



# **A UNITED CALL FOR GLOBAL WATER INVESTMENT**

## **Join the Global Water Partnership Organisation as a Sponsoring Partner**

Starting 2 June 2025, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of GWPO opened for new States and Governments wishing to join the Intergovernmental Organisation as members, formally called Sponsoring Partners<sup>1</sup>. This is a significant opportunity to shape global water policy for a water-secure world.

Countries can sign the MOU in either Stockholm-Sweden, Pretoria-South Africa, and Geneva-Switzerland for States and Governments.

**For enquiries or to express interest in becoming a Sponsoring Partner, please  
contact the GWPO Secretariat at [sponsoringpartner@gwp.org](mailto:sponsoringpartner@gwp.org)**

**May 2025**

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<sup>1</sup> Sponsoring Partners are essentially the “member states” of the GWPO. This status does not entail a compulsory financial contribution.

## Executive Summary

The Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) is issuing a global invitation to all States and Governments to become Sponsoring Partners under its Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments. In a world going through unprecedented shifts in multilateral and global cooperation, declining international development finance and with countries grappling with a mounting water crisis and a changing climate, we invite and urge national leaders to unite in a transformative alliance to contribute to a water-secure future for all. The stakes could not be higher – and the opportunity for leadership and collective action has never been more urgent.

GWPO came into existence as an intergovernmental organisation in 2002 after eight states and two international organisations, collectively referred to as the Sponsoring Partners, signed the initial memorandum of understanding (MoU): The Kingdom of Sweden, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, The Kingdom of Denmark, The Republic of Chile, The Republic of Hungary, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, The Argentine Republic, The World Bank, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

At their Annual Meeting in June 2024, the Sponsoring Partners recommended expanding GWPO's engagement with a broader group of countries.

**The Global Water Partnership Organisation hereby invites States and Governments wishing to join GWPO as a Sponsoring Partner to sign a copy of the MoU which can be found in Annex 3, in English, which shall be deposited with the GWPO Executive Secretary, who shall send certified copies thereof to all signatories. This MoU will be opened for signature in Stockholm, Geneva, and Pretoria on 2 June 2025.**

By becoming a Sponsoring Partner, States gain a seat at the table of this global water movement – with tangible benefits for their people and the world. Key advantages include an opportunity to shape global water policy; gaining access to technical expertise, knowledge and networks; increasing international visibility and leadership; and contributing to global water security. There is no obligation for Sponsoring Partners to make financial contributions, although those that are able to contribute financially to GWPO's mission and vision are encouraged to do so.

The Global Water Partnership Organisation looks forward to welcoming States as new Sponsoring Partners and working hand in hand with them towards our shared vision of a water-secure world. The challenge is great, but by uniting our political will and resources, the impact will be greater. Join us now – this is the time to act.

**For enquiries or to express interest in becoming a Sponsoring Partner, please contact the GWPO Secretariat at [sponsoringpartner@gwp.org](mailto:sponsoringpartner@gwp.org)**

# UNITED CALL FOR GLOBAL WATER INVESTMENTS:

## GWPO INVITES GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN AS SPONSORING PARTNERS

The Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) is hereby issuing a global invitation to all States and Governments to become Sponsoring Partners under its Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments. In a world grappling with a mounting water crisis and a changing climate, this call blends a formal diplomatic appeal with a visionary ambition: we urge global and national leaders to unite in a transformative alliance to accelerate progress to a water-secure future for all. The stakes could not be higher – and the opportunity for leadership and collective action has never been more urgent.

**As part of the Global Transformation Agenda, GWPO invites any country wishing to join the Sponsoring Partners of GWPO to express their interest to join. The Sponsoring Partners have no obligation of financial contribution to the organisation.**

GWPO came into existence in 2002 after eight states and two international organisations listed below called Sponsoring Partners signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under international law:

- The Kingdom of Sweden
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The Kingdom of Denmark
- The Republic of Chile
- The Republic of Hungary
- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- The Argentine Republic
- The World Bank (up to 2025)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

### 1. A Visionary Global Initiative for Water Security

The Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments represents a bold new chapter in global water cooperation. For nearly 30 years, GWP has been at the forefront of advancing water security and climate resilience worldwide. Now, faced with the reality that the world remains not on track to achieve SDG 6 by 2030, with billions still lacking access to safe water and sanitation, GWP is catalysing an ambitious effort to accelerate and scale up climate-resilient water investments.

**Under this Agenda, at least US\$15 billion in water investments will be leveraged by 2030, backed by an initial mobilisation of US\$500 million towards achievement of water security in the Global South.**

A new High-Level Global Outlook Council (GOC) will steer this effort, comprised of current and former Heads of State, global leaders and high-level public and private sector representatives. Endorsed at the highest levels, the Global Transformation Agenda has already gained significant momentum: H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania, will serve as founding Co-Chair of the GOC, with leaders from G20 nations and beyond currently being mobilised.

**The global water crisis requires a unified, urgent response. We now call on States and Governments everywhere to join us in this transformative journey – ensuring that water remains central to sustainable development and contributes to global stability. The Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments represents a significant opportunity to accelerate the progress that the billions currently lacking access to drinking water and sanitation are calling for in global water cooperation, building on GWP’s proven track record.**

Since 2014, GWP has directly and indirectly influenced over €2 billion in water-related investments by supporting the development of investment-ready water and climate projects, strengthening institutional capacity to access climate and development finance, and improving enabling policy and planning frameworks. Since 2020, GWP has supported over 200 water-related policies, laws, institutions, instruments, and financing. These efforts have enhanced cross-sectoral coordination, while improving water decision-making and investment planning. Throughout its history, GWP has supported water sector reforms in over 90 countries and 25 transboundary basins.

