforts to address these challenges and improve the situation with the new team structure taking effect in early July.

Following this, CTA mentioned the importance of the Mid-Term Assessment in understanding the partnership's position to achieve its mission. She thanked everyone for their input in this process.

Finally, CTA concluded her presentation thanking SC members for their ongoing support and engagement.

During discussions, SC members congratulated the Secretariat for its strategic activities, particularly the ongoing HOSI, and the successful LAC FMM. The meeting ended with CTA thanking the Secretariat team, SC members, and UNICEF in particular, and reiterating the importance of continued stakeholder engagement.

### ***Budget update***

PM gave the floor to MS to present an update on the Secretariat budget. MS explained that the current burn rate is 55%, which is approximately on target for this point in the year. MS highlighted that major outflows are attributed to payments to delivery partners, which are categorized under the governance and operations budget. He projected that by the end of the year, the burn rate would reach 91% after accounting for projected expenses. MS noted that while resources are limited, a slight underspend at year-end would provide a balance to meet the minimum requirements for UNICEF's compliance guidelines in 2025.

Next, MS presented the projected budgets extending to 2028. For 2025, the projected costs are nearly \$6 million, including expenses for a Sector Ministers' Meeting. By 2028, costs are anticipated to increase to nearly \$6.5 million, potentially due to another global SWA convening. MS mentioned that in the intervening years, the budgets are expected to be lower than in previous years, reflecting reduced costs from restructuring. However, financial inflows have yet to catch up.

Finally, MS outlined the financial forecast for 2024-2028, which includes both secured resources and anticipated funds from ongoing donor engagements and negotiations. For 2024, with the successful finalization of agreements with FCDO and the Hilton Foundation, financial inflows are expected to be about \$4.8 million. MS reported two significant developments in the last six months regarding funding. On the positive side, new agreements with FCDO and Hilton are nearing finalization, which would help close the funding gap. On the downside, USAID will only fund 50% of the current agreement, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is shifting its focus, potentially cutting or not renewing policy-related agreements, including with SWA.

For additional information, please consult the budget slides shown during the SC meeting, available here:



SC Meeting - Budget  
Slides.pdf

### ***Decision 2: Updated Budget and Workplan***

Taking account of the budget and work plan approved in March 2024 by the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee approves the revised work plan and asks the Secretariat to continue implementing it according to the work plan as well as to continue working to close the funding gap.

### **Session 6: 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 a discussion regarding the wording of decisions 2 and 3, with new wording being agreed.

All decisions were adopted by consensus. The only exception pertains to the acceptance of GOAL Sierra Leone as a new partner. Concerns were raised regarding whether they should be in the ESA constituency. It was agreed that the Secretariat would work with the ESA SC representatives to communicate with GOAL Sierra Leone and report back to the SC.

***Decision 5: New Partners***

I. Regarding applicants that provided an update of their pending status from the December 2023 Steering Committee Meeting

- B. After undertaking due diligence and having received further information, the Steering Committee accepts the following pending CSO applicants from the December 2023 group:
- Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization, Sri Lanka
  - Mohishbathan Samaj Kallayan Samiti (MSKS), Bangladesh
  - Redes del Agua - América Latina, Mexico
- C. After undertaking due diligence and having received further information, the Steering Committee rejects the following pending CSO applicants from the December 2023 group:
- Al Mehran Rural Development Organ (AMRDO), Pakistan
  - Juba Aid for Peace and Development Organization, Somalia
  - Humankind Foundation, Nigeria
  - Mutuelle des Femmes Paysannes pour le Développement et la Santé en Afrique "MFPDSA" en sigle, Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Gazze Destek Association GDD, Turkey

II. New applications received between October 2023 and April 2024

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

- B. CSO constituency:
- Nahar King Welfare Organization (NKWO), Pakistan
  - Aide rapide aux victimes des catastrophes, ARVC RDC, Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Initiative for Social Development Organization (ISDO), Rwanda
  - OIVA | Organización Internacional Valoramos el Ambiente, Spain
- C. Private Sector constituency:
- LIXIL, Japan
  - Bacterial International Group, United Kingdom
- D. Research and Learning constituency:
- International Training Network (ITN) Centre of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh
  - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Huanta Ayacucho - Perú (UNAH), Peru

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

- B. CSO constituency
- Rural Care Ministries, India

## Minutes: Steering Committee Meeting

18 – 19 June 2024

- Keystone Foundation, India
- Water Rollers Africa, South Africa
- Olohashile (OLHA) em sigle, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH), France
- Blumont, United States of America
- Bilan Awdal Organization, Somalia

C. Private Sector constituency:

- ABS Engineering & Construction Limited, Kenya

After reviewing the applications against the due diligence criteria, the Steering Committee rejects the following applicants:

B. CSO constituency

- Surge for Water, United States of America
- Ha Seqalaba, Lesotho

**Action 2:**

The Secretariat will work with External Support Agency Steering Committee representatives to communicate with GOAL Sierra Leone regarding their constituency status and report back to the Steering Committee.

Before ending the meeting, PM and CTA thanked the SC for their engagement.