**High Level Panel on Water**

**Brief Summary Note of 1st “Sherpas”/Advisors Meeting**

April 13, 2016, Washington DC

The World Bank Group and the United Nations, as the Joint Secretariat of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), hosted the first meeting of the “Sherpas”/Advisors to the Panel members on Wednesday 13 April, 2016 in Washington, DC. The meeting was co-chaired by Mauritius and Mexico.

After welcoming remarks from the Joint Secretariat, the Co-Chairs and delegations discussed their vision for the Panel and the possible areas of focus. The meeting emphasized the need for the Panel to have a clear action-oriented vision towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals influenced by water, and in particular SDG 6 – “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. Recognizing the complexity and interlinkages with multiple stakeholders, the meeting stressed the importance for the Panel’s work to be inclusive but action orientated, delivering on the key water issues agreed upon UN Member States in the 2030 Agenda. In order for the HLPW to deliver, it was suggested by several Delegates to explore the possibility to extend the Panel’s term by 1 to 2 years.

Highlighting the water challenges countries are facing due to climate change, population growth, unsustainable water management, lack of safe drinking water and sanitation, and the negative impact to economy, society and environment, the meeting emphasized the Panel’s commitment to achieve a transformational impact. The importance of integrated water resource management was discussed, and therefore the need for cross-coordination between sectors, ministries and countries. The meeting discussed the importance of the Panel putting forward innovative, integrated and long-term effective solutions, which are economically self-sustaining.

The meeting requested the Joint Secretariat to provide a short Communique to be issued on the occasion of the First Meeting of the HLPW. The meeting also welcomed the strategic note, as provided by the Joint Secretariat, and provided guidance for revisions. This (revised) background note will be annexed to the Communique

The meeting underscored the importance for the Panel of engaging with other Member States and non-state actors and requested the Joint-Secretariat to develop modalities for this engagement.

**Key Outcomes:**

*The meeting endorsed the following issues:*

* A clear vision of the Panel towards implementation delivering on key water issues agreed upon UN Member States in the 2030 Agenda, and in particular SDG6.
* The need for the Panel to focus on:
  + A new narrative on water that includes strong guidance to the international community for paving the way forward for achieving the SDG6 and related targets;
  + Innovative, comprehensive, systemic, and long-term solutions, which are economically self-sustaining;
  + Innovative financing mechanisms, along with capacity development and technology transfer, as well as the participation of local communities;
  + An action and implementation orientated approach;
  + Development of necessary infrastructure for data collection and reporting;
  + "Lighthouse initiatives" that can inspire implementation of water related sustainable development projects;
  + Linkage of the water initiatives with climate change adaptation.
* The need for a strong focus on communication, including raising awareness and motivating action in order to ensure participation by civil society, governments and the private sector.
* SIDS are highly vulnerable to climate change whose impacts results in considerable economic loss and environmental degradation.  The SAMOA Pathway Resolution reaffirmed that there should be a smooth transition of SIDS which have recently graduated in order not to lose concessionary financing. Durable partnership and support of the international community must be sought when addressing priority areas concerning vulnerabilities of SIDS.
* Welcoming the establishment of a supporting, multi-stakeholder process involving civil society groups, academics, experts and the private sector. This informal network, convened by the Joint Secretariat, will be an inclusive network that can provide insight and best practice examples to the HLPW and which will help convey the core messages of the HLPW to a wider audience.

**Next Steps:**

*The meeting agreed on the following next steps:*

* A brief public statement will be prepared by the Joint Secretariat for endorsement by the Panel Members on April 21 in New York. The statement will be circulated to the Sherpas/Advisors by the Joint Secretariat on Friday 15 April to all delegations for final review. Comments are due 9am Monday 18 April.
* The public statement will be complemented by a background note. The background note will be revised by the Joint Secretariat based on guidance from the Sherpa meeting. The annexes of the concept note that were circulated ahead of the meeting will remain an internal document to the Sherpa group. It will be used as a working document to advance in the discussion about the specific actions the panel may undertake.
* The Joint Secretariat will circulate to the Sherpas a UN/WBG press release for input. All Panel Members and the two Special Advisors are requested to submit a short quote which will be annexed to the joint press release.
* The next face-to-face meeting of Sherpas/Advisors is planned for Thursday 21 April before the official launch of the Panel. Timing and logistics for this meeting will be circulated shortly. The meeting stressed the importance of regular Sherpa calls and meeting to sustain momentum of the HLPW.
* The Co-Chairs, through their Sherpas, are requested for regular briefings of the Member States in NYC.

**Delegations in attendance:**

**Mauritius (Co-Chair)**

* H.E. Mr. Soorooj Phokeer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mauritius to the U.S.
* Mr. H. I. Antish Bhugun, First Secretary, Mauritius Embassy, Washington D.C.
* Kayoum Safee, Second Secretary, Mauritius Embassy, Washington D.C.

**Mexico (Co-Chair)**

* Dr. David Korenfeld Federman, President of the International Hydrological Programme, UNESCO
* Mr. Roberto Olivares, Governor Representative of the World Water Council and President of the International Water Association (IWA) Mexico
* Ms. Claudia Coria-Bustos Pérez, International Affairs Manager, National Commission of Water of Mexico (CONAGUA)
* Mr. Alfonso Camarena, Coordinator of the General Direction in National Commission of Water of Mexico (CONAGUA)
* Mr. Alejandro Cervantes, General Director of the peninsula Baja California basin organism in National Commission of Water of Mexico (CONAGUA)

**Australia**

* Mr. Ewen McDonald, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
* Marcus Howard, Director, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
* Mr. Colin Hunter, Minister Counsellor (Agriculture and Water Resources), Embassy of Australia, Washington DC
* Mr Bill Costello, Minister Counsellor (International Development), Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

**Bangladesh**

* Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh
* Mr. Sk. Aktar Hossain, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

**Hungary**

* Ambassador Csaba Korosi, Director for Environment Sustainability, Office of the President

**Netherlands**

* Mr. Henk Ovink, Netherlands Special Envoy for International Water Affairs
* Mr. Nicolaas (Niek) de Regt, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN NYC

**South Africa**

* Ms. Margaret- Ann Diedricks, Director General, South African Department of Water and Sanitation
* Ms. Nchedi Sophia Maphokga-Moripe, Chief Director: Global Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships, South African Department of Water and Sanitation

**Tajikistan**

* Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov, PR of Tajikistan
* Mr. Jonibek Hikmatov, First secretary of the Mission of Tajikistan
* Mr. Ilhomjon Rajabov, Advisor, World Bank Executive Director’s office

**Dr. Han Seung-soo, Special Advisor**

* Mr. Kenzo Hiroki, Vice President, College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
* Ms. Taeko Yokota, Programme Management Officer, Office of Special Envoy of SG for DRR and Water
* Mr. Hirotada Matsuki, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

**Mr. Manual Pulgar-Vidal, Special Advisor**

* Mr. Jorge Gastelumendi, Ministry of the Environment
* Mr. Alberto Hart, Counselor of the Peruvian embassy in Washington, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**World Bank Group**

* Mrs. Jennifer J. Sara, Senior Director for Water
* Mr. Patrick Verkooijen, Special Advisor
* Mrs. Jyoti Shukla, Senior Manager for Water
* Mr. William Rex, Global Lead Water Security
* Mr. Stephane Dahan, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist
* Mrs. Zita De Pooter, Program Analyst

**United Nations**

* Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), UN DESA
* Mr. Ivan Vera, Chief, Water, Energy and Capacity Development Branch, DSD, UN DESA
* Mr. Nicolas Franke, Associate Expert in Water Policy, DSD, UN DESA