**High Level Panel on Water**

**Brief Summary Note of Sherpas/Advisors Meeting**

22-23 May, 2016, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

* The government of The Netherlands hosted the meeting of the Sherpas/Advisors to the Members of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), from 22-23 May 2016 in Rotterdam. The meeting was co-chaired by Mauritius and Mexico with the presence of Sherpas/Advisors of all HLPW members, as well as the Joint Secretariat and invited experts (see Annex I – Attendance List).
* Sherpas/Advisors discussed the zero draft action plan of the HLPW and highlighted, amongst others, the importance of separating the actions of Panel Members from those of the Sherpas/Advisors and other actors (including the “Friends of the Panel”). The meeting highlighted the need for a stronger link between the Action Plan, the Terms of Reference of the Panel, the Joint Communique and Background Note as adopted on April 21.
* Sherpas/Advisors also highlighted, amongst others, the importance of achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, as well as access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. The link between the successful implementation of SDG 6 and other SDGS – and related targets - was also noted as an important consideration for the further development of the Action Plan. It was recommended to separate the action plan into two documents, i.e. HLPW Action Plan for the Panel itself and a supportive activity plan for the Sherpas/Joint Secretariat.
* The meeting informally agreed on a conceptual framework for the action plan (“the flower”, as illustrated below) while also highlighting the need for a clear linkage between (i) the conceptual framework (“the flower”), (ii) identified priority actions and (iii) key events in which the narrative and transformative actions could be advanced.
* Selected experts were invited to the meeting in their individual capacity and were requested to share knowledge and experience related to elements of the zero order draft action plan.
* As a follow-up to the meeting, experts were asked to provide further input to elements of the revised action plan by drafting indicative ‘framing notes’ addressing key areas identified in “the flower”. Contributions from the Experts included offers to carry out mapping exercises, collect best practices hold regional meetings on water strategies and setting up of a data Fund.
* The meeting also discussed the need to establish an interactive/dynamic platform as an open-ended collaboration space for (i) Sherpas amongst themselves, and (ii) a possible platform for “Friends of the Panel” to engage with the Panel. Such an open-ended platform would provide, amongst others, the opportunity to share information, ask questions, solicit comments and feedback from a broad audience, including Friends of the Panel. The Sherpas/Advisors welcomed the idea of such a platform and requested the Joint Secretariat to take the necessary steps to operationalize such a platform as soon as possible. The Joint Secretariat highlighted the need to further explore possible legal implications and copyrights issues potentially linked to the use of such a platform.
* A zero order draft Communication Strategy of the HLPW, as prepared by South Africa, was presented and briefly discussed. Further inputs by Sherpas/Advisors were requested with a view to revise the Communication Strategy, also taking into account substantive progress made during the meeting. The meeting emphasized the need to finalize the Communication Strategy at its next Sherpas/Advisors meeting in Mexico (see below) in line with the development of the Action Plan. A possible short video message from the Panel Members may be prepared for wide dissemination as part of the Communication Strategy once adopted.
* The importance of shared messages of the HLPW was also underscored, taking into account regional specificity and the dynamic nature of the Panel and its activities. An indicative joint ‘headline message’ was developed during the meeting building on the Joint Communique as adopted on April 21 (see Annex II – Headline Message), which may be further adapted as the Panel moves forward. Sherpas/Advisors were requested to seek approval of this ‘headline message’ by their respective Heads of State/Government.
* The Sherpas/Advisors had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Mark Rutte to whom they presented, amongst others, an initial progress report on the development of the Action Plan.
* The meeting also took note of the opportunity to further engage with other member states and Friends of the Panel over the summer possibly in the margins of international events, such as the launch of the World Water Forum in late June in Brasilia, the Dushanbe High Level Symposium on SDG6 and Targets to be held on 9-10 August 2016, and the World Water Week in Stockholm in late August/early September, ahead of the HLWP endorsement of its Action Plan.
* In closing, the Sherpas/Advisors expressed strong appreciation for the Netherlands host and welcomed the offer of Mexico to host the next Sherpas/Advisors meeting on July 6-8 in Mexico City. Selected experts will be invited to participate in part of the Mexico sessions. The Sherpas/Advisors took note of the possibility for convening another Sherpas/Advisors meeting in early August in Tajikistan in the event the Mexico meeting will not reach a conclusion on the Action Plan.

