

## GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners  
to the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Thursday, September 4, 2014

### MINUTES

### **1. Welcome and Introduction & Confirmation of Agenda**

The GWP Chair, Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss opened the meeting by warmly welcoming all participants followed by a round the table self introduction of all present. The Sponsoring Partners (SP) not able to attend the meeting were Jordan and the World Bank. Dr. Schaefer-Preuss then handed over to the SP Chair, Mr. Hans Lundqvist, Director and Deputy Head of Aid Management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden.

Two items were added to the agenda - 3.4 Procedure and timing of reports and under item 8 Nomination of a new Patron. The agenda was then confirmed.

**Decision: The meeting Agenda was confirmed.**

*The attendance list is appended to these Minutes.*

### **2. Matters arising from Minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 5 September 2013**

According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a non objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SP Meeting were already approved and no further comments received.

### **3. Information and approval of GWP Reports**

**3.1 & 3.2** The GWP Executive Secretary (ES), Dr. Ania Grobicki, welcomed all Sponsoring Partners present to the new GWPO offices provided by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She then presented the GWP Annual Activity Report 2013 where some major achievements from each of GWP's 13 regions and at global level were highlighted. The GWP ES was pleased to announce that H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, has taken on the assignment of being one of GWPs Patrons, replacing the Prince of Orange as he accessed the Throne as King of the Netherlands. President Johnson Sirleaf has also agreed to be the co-chair of the GWP/OECD High Level Panel on Water Security and Sustainable Growth.

Furthermore, with Somalia and Mongolia as the latest two countries to be accredited, GWP now consists of 86 Country Water Partnerships. With regard to the post 2015 development agenda, GWP carried out 22 National Stakeholder Consultations in 2013 as well as 29 national consultations in 2014 on the proposed Global Water Goal, and each of the countries consulted has a seat on the Open Working Group on the SDGs. The synthesis reports have been sent to all UN missions in New York.

**Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2013 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.**

The GWP Senior Manager Finance and Administration presented the GWP Annual Financial Report 2013 and the GWP Audit Report 2013. The total amount of globally raised funds during the Strategy period 2009-2013 came to a total of 40m€ with the all time high total income in 2013 of € 13.5m , with 75% of the budget being spent on program activities around the world. For the second year in a row there were no issues reported for GWPO in the Management Letter (Auditor report).

The SP Chair thanked the GWP ES and Senior Manager Finance and Administration for very positive financial reports.

A request from the Danish representative to break down "Secretariat cost" in administrative and programme support was put forward and the Senior Manager Finance and Administration said that at the moment 11,5% is administrative costs but with the aim being to come down to 9%.

The Dutch representative confirmed the very positive reports and said they show that GWP is very much alive but sometimes it is hard for donors to find the tangible impacts of GWP when reporting to respective government and this is something GWP really needs to think about when producing reports. It is important to highlight things that catch international attention. The GWP ES responded that GWP is developing Flagship projects to link local initiatives with work in the international arena. These Flagship projects will have quantifiable impacts on the ground.

**Decision: The GWP Annual Financial Report 2013 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.**

**The GWP Audit Report 2013 was received and considered.**

**3.3 Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members of liability for 2013 was approved.**

3.4 The question of procedure and timing of approving the GWP Activity and Financial Reports was brought up for discussion. At present the approval by the Sponsoring Partners is more ceremonial since the reports have been widely circulated for months. The reports should preferably be formally approved earlier in the year through having the SP Meeting closer to the GWP May/June Steering Committee Meeting.

**Decision: Agreed to move the annual Sponsoring Partners Meeting to May/June to follow approximately 2 weeks after the GWP Steering Committee Meeting. Date for the annual SP Meeting in 2015 will be communicated when the dates for the SC Meeting are set.**

*Presentations made on the above reports are appended to these Minutes.*

#### **4. GWP Chair Annual Report**

Dr. Schaefer-Preuss reported back from an exciting and challenging year. Dr. Schaefer-Preuss highlighted H.E President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's assignment as a new GWP Patron, the GWP Secretariat's move in to the new premises on Linnégatan in Stockholm, the development of the GWP Governance Review, the strengthening of staffing at the Secretariat - especially within the Network Operations Team and as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 the re-installment of a Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa. Dr. Schaefer-Preuss continued with the launch of the new GWP Strategy *Towards 2020 - A Water Secure World* in March 2014, the launch of the GWP Gender Strategy on September 3<sup>rd</sup> during the Stockholm World Water Week, the development of the Knowledge Chain and the continuing growth of the Network. One year ago the GWP Network consisted of 2800 partner organizations, today it is 3024.

Dr. Schaefer-Preuss said that in her role as Chair of Global Water Partnership her focus is to make GWP more visible on the international scene and to continue the work on getting a dedicated water goal to stay high on the Post 2015 SDG Agenda. Now it is time to consolidate GWPs operational work to make it sustainable.

