Participants

Steering Committee Members
1. Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, SWA
   Executive Chair and Steering Committee Chair (CTA)
2. Mr. Andre Nonguierma, Burkina Faso (SN)
3. Mr. Anil Bhadra Khanal, Nepal (ABK)
4. Ms. Angie Saleh, UNICEF (AS)
5. Mr. Aziz Rafiee, ACSF (AR)
6. Mr. Canisius Kanangire, AMCOW (CK)
7. Mr. Do Manh Cuong, Viet Nam (DMC)
8. Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Nigeria (EA)
9. Mr. Kepha Ombacho, Kenya (KO)
10. Mr. Kevin O’Callaghan, Medentech (KoC)
11. Mr. Manuel Salas Pereira, Costa Rica (MSP)
12. Mr. Nilton Trindade, Mozambique (NT)
13. Mr. Oumar Diallo, World Bank (OD)
14. Mr. Patrick Moriarty, IRC (PM)
15. Mr. Pie Djivo, Benin (PD)
16. Mr. Pim van der Male, DGIS (PvdM)
17. Ms. Rabab Hassan Abbas, Egypt (RHA)
18. Mr. Samson Shivaji, KEWASNET/ANEW (SS)
19. Ms. Sumaira Gul, AHKMT Trust (SG)
20. Mr. Thilo Panzerbieter, German Toilet Organization/EWP (TP)
21. Ms. Vanessa Dubois, ARCA (VD)

Observer
23. Ms. Daniella Bostrom, UN-Water (DB)

Host Government (Morocco)
24. Ms. Safaa Bahije (SB)
25. Mr. Abdeslam Ziyad (AZ)

Guests
26. Ms. Erma Uytewaal, IRC (EU)
27. Mr. David Winters, Retreat Facilitator (DW)
28. Mr. Johan Gély, SDC (JG)
29. Mr. Peter Mahal Akat, South Sudan (PMA)
30. Mr. Guy Hutton, UNICEF (GH)
31. Ms. Amanda Robertson, USAID (ARo)

Secretariat
32. Ms. Alexandra Reis, Communications (ARe)
33. Mr. Muyatwa Sitali, Country Engagement (MS)
34. Ms. Heloise Chicou, CSO Advisor (HC)

Regrets
Ms. Mangalika Lokuliyanage, Sri Lanka
Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk, Norway
Mr. Tinayeshe Mutazu, Zimbabwe
### Decision 1: Minutes
The Steering Committee approves the minutes of its March 2018 meeting.

### Decision 2: Agenda
The Steering Committee approves the meeting’s draft agenda.

### Decision 3: Report by Executive Chair
The Steering Committee calls on the Secretariat to prepare a communications package for the Framework.

The SC requests that future CEO reports should include a qualitative analysis of successes and challenges.

### Decision 4: Feedback on Pending Actions and Decisions by the Secretariat
The Steering Committee approves the recommendations by the Secretariat to:

- a) develop a draft of the knowledge management strategy until the end of 2018;
- b) implement the SC decision on how to apply the SWA framework to all country typologies.

### Decision 5: Approaches by the Secretariat to strengthen Country Engagement
The Steering Committee decides the following:

- a) SC members, with the support of the Secretariat, will reach out to their constituencies to ask those who have not yet updated their focal points to do so by July 30;
- b) SC members will hold discussions with their respective constituencies, to discuss the role of each partner and constituency in implementing the SWA framework, including in the roll out of the mutual accountability mechanism;

The Steering Committee also:

- a) approves the country outreach paper for organizing country visits of the SWA leadership and/or partners to selected countries, taking into consideration discussions at the SC meeting;
- b) requests the secretariat to incorporate recommendations from the CPWG in their workplan for 2018 and beyond.

### Decision 6: Country Processes Working Group (CPWG)
The Steering Committee approves the CPWG’s Workplan for the next semester of 2018.

### Decision 7: Engagement with Regional Platforms
The Steering Committee:

- a) endorses the proposals made for SWA engagement in upcoming regional events
- b) asks the Secretariat to work closely with partners at various levels and Working Groups to develop clear plans for engagement in relevant regional platforms

### Decision 8: Communication Strategy
The Steering Committee:

- a) requests its members to send feedback to the Secretariat on the draft Communications Strategy by 13 July;
- b) asks the Secretariat to update the document based on feedback and to re-circulate it to the Steering Committee for a non-objection approval.

