



GLOBAL
TRANSFORMATION AGENDA
FOR A WATER SECURE WORLD

GWP GOVERNANCE REFORM

Phase 2: Streamlining GWP Governance for Impact and Sustainability
Proposed amendments to the GWP & GWPO Statutes.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

- The GWP-GWPO Governance structure was established in 2002 and remained unchanged until 2011, when the GWP & GWPO Statutes were first updated. Further incremental statutory updates were introduced in 2025.
- In 2023, the report “Global Water Partnership Governance Reform Project, phase 1” was developed by External Adviser Judith Sargentini. The report identified challenges in the current governance structure and provided recommendations to streamline the GWP-GWPO governance.
- Based on these recommendations, a series of amendments to the GWP & GWPO Statutes are proposed with the objective of establishing a single, coherent, and modern governance system for the GWP–GWPO family.

- Overlaps in the mandate of the governance bodies (Sponsoring Partners, Steering Committee and Network Meeting) were identified, that cause duplication and slow decisions.
- The current size of the GWP Steering Committee, with 21 members, may represent challenges to maintain strategic agility.
- Representation of Regional Water Partnerships (RWPs) on the GWP Steering Committee can create situations where fiduciary responsibilities require careful management.
- The role of the GWP Technical Committee is not defined in the current Statutes, detached from the GWP-GWPO Network and decisions.
- The unclear legal boundaries between GWPO and RWPs in the current Statutes could generate liability risks.

REFORM OBJECTIVES

- Unify the GWP and GWPO governance under one General Assembly.
- Transition the GWP Steering Committee into a board structure to guide more effectively the policy and strategic decision-making.
- Clarify legal independence of RWPs and enhance accountability
- Simplify reporting and accountability lines.
- Align GWP's governance with stakeholders and GWP Partners expectations

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT GWP & GWPO STATUTES - OVERVIEW

The Proposed Amendments to the current GWP & GWPO Statutes will lead to the following Governance Structure at the global level:

- **GWP General Assembly** – Highest decision-making body, merging Sponsoring Partners, 13 RWPs and Partners Network Meeting following a constituency model
- **GWP Board** replaces the Steering Committee with 9–11 independent members overseeing policy, strategy, finance, HR, programmes and audit. The Board will be organised in 4 Board Subcommittees – Finance & Audit; Programmes; Governance, HR & Ethics; Technical Committee.
- **GWP Secretariat** – accountable to the GWP Board led by the GWP Executive Secretary

BENEFITS OF THE AMENDMENTS

- Stronger intergovernmental legitimacy.
- Simplified decision-making and clearer roles.
- Enhanced accountability and donor confidence.
- Clear accountability between the intergovernmental organisation, (GWPO) and the regional entities (RWPs).

Rationale for the proposed amendments of GWP & GWPO Statutes

Article-by-Article

RATIONALE FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE

- **Article 2 – Objectives:** Aligns the mission of the Organisation with the GWP Strategy 2026–2030, explicitly reflecting a focus on financing, governance, and climate-resilient water security, while preserving the vision of a water-secure world.
- **Article 5 – Organic Structure:** Clarifies the institutional structure by establishing the General Assembly and the GWP Board, replacing fragmented governance arrangements.
- **Article 6 – Chair:** Aligns the role of the Chair with the revised governance structure.
- **Article 7 – GWP Board:** Replaces the Steering Committee with a streamlined Board of 9–11 members.

RATIONALE FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE

- **Article 8 – Nomination Committee:** Aligns nomination and appointment processes with the authority of the General Assembly.
- **Article 9 – General Assembly:** Establishes the General Assembly as the highest decision-making body, with constituency-based representation.
- **Article 10 – Sponsoring Partners:** Integrates the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners into the General Assembly framework, preserving approval roles.

RATIONALE FOR STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE

- **Article 11 – Executive Secretary:** Clarifies accountability to the GWP Board and reporting to the General Assembly.
- **Articles 14–15 – Finance and Audit:** Align financial oversight and audit functions with the revised governance structure.
- **Articles 16–17 & 20 – Dissolution, Withdrawal, Depositary:** Ensure internal consistency following the governance changes related to the role of the General Assembly and the GWP Board