The SP Chair thanked the GWP Chair very much for a positive report but also for pointing out challenges ahead.

The Dutch representative commented that it is a major challenge for GWP to absorb fluctuations in funding and the GWP Chair responded that it will be very important going forward to look into how a stable and sustainable funding base can be built especially now when competition is growing as new water organisations are being established.

*The complete GWP Chair's Annual Report is appended to these Minutes.*

### **5. Internal Assessment of GWP 2009-2013 Strategy**

The GWP ES presented a brief update on progress with the Internal Assessment of the GWP 2009-2013 Strategy which is an internal exercise to build on lessons learned during the 5-year strategy period, assessing the effectiveness and the impact of the organization. It was agreed to keep this assessment internal following the external evaluation of GWP in 2008 and the external Mid Term Review carried out in 2011. Another external Mid Term Review will take place during 2016. The TORs for the Internal Assessment were agreed by the Steering Committee in June 2014 and the selected consultant, Gunilla Björklund, was already busy preparing the inception report.

The completed Internal Assessment Report will be presented to the GWP Steering Committee Meeting in November 2014.

The Danish representative said that it is very important for GWP to define its sharp niche which will be a big challenge but highly necessary for funding purposes since competition is growing and hence it will be harder to convince donors where to allocate their money. The Dutch representative added that it would be good to take a broader view when looking at the strategy period through the Internal Assessment - does the assessment prepare GWP for the implementation of the new strategy?

The GWP ES reinforced the importance of consolidating the rapid growth of the organization which took place over this strategy period, and ensuring its sustainability going forward.

### **6. Towards 2020 - A Water Secure World**

The GWP Chair thanked everyone who has been involved in developing the new Strategy *Towards 2020 - A Water Secure World*. With the new strategy we have moved into having 3 goals instead of the previous 4, and six Thematic Focus Areas including "Ecosystems and Water Security". Flagship projects on Country level are being developed since it is important for countries to demonstrate ownership. For the implementation of the new strategy we will move forward together with actors within and outside the water sector, with learnings from the past taken into consideration.

The GWP ES presented the historical trends in GWP funding and future commitments. In 2014 the annual budget is at a historic high of EUR 17,2 million, however for the future stable and sustainable funding solutions must be found. A new fundraising strategy is under development, taking lessons learned from the past strategy period into consideration, looking to identify new sources of funding at the same time as looking into how to establish longer term commitments with existing donors. DFID is at present discussing phase 2 of their funding to GWP through to 2019. The locally raised funds need to increase but for that to happen, more efforts need to be made to support local fundraising abilities and activities. Some regions are doing very well but others are not. Private sector funds are provided at local level but not on a global level - these linkages should be further developed. Mr. Peter

Brabeck-Letmathe, Chair of Nestlé S.A has agreed to serve on the GWP/OECD High Level Panel on Water Security and Sustainable Growth. Within the new Funding Strategy we will target GEF for further cooperation. Taking the success with accessing climate financing as a model, we will investigate financing within the new thematic areas, especially within the food and agricultural sector, and the energy sector, in order to access new sources of funds. In the future, more funds will go directly to the Country Water Partnerships, channelled through the Regional Water Partnerships but earmarked for countries.

Furthermore, GWP has been asked to lead the further work on the UN Water Country Briefs. Another 10 countries will be included in addition to the 29 countries participating in the first phase. This initiative is strategically important for GWP since it is positioning GWP to monitor some of the SDG targets in the future.

The Danish representative confirmed the statement made earlier, that it is very important for GWP to identify its comparative advantage i.e what is the real benefit of supporting GWP, where does GWP add real value? The Water Country Briefs are good examples of where GWP adds value which can lead to new partnerships. The comparative strength for GWP is the Network, the connections on the ground, so it is important to leverage the Network.

The representative from Argentina delivered the message that Argentina supports the GWP Strategy in general but they are not in agreement of the statement on Water Security on page 10 in the strategy. The Government of Argentina is still working on the Water Security concept together with UN and other involved bodies.

The representative from WMO said that GWP needs to focus on its key capabilities and not spread too wide. GWP's strengths are its flexibility and its partners at regional and local level. GWP needs to focus its efforts where its strength lies and to look for strategic partnerships beyond that.

The GWP ES said that she understands that there are concerns internationally regarding the definition of Water Security and looks forward to an evolving global discussion which links water security not to defence issues but to broader human security issues, such as food security and energy security. The GWP Chair emphasized the need for continued global discussions aiming at finding consensus on the definition of Water Security.