### Decision 9: Positioning of SWA in the Global Water Architecture Working Group (GWAWG)
The Steering Committee adopts the recommendations of the GWAWG to:

- a) expand the mandate of the current HLPD WG, extending its responsibility beyond the HLM cycle towards SWA’s participation in the entire GWA. This may imply the need to refresh the working group’s membership.
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**Decision 10: 2018 Sector Ministers’ Meeting (SMM)**
The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a summary of the discussions held during session 14, which should be conveyed to the High-level Political Dialogue Working Group (HLPDWG). The Steering Committee also asks the HLPDWG to prepare a concept note by September 2018 for the 2019 SMM based on the strategic focus and topics recommended by the Steering Committee.

**Decision 11: New partners**
The Steering Committee rejects the application of the organization Jamn Maintenance.

**Decision 12: New partner criteria**
The Steering Committee requests the Civil Society and the Private Sector constituencies to review the criteria for joining the partnership ahead of the September virtual Steering Committee meeting.

**Decision 13: Update from the Governance and Financing Working Group (GFWG)**
The Steering Committee approves the GFWG Workplan for the next semester of 2018.

**Decision 14: Zimbabwe**
The Steering Committee asks the Executive Chair to raise concerns with Zimbabwe regarding their attendance of Steering Committee meetings in view of decision 15 of the Lisbon 2015 meeting.

**Decision 15: Nutrition Working Group (NWG)**
The Steering Committee approves the NWG’s Workplan for the next semester of 2018.

**Decision 16: Date and location of the second in-person SC meeting of 2018**
The Steering Committee agrees that the second in-person meeting will take place in 4-6 December in a location to be determined.

**Decision 17: Governance Document**
The Steering Committee approves the new Governance Document.
DAY 1

Session 1: Introduction and Overview
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) and ensured the quorum required for taking decisions of strategic importance for the partnership was met. She also called attention to the fact that the Government of Morocco kindly make interpretation services available in English, French and Spanish.

CTA asked for feedback on the SC meeting’s agenda and minutes of the previous virtual SC meeting (15 March 2018). Both documents were approved by consensus.

CTA also transmitted the regret of minister H.E. Madame Charafat Afailal, who could not join the meeting due to a conflict in her schedule. Mr. Abdeslam Ziyad will make a presentation about the state of WASH in the Kingdom of Morocco in her place.

CTA then shortly presented the SC with her views of the “State of the Partnership”. She thanked the SC for their trust in selecting her as SWA’s first CEO and underlined she will continue to rely on the support of the partners and Secretariat, but of the SC members in particular, because of their willingness to be more active. As she was just recently appointed as CEO, and therefore was just made aware she will continue working with SWA, her workplan will only be submitted at the next face-to-face SC meeting. CTA welcomed the continued focus on country-level engagement and on building strong multi-stakeholder platforms.

CTA updated the SC on the hiring process of Regional Advisors for the Secretariat, which will re-enforce country and regional work even further, as well as the Memorandum of Understandings the Secretariat will pursue with regional platforms. Regarding the global level, the recent launch of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) will ensure a concrete and relevant contribution from SWA to the follow-up and review processes of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SWA is also improving and adjusting internally, as mainly reflected in the soon-to-be-approved Governance Document.

Session 2: Address from SC meeting host country
Catarina de Albuquerque

H.E. Madame Charafat Afailal, Secretary of State in Charge of Water welcomed the SC to Marrakesh via a video message. Following this video, Mr. Abdeslam Ziyad, Director of Water Research and Planning, Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, in charge of water, gave a presentation on “Reaching the SDG Targets on Water and Sanitation in Morocco”, including tracking process using SWA’s Collaborative Behaviours and Building Blocks.

There was then a time for questions from the SC, where several topics were approached, including water quality, transboundary water issues, and funding of the financing gap.
Session 3: Report back of EC and Secretariat Activities
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA presented a joint report on the work of the Executive Chair and of the Secretariat over past 6 months. This presentation included details on efforts made to encourage potential country partners to join SWA, the roll-out of the MAM, the first SWA country visit (to Bhutan) and results from recent events where SWA was represented such as World Water Forum 8, the LatinoSan Prep Meeting, and the WHO World Health Assembly.

