

## GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

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

Stockholm, Sweden

Thursday, June 9, 2016

### MINUTES

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

The GWP Chair a.i, Drs. Alice Bouman-Dentener, opened the meeting by warmly welcoming all participants before handing over to the Chair of the Sponsoring Partners (SP) Meeting, Ms. Inger Buxton, Acting Head of Department, Global Agenda Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden. Ms. Buxton took the opportunity to thank the Executive Secretary, Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa and all staff at the Secretariat, for the very good GWP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception taking place at the Secretariat premises the evening before. The speeches made during the Reception really underlined the importance of GWP's work towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Thereafter, a round the table self introduction of all present participant took place where several of the participants expressed the importance of water issues within their respective country. The new Chair of GWP as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, was also present at the meeting and introduced herself.

The Sponsoring Partners not able to attend the meeting were Denmark, Jordan, Pakistan, WMO and the World Bank.

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 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 5 June 2015

According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual SP Meeting had already been approved as of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

#### 2.1: Update on decisions taken since last SP meeting

The GWP Chair a.i. stated the two decisions made via distance communication since the last SP meeting:

- The Sponsoring Partners adopted the Terms of Reference and selection criteria for the new GWP Chair (22 June 2015)
- The Sponsoring Partners approved the appointment of the new GWP Chair as of 1 July 2016 for a term of 3 years (27 April 2016)

The GWP Chair a.i. then referred to the input made by the Embassy of the Argentine Republic during the 14<sup>th</sup> Sponsoring Partners meeting on 5 June 2015 in relation to the GWP Governance Reform and the relationship between the Sponsoring Partners and the Steering Committee. It was stated in the Minutes from that meeting that GWP should further look in to and consider the input made by the Embassy of the Argentine Republic.

The GWP Chair a.i. clarified that with reference to the Dalberg Report on the GWP Governance and Financing Reform, the Sponsoring Partners are the ultimate governing body of GWP and the implementation of the Dalberg recommendations will not change this accountability framework.



Contrary to what is suggested in the Dalberg report<sup>1</sup>, the Financing Partners Group is not a formal oversight body of GWP. The Steering Committee is the Executive body of GWPO and as such accountable to the Sponsoring Partners. As the GWP Statutes clearly state, Steering Committee members serve in their personal capacity. This equally applies to the Financing Partners Group member. The Financing Partners, as an important grouping in the wide range of GWP partners, now hold an appointed seat on the Steering Committee; but the appointed member, like all other SC members serves in his/her personal capacity. When appointing members to the Steering Committee, the GWP By-laws dictate a well-balanced composition of members considering gender, background, areas of expertise etc.

As a follow up to the GWP Chair a.i's clarification, the Representative from the Embassy of the Argentine Republic provided further comments partly verbally during the meeting and by a written statement received after the meeting;

"On the issue of reform, the AD (Argentina's Delegation) kindly requests additional information about the consideration given to the comments made by Argentina at the previous meeting.

With regards to the reform project of Denmark, the AD reiterates that Argentina is not opposed to improving the structure of GWPO, while it maintains its commitment to objectivity, transparency and accountability that the body comes to wield so far.

In that sense the AD recalls that the FPG are not part of the governance structure of GWPO. The entry of Financial Partners to the body of the Sponsoring Partners could mean a loss of objectivity and freedom of decision of the governing bodies of the organism.

Moreover, it differs from what is supported by the legal officer of the Agency in the sense that the question of responsibilities of the Sponsoring Partners to the Steering Committee must imply an endorsement of the members of this Committee.

In this line, there is a Memorandum of Understanding by the intergovernmental body that became GWPO concluded among sovereign countries. Therefore this implies that the decisions taken within the body must have the approval of the countries that compose it. Existing statutes clearly state that the GWP Sponsoring Partners are the highest governing body of GWP and that should be respected and maintained. Consultation on changes in the governance system should therefore be addressed in a primordial way and at a high level, with the Sponsoring Partners.

The Sponsoring Partners must participate in all the decision-making process being carried out in his capacity as last gubernatorial instance body and not only on the occasion of the Meeting of the SP. For these reasons Argentina expressly requests the formulation and remittance through official channels at the highest level, of an agenda for the next instances of study subject so that the SP can participate in the decision-making meetings to be held throughout 2016".

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<sup>1</sup> Dalberg (2014). Governance and Finance Review of GWP.Exhibit 8, page 12.

*The complete note with statements from the Embassy of the Argentine Republic is appended to these Minutes.*

The SP Chair followed up by saying that one question to be considered is how active the Sponsoring Partners want to be and their availability to take on a more active role.