## 2. Benefits of becoming a Sponsoring Partner

By becoming a Sponsoring Partner, States gain a seat at the table of this global water movement – with tangible benefits for their people and the world. Key advantages include:

- **International visibility and leadership through over 2,800 institutional partners spanning over 180 countries:** As a Sponsoring Partner, your government is internationally recognised as a champion of water security and climate resilience. GWPO will showcase and highlight the leadership of its Sponsoring Partners in global forums, joint publications, and high-level events, yielding enhanced visibility for your country’s water and climate initiatives. Sponsoring Partners will have the opportunity to spearhead regional or thematic efforts under the Global Transformation Agenda – including participation in and leading high-level global and regional cooperation by mobilising fellow leaders to establish Heads-of-State Panels on climate-resilient water investments. Such initiatives will position Sponsoring Partners at the forefront of global solution-building. In sum, joining GWPO signals your nation’s commitment to the common good, garnering international esteem and diplomatic influence.
- **Shaping global water policy and water governance:** Sponsoring Partners form the ultimate governing body of GWPO. This role allows governments to influence global water governance priorities, strategies, and policies. Sponsoring Partners help steer GWPO’s agenda and ensure that national and regional water interests are reflected on the world stage. In practice, this means your country’s voice directly guides international water policy dialogues and investment decisions, leveraging GWPO’s status as a leading

intergovernmental organisation dedicated to water governance.

- **Lead international cooperation and share knowledge exchange globally on water security:** Perhaps most importantly, Sponsoring Partners become architects of a water-secure future. By investing political capital and expertise in this Agenda, your country directly contributes to tangible outcomes: expanded access to water security, clean water and sanitation, improved climate adaptation, and reduced impacts of water-related disasters globally. The collective impact of the efforts of the Sponsoring Partners will be measured in lives improved and progress achieved towards sustainable development. This is an opportunity to leave a legacy – to know that your nation helped safeguard the most precious resource on earth for generations to come.
- **Access to technical expertise, innovative water solutions and partnership globally:** Sponsoring Partners unlock access to GWPO's vast reservoir of knowledge, technical expertise, and on-the-ground experience. GWP's global network includes 2,800+ partner organisations in over 180 countries, spanning water authorities, experts, and civil society. This "network of networks", the Global Water Partnership, offers a rich pool of technical guidance, best practices, and innovative solutions for water management. Partners can draw on world-class expertise – from integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools to climate adaptation strategies and transboundary water governance – to inform their national plans. With its global network of Regional and Country Water Partnerships, GWPO's credibility as a neutral convener in the water community means Sponsoring Partners also gain access to trusted platforms for knowledge exchange and capacity development.
- **Global access to investment and finance solutions for national and regional water projects:** The Global Transformation Agenda includes strengthened partnerships with G20 countries, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), global climate finance institutions, regional financial and economic institutions, and others, geared towards water investments for climate resilience. In this context, GWP and partners are launching the Global Water Investment Programme (GIP) on water and climate resilience to mobilise €500 million, which would leverage at least USD 15 billion by 2030, as a way to draw attention to the global water investment gap. This will be paired with a series of continental water and climate resilience investment programmes.

### 3. Commitments and Responsibilities of Sponsoring Partners

Along with these benefits, Sponsoring Partners are expected to uphold key commitments and responsibilities. Becoming a Sponsoring Partner is a solemn political endorsement of the Global Transformation Agenda on climate-resilient water investments and a pledge to actively advance its objectives. Core expectations include:

- **High-level political endorsement:** Sponsoring Partners formally endorse GWPO's vision of a water-secure world and the Global Transformation Agenda's target of increasing climate-resilient water investments. Governments are expected to champion water issues at the highest political levels – integrating water security into national development plans, and raising ambition in international arenas (UN, G20, UNFCCC COPs, etc.). This political

leadership is crucial to drive the change we seek. It signals unity and resolve, showing that your government stands with others in treating water as a top priority for sustainable development and climate action.

- **Resource mobilisation and support:** While the GWPO and GWP Statutes do not impose any financial obligation, Sponsoring Partners commit to support the efforts toward the achievement of a water-secure world within their regions and countries, and globally. This may include voluntary financial contributions to GWP's core functions, its programmes, co-financing of joint initiatives, or facilitation of investment from development banks and climate funds. The Global Transformation Agenda aims to mobilise hundreds of millions of dollars and leverage billions in investments by 2030, and Sponsoring Partners play a key role in realising this goal. In practice, your government would work with GWPO and the GWP regions to identify and secure funding for priority projects (e.g. national water investment programmes and project pipelines) and help unlock innovative financing mechanisms (such as from climate funds, public-private partnerships, or blended finance mechanisms). This shared investment effort ensures that ambitions translate into tangible on-the-ground results.
- **Active participation and governance:** Sponsoring Partners are expected to actively participate in GWPO's governance and activities. At a minimum, this means attending the Annual Meeting of Sponsoring Partners (the highest decision-making body of GWPO) and contributing to consensus on strategic decisions. Sponsoring Partners also appoint representatives to key bodies – for example, they collectively appoint the GWPO Chair and Steering Committee members, guiding the organisation's strategic direction. Beyond formal meetings, active participation includes joining high-level panels or councils under the Global Transformation Agenda, collaborating with other countries and stakeholders, and sharing expertise.
- **Lead advocate role on global water management:** Each Sponsoring Partner will serve as a leading advocate of water issues and problem-solver within GWPO – whether by co-hosting international water summits, piloting innovative solutions at home and sharing lessons, or rallying peer countries to close the investment gap. The effectiveness of this Agenda hinges on robust engagement from its Partners; thus, we count on each Sponsoring Partner to be an active, accountable stakeholder in our collective success.