The SC gave good feedback on the presentation but asked for more insight into how SWA is progressing against the Results Framework. CTA responded that she is seeing real progress, especially on country engagement, but mentioned that the recent 3-6 months were challenging due to the uncertainty in terms of governance. She underlined that one of her priorities when joining as CEO is to ensure the Secretariat is fit for purpose.

There was also some debate as how the Executive Chair and the Secretariat decided on the location of upcoming country visits. Several SC members also suggested that these could be taken up by other SWA representatives, such as the High-level Chair or high-level individuals from partner organizations. CTA mentioned that the Secretariat had prepared a document listing criterion for country visits that addresses exactly those types of issues and looks for synergies and partner participation.

Following some questions AS also gave more details regarding the support being given by UNICEF to the upcoming India ministerial meeting. AS explained that UNICEF, through its country office is supporting the government of India in developing the meeting’s content, as well as financially supporting ministers who will attend.

The SC also called on Secretariat and CEO to include a small qualitative analysis attached to their future reports.

Session 4: SWA Framework
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA updated the SC on the work being done around the wider communication of the SWA Framework to the partners. The Secretariat is currently preparing a Framework Package with different levels of details about the Framework elements. She already presented to the group the Framework infographic that gives a clear overview of the elements.

CTA will circulate the package among the SC for comments and it will then be translated into several languages.
Session 5: Approaches by the Secretariat to Strengthen Country Engagement
Muyatwa Sitali

MS gave the SC an overview of the approaches and activities of the Secretariat around supporting country-level work. These included the development of the Collaborative Behaviour Country Profiles and increasing understanding of the Framework in general, the Webinar Series, the support to the MAM roll-out, especially the engagement with pioneer countries and the support to the use of the WASH Costing Tool. MS also informed the SC of the work being done towards clarifying who are the SWA Focal Points and what is their role, as well as mapping what partners are active in what countries.

The SC discussed several of the topics raised by MS, especially the strategic use of the Focal Points. Regarding this issue, the SC encouraged the country engagement team to work as closely as possible with the Country Processes Working Group (CPWG) and chose Focal Points from existing national coordination mechanisms or processes. The SC also encourages MS to search for Focal Points within the ministries of finance, regularly update the database, and bring country engagement activities closer to the SWA Results Framework and Strategy. MS mentioned that every six months the Secretariat performed a “health check” of the Focal Points names and contact details, with full revision every two years.

Session 6: Update on Mutual Accountability Mechanism
Alexandra Reis

ARe gave an update of the MAM since the most recent SC meeting. She highlighted the SC’s request for the Secretariat to kick-off the roll-out in March 2018 and the events at which the MAM was introduced to partners in general and Focal Points in particular, such as the World Water Forum 8 and the SACOSAN MAM-dedicated sessions. The MAM had a very positive reception and emphasis was put on the need for ESA partners at national and global levels to fully be on board.

ARe also informed the group that the Secretariat has been receiving expression of interest from several countries who want to become MAM pioneers, such as Liberia, Pakistan, and Swaziland. The Secretariat will now select and work with pioneer countries on the roll-out of the MAM at national level.

After some discussion, the SC suggested that the Secretariat should develop and implement a formal and regular process where partners can give feedback on the MAM.

Session 7: Country Processes Working Group – report back
Amanda Robertson

ARo updated the SC on the Working Group’s recent work supporting the MAM. The Group has also been working on a way to encourage the use of the Collaborative Behaviour Country Profiles, as well as preparing the second round of Profiles.
The CPWG has also produced thought pieces that will define SWA’s future work. Currently, the Working Group is supporting the Secretariat in developing the Tools Portal.

ARo referred to the challenge of country engagement work, considering the dimension of the task and the resources and time available from partners.

The SC acknowledged this challenge and some members mentioned how the mapping exercise and Focal Point work mentioned by MS in a previous session will be key to ensure collaboration happens at country level. These initiatives will also help consolidate activities and identify the gaps which only a multi-stakeholder partnership can help fill.

**Session 8: Engagement with Regional Platforms i.e. AMCOW, SACOSAN, LATINOSAN**

*Canisius Kanangire*

CK gave the group a presentation on how SWA can increase engagement at regional level, including with regional platforms. He argued that direct engagement at regional level provides SWA partners with a platform to support ongoing country processes, encourages follow-up to the High-Level Meetings, and creates an opportunity for partners to learn and exchange on the SWA Framework and MAM. It also increases alignment of national, regional and global processes in support of government-led national processes and commitments.