The GWP Chair a.i. continued by saying that it is important that the various roles within the GWP Governance structure are really clear to all involved, accountability between the Steering Committee and the Sponsoring Partners, who takes which decisions etc. It would be good to further discuss the governance issues related to relations between the SC and the SP.

**Decision: The draft ToRs for reviewing the GWPO statutes, to be undertaken during 2017, and any other governance aspects needed to be looked at, shall be circulated to the Sponsoring Partners for their input. A well-defined process and timeline for the review of the statutes shall also be provided to the Sponsoring Partners before the next SP meeting 2017.**

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

#### **3.1: GWP Annual Activity and Financial Reports 2015**

The GWP Executive Secretary, Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa, made a presentation where he gave some updates and highlights from 2015 including;

- Governance Reform 1.0 (leading to GWP 2.0 with 4 Change Areas)
- Global water institutional architecture (High Level Panels)
- Agenda 2030 SDG/post-COP21: reinforcing the country dimension
- Network updating (accreditation)
- Partnering in SDG PF, incl South South cooperation
- Recalibrated WACDEP (incl APFM, IDMP, WACDEP)
- HR changes (Governance bodies; Secretariat; Regions)
- Financial performance 2015 (incl. Locally raised funds)

The Executive Secretary also mentioned the value and importance of the Country and Regional Impact stories that are produced on a continued basis to communicate the work of GWP. Looking forward and building on past knowledge and learnings, GWP needs to better understand its Network and one focus area during 2016 will be to do an assessment of the GWP Network to see who we are supporting and how to best do that. We need to understand which partners are key to collaborate with on the journey towards 2030, to face challenges and develop our programmes. In the next GWP in Action a forward looking part, including big trends to come and how GWP will position itself in that context, will be added. More voices from the private sector also need to be brought on board.

The Head of Finance and Administration continued by presenting the financial status for 2015. The approved budget was 13,6m€, actual came to 12,9m€. The locally raised funds were 4,1m€ which is almost double compared to the previous year. The "In Kind" contribution, which is not audited and therefore can not be included in the financial reports, was 4,5m€ - a quite substantive amount. 85% of the total budget goes in to Regional activities. Denmark, United Kingdom and Sweden contribute to more than 50% of the total funding which makes GWP quite dependant on these three donors.

The Dutch representative said that his view is that the GWP Annual Reports are getting better by every year and the suggestion of having a forward looking part included as of next year is very



appreciated. A question related to the budget situation looking forward, with a maximum scenario of 14m€ and minimum of 11m€ - how does the 3m€ difference affect the work of GWP?

The GWP Chair a.i said that of course, GWP will prepare for a reduced funding scenario. But, that in her opinion, the discussion should not be so much about what we can get done with 3m€ less but how to reach the understanding of donors that they need to pre-invest in stakeholder strengthening, hence in Networks and partnering, i.e GWP, to achieve water security through implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Finances would not necessarily be channeled through GWPO; countries who commit to participatory and inclusive water governance could become Sponsoring Partners of GWP and commit to dedicate part of their water budget to creating this enabling environment for effective water governance.

The Executive Secretary pledged to the Sponsoring Partners to urge their respective Governments to get in to dialogue with their partners to understand the importance of pre-investing.

*Presentations made are appended to these Minutes.*

**Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2015 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2015 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved.**

### **3.2: GWP Audit Report 2015**

The GWP Head of Finance and Administration presented the GWP Audit Report 2015, which came out as a fully Unqualified Audit Report, the best audit opinion to be received.

**The GWP Audit Report 2015 was received and considered.**

### **3.3: Discharge of liability of the Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary**

**Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2015 was approved.**

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

The GWP Chair a.i reported back from the second half of 2015 (as of the last Sponsoring Partners meeting 2015) on behalf of the former Chair of GWP, Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss. 2015 being an exciting and challenging year with among lot of other progress made, the first phase of the GWP Governance and Financing Reform was completed. The GWP Chair a.i thanked Dr. Schaefer-Preuss for her commitment and her ability to take harsh decisions when necessary during tough times.

The GWP Chair a.i continued by saying that she has enjoyed the 6 months of stepping in as Chair a.i. as of January 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. These 6 months have entailed Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa being appointed as the GWP Executive Secretary and Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren being appointed as the next Chair of GWP as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli was appointed new Chair of the GWP Technical Committee as of April 4<sup>th</sup> and the Chair a.i took the opportunity to thank Prof. Eelco vanBeek for stepping in as interim Chair of the Technical Committee between October 2015 up until March 2016.