The GWP ES gave an update on the **GWP Gender Strategy** which was launched on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Stockholm World Water Week. Ms. Sara Ehrhardt at the Secretariat is the focal point for bringing the Gender Strategy "off the ground" in cooperation with Regional Gender focal points. The Gender Strategy implementation activities will be built in to Regional and Country Work Plans for 2015. The GWP Chair emphasized the importance of integrating gender in the six themes and properly reflect it in the design of the flagship projects proposed by region and countries under Strategy 2020.

The Sida representative commended GWP for an ambitious and well written Gender Strategy - now it also has to be implemented. However, "girls" are just mentioned once in the strategy document but they play a very important role within the gender concept. Also it would be good to get some information connected to the chosen pictures in the document - what are they about? Furthermore a woman would be good to have among the GWP Senior Advisors.

The GWP ES gave an update on the **GWP Youth Strategy** which is still under development. The first version of the strategy was focused around Young Water Professionals but when presented to the GWP Steering Committee they raised a concern about the lack of the Younger Youth in the strategy. Work is now undertaken to look into a more balanced Youth Strategy including both groups

mentioned above. How to reach the youth with the strategy is also being looked in to since hard copies doesn't seem to be the right approach, rather e-channels.

The Dutch representative asked about the strategy for re-energizing the Secretariat, TEC and other GWP bodies with youth representatives and the GWP Chair responded that it is difficult to find "mid-career" people who are willing to take on "voluntary assignments" like contributing to the Technical Committee due to already being over committed in their professional engagements, but that we definitely will consider the age aspect when engaging people with GWP. The GWP ES added that we always have young interns working at the Global Secretariat as well as at Regional and Country levels with the aim of drawing them into the work of GWP and related partners.

*The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.*

### **7. GWP Governance Review incl. Funding Review**

The GWP Chair gave an update on the status of the GWP Governance Review including the Funding Review. The review is limited to governance at GWPO level, not the operational structures and not Regional and Country level governance. The main objectives for the review are:

1. Develop options for the governance of GWP based on an assessment of the existing governance roles
2. Review financing options for GWP and GWPO to ensure future sustainability of the program

Since this is a rather comprehensive review we can't do everything at once so we will conduct the review step wise. Dalberg Consulting is tasked with the review and they will start doing interviews the second week of September. A first draft of the report will be ready by the beginning of October, with a final version to be presented to the GWP Steering Committee at the SC meeting on November 24-26.

The Danish representative presented a paper on behalf of the Danish Government as their contribution to the review.

The representative from Argentina said that the Government of Argentina supports the need for a Governance review and has no objections to the points in the presented Terms of Reference. Regarding the document presented on behalf of the Danish Government, they need to discuss further on the specific proposals.

The Dutch representative said that he shares the stated views of a complex governance structure and it will be very interesting to see the final outcome.

The GWP Senior Legal and HR Officer added the information that if the final outcome/decision will lead to changes in the GWP Statutes, proposals for amendments need to be sent to all GWP Partners for a 9 months consideration time, then to be presented to SP for approval and thereafter it will take 1 year from the SP meeting for the changes to come into effect.

### **8. Nomination of a new GWP Patron and nominations for the GWP Steering Committee**

The GWP Chair presented the proposal to appoint Dr. Letitia A. Obeng (former GWP Chair) as a new Patron of GWP.

In response to the SP Chair's request for the SP members to be informed about the role of a Patron the GWP ES explained that it is a totally voluntary role which can be offered to people with influential roles within the water area, representing GWP at special meetings and events.

The Danish representative said that Denmark is in full support of appointing Dr. Obeng as a new GWP Patron but for the future the youth discussions could be kept in mind. The GWP Chair responded that it lies within the concept that a Patron needs to be senior but that youth can be promoted through a GWP Ambassador.

**The Sponsoring Partners recommend GWP to engage a Youth Ambassador.**

**Decision: Dr. Letitia A. Obeng was unanimously appointed as new GWP Patron.**

All SP members received a document prior to the meeting, presenting the four candidates being nominated to the GWP Steering Committee and the GWP Chair presented the document again at the meeting:

- Mr. Carlos Rodrigues (Costa Rica) - Regional candidate
- Ms. Meera Mehta (India) - Global pool, non-water candidate (re-nomination for 2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Mr. Michael Campana (USA) - Global pool, water candidate
- Ms. Gunilla Björklund (Sweden) - Global pool, water candidate

Several comments were made regarding the age of nominees for the Steering Committee and that the aspect of bringing in younger people needs to be seriously considered. Another comment was made relating to Sub Saharan Africa not being represented on the Steering Committee.

Furthermore the question of nominating Gunilla Björklund to the SC at the same time as being the chosen consultant for the Internal Assessment of the Strategy 2009-2013 was raised by several representatives, since this could lead to a conflict of interest. Also her background as a consultant and her age was questioned by several of the SP members.