Regarding specific actions SWA partners could take, CK listed: support to preparatory activities of regional events; convening and leading on sessions and/or organizing press briefings at those events; facilitation of documentation and wide dissemination of country experiences and success stories to inspire other countries and players in the sector; promotion of participation of SWA champions in regional events; and mobilization of technical assistance on different topics (i.e. partner-to-partner support). CK finished his presentation with a list of potential regional events that SWA could engage with.

Several SC members made the point that the upcoming Regional Advisers will be key to ensure adequate work at regional level, with a recommendation that their first step should be to plan a meeting between regional partners of all constituencies to agree on a strategy and next steps. It was also discussed that SWA’s support to preparatory activities of regional events should be focused on ensuring those activities are multi-stakeholder.

**Session 9: SWA Regional Advisors Update & Next Steps**

*Kepha Ombacho*

KO gave an update on the recruitment of the Regional Advisors on behalf of the Regional Advisors Task Team (RATT). The RATT agreed on the selection criteria for the host organizations and put out an open call to all partners inviting them to express interest to host Regional Advisers. Eleven organizations made their submissions. Through this process, the Regional Advisers Search Committee unanimously selected the following organizations:
KO informed the SC that next steps are for SWA to sign MoUs with each of the selected organizations and then for launching the Regional Advisors’ recruitment process.

Meanwhile, SWA, through UNICEF, will transfer funds to host organizations to cover remuneration and other associated costs including administration and activities for Regional Advisors.

SC members had several questions regarding the Regional Advisors, including their professional level, their level of independence vis-à-vis the host organizations, and their accountability lines. CTA answered that they should be mid-level professionals with significant regional experience and their contract would follow the parameters of the respective host organizations. The Adviser must be independent of their host organization and should be seen by all parties as part of SWA’s Secretariat, although also adding-value to the host organizations and getting value from the fact there are based there. The Memoranda of Understanding and individual contracts should clarify many of these issues. There was a general agreement that hosting arrangements and the independence of the Regional Advisors should be monitored, especially at the initial stage of this process.


Pim van der Male

PvdM updated the SC on the Global Architecture Working Group’s recent discussions and recommendations. He mentioned that still today the global water architecture (GWA) sector is fragmented and does not reflect the integrated nature of SDG6, and that the UN Secretary-Generals’ Advisory Board on Water & Sanitation (UNSGAB) recommended a new intergovernmental body. Such recommendation currently does not have global support. This situation could be an opportunity for SWA, since there is general agreement to strengthen existing UN systems. For instance, recently, UN-Water started exploring the possibility to organize (bi-)annual high-level meetings.

In this context, the WG recommended that SWA strategically positions itself to contribute to the existing and emerging GWA fora, with a focus on SDG6.1 and 6.2, prioritizing the establishment of strategic links with other organisations and movements and filling gaps within the existing GWA to influence the global WASH debate.

For this to happen, the GAWG recommended that even more attention needed to be given to SWA country level activities, while maintaining and expanding a strong and collaborative presence at the global level. SWA should seek to position itself as an important and engaged part of the global water architecture, building on its added value and legitimacy. SWA’s global role and legitimacy in the GWA currently relies primarily on the multi stakeholder nature of the partnerships itself, and that should be further used.
Finally, the Working Group recommended that the HLPD WG expands its mandate to include the entire GWA, effectively merging the two groups. Next steps would be to: 1) develop a strategic note positioning the High-level Meetings vis-a-vis the current and emerging GWA landscape, and 2) the development of a long-term plan for participation in key events and positioning SWA in key political influencing spaces.

During the discussion, the SC raised concerns regarding the UN-Water decision: would their high-level meetings complement or duplicate SWA’s? SC members recommended that SWA representatives become part of the UN-Water task team working on these events to ensure efficiency. DB reminded the SC that UNSGAB recommended the creation of a “wider water” body and that UN-Water responded by creating a task force to work on the feasibility of creating multi-stakeholder meetings. Now UN Member States must discuss this issue and might decide to use existing platforms. CTA suggested that SWA should apply to become a UN-Water partner to be able to join these discussions – there was general support for this idea. There was also a general agreement regarding the importance of strategically choosing how and where to engage with the GWA, considering the large number of existing platforms, events and initiatives.

Session 11: Communications Strategy
Alexandra Reis

ARe reminded the SC of their request to the Secretariat to develop an overall SWA Communications Strategy. ARe presented the highlights of the draft Strategy that was part of the SC meeting’s background documents, including suggested target audiences, objectives and main activities. She underlined the need for the Secretariat and partners to complement each other very well when it comes to communications, with the Secretariat acting mainly as the producer of products, tools and messages, and partners adapting, using, and disseminating those materials.

ARe asked for feedback on the Communications Strategy document by 13 July and encouraged SC members to also share it and ask for feedback from their communications experts.

The SC was generally supportive of the draft document and submitted several recommendations: including youth as a primary audience of SWA; clarifying (or emphasizing) the difference between activities aimed at country-level practitioners and those working at global or regional level; and taking into consideration SWA’s Global Leadership Group. ARe committed to circulate a version for final comments that already integrated these comments.

Session 12: Executive Session

Decision 1: Minutes
The Steering Committee approves the minutes of its March 2018 meeting.

Decision 2: Agenda
The Steering Committee approves the meeting’s draft agenda.
**Decision 3: Report by Executive Chair**
The Steering Committee calls on the Secretariat to prepare a communications package for the Framework.

The SC requests that future CEO reports should include a qualitative analysis of successes and challenges.

**Decision 4: Feedback on Pending Actions and Decisions by the Secretariat**
The Steering Committee approves the recommendations by the Secretariat to:

a) develop a draft of the knowledge management strategy until the end of 2018;

b) implement the SC decision on how to apply the SWA framework to all country typologies.

**Decision 5: Approaches by the Secretariat to strengthen Country Engagement**
The Steering Committee decides the following:

a) SC members, with the support of the Secretariat, will reach out to their constituencies to ask those who have not yet updated their focal points to do so by July 30;

b) SC members will hold discussions with their respective constituencies, to discuss the role of each partner and constituency in implementing the SWA framework, including in the roll out of the mutual accountability mechanism.

The Steering Committee also:

a) approves the country outreach paper for organizing country visits of the SWA leadership and/or partners to selected countries, taking into consideration discussions at the SC meeting;

b) requests the secretariat to incorporate recommendations from the CPWG in their workplan for 2018 and beyond.

**Decision 6: Country Processes Working Group (CPWG)**
The Steering Committee approves the CPWG’s Workplan for the next semester of 2018.

**Decision 7: Engagement with Regional Platforms**
The Steering Committee:

a) endorses the proposals made for SWA engagement in upcoming regional events;

b) asks the Secretariat to work closely with partners at various levels and Working Groups to develop clear plans for engagement in relevant regional platforms.

**Decision 8: Communication Strategy**
The Steering Committee:

a) requests its members to send feedback to the Secretariat on the draft Communications Strategy by 13 July;

b) asks the Secretariat to update the document based on feedback and to re-circulate it to the Steering Committee for a non-objection approval.

**Decision 9: Positioning of SWA in the Global Water Architecture Working Group (GWA WG)**
The Steering Committee adopts the recommendations of the GWA WG to:

a) expand the mandate of the current HLPD WG, extending its responsibility beyond the HLM cycle towards SWA’s participation in the entire GWA. This may imply the need to refresh the working group’s membership;
b) develop a strategic note on positioning the SWA High Level Meetings vis-a-vis the current GWA landscape, defining its role and purpose and its relation and synergies with the current GWA and its recent developments;

c) to ask the secretariat to support the HLPD WG in developing a comprehensive plan that identifies, prioritizes and articulates participation in key events, key messages and outcomes. Including support in ensuring a legitimate seat for SWA in key political influencing spaces. The plan will need to outline the role of the different governance bodies and partners in its implementation;

d) the SC notes the report presented by the GWAG, asks the WG to finalize it, and submit it to the SC for approval on a non-objection basis.

DAY 2

Session 13: Welcome and Overview of Day 1
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA presented an overview of the previous day, offering a summary of the decisions taken during the Executive Session.

Session 14: Discussion on the High-level Political Dialogue and its strategic connections of other SWA components
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA reminded the SC the High-level Meetings (HLMs) were just the tip of the iceberg of the work done by SWA, the most visible, but by no means the most important aspect. What happens at the HLM must be connected to the overall strategy, direction and priorities of the partnership. With this in mind, CTA asked the SC to divide into groups and discuss the following question: given the direction of SWA and its priorities what should be the Strategic Focus/theme of the 2019 SMM?