**Next Steps:**

* The **Joint Secretariat** will prepare a brief power point presentation on the HLPW by **May 31** for informal use by Sherpas/Advisors with a particular focus on the conceptual framework (“the flower”). See PPT attached.
* **Sherpas/Advisors** are requested to individually clear the “headline message”, as developed during the meeting, by their respective Heads of State/Government **within a week of circulation** of this Summary Note. See annex 2 below for “Headline Message”.
* The **Joint Secretariat** will share the “framing note” template with selected experts and Sherpas/Advisors with a request to provide input to the Joint Secretariat by **20 June**. See attachment for Template for Framing Notes.
* The **Joint Secretariat** will review and consolidate the “framing notes” with possible input from UN Water. Based on these framing notes and the guidance as provided during the Sherpas/Advisors meeting, the Joint Secretariat will share a revised Action Plan with Sherpas/Advisors by **27 June**. As further input to this process, the Joint Secretariat will schedule informal bilateral calls with all Sherpas/Advisors.
* The **Joint Secretariat** will organize a conference call with Sherpas/Advisors for **June 29, 10 AM EST** with a view to provide an update on the preparations for the Mexico Sherpa meeting.
* **Sherpas/Advisors and the Joint Secretariat** will submit written comments to South Africa on the zero draft Communication Strategy by **31 May**. Based on this input, South Africa will work with the Joint Secretariat on a revised Communication Strategy which will be shared with Sherpas/Advisors by the Joint Secretariat on **27 June**.
* The **Joint Secretariat** will work with the World Economic Forum to develop an inclusive, open-ended online platform based on the guidance of the meeting with a view to its operationalization by **May 31**. Sherpas/Advisors will be invited to use this platform after its launch. The **Joint Secretariat** will organize a broad open-ended request for input to the Friends of the Panel to engage and provide further input to the HLPW following the Mexico Sherpas/Advisors meeting and the Co-Chairs/Co-Convenors meeting in the **second half of July** (see below).
* The **Joint Secretariat** will look into funding possibilities, amongst others, for (i) Sherpas/Advisors to attend meetings and (ii) selected expert advice as provided by Friends of the Water Panel, **ahead of the Mexico meeting**.
* The next face-to-face meeting of **Sherpas/Advisors** is planned for **6-8 July** at the Mariott Hotel in Mexico City, with the main objective to informally agree on (i) the revised Action Plan (narrative, actions and events) and the revised Communication Strategy.
* The **Co-Chairs** of the HLWP (Presidents of Mauritius and Mexico) and the two **co-convenors** (the UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank Group) are requested to convene a brief virtual meeting amongst themselves in the **second half of July** with a view, to find, amongst others, a common perspective on (i) the date for the next HLPW meeting, including its objective and deliverables, and (ii) how to further engage with other member states and Friends of the Panel.

**Annex I: Attendance List**

**Mauritius (Co-Chair)**

* Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations

**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. Bill Costello, Minister Counsellor (International Development), Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

**Bangladesh**

* Ms. Suraiya Begum ndc,Secretary, Prime Minister's Office
* Mr. Devabrata Chakraborty, Director (Governance Innovation),Prime Minister's Office

**Hungary**

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

**Jordan**

* Ms. Susan Kilani, Advisor / Water Quality & Water Resource Management, Ministry of Water and Irrigation

**Netherlands**

* Mr. Henk Ovink, Netherlands Special Envoy for International Water Affairs
* Ms. Michelle Kooy, UNESCO-IHE

**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

**Senegal**

* Mr. Amadou Diallo, Coordinator of the drinking water and sanitation Program Unit for the Millennium (Ministry of Water and Sanitation) of Senegal

**Tajikistan**

* Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan

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

* Mr. Kenzo Hiroki, Vice President, College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

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

* Mr. Jorge Gastelumendi, Director, Global Policy Lead for Water

**World Bank Group**

* Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, Special Adviser
* Mr. William Rex, Global Lead Water Security
* Mr. Stephane Dahan, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist

**United Nations**

* Mr. Ivan Vera, Chief, Water, Energy and Capacity Development Branch, DSD, UN DESA
* Mr. Nicolas Franke, Associate Expert in Water Policy, DSD, UN DESA

**Experts (individual capacity)**

* Professor Charles Vörösmarty, Director of City University of New York Environmental CrossRoads Initiative, Director of Advanced Science Research Center.
* Professor Pavel Kabat, Director General and Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
* Mr. Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser, UN-Water
* Ms. Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Programme Officer, UN-Water
* Mr. Dominic Waughray, Head of Public-Private Partnership, Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum Geneva
* Mr. Alex Mung, Head of Water Initiative, World Economic Forum
* Mr. Tom Soo, Executive-Director, World Water Council
* Mr. Torgny Holmgren, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute
* Ms. Kitty Vander Heijden, Director, World Resources Institute Europe
* Ms. Blanca Jimenez Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO
* Mr. Michael Sheldrick, Global Director of Policy and Advocacy, Global Poverty Project
* Dr. Jaap Kwadijk, Hydrology and flood management, Deltares
* Ms. Marieke Francke, Executive Director of International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR)

**Annex 2: HLPW “Headline Message”**

“Water is key to sustainable development and resilient economies. Water is critical for climate change adaptation. And the world is in dire need for a transformative approach.

* The world faces an enormous shortfall in water availability by 2030.
* Hundreds of millions of people do not have access to clean water and sanitation.
* Floods and droughts impose huge social and economic costs around the world, and climate variability will make water extremes worse.

“**The HLPW aims for a water development agenda for inclusive societies, resilient economies and sustainable environments**. The Panel will work with the global community to take action, initiate change and collaborate with the work of others to get to increased governance capacity, investment opportunities and innovative approaches.”

**The Joint Communique, as adopted on 21 April 2016, states the following:**

*“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world’s aspirations for a better future. Water*

*connects public health, food security, livable cities, energy for all, environmental wellbeing, and climate action. Water and sanitation are necessary for human dignity and economic growth. Yet, as the SDGs make clear, the world needs to transform the way it manages its water resources, as well as improve water and sanitation related services for billions of people.*

*Pressure on water is rising, and action is urgent. Growing populations, more water-intensive patterns of growth, increasing rainfall variability, and pollution are combining in many places to make water one of the greatest risks to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Floods and droughts already impose huge social and economic costs around the world, and climate variability will make water extremes worse. If the world continues on its current path, projections suggest that the world may face a 40% shortfall in water availability by 2030. The consequences of such stress are local, transboundary and global in todays interconnected world.*

*Achieving the SDGs will require governments, societies, and the private sector to change the way they use and manage water. To accelerate this transformation the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Kim have convened a High Level Panel on Water. The Panel, at the Heads of State and Government level, will provide the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and*

*improving water and sanitation related services.*

*The panel will develop an improved and comprehensive narrative on water; shine a light on examples of policies and institutions that could help the world onto a more sustainable pathway; and – in line with the commitments made in Addis Ababa – advocate approaches to financing and implementation that would help change reality on the ground. Since change requires the participation of all stakeholders, the Panel welcomes an open and growing ‘friends of the water panel’ network that encourages a voice for all and seeks to learn from the knowledge that already exists.”*