A lot of work has been done and will continue to be done in moving forward with aligning the GWP Strategy with the 2030 Agenda and securing the GWP space in the implementation of this Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. GWP has offered its services in relation to the High Level Panel on Water (within the support structure for water governance) which would put GWP in a quite unique position to help shaping the global water architecture. In connection to the GWP Steering Committee meeting held in Myanmar in May, a High Level Round Table Meeting on Water Security and the Sustainable Development Goals was convened by GWP, Co-hosted by the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Office of the UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Disaster Reduction and Water, the High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) of Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Myanmar Water Think Tank and other Development Partners.

The High Level Round Table Meeting, cross level, cross governmental, has already generated positive outcomes related to the way the Myanmar Government will approach and take on water related issues. To use the leverage of conducting High Level meetings, useful for respective country/region, in connection with GWP Steering Committee meetings and possibly also including Sponsoring Partners will be further considered going forward.

The GWP Chair a.i also mentioned the ongoing work to make GWP fit for purpose (GWP 1.0), about readying GWP for its 2020 Strategy using the opportunities of the Agenda 2030 etc and fit for future (GWP 2.0), readying the Network and Secretariat for the Global Architecture and for the country dimensions of the 2030 Agenda (Paris and Sendai agreements). The Gender and Youth strategies are being taken more and more in to operational mode through GWPs 3 Year Work Programme.

The GWP Chair a.i ended her speech by saying that it has been a pleasure to serve an organization like GWP and she thanked the ES and his team for the excellent cooperation.

The SP Chair concluded this agenda topic by thanking Drs. Alice Bouman-Dentener for her excellent work as Chair a.i. of Global Water Partnership during the last 6 months.

### **5. GWP becoming fit for the future**

The GWP Chair a.i presented some power point slides prepared by Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Sherpa to UN/World Bank High Level Panel on Water. The High Level Panel on Water was created to motivate action and advocate on financing and implementation towards SDG6 and water related targets and GWP has actively fed in to the meetings and discussions of the High Level Panel. It is suggested that GWP plays a role within the Water Governance Area of the UN Institutional Water Architecture for the 2030 Agenda according to:

- GWP, based on the past achievements, can position itself as a high-level independent multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) network to promote global actions on IWRM and other water issues.
- GWP can act as an integral part of the global water architecture. It can promote actions of Regional Water Partnerships and Country Water Partnerships according to GWP Strategy in implementation processes of SDG6 and other targets related to water.
- GWP can act as a prominent lobbying group in realization of global water architecture and play a role of global network after it happens.
- GWP can actively engage in "Friends of HLPW" activities as a partner of HLPW.

GWP would bring in the multi-stakeholder approach and feed information in to discussions for member states to make informed decisions. GWP would make its input at highest possible level.



The Dutch representative said that the UN Secretary General and the World Bank President had taken the initiative to establish the High Level Panel on Water. Now discussions are ongoing on how to best make use of this panel. Considering that the panel is composed of 10 Heads of Government it has the potential to make strong political impact.

One of the Swedish representatives asked about the status relating to the process of GWP becoming an observer with the UN General Assembly. The Executive Secretary responded that the process is not on the agenda at present, GWP should rather try to make more use of its current ECOSOC observer status and possibly also explore expanding the present group of Sponsoring Partners to open up for additional members. The GWP Chair a.i. added that it is important for GWP to strengthen its partnership with various UN Permanent Missions in addition to further develop the ECOSOC partnership status to get further involved in the ECOSOC processes.

Argentina's input to Agenda item 5, provided by the Argentinian representative, is the following;

"In this regard the document submitted for study is related to GWP reflections on the Global Water Architecture based on the Advisory Committee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB).

In this regard it is noted that the document proposes the creation of a new intergovernmental body of the United Nations on Water and rehearses a kind of structure for it.

In this regard the AD (Argentina's delegation) clarifies that a discussion on the matter must be held within the United Nations and meanwhile, the GWPO should not endorse projects outlined in reports that are not binding for countries. The same happened with the definition of Water Security that the GWPO adopted for its strategy, when there was already a broad global consensus emanating from the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

With regards to the point about progress in the reform of governance that will be discussed below, the AD reiterates the arguments made in this respect *ut supra*".

The Executive Secretary then made a presentation on GWP becoming fit for the future, including an update on the Governance Reform, with a time line and targets to move towards the 2030 Agenda.

The Governance Reform can be seen as Governance reform 1.0 - "fit for purpose" and Governance Reform 2.0 - fit for future. 4 Change Agenda areas are worked on internally.