**By joining GWPO, Sponsoring Partners demonstrate the unity and resolve required to tackle the water crisis. Multilateral cooperation and mutual accountability are the bedrock of the Global Transformation Agenda – every Sponsoring Partner's contribution counts, and together we will uphold the highest standards of good governance, transparency, integrity and impact.**

#### 4. Aligning SDG 6, the 2030 Agenda, and the Paris Agreement

This call to partnership is firmly grounded in the objectives of global frameworks that your government has already pledged to uphold. Joining GWPO as a Sponsoring Partner supports and accelerates commitments towards the Global Transformation Agenda, which will accelerate progress towards the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

especially Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on Water and Sanitation, as well as the Paris Agreement on climate change and related accords. Water is the lifeblood that runs through each of these agreements, and by investing in water security you simultaneously advance multiple global goals:

- **Advancing Sustainable Development (SDG 6 and beyond):** SDG 6 aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.” Today, progress on this goal is gravely insufficient – billions of people still lack safely managed drinking water or sanitation, and the world remains off-track to achieve this goal by 2030. By becoming a Sponsoring Partner, your government helps reverse this trajectory through scaled-up and accelerated action. Water underpins almost every SDG: from hunger and health to economic growth, gender equality, and peace. Improvements in water governance and access create positive ripple effects on education, public health and livelihoods. Sponsoring Partners will be at the forefront of supporting efforts to integrate water solutions into sustainable development plans, ensuring that the SDGs’ promise can be fulfilled. This includes contributing to initiatives like the UN’s SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, the UN System-Wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation, and leveraging GWPO’s expertise in integrated water resources management (IWRM), which is encapsulated in SDG target 6.5, to help achieve targets on water use efficiency, ecosystem protection, and universal services. By supporting GWPO, Sponsoring Partners champion a holistic vision of development in support of the 2030 Agenda – one where water security, human well-being, and economic prosperity advance hand in hand.
- **Bolstering climate action (Paris Agreement Adaptation Goals):** Water and climate change are inextricably linked. As noted during the 2023 UN Water Conference, “more than 90% of disasters are water-related, with climate change hitting hardest through water”. Droughts, floods, and storms – intensified by global warming – are already undermining development and security worldwide. The Paris Agreement calls for strengthened resilience and adaptation to climate impacts, and water management is central to that mission. By investing in climate-resilient water infrastructure, data systems, and governance, Sponsoring Partners actively advance the Paris climate goals.
- **Help communities cope with water extremes,** protect ecosystems that regulate climate, and reduce disaster risks. Moreover, wise water investments contribute to climate change mitigation (for instance, healthy wetlands store carbon, and sustainable energy-water systems reduce emissions). In becoming a Sponsoring Partner of GWPO, your country aligns its climate commitments with tangible projects – from building drought-proof water supply systems to implementing early warning systems for floods. You also signal support for global compacts like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as safer water systems mean more resilient societies.

In short, Sponsoring Partners bridge the gap between water and climate policy and practice, ensuring that adaptation efforts receive the political will and financing they urgently require. This is multilateral water and climate action at its finest: collective efforts that protect vulnerable populations and safeguard our planet’s future.



Overall, joining GWPO provides an opportunity to support a global movement – a powerful vehicle to achieve international goals. By joining as a Sponsoring Partner, a government does not just sign up for another initiative – it actively reinforces its commitment to achieving the very sustainable development frameworks it helped to negotiate, injecting momentum into local and global commitments that often lag behind. This alignment offers a win-win: progress in GWPO accelerates progress toward your nation's own development and climate targets, and vice versa.

## **5. Join Us in Transforming the Future of Water**

This is a visionary appeal and a practical offer. By becoming a Sponsoring Partner, your country will help write the next chapter of global water cooperation – one defined by accelerated action, inclusivity, and hope. Together, we will mobilise the investments, innovations and institutional reforms needed to ensure every person on the planet has sustainable access to water, and that our communities are resilient to water-related threats. We will demonstrate that, even in a time of complex global tensions, nations can unite for the common good of humanity.

The Global Water Partnership Organisation stands ready to welcome new Sponsoring Partners. We invite interested governments to contact us to discuss the formal accession process (which involves signing the GWPO Memorandum of Understanding and endorsement by existing Sponsoring Partners). Our team will provide all necessary information and facilitate a smooth onboarding, so that new Sponsoring Partners can immediately start contributing to and benefitting from the network.

In closing, allow us to reiterate the historic significance of this call. Water is life – it sustains public health, food production, energy, ecosystems, and economic growth. Yet it is facing unprecedented strain. If we fail to act, water insecurity will set back development and fuel instability. But if we act together now, we can unlock a future where every nation is water secure, conflicts over water are replaced by cooperation, and the resilience of our societies is strengthened for generations to come. This is the future that the Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments envisions. It is the future that each Sponsoring Partner will help realise.

The Global Water Partnership Organisation invites you to join us on this journey of transformation. Let us forge a legacy of leadership, unity and hope in the face of adversity. Let us invest together in water as if our future depends on it – because it does.

Together, as Partners, we will transform the investment landscape for water security worldwide. Together, we will ensure a water-secure and sustainable world by 2030 and beyond.

The Global Water Partnership Organisation looks forward to welcoming new Sponsoring Partners and working hand in hand towards our shared vision of a water-secure world. The challenge is great, but by uniting our political will and resources, the impact will be greater. Together, we will shape a water-secure future.

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# **ANNEX 1:**

## **THE GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA ON WATER INVESTMENTS**

### **GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA ON WATER INVESTMENTS**

In February 2025, in light of an increasing global climate emergency, and increasing challenges on water security, floods, droughts and water shortages, the GWP Steering Committee initiated the Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments.

The Transformation Agenda includes strengthened partnerships with G20 countries, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), global climate finance institutions, regional financial and economic institutions, and others. Later this year, GWP and partners will also launch the Global Water Investment Programme (GIP) on water and climate resilience to mobilise €500 million, which would leverage at least USD 15 billion by 2030. The GIP will build on the successes and lessons of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) and similar initiatives.

As part of its evolution, GWP is now entering a new phase to reinforce its intergovernmental status and broaden its global partnerships. In this context, GWP is actively engaging with G20 nations to establish a new Host Country Agreement and develop regional GWPO Technical Hubs that will further strengthen local impact.

#### **Key Steps in GWP's Transformation**

- Invite new States and Governments to join GWPO as a Members, formally called Sponsoring Partners.
- Scale up investment in climate-resilient water security mobilising USD 500 million that will leverage at least USD 15 billion by 2030.
- Strengthen global leadership and commitment for climate resilience water security and financial sustainability through expanded partnerships with G20, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and climate finance institutions.
- Enhance regional presence and impact, establishing decentralised GWPO Technical hubs at continental level in Africa, Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, and Europe.
- Establish the GWPO Transition Office in South Africa to lead the transition and relocation of GWP's global secretariat.

The Transformation Agenda was endorsed by over 150 GWP Partners from 85 Countries, and received strong support from key stakeholders, including the GWP Board (Steering Committee), the GWP Technical Committee, GWPO Secretariat staff, and the GWP Regional Partnerships. Some development partners have also expressed encouragement describing the plan as an “optimistic direction for the future” acknowledging that “GWP is on the right track.”

#### **A Call to Global Leaders & Partners**

The global water crisis requires a unified, urgent response. With escalating threats from climate change, water scarcity, and unsustainable resource use, GWP remains the leading intergovernmental organisation dedicated to water governance.

The Global Transformation Agenda represents a bold step towards a more resilient and impactful future. Endorsed by key governance bodies and partners, we call on governments, international organisations, the private sector, and civil society to join us in this transformative journey—ensuring that water remains central to global development.

## ANNEX 2:

# AN OVERVIEW OF GWP AND GWPO

## GWP AND GWPO IN A NUTSHELL

### GWPO - an Intergovernmental Organisation

The Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) is an intergovernmental organisation that was founded in 2002 by the World Bank, UNDP, and the Government of Sweden. GWPO enjoys diplomatic status under international law similarly to UN Agencies and other international organisations.

GWPO came into existence in 2002 after eight states and two international organisations listed below, called Sponsoring Partners, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under international law:

- The Kingdom of Sweden
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The Kingdom of Denmark
- The Republic of Chile
- The Republic of Hungary
- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- The Argentine Republic
- The World Bank (up to 2025)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

### The Vision of GWPO is a Water-Secure World

The GWPO vision is a water-secure world, achieved through:

- **Effective governance:** managing water equitably
- **Water security and economic growth:** water investments lead to economic growth
- **Mobilising climate resilient water investments** for water security, job creation and inclusive growth: water investments lead to water security

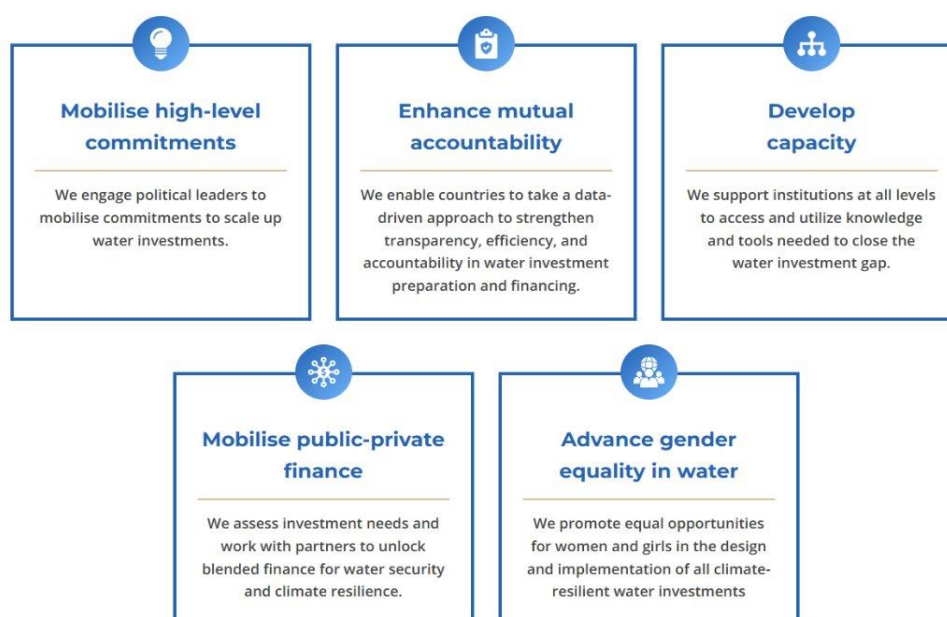
### The GWP Network Operates Across 180 Countries

GWPO is the secretariat for a network that operates across 180 countries. The vision and mission are achieved in partnership with over 2,800 partners spread across 13 independently managed GWP regional water partnerships and 77 accredited country water partnerships.



## Five Intervention Areas

The GWP approach is structured across 5 key solutions:



## Thematic Domains of Intervention

GWP drives water investments and governance reforms that build climate resilience, advance sustainable development, and strengthen cooperation across sectors and borders. It does so in partnership with countries, regions, and communities, delivering long-term impact.

Featured themes:

- Climate Resilience Through Water

- Water Solutions for the SDGs
- Transboundary Cooperation
- Engaging the Private Sector
- Contributing to Gender Equality
- Youth Engagement

## Results: \$2 Billion in Investments Leveraged

Integrating water security and climate resilience in regional, national development plans, budgets, enhancing policy coherence, developing local capacity, and unlocking further finance and investments. The GWPO track record demonstrates high value for money, flexibility, agility, while fostering local ownership at scale via global partnerships.

**As a result, €1 Invested in GWPO Returns €33. Moreover, since 2014, €2 Billion of investments have been leveraged:**



## **ANNEX 3: GWPO Memorandum of Understanding and Statutes**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATION**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The Parties signatory hereto,

*Noting* that the Global Water Partnership Network is a Network without legal personality which links interested Partners from the public sector, the private sector, and civil society concerned with water affairs around the world,

*Wishing* to support and work with the Network in its fulfilment of its objective while retaining the flexible and pragmatic character of the operation of the Network,

*Having* been invited to form an organisation for the purpose of supporting the Network,

*Have agreed* as follows:

#### **Article I**

##### **ESTABLISHMENT**

- (1) The Parties to this Agreement hereby establish the Global Water Partnership Organisation as an Intergovernmental Organisation.
- (2) The Parties hereby accept the Statutes for the Global Water Partnership Network and the Global Water Partnership Organisation. These Statutes are attached as Annex 1 to this Agreement and form an integral part of this Agreement.
- (3) The Parties to this Agreement are hereby designated as Sponsoring Partners of the Global Water Partnership Organisation, as provided in the Statutes.

#### **Article II**

##### **WITHDRAWAL**

A Party to this Agreement may withdraw from it, thereby also withdrawing from membership of the Organisation. Such withdrawal shall become effective three months after the date on which this has been notified to the Depositary referred to in Article 20

of the Statutes. Upon withdrawal such Party shall cease to be a Sponsoring Partner of the Organisation.

## **Article III**

### **ACCESSION**

A State or an Intergovernmental Organisation may at any time notify the Depositary of its request to accede to this Agreement. If the request is approved by a Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners held in accordance with the Statutes, the Agreement will enter into force for that State or Intergovernmental Organisation thirty days after the date of the deposit of its instrument of access<sup>10</sup>n.

## **Article IV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Any amendment to the Statutes for the Global Water Partnership Network and the Global Water Partnership Organisation shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 17 of the Statutes. Provided that the amendment has been adopted by the Network Meeting, it shall enter into force one year after the decision of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners to adopt the amendment, unless one third of the Sponsoring Partners within nine months of the said decision notify the Depositary of their objection to the amendment. The Depositary shall inform the Partners and the Sponsoring Partners of the date of entry into force of the amendment or of the fact that the amendment will not enter into force, as may be the case.

## **Article V**

### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

- (1) This Agreement shall be open for signature by the States and Intergovernmental Organisations listed in Annex 2, having been invited by the Swedish Government, in consultation with the presiding Chair of the Global Water Partnership Network, to sign this Agreement, until 31 March 2002.
- (2) This Agreement shall enter into force on the day upon which at least three signatories as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, including two States, have provided the Depositary with notification that the formalities required by their national legislation or their governing statutes have been completed.
- (3) After the entry into force of this Agreement, any State and Intergovernmental Organisation, referred to in paragraph 1, shall become a Party to it immediately after receipt by the Depositary of notification that the formalities required by their national legislation or their governing statutes have been completed.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned being duly authorised thereto, have signed a copy of this Agreement in the English language, which shall be deposited with the



Depository, who shall send certified copies thereof to all signatories.

**This Agreement has been opened for signature in Stockholm on 1 June 2025.**

**Place of Signature..... Date of Signature.....**

**For the Government of/International Organisation**

# **STATUTES FOR THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP NETWORK AND THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATION**

## **Article 1**

### **LEGAL STATUS**

- (1) These Statutes regulate the functions and organisation of the Global Water Partnership Network (the Network) and of the Global Water Partnership Organisation (the Organisation), and the relation between the two.
- (2) The Network does not have legal personality.
- (3) The Organisation shall possess full legal personality under international law and enjoy such capacities as may be necessary to exercise its functions in the fulfilment of the objective set out in Article 2. Its status under the national law of the Host State of the Secretariat will be provided in a Headquarters Agreement between that State and the Organisation.

## **Article 2**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (1) The objective of the Network is to develop and promote the principles of integrated water resources management and to that end:
  - a) Identify critical needs and stimulate Partners to meet such needs within their available human and financial resources;
  - b) Support action at national, regional, local or river-basin level that will lead to the adoption and implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management;
  - c) Help match needs to available resources;
  - d) Strengthen mechanisms for sharing information and experience.
- (2) The objective of the Organisation is to support and work with the Network in the fulfilment of its objective.

## **Article 3**

### **PARTNERS OF THE NETWORK**

- (1) Any entity, except individuals, may become a Partner of the Network. Partners of the Network may include States, national, regional and local Governmental Institutions, Intergovernmental Organisations, international and national Non-Governmental Organisations, Academic Institutions and Research Institutions, Companies, and service providers in the public sector.

(2) Any entity of the character referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, which recognises the principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the Network and is committed to implement these principles, may become a Partner of the Network, subject to a decision by the Executive Secretary.

(3) The Network provides a Partner with:

- a) A channel through which to establish contact with other Partners;
- b) Guidance on identifying critical needs;
- c) An opportunity to match one Partner's needs with another Partner's resources;
- d) An opportunity to contribute to the development of the concept of integrated water resources management.

(4) A Partner shall:

- a) Co-ordinate its relevant activities with those of other concerned organisations;
- b) Share information and experience freely with the other Partners;
- c) Give advice and professional contributions to the Network, the Organisation and to other Partners, on such conditions as may be agreed free of charge up to a reasonable level and at a mutually agreed charge above that level.

(5) A Partner may present itself as "Partner of the Global Water Partnership".

## **Article 4**

### **SPONSORING PARTNERS OF THE ORGANISATION**

(1) Members of the Organisation are called Sponsoring Partners.

(2) States and Intergovernmental Organisations, which are Partners of the Network and which have been invited to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation, and have become Parties to that agreement in accordance with Article I thereof, are original Sponsoring Partners.

(3) Other States and Intergovernmental Organisations may become Sponsoring Partners, subject to a decision by the Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners and after accession to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation. Such membership is open to:

- a) Other States, which are Partners of the Network and have a record of support for the objective of the Network;
- b) Other Intergovernmental Organisations, which are Partners of the Network, have a global role in water affairs, and have a record of support for the objective of the Network.

(4) The membership as a Sponsoring Partner of the Organisation does not affect the status of a State or Intergovernmental Organisation as a Partner of the Network.

## **Article 5**

### **GENERAL PROVISION ON ORGANIC STRUCTURE**

(1) The Network is a network of interested Partners, from the public sector, the private sector, and civil society, concerned with water affairs around the world. The Network operates through co-operation with Partners and through the Network Meeting and any groups and committees established by it. It further operates through relations with accredited Regional Water Partnerships, Regional Technical Committees and Country Water Partnerships, and other separate co-operating entities that have been given a role in the Network in accordance with these Statutes.

(2) The Organisation consists of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners, the Chair, the Steering Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Executive Secretary, the Secretariat and such other organs that the Steering Committee may decide to establish in accordance with these Statutes.

(3) The Network and its operations are managed by the Chair, the Executive Committee and other organs of the Organisation as well as by the Network Meeting, as provided for in these Statutes. Other entities operating with or within the Network are not parts of the Organisation.

## **Article 6**

### **THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP CHAIR**

(1) The Global Water Partnership Chair (the Chair) is the head and spokesperson for the Network as well as the Organisation. The Chair represents the Network and the Organisation in all forums, and chairs the Network Meeting and the meetings of the Steering Committee.

(2) 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.

(3) The Chair shall serve in her or his personal capacity.

## **Article 7**

### **THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

(1) The executive body of the Organisation is the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee develops, steers and organises the work of the Organisation and guides the co-operation between the Partners within the Network. The Steering Committee shall facilitate for the Network to attain its objective and shall implement the strategic directions and policies adopted by the Network Meeting.

(2) The Steering Committee shall consist of a minimum of eleven and a maximum of twenty-one members, as decided by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners. The Steering Committee shall include, as ex officio members, the Chair, the Executive Secretary, one representative of the United Nations Sub-Committee on Water Resources, one member

representing all Regional Water Partnerships and Regional Technical Committees, and the Chair of the Technical Committee.

- (3) The non-ex officio members of the Steering Committee 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 one time. The terms of the first members shall be staggered in order to establish gradual rotation of membership.
- (4) Members of the Steering Committee shall serve in their personal capacity.
- (5) The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice a year on the convocation of the Chair. Observers may be invited to the meetings of the Steering Committee.
- (6) The Steering Committee may hold meetings through distant communication, in accordance with such procedures as it decides.
- (7) The Steering Committee shall:
  - a) Develop the policy of the Network and the work of the Organisation in support of the Network, taking into account the strategic directions and policies adopted by the Network Meeting;
  - b) Create and appoint a Technical Committee, taking due account of the Technical Committee of the Network, functional prior to the entry into force of these Statutes;
  - c) Create and appoint such other committees or groups as it finds necessary for the performance of its functions, which may include members of the Steering Committee and other individuals as appropriate;
  - d) Issue by-laws, work-plans, budgets and instructions for the Organisation and for groups and committees that have been established by it;
  - e) Review the work of the committees and groups that have been established by it;
  - f) Decide on proposals and recommendations from such committees and groups, unless such proposals must be submitted to the Network Meeting or the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners;
  - g) Appoint the members of the Nomination Committee, taking into account this Committee's task to find candidates which reflect a balance in terms of professional background, geographical representation, gender and level of development of the person's home State;
  - h) Decide on recruitment, appointment and removal of the Executive Secretary;
  - i) Recommend new Sponsoring Partners to be approved by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners;
  - j) Supervise that Partners respect the principles of the Network and recommend to the Network Meeting the expulsion of a Partner in case of a violation of these principles;
  - k) If necessary, recommend amendments to these Statutes in accordance with Article 17;
  - l) Establish links with and accredit Regional Water Partnerships, Regional Technical Committees and Country Water Partnerships, and authorise such and other entities to use the name "Global Water Partnership" as part of their name or in a similar manner to indicate stronger links than normal partnership;
  - m) Convene the Network Meeting in accordance with these Statutes;
  - n) Convene the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in accordance with these Statutes;
  - o) Present a yearly activity report to the Partners and the Sponsoring Partners;

- p) Present a yearly financial statement to the Partners for information and to the Sponsoring Partners for approval at the Meeting of Sponsoring Partners;
- q) Comment on and distribute the audit report or reports to the Partners and to the Meeting of Sponsoring Partners.

(8) Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be taken by simple majority. Decisions require the presence of at least half of its members plus one, when taken at a meeting, and require participation of three-quarters of the members when taken through distant communication.

(9) Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be based on available financial and human resources within the Organisation and shall take into consideration the need to safeguard the efficient use of these resources.

## **Article 8**

### **THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

(1) The Nomination Committee shall consist of five or seven members, as decided by the Steering Committee.

(2) The members of the Nomination Committee shall be appointed by the Steering Committee for a period that shall not exceed three years, which may be subject to renewal one time. The terms of the first members shall be staggered in order to establish gradual rotation of membership.

(3) The members of the Nomination Committee shall serve in their personal capacity.

(4) The Nomination Committee shall:

- a) Nominate the Chair for appointment by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners;
- b) After consultation with the Partners, nominate members of the Steering Committee for appointment by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners;
- c) Nominate External Auditors for appointment by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners;
- d) Nominate representatives of the Partners as Internal Auditors, if so requested by at least ten Partners from five different countries at the Network Meeting.

(5) The nominations shall be presented to the Partners at least three months before the Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners. In order to receive widest possible support from the Partners, the Nomination Committee shall be prepared to modify its nominations in the light of comments by Partners. Nominations and relevant comments from Partners shall be presented to the Sponsoring Partners one month before the Annual Meeting when the appointments shall be made.

(6) Decisions of the Nomination Committee shall be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a decision shall require two-thirds majority of the Members of the Committee.

(7) The Nomination Committee shall be able to operate through distant communication.

## **Article 9**

### **THE NETWORK MEETING**

- (1) The Partners shall hold an Annual Network Meeting on the convocation of the Steering Committee, unless otherwise decided. An extraordinary Network Meeting shall be convened:
  - a) When the Steering Committee finds it necessary;
  - b) Upon the request of one fifth of the Partners.
- (2) At the Annual Network Meeting the Partners shall:
  - a) Adopt the strategic directions and policies for the Network;
  - b) Recommend action to be taken by the Steering Committee on the basis of the adopted strategic directions and policies;
  - c) Comment on the yearly activity report and the yearly financial statement of the Steering Committee;
  - d) Consider and decide on the expulsion of Partners from the Network, after recommendation of the Steering Committee.
- (3) The Network Meeting shall be governed by rules proposed by the Steering Committee and adopted by the Network Meeting.

## **Article 10**

### **THE MEETING OF THE SPONSORING PARTNERS**

- (1) The Sponsoring Partners shall hold an Annual Meeting as notified by the Steering Committee. An extraordinary meeting of the Sponsoring Partners shall be held:
  - a) When the Steering Committee finds it necessary;
  - b) Upon the request of one third of the Sponsoring Partners.
- (2) The Sponsoring Partners may hold the Annual Meeting or extraordinary meetings through distant communication in accordance with rules established by the Meeting.
- (3) Each Sponsoring Partner is entitled to one representative at the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners. The Chair shall be invited to present the yearly activity report and the yearly financial statement of the Steering Committee. A representative of the Nomination Committee shall be invited to present the nominations according to Article 8. Observers may be invited by the Steering Committee, and may be given the right to address the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners, but shall have no right to vote.
- (4) An invitation to the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners, with a draft agenda for the Meeting and a presentation of the nominations from the Nomination Committee, shall be sent to the Sponsoring Partners one month before the Meeting.
- (5) At the Annual Meeting the Sponsoring Partners shall:
  - a) Receive and consider the yearly activity report of the Steering Committee;
  - b) Receive and consider the yearly financial statement of the Steering Committee;
  - c) Approve the audit report or reports;



- d) Approve new Sponsoring Partners after recommendation by the Steering Committee;
- e) Appoint the Chair, in accordance with Article 6;
- f) Appoint members of the Steering Committee, in accordance with Article 7 and paragraph 7 of this Article;
- g) Appoint External Auditors, in accordance with Article 15;
- h) Appoint Internal Auditors, when so requested by Partners in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 4.