In response to the question about age the GWP Chair said that at present there is nothing stated in the application instructions regarding an age limit. In relation to Gunilla Björklund and any potential risk for a conflicting situation the GWP Chair said that the Internal Assessment of the previous Strategy period shall be concluded before the November SC meeting and when presenting the final report to the SC, Ms. Björklund has to take off her "GWP hat".

The Senior Legal and HR Officer added that the case of Ms. Björklund being considered for conducting the Internal Assessment was not on the table when the Nomination Committee did their work of nominating candidates. Regarding the regional representation on the Steering Committee a new rotation system was introduced in 2012 whereby certain regions are asked to nominate candidates and the Sub African continent are up for nominations in 2015.

**Decision: The four candidates were appointed to the GWP Steering Committee by the SP meeting. Their terms will start with the second Steering Committee meeting of 2014.**

Notwithstanding the decision taken, the Danish representative was in favour of appointing Mr. Rodrigues, Ms. Meeta and Mr. Campana but not Ms. Björklund and asked for this to be minuted. In future the Sponsoring Partners expects GWP to take on board the messages put forward relating to encouraging younger people to apply for the Steering Committee positions and not to consider GWP consultants for a seat on the SC, since this can cause conflicting and questionable situations. This must be prevented in the future. This should also be brought to the attention of Dalberg Consulting in relation to the GWP Governance Review.

### **9. United Nations General Assembly resolution - GWPO seeking observer status**

At present GWPO is an accredited IGO with ECOSOC and is now in the process of seeking observer status with United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Government of Sweden is putting forward the resolution to UNGA and will process this via the Swedish mission in New York. However, a written statement supporting GWPO to become an observer with UNGA is needed from each of the SP members to reach consensus. GWP could send out a "letter of support" template on behalf of the Swedish Government to each of the SP members for the letter to be signed and returned to GWP. The Swedish representation in New York will then circulate the request to all 193 UN member states for consideration. Due to a very tight timeline the letter will be circulated to all SP members by mid September.

The representative from Chile announced that the Government of Chile will support the request and sign the letter when it is received.

**Decision: GWPO will prepare a letter on behalf of the Government of Sweden stating the support for GWP to get accredited as an observer with UNGA, to be circulated for signature to all SP members by mid September.**

### **10. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2015 and Summary of Decisions**

The representative from Hungary conveyed the message that the Government of Hungary is pleased to welcome the GWP Steering Committee to Budapest for the November 2014 meeting and that Hungary will be pleased to host the GWP Consulting Partners Meeting 2015 if that will be of consideration. Also the next UN Water Meeting in November 2015 will be held in Hungary.

Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss' appointment as Chair of GWP runs through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and according to the GWP Statutes the GWP Chair needs to indicate interest of serving for a second term at the SP meeting taking place one year prior to the end of the present contract period. The Nominations Committee will then undertake the renewal process and make its recommendations to the next meeting of the SP.

**During the Sponsoring Partners Meeting on 4 September 2014 Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss expressed her interest of serving as GWP Chair for a second term.**

As agreed the dates for the next SP meeting will be communicated as soon as the dates for the May/June 2015 GWP Steering Committee have been confirmed.



The SP Chair summarized the meeting decisions and statements as follows:

1. The meeting Agenda was confirmed.
2. The GWP Annual Activity Report 2013 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.
3. The GWP Annual Financial Report 2013 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.
4. The GWP Audit Report 2013 was received and considered.
5. The Sponsoring Partners accepted the GWP Auditors recommendation to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members of liability and the decision was taken to approve the recommendation.
6. The Sponsoring Partners decided that the yearly Sponsoring Partners Meeting will be moved to take place around 2 weeks after the regular May/June GWP Steering Committee Meeting,
7. The Sponsoring Partners appointed Dr. Letitia A. Obeng as a new Patron of GWP.
8. The Sponsoring Partners recommend GWP to engage a Youth Ambassador.
9. Four new Steering Committee members were appointed. They will start their terms as of the November 2014 Steering Committee meeting.
10. For the future the Sponsoring Partners expects GWP to encourage younger people to apply for the Steering Committee positions and not to consider GWP consultants for a seat on the SC since this can cause conflicting and questionable situations. This must be prevented in the future. This should also be brought to the attention of Dalberg Consulting in relation to the GWP Governance Review.
11. GWP will prepare a "letter of support" on behalf of the Government of Sweden stating the support for Sweden's resolution for GWP to be accredited as an observer with UNGA, to be circulated for signature to all SP members by mid September.
12. During the Sponsoring Partners Meeting on 4 September 2014 Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss expressed her interest of serving as GWP Chair for a second term.

The SP Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their active participation and valuable contributions.



Hans Lundqvist

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners

