

## GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

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

Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

**MINUTES**

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

The GWP Chair, Dr. Letitia A. Obeng opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. All participants round the table introduced themselves. The Sponsoring Partners (SP) not able to attend the meeting were Denmark, Jordan and Netherlands. The attendance list is appended to these Minutes.

The GWP Chair then handed over to the SP Chair Mr. Torgny Holmgren, representing the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA).

**The meeting Agenda was confirmed.**

### 2. Matters arising from Minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 23 August 2011

According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a non objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SP Meeting were already approved and no further comments received.

An update was given with regards to the amended GWP Statutes. The amendments made to the Statutes in 2011 are now in force. Two key amendments were: the Sponsoring Partners shall receive and approve the Yearly Activity Report and the Yearly Financial Statement of the Steering Committee whereas the Audit Report shall be received and considered; the term of the GWP Chair now reads "The Chair shall be appointed by the Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners for a period that shall not exceed three years, which may be subject to renewal once only", clarifying that there is a maximum of two terms.

### 3. Appointment of the next Chair of the Sponsoring Partners

The present SP Chair, Mr. Torgny Holmgren will take up the position as Executive Director of SIWI as of 15 September 2012 and will therefore step down from his role as Chair of the Sponsoring Partners. two years ago it was decided among the Sponsoring Partners that one Chair should be appointed until further notice, and that it should be a representative from MFA/Sweden. The recommendation from GWP is to continue with the representative from MFA/Sweden as SP Chair until the SP decides to make a change.

**Decision: to renew Sweden as Chair of the Sponsoring Parnters for another 3 years.**

### 4. Information and approval of GWP Reports

The GWP Executive Secretary (ES), Dr. Ania Grobicki, presented the GWP Annual Activity Report 2011 where some major achievements from each of GWP's 13 regions and at global level were highlighted.

**The GWP Annual Activity Report 2011 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.**

The GWP Head of Finance & Administration presented the GWP Annual Financial Report 2011, the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2011, the GWP Audit Report 2011 and the EUWI Audit Report 2011.

The GWP Audit Report 2011 and EUWI Audit Report 2011 were both received and considered.

**Decision: the GWP Annual Financial Report 2011 and the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2011 of the Steering Committee were approved.**

**Decision: the recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members of liability for 2011 was approved.**

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

### 5. **GWP Chair Annual Report**

Dr. Obeng presented some highlights from her activities during 2011, in addition to what is presented in "GWP in Action 2011". Dr. Obeng also stated that GWPO at global level has built on the past to help the GWP Network progress on many fronts, while at the same time there is still much work to be done. She noted that 2013 is the International Year of Cooperation on Water and given that GWP is all about cooperation and collaboration among sectors, countries and organisations GWP will have a lot to offer the world. Dr. Obeng ended her presentation by informing the Sponsoring Partners of her sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary, Dr. Mohamed Ait Kadi, GWP Technical Committee Chair, the Staff of the GWPO Secretariat, the GWPO Technical Committee and her fellow Steering Committee members for working so closely with her and with such dedication in serving the GWP Network during these past years. "It has been a real honour to serve this amazing Partnership".

The Chair stated on behalf of the Sponsoring Partners, that it has been a terrific experience to work together. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden has really appreciated Dr. Obeng's positive approach to the various difficult tasks arising during the last 5 years. On behalf of his colleagues, the WMO representative, Mr. Claudio Caponi also thanked Dr. Obeng for her passion and inclusiveness, being a breath of fresh air on the water scene. Finally, the Executive Secretary on behalf of GWP Regions, the Global Secretariat and the Technical Committee deeply thanked Dr. Obeng for her engagement and dedication during the last 5 years.

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

### 6. **Implementing the Strategy 2009-2013**

The GWP ES provided an update on the progress with implementing the present Strategy and included results/lessons from the Mid Term Review (MTR). The objectives of the Review were to consider progress with Strategy implementation at mid-term, to identify areas that need additional focus and to begin to look at the future, given the opportunities for new funding for GWP.

The Mid-Term Review had been designed as a forward-looking, independent, constructive assessment of progress in implementing the Strategy, with a view to helping GWP maintain momentum through to the end of 2013, and guiding the on-going process of change management within the organization.

The challenge the Review faced was that for various reasons, many of the recommendations did not have a solid analytical underpinning, making it difficult to draw conclusions for action. Furthermore, because the Review was based on conversations with a broad and diverse group of stakeholders, there were often contradictory messages and lessons. Finally, implementing several of the recommendations is contingent on substantial additional funding being available to GWP.



The final MTR report was discussed by the GWP Financial Partners Group and subsequently in detail by the GWP Steering Committee in its meeting in November 2011. Despite the concerns about the gaps and contradictions in the Review, the GWP Steering Committee (SC) decided that it was important to identify and draw as many lessons as possible from the Review. It was decided that the best way forward was to consider all the recommendations and identify specific areas drawn from them on which additional/new action could be focused by GWPO and the Network, to enhance Strategy implementation and delivery over the next two years, to the end of 2013. Eight such focus areas were identified:

1. Defining the role of Integrated Water Resources Management in addressing today's global challenges
2. Increasing Partners' ownership and engagement with GWP
3. Using a results based planning, monitoring and evaluation approach
4. Stepping up Global and Regional Fundraising
5. Energizing the Technical Function
6. Energizing the Communication Function
7. Reviewing GWP's governance structure
8. Setting the stage for the next Strategy period 2014-2019

Detailed actions and responsible people for each of the 8 focus areas have been defined and good progress is being made to implement the various outstanding parts of the strategy during the remaining strategy period to the end of 2013.

*The presentation is appended to these Minutes.*

### **7. Strategic planning process for establishing the new strategy 2014-2019 - update**

The GWP ES presented the strategic planning process for establishing the new Strategy 2014-2019.

The 4 main goals we have in the present strategy will become 3 main goals in the new strategy in order to simplify the structure and make it more coherent. In the present strategy it is not easy to distinguish between the "advocacy" goal (Goal 2) and the "operational" goal (Goal 1) as in many areas the advocacy role is closely linked to and blends with the operational role of GWP. Gender and Youth Strategies are both under development and will feed into the Global Strategy.

GWP will co-convene the next Stockholm World Water Week together with SIWI on the theme "Water Cooperation" which will be a great opportunity to discuss the next GWP Strategy with the broader water audience.

A question was raised related to the new strategy stretching over 6 years which is quite long - will there be a Mid Term Review done? This would be dependent upon the funding situation.

*The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.*

### **8. Report on FPG within the governance structure of GWP**

The GWP Chair presented the Governance Chart for GWP/GWPO and explained that the situation analysis of the GWP/GWPO Governance review is in progress with the aim of creating greater clarity among various governance functions/bodies, including defining the Financing Partners' role within the GWP governance structure.

*The draft "GWP/GWPO Governance Review" document is appended to these Minutes.*

The GWP/GWPO Governance Review document will be further developed during 2013. The review of GWP's Governance process is however separate from the new GWP Strategy process and there is no formal role for the SP to be part of the GWP strategy process according to the GWP/GWPO Statutes. GWP will only seek input from SP if statutory changes will be necessary. However, since some Sponsoring Partner countries are also Financing Partners, these countries will be part of the consultative strategy process.

The SP requested to be consulted further as this work proceeds. This was noted.

The Argentinian representative pointed out that it is important to separate the roles of Sponsoring Partners and Financing Partners in the future, and several other SP representatives acknowledged that as well.

#### **8.1 Broadening the base of the GWP Sponsoring Partners - update on invitation to the Governments of Brazil and China to accede to the MoU.**

The GWP ES gave an update on:

Brazil - on going discussions but decision needs to be made through an Act of Parliament which can be up to a 3 year long process

China - very interested but several ministries apart from the water ministry are involved and continued discussions will take place after present reorganisations within the Chinese Government.

A question was raised about African countries becoming SP members and the GWP ES answered that South Africa and Nigeria could be approached, but thoughts on this are still in early stages. The GWP Steering Committee will recommend new countries as possible Sponsoring Partners in due course.

### **9. Nominations for the GWP Steering Committee**

All SP members received a document prior to the meeting, presenting the five candidates being nominated to the GWP Steering Committee (one position was left empty from the last round). Last time it was hard to find suitable women candidates but this time around there were many highly qualified female candidates on the list.

Ms. Ruth Meinen-Dick, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the candidates and the rationale for their nomination:

Ms. Lucka Bogataj, Slovenia - Regional candidate

Ms. Gisela Forattini, Brazil - Regional candidate

Mr. Stanley Rampair, Jamaica - Regional candidate (re-election)

Ms. Dorothy Manuel, USA - Global pool, non-water candidate (re-election)

Ms. Khin Ni Ni Thein, Myanmar - Global pool, water candidate

**Decision : The five candidates were appointed to the GWP Steering Committee by the SP meeting. Their terms will start with the second Steering Committee meeting of 2012.**

For future nominations, the SP requested that the Nominations Committee looks into bringing younger candidates onto the Steering Committee, as was also stated in the previous SP Minutes.

### **10. Presentation of nominee for next GWP Chair (closed session for SP Members only)**

There was a presentation of the nominee for the next GWP Chair, by the Chair of the Nomination Committee.

**Decision: to appoint Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss new Chair of GWP as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.**

Following the decision, Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss was invited into the meeting as an observer, and was introduced to the Sponsoring Partners.

### **11. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2013 and Summary of Decisions**

The next SP meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3 September 2013** (i.e. during the World Water Week) at the GWP offices, in Stockholm.

A message was conveyed by the Hungarian representative from the Hungarian Embassy with thanks to Dr. Letitia A. Obeng for her services as GWP Chair and the cooperation between GWP and Hungary.

The GWP Chair officially thanked Mr. Torgny Holmgren on behalf of the whole Sponsoring Partners Group for his excellent services as SP Chair.

**The SP Chair summarized the meeting decisions as follows:**

1. The meeting Agenda was confirmed.
2. Decision taken to renew Sweden as Chair of the Sponsoring Partners for another 3 years.
3. The GWP Annual Activity Report 2011 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.
4. The GWP Annual Financial Report 2011 and the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2011 of the Steering Committee to the SP were received and approved.
5. The GWP Audit Report 2011 and EUWI Audit Report 2011 were both received and considered.
6. 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.

## Minutes

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7. Five new Steering Committee members were appointed. They will start their terms as of the November 2012 Steering Committee meeting.

8. A Decision taken to appoint Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss as the next Chair of GWP as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

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



Torgny Holmgren

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners

