INITIATIVE TO ENSURE WATER & SANITATION FOR 10 BN PEOPLE

A HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON WATER CONCEPT

CHAMPIONS > SOUTH AFRICA & PERU

DRAFT VERISION: NOVEMBER 20TH, 2016

BACKGROUND

Water scarcity is both a natural and a human-made phenomenon. There is enough freshwater on the planet for 7 billion people but it is distributed unevenly and too much of it is wasted, polluted and unsustainably managed.

The proposed intervention will focus on how population growth will contribute to water scarcity, and what can be done about it, to provide water and sanitation services to the growing world population, which is estimated to surpass 9 billion people by 2050. It is projected that the world will face a 40% shortfall in freshwater by 2030, according to the [UN’s 2015 World Water Development Report](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/2015-water-for-a-sustainable-world/). If the estimation comes true, the consequences could be catastrophic. Food and energy production would suffer and people would be forced to move away from water-stressed areas, which may result in conflicts that could follow.

However the finger of blame is more often pointed at poor management and failed governance, rather than a lack of rain or water sources and thus the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals should go beyond just basic access to water and sanitation; the [Panel envision a world](http://www.unwater.org/sdgs/indicators-and-monitoring/en/) where everyone has access to clean and affordable drinking water and a safe place to go to the toilet.

* On July 28th, 2010, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) recognized the Human Right to Water and Sanitation ([HRWS](http://www.un.org/es/comun/docs/?symbol=A/RES/64/292&lang=E)).
* On Dec 18th, 2015, the right to sanitation was recognised as a [distinct human right](http://ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16903&LangID=E) to highlight specific challenges: whilst 663m people lack improved access to drinking water (JMP WHO/UNICEF, 2015), 2,400m people lack improved access to sanitation.
* The global MDG target for drinking water (i.e. 88% of the population with access to improved sources by 2015) was met and surpassed in 2010: 91% of the global population uses an improved drinking water source.
* Yet, 663 million people still lack access to improved drinking water. 1.8 bn people still lack access to safe drinking water.
* LDCs did not meet the target, though, despite 42% of their population having gained access since 1990. As a matter of fact, the lowest levels of coverage are found in the 48 UN-designated LDCs.
* Around 87% of all the world population lacking improved access to drinking water are in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and South Eastern Asia.
* The global MDG target for sanitation (i.e. halving the proportion of the population without basic sanitation, thus extending access to up to 77% of the global population) was not met, despite some progress.
* 2.4 billion people globally have no access to improved sanitation facilities. 946 million of them still defecate in the open.
* LDCs did not meet the target either, and only 27% of their current population has gained access since 1990. Due to population growth, the number of people in sub-Saharan Africa without access to sanitation has increased since 1990.
* Less than 4% of the world population without access to improved sanitation live outside Southern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Asia, South Eastern Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
* There are clear disparities between urban and rural areas. 8 out of 10 people still without improved drinking water sources and 7 out of 10 people without improved sanitation live in rural areas. 9 out of 10 still practice open defecation.

KEY MESSAGES (IN LINE WITH THE HLPW ACTION PLAN)

1. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation are basic human rights. Universal coverage is therefore a must for the international community.
2. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation could arguably be said to be linked to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In other words, improved access to drinking water and sanitation yields a number of benefits for society and the economy.
3. Despite significant progress since 1990, major gaps remain in wide areas of the World (see above). Therefore, a significant effort at different levels (political, financial, technical, on institutional grounds, etc.) would be needed to bridge those gaps.
4. Challenges in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector are unlikely to be adequately addressed unless water security concerns and improved water resources management are factored in.
5. Those lacking improved access to drinking water still drink. Those lacking access to improved sanitation services still defecate. In other words, the actual challenge is even more critical than one may think.
6. The gender dimension is critical. In Africa, women do 90% of the work of gathering water. Women and girls spend up to 6h every day fetching water. On average, a 15-yr-old girl spends twice as much time as a 15-yr-old boy in guaranteeing water access for her family. In places like India, girls see the probability of being raped increased during open-air defecation. Those girls who do not have access to proper sanitation after her first menstruation either leave school or remain registered but missing one week a month. There is a lot of [evidence](http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/worldwaterday2015/docs/Water%20For%20Women.pdf) about this key dimension.

PRIORITY ACTION #1 (CHAMPION: PERU)

Initiate/launch a Challenge inviting the international community to present innovative solutions to provide access to safe and clean drinking water and adequate sanitation to women and girls in the “most remote dwelling” in a village (could be expanded to other categories: refugee camps, rural, peri-urban, access for people with disability, etc.)

* Innovative solutions have widely shown that socially minded, economically feasible businesses can improve access to drinking water and sanitation while being less dependent on subsidies and grants. Further, innovation can also be found in the design of institutions, economic incentives, meaningful stakeholder engagement, etc. Though often effective, those innovative solutions need to be replicated, accelerated and upscaled within different local contexts and conditions.

Specific activities to be explored and agreed:

1. Exploring with donors (both development aid agencies and multilateral banks) and international companies ways to a substantial increase of innovation funding for the sector. Balance between different stages of innovation (generation, development, diffusion) would be needed.
2. Fostering collaborations between innovators (in the private sector or public institutions) and practitioner organisations. (Maybe explore the possibility of liaising with ASHOKA Globalizer, with previous experience on impact scaling strategies of social innovations).
3. Developing a system by which independent evidence can be established or validated. This may require the HLPW to team up with other organisations in order to set up a decentralised and affordable structure for innovators in all parts of the world.
4. Developing appropriate agreed methodologies for capturing, disseminating and evaluating innovations in improved access to drinking water and sanitation. This should include balance between targeted and open approaches to the identification of practical needs and solutions so as to attract both incremental and radical innovations within a changing environment (i.e. long-term displacements, climate and weather extremes, etc.).
5. Developing a catalogue of innovative practices, including experiences in fields such as water supply technologies, water harvesting, sanitation alternatives, water quality and wastewater treatment, community management, water efficiency, financing tools, etc.

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| Increase Innovation Funding | Aspirational Statement | December ‘16  | PERU - SOUTH AFRICAProposal of statement, to be subscribed by HLPW members |
| Collaboration between innovators | Aspirational Statement | December ‘16  | PERU - SOUTH AFRICAProposal of statement, to be subscribed by HLPW members |
| Team up with other organizations | Concrete Action | Jan-March ‘17 | PERU - SOUTH AFRICAStakeholder mapping and initial contact |
| Capturing, disseminating and evaluating innovations | Concrete Action | March ’17 – July ‘17 | PERU - SOUTH AFRICAInnovations mapping and evaluation |
| Catalogue of innovative practices | Concrete Action | Aug ’17 – Oct’17 | PERU - SOUTH AFRICASelection among existing catalogues of innovative practices |

PRIORITY ACTION #2 (CHAMPION: SOUTH AFRICA)

Encourage the development and deployment of public awareness and education campaigns for civil society, businesses and government representatives around water quality, sanitation, gender and health.

The plan should be Action orientated and focused less on the theoretical inserts. The work of the focus group on this priority action should clearly indicate how to preserve and ensure people in both rural and urban areas use water efficiently and wisely. The following are ongoing campaigns at national level that focus on water related issues to inspire people and organizations to take action in order to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

The existing campaigns rolled out at national level in South Africa will use best practices and the knowledge already gained to work through the structures of the High Level Panel on Water Panel members by implementing on a wider scale (regionally and globally) at Sherpa level the “War on leaks” and “Adopt a river” campaigns using the following low technology high thinking methods:

“War on leaks”

The South African Department of Water and Sanitation in partnership with municipalities, and other organisations, has a programme focussed on water conservation and water demand management by training fifteen thousand artisans, plumbers, water agents who will fix leaking taps rapidly in their local communities and serve as advocates and ambassadors of water.

Municipalities with high water losses and non revenue making on water were selected as priority municipalities. Unemployed youth to be trained as water warriors were locally recruited from these municipalities. The War on Leaks project is set out in three phases that will be carried out over the five year period (2015 - 2020).

“Adopt a river”

The Adopt-a-River campaign was launched a means of creating awareness among South Africans of the need to care for our scarce water resources and to actively participate in the protection and management of our water resources. The initiative also aims to piece together, in a sustainable manner, the aims of aquatic ecosystem health, economic growth and human health, as well as co-dependent land and water-use principles. Residents, majority of them being women, have volunteered to clean rivers passing through their communities with an aim of rendering the water usable for downstream users, in particular those in the rural areas who still use river water from the source at minimal cost. The two programmes are government initiatives that yielded positive results, hence the replication can be one of the basic best practices that involves grassroots volunteers at a minimal stipend. Involving volunteer groups and communities in the protection, management and monitoring of water resources is not a new concept and is used successfully in many countries.

Activities and targeted platforms

All water and sanitation platforms at a global level (events and summits like Budapest, Davos) that will allow the panel members to advocate on the initiatives and lobby for support from other Member States.

PRIORITY ACTION #4 (CHAMPION: PERU)

Encourage (and commit) to scaling up access to safe and clean drinking water and adequate sanitation especially for women and girls.

* Scaling up requires i) political willingness; ii) strong institutional set up; iii) specific budget allocated; iv) social appropriation; and v) local stakeholder involvement.
* The current political context in Peru, where the new Government has clearly allocated a very high priority to water & sanitation services provision, places Peru in a very good position to lead this action.

Specific activities to be explored and agreed:

1. Creating national Water & Sanitation Funds, gathering public and private resources (including international cooperation). Fund execution should be linked to objective accomplishment / service provided.
2. Planning actions to increase the scalability of national programmes for the expansion of drinking water and sanitation services, mainstreaming gender issues.
3. Increasing the capacity of relevant actors (different levels of government, water utilities, community water provision, water services regulator, etc.) to scale up.
4. Fostering and supporting strategic choices to support vertical (institutionalization) and horizontal (expansion or replication) scaling up.

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| **PRIORITY ACTION #4****Scaling up access to water and sanitation**  | **Type of action** | **Timeline** | **Roles and Responsibilities** |
| Water & Sanitation National Funds | Aspirational Statement | December ‘16  | PERU – SOUTH AFRICAProposal of statement, to be subscribed by HLPW members |
| Water & Sanitation National Funds | Concrete Action | July - Sep ‘17 | PERU Presentation of on-going lighthouse initiative “Secure Water Fund - PERU” |
| Increase the scalability of national programmes | Aspirational Statement | December ‘16 | PERU – SOUTH AFRICAProposal of statement, to be subscribed by HLPW members |
| Increase the scalability of national programmes | Concrete Action | Jan - March ‘17 | PERU Presentation of on-going lighthouse initiative “National Rural Water and Sanitation Program- PERU” |
| Increase the capacity of national water actors | Concrete Action | Jan - March ‘17 | PERU - SOUTH AFRICAMapping of tools and platforms for capacity building in water.( UNESCO-IHE, GWP Toolbox, IDB, etc) |

PRIORITY ACTION #6 (CHAMPION: PERU)

Encourage the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

* In Latin America water systems and rural sanitation are being operated mostly by community organizations and have obtained good results through coordinated work between different levels of government and local community organizations, as managers of water and sanitation services. This has yielded a positive impact on the sustainability of the systems, the improvement of quality, the accomplishment of regulations and closing gaps in the framework of SDG6.

Specific activity to be explored and agreed:

* Given the high level of atomisation of community-based organisations for water and sanitation services delivery, promoting national registers of these community-based providers. For instance, Peru has identified and registered over 45,000 local organisations managing water and sanitation systems. The process of registering these organisations provided relevant insights on key gaps for the sustainability of those systems.
* Exploring context-based programmes to increase economies of scale and scope of these community-based organisations.

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| **PRIORITY ACTION #6****Local Communities in W&S Management** | **Type of action** | **Timeline** | **Roles and Responsibilities** |
| Promote national registration of Local Communities in W&S Management  | Aspirational Statement | December ‘16  | PERU - SOUTH AFRICAProposal of statement, to be subscribed by HLPW members |
| Promote national registration of Local Communities in W&S Management  | Concrete Action | July - Sep ‘17 | PERU Presentation of lighthouse initiative “Rural community administration of water services (under 2000 inhabitants)”  |