She asked the groups to take into consideration 1) the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, 2) the fact that SWA is composed of high-, middle- and low-income countries - the topic should be relevant and adaptable to all, 3) the SWA Framework, and 4) the topics of the past two SMMs/FMMs: implications of the SDGs and financing the SDGs.

The feedback from the groups will be used by the High-level Political Dialogue Working Group.

Group 1 favoured a topic around Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) seen through a financing angle: are countries fit for purpose to deliver LNOB? Discussion of broader country performance after Addis Ababa, e.g. are countries able to absorb existing or increasing finance, what needs to be in place to ensure such absorption?

Group 2 concluded the theme needs to focus on finance since that is « SWA's niche ». One question to address could be: how to finance the enabling environment?; what is the data that allows to plan strategically for the SDGs?; how to access and use blended finance?; what policies are in place to ensure transparency and integrity throughout the financial processes?
Group 3 focused on the progress made during the four years since the SDGs were adopted and the countries’ plans and actions for the years left until 2030. Hence the SMM could focus on looking back, taking stock of progress made and outstanding challenges, and delineating strategies on how to move forward.

During this discussion, the SC agreed that the SMM should include a technical component, similar to the third technical day of the Addis Ababa meeting. Also, the SC agreed that the objectives of the SMM were to: 1) politically motivate and energize sector ministers (“I’m part of something big!”), so that when they return to their countries they feel empowered to talk to other ministers and generally push for action on WASH, 2) learn from peers and other partners and 3) also empower the technical staff, that, due to the SMM, have privileged face-time with their ministers.

**Session 15: Hosting Arrangements for SWA Secretariat**  
*Angie Saleh*

AS gave the SC an update from UNICEF (the Secretariat host) on hosting arrangements, human resources, finance, and set up of the trust fund. AS reminded the SC of their decision in its Maputo meeting of conducting a review of hosting arrangements in the second half of 2018. UNICEF would like to ensure this decision is followed through, now that the governance review is done, and that it includes the opinions of the Secretariat’s staff. She recommended that the Governance and Finance Working Group (GFWG) should decide on the best way to move the assessment forward.

**Session 16: Update from Secretariat host on Human Resources, Finance, Set up of Trust Fund**  
*Angie Saleh*

AS also gave the SC an update on the current and future composition of the Secretariat, including the short-term recruitment plan: COO recruitment process to be completed in September, P4 External Relations also to be completed in September and P4 Communications to be advertised once CEO is in place. UNICEF also recommended that the staffing plan is reviewed.

AS flagged that the amount of time being spend on fundraising does not match the Secretariat's current financial gap. The SC agreed that with the governance review done, fundraising must become a priority for the next few months.

Regarding the set-up of the trust fund, AS reminded the SC that in principle a trust fund should be created to manage SWA funds, since the SWA CEO would no longer report to UNICEF’s Chief WASH and the partnership would be more independent. AS reported that a request to create the Fund has been made and is now waiting for UNICEF Executive Director’s approval. UNICEF and the Secretariat are drafting a new hosting agreement.

The SC demonstrated concern about the effect of all these changes on staff morale. AS acknowledged it has been a time of uncertainly, but UNICEF worked hard to ensure job security is not affected.
The SC also discussed that staff morale and security is very much connected to funding and that only now, after the governance review, can the CEO carry out effective fundraising.

**Session 17: Report of the Governance and Finance Working Group**  
**Patrick Moriarty**

PM informed the SC that the GFWG has been focusing on the governance review which will hopefully be completed during this SC meeting. He made the point that the Group must now prioritize a revision of the budget, considering the Secretariat’s new organigram and the new governance document. It is also a priority to identify the SC Chair and Vice-Chair as CTA will no longer be able to perform that task once she’s CEO.

He suggested that in the future, the process of budget review should be the following: 1) budget originates in the Secretariat 2) it is revised by the GFWG which in turn presents it to the SC for approval. It was also suggested the organigram should not make a separation between UNICEF and non-UNICEF staff.

Regarding fundraising, there were also recommendations from the SC to reach out to non-traditional donors (e.g. China) and connect WASH and SWA to other agendas, such as humanitarian and security.

**Session 18: New Partners Applications**  
**Heloise Chicou**

HC reminded the SC of the Secretariat’s steps to process new partner applications, as well as the list of partners that have been recently approved on a non-objection basis. She highlighted that World