The external change agenda includes the new global water institutional architecture and the role of Sponsoring Partners promoting GWP 2.0 as an IGO multi-stakeholder platform.

GWP needs to:

- Sharpen its Theory of Change
- Capitalize on pathways for a Water Secure World
- Develop a new value proposition
- Learn from evaluations and supervision
- Align Result Management Framework
- Engage in new business delivery models
- Analyze options for different organisational set-ups (form follows functions)

It was indicated in the context of the role of the Sponsoring Partners that it would be desirable to expand the number of Sponsoring Partners to include key countries of the Friends of Water Group.

The Chair a.i. remarked that she would consider it a strong statement of commitment if all countries that believe in inclusive and participatory water governance would become Sponsoring Partners of GWP.

*Presentations made are appended to these Minutes.*

### **6. 3 Year Work Programme 2017 - 2019**

The Head of Network Operations made a presentation on the 3 Year Work Programme 2017 - 2019 including the 4 internal Change Agenda areas:

1. Strengthening the country level
2. Improving sustainability of financing
3. Improving corporate knowledge management and learning
4. Increasing Institutional performance (identify gaps and take action)

The Head of Network Operations further illustrated how the 6 GWP Thematic Areas are linked to the SDGs and the 3 GWP Strategic goals.

A slide was shown stating 3 funding scenarios for GWP: 1) 10m€ - Catalytic, 2) 20m€ -Thematic leverage, 3) 30m€ - SDG 17 Vehicle and the question was put forward to the Sponsoring Partners as to where they want to see GWP, which scenario would match required outcomes? This question can not be postponed, GWP needs to map up its activities and staffing according to wallet.

Voices from the Sponsoring Partners put forward the questions on GWP's relevance within a 10m€ scenario and if GWP is capable of mobilize funds for the 20m€ and 30m€ scenarios?

The SP Chair said that it seems important for the Sponsoring Partners and the Financing Partners to come together and discuss strategic directions linked to funding.

The Executive Secretary added that it seems like the Sponsoring Partners would be the best Ambassadors to promote domestic funding for SDG related work.

*Presentation made is appended to these Minutes.*

### **7. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2017 and Summary of Decisions**

No other business was brought to the attention of the SP Chair.

Regarding the date for the Sponsoring partners meeting 2017 two options were presented: 1) keep the meeting in June as it is now to get the necessary approvals of reports etc on time during the face to face meeting 2) move the meeting back to August to have it back to back with the Stockholm World Water Week (approval of reports etc then to take place electronically). GWP will circulate the 2 options to all Sponsoring Partners to vote on the preferred option.

**Action: GWP to circulate the 2 options for the date of the Sponsoring Partners meeting 2017 to all Sponsoring Partners to vote on the preferred option.**

The SP Chair continued by saying that since this SP meeting did not have a quorum of attendees the decisions made at this meeting will be presented to the absent SP members for their agreement to the decisions taken.

**Action: The draft SP Meeting Minutes will be sent by GWP to the absent Sponsoring Partners and ask for their agreement to decisions taken during the meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.**



The SP Chair then concluded this agenda topic by summarizing the meeting decisions, actions and statements as follows:

1. The meeting Agenda was confirmed.
2. According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 14th Annual SP Meeting were already approved as of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
3. Two decisions had been made via distance communication since the last SP meeting:
  - The Sponsoring Partners adopted the Terms of Reference and selection criteria for the new GWP Chair (22 June 2015)
  - The Sponsoring Partners approved the appointment of the new GWP Chair as of 1 July 2016 for a term of 3 years (27 April 2016)
4. The draft ToRs for reviewing the GWPO statutes, to be undertaken during 2017, and any other governance aspects needed to be looked at, shall be circulated to the Sponsoring Partners for their input. A well-defined process and timeline for the review of the statutes shall also be provided to the Sponsoring Partners before the next SP meeting 2017.
5. The GWP Annual Activity Report 2015 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2015 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved.
6. The GWP Audit Report 2015 was received and considered.
7. The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2015 was approved.
8. The SP Chair said that it seems important for the Sponsoring Partners and the Financing Partners to come together and discuss strategic directions linked to funding.
9. GWP to circulate the 2 options for the date of the Sponsoring Partners meeting 2017 to all Sponsoring Partners to vote on the preferred option.
10. The draft SP Meeting Minutes will be sent by GWP to the absent Sponsoring Partners and ask for their agreement to decisions taken during the meeting on June 9th.

### **8: Meeting closure**

The SP Chair thanked everyone for their participation and valuable inputs and closed the meeting.



Inger Buxton

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners

