

PROPOSAL TO MAKE A SET OF TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE GOVERNING STATUTES OF THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP AND GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATION

GWP NETWORK MEETING. DATE: 22 MAY 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In November 2023, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Steering Committee, in collaboration with its Finance and Sponsoring Partners, commissioned an independent governance review to assess the organisation's structure and effectiveness. The review, led by consultant Judith Sargentini, involved extensive consultations with Regional Water Partnerships and other key stakeholders across the GWP Network.

Following the conclusion of the review in February 2024, the Steering Committee endorsed a set of structural and organisational reforms based on its recommendations. At their Annual Meeting in June 2024, the Sponsoring Partners reviewed the proposed implementation actions and recommended that GWP proceed with reforms aimed at strengthening the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) as a stable and robust intergovernmental organisation. Key recommendations included expanding engagement with a broader group of countries, decentralising programming and financial responsibility to the regional level, and avoiding the re-creation of a centralised administration in Stockholm or any other high-income country.

In February 2025, in response to these governance recommendations and amid a rapidly evolving global context—including shifting development finance priorities and the intensifying water and climate crisis—the GWP Steering Committee initiated the Global Transformation Agenda (GTA) on Water Investments. This initiative reflects the evolving global political landscape, increased engagement from emerging economies, and growing opportunities for collaboration. Building on GWP's strong track record in water governance and its role in catalysing climate-resilient water investments, the GTA is designed to significantly accelerate both the pace and scale of investment mobilisation, with the goal of achieving greater and more lasting impact.

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, improved water decision-making and investment planning. Throughout its history, GWP has supported water sector reforms in over 90 countries and 25 transboundary basins.

The Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments represents GWP's comprehensive institutional response to the recommendations of the governance review. It focuses on enhancing the impact and effectiveness of GWPO and the broader GWP Network. As part of this transformation, GWPO and its partners are proposing to update the governing Statutes.

2.0 PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AMENDMENTS TO THE GWP AND GWPO STATUTES

Amendments to the GWP Statutes are governed by Article 17 of the [GWP and GWPO Statutes](#), which states:

(1) Any amendment to these Statutes may be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Network Meeting and a 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.

According to Article IV of the [Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation of 2002](#), the amended Statutes come into force one year after the decision of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners.

3.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GWP AND GWPO STATUTES

The following amendments are proposed to clarify existing provisions in the GWP and GWPO Statutes and to ensure their effective implementation in line with current practices of intergovernmental organisations and the use of modern digital tools. The proposed changes pertain to the four Articles outlined below:

(a) Article 1(3): Legal Status

The proposed amendment to Article 1(3) aims to facilitate the decentralisation of GWPO. To enable GWPO to establish its presence across multiple countries, the Statutes must provide the legal basis for concluding Headquarters Agreements with more than one State.

(b) Article 8 (5): The Nomination Committee

Amendments to Article 8(5) are intended to improve the efficiency of the GWP Nominations Committee's mandate. The Committee is responsible for nominating the GWP Chair, Steering Committee members, and both External and Internal Auditors, with final appointments made by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners.

(c) Article 12: Location

The proposed amendment to Article 12 addresses the flexibility in the physical location of the GWPO Secretariat. It would allow for the Secretariat to be hosted or co-hosted by more than one country, reflecting GWP's decentralisation efforts.

(d) Article 13 Privileges and immunities

The amendment to Article 13 seeks to ensure that GWPO staff are granted the necessary privileges and immunities in all countries where the Secretariat is located. This provision is essential to support decentralised operations and ensure consistent legal protection for staff in line with international norms. Table 1 presents the current provisions of the GWP and GWPO Statutes (2012) alongside the proposed amendments.

Table 1: Proposed Amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes

Current articles in the 2012 GWP& GWPO Statutes	Recommended Amendments ¹ for the 2025 GWP & GWPO Statutes
<p>Article 1: LEGAL STATUS</p> <p>Article 1(3) currently reads as follows 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.</p>	<p>Article 1: LEGAL STATUS</p> <p>Article 1(3) shall be amended as follows: <i>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 a Host State/s of the Secretariat will be provided in a Headquarters Agreement between that State and the Organisation.</i></p>
<p>Article 8: THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE</p> <p>Article 8 (5) currently reads as follows 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.</p>	<p>Article 8: THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE</p> <p>Article 8 (5) shall be amended as follows: <i>The nominations shall be presented to the Partners at least six weeks 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.</i></p>
<p>Article 12: LOCATION</p> <p>Article 12 currently reads as follows The Secretariat of the Organisation shall be located in Stockholm.</p>	<p>Article 12: LOCATION</p> <p>Article 12 shall be amended as follows: <i>The Secretariat of the Organisation shall be virtual, or located within a host organisation, or in the State/s where the Organisation has entered into a headquarters agreement with the government of that State.</i></p>
<p>Article 13 PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES</p> <p>Article 13 currently reads as follows 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.</p>	<p>Article 13 PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES</p> <p>Article 13 shall be amended as follows: <i>The Organisation and its staff shall enjoy such privileges and immunities in the Host State/s as shall be stipulated in the Headquarters Agreement referred to in Article 1, paragraph 3, and Article 12 above</i></p>

¹ Updated proposed amendments to the earlier submission to the GWP Steering Committee and the Sponsoring Partners by the GWP Executive Secretary and CEO of the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) on November 11, 2024.

4.0. ADOPTION PROCESS OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE GWP AND GWPO STATUTES

In accordance with Article 17, a resolution outlining the proposed amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes (see Table 1) will be presented to registered GWP Partners and submitted for a formal vote or a no-objection decision during the Network Meeting (General Assembly) on 22 May 2025. Adoption of the amendments requires approval by at least two-thirds of the Network Meeting. Partners attending the Network Meeting are encouraged to review the proposed amendments in advance to engage actively in the deliberations.

In June 2025, the same resolution will be presented to the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners, where a unanimous decision will be sought for final adoption. In accordance with Article IV of the [Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation of 2002](#), the amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes, if approved, will enter into force in June 2026, one year after the Sponsoring Partners' decision.