(6) The Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners shall decide the number of members of the Steering Committee within the limits set out in Article 7, paragraph 2. This decision shall be communicated to the Nomination Committee three months before the nominations shall be presented to the Partners.

(7) In the appointment of members of the Steering Committee, the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners shall:

- a) Aim to assure that the composition of the Steering Committee reflects a balance in terms of professional background, geographical representation, gender and level of development of the person's home State;
- b) Take into consideration the member's capacity to take active part in the work of the Steering Committee.

(8) If the appointments deviate from the proposal of the Nomination Committee, the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners shall explain its decision in a written report which shall be communicated to the Nomination Committee, the Partners and the Steering Committee without delay.

(9) Decisions of the Meeting shall be taken by simple majority of the present and voting Sponsoring Partners. A decision taken at a meeting requires the presence of representatives of at least half of the Sponsoring Partners plus one. A decision taken through distant communication shall be taken by a simple majority of all Sponsoring Partners.

(10) Absent Sponsoring Partners may communicate their vote in advance to the Chairman of the Meeting.

## **Article 11**

### **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARIAT**

(1) The Executive Secretary is the chief executive officer of the Organisation and the head of the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary shall serve as the secretary of the Steering Committee and shall report to and be responsible to the Steering Committee for the activities of the Secretariat.

(2) The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Steering Committee for a period that shall not exceed five years, which may be subject to renewal.

(3) The Executive Secretary shall:

- a) Implement the decisions of the Steering Committee;
- b) Execute instructions from the Chair;

- c) Approve new Partners of the Network;
- d) Support the committees and groups established by the Steering Committee;
- e) Appoint such staff as may be required to carry out the objectives of the Network and the Organisation;
- f) Be responsible for the financial management and accounting of the Organisation;
- g) Be authorised to issue statements and enter into obligations in the name of and on behalf of the Organisation within the scope of her or his mandate or as authorised by the Steering Committee;
- h) Make an oral presentation at the Annual Network Meeting of the yearly activity of the Network and the Organisation.

## **Article 12**

### **LOCATION**

The Secretariat of the Organisation shall be located in Stockholm.

## **Article 13**

### **PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

The Organisation and its staff shall enjoy such privileges and immunities in the Host State as shall be stipulated in the Headquarters Agreement referred to in Article 1, paragraph 3.

## **Article 14**

### **FINANCE**

(1) The operation of the Organisation shall be financed by voluntary contributions and donations from governments and others. Other sources of financing may be sought by the Steering Committee provided that they are compatible with the objectives of the Network and the Organisation.

(2) The Partners and the Sponsoring Partners shall not be required to provide financial support to the Network or to the Organisation beyond voluntary contributions.

## **Article 15**

### **EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

(1) A full audit of the financial management and transactions of the Organisation shall be conducted on an annual basis.

(2) The audit shall be conducted by External Auditors from an independent international accounting firm appointed by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners. The External Auditor shall be appointed for a period of one year, which shall be subject to automatic renewal, unless the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners decides otherwise.

(3) The Steering Committee shall submit the audit report to the Partners and the Sponsoring Partners with any comments it may find required.

## **Article 16**

### **DISSOLUTION**

- (1) The Network may be dissolved by a four-fifths majority vote of the Partners. A decision to dissolve the Network may be taken through distant communication.
- (2) The Steering Committee shall, within a year after the decision to dissolve the Network, invite the Sponsoring Partners to an extraordinary meeting where it shall present a proposal for the dissolution or remodelling of the Organisation, including such financial dispositions that are in conformity with the objective of the Network according to these Statutes and that have been approved by the financial contributors of the Organisation.

## **Article 17**

### **AMENDMENTS**

- (1) Any amendment to these Statutes may be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Network Meeting and an unanimous decision of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners preceding or subsequent to the said Network Meeting. A proposal for an amendment shall be circulated to the Partners and Sponsoring Partners four weeks in advance of the respective meeting.
- (2) Any amendment adopted in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall enter into force in accordance with Article IV of the Memorandum of Understanding referred to under paragraph 2 of Article 19.

## **Article 18**

### **WITHDRAWAL**

- (1) Any Partner may withdraw from the Network. Such withdrawal shall become effective upon the written notification to the Executive Secretary.
- (2) Any Sponsoring Partner may withdraw from the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation on the terms established in Article II of that agreement.

## **Article 19**

### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

- (1) The proposal to create the Organisation under the mandate set out in these Statutes has been endorsed and the content of these Statutes has been approved by the Partners of the Network at their meeting in Stockholm on 14 - 16 August 2001.
- (2) These Statutes have been accepted in a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation by Partners invited to become original Sponsoring Partners of the Organisation.

(3) These Statutes will enter into force upon the entry into force of the Memorandum of Understanding referred to under paragraph 2.

## **Article 20**

### **DEPOSITARY**

The Executive Secretary shall be the depositary of these Statutes and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation. The Depositary shall communicate all notifications relating to the Statutes and the Memorandum of Understanding to all Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Depositary shall also present a summary of these notifications to the Network Meeting.