

High Level Panel on Water

Brief Summary Note of 6th “Sherpas”/Advisors Meeting

September 21-22, 2016, New York, USA

- The 6th meeting of Sherpas/Advisors to the Members of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) was held in the margins of the second HLPW meeting in New York, on 21-22 September 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by the Sherpas of the Panel Members of Mauritius and Mexico, with the presence of Sherpas/Advisors of other HLPW members (with the exception of Jordan and Senegal), as well as the Joint Secretariat.
- The meeting on 21 September 2016 was held in the morning prior to the second HLPW meeting, which took place in the afternoon of the same day. Sherpas/Advisors were debriefed by the Joint Secretariat on the HLPW meeting’s logistics, agenda, and media stakeout. The meeting provided also an opportunity for Sherpas/Advisors to start discussions on next steps.
- Sherpas/Advisor discussed the informal technical meetings which were to be organized during the next day by the Joint Secretariat to help advance the preparation of priority initiatives: (1) Stocktaking and calls for recommendations on financing opportunities, including innovative financing mechanisms, for water and sanitation services and infrastructure, (2) Making an appeal to existing global networks to launch challenge events to stimulate thinking that will shift the needle in implementing the new water agenda, and (3) Launch of a multi-stakeholder dialogue about the principles and approaches to valuing water. The venue was kindly provided by the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations.
- The meeting on 22 September 2016 started with the discussion of the way forward in implementing the initiatives drawn from the Action Plan. Following the agreement in Stockholm, dedicated initiatives will be led by a subset of Sherpas/Advisors as lead coordinators and supported by the Joint Secretariat, also to ensure inclusive communication with all Sherpas/Advisors.
- The possible involvement of the HLPW at COP22 in Marrakesh in November was discussed as one of the priority initiatives outlined in the Joint Statement. In accordance with the Joint Statement, Sherpas/Advisors emphasized the urgency to expedite planning for Marrakesh and requested the Co-chairs of the Panel to reach out to the outgoing and incoming COP Presidencies, including the Climate Champions of the Action Agenda of UNFCCC, to ensure that water will be adequately reflected as part



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of the COP22 agenda. The Working Paper published by the World Bank Group titled “High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy” was presented as a good basis for HLPW messages and could be used as background material for further deliberations.

- In closing, Sherpas/Advisors discussed the knowledge platform content and management, as well as its use to engage with stakeholders. The knowledge platform will be based on three core functions: 1. the official HLPW website will be used as an official platform to communicate from the HLPW the outside world 2. the WEF hosted open-ended platform to advance interactive engagement with the wider public around dedicated initiatives as drawn from the Action Plan 3. the closed platform for Sherpas/Advisors will be developed for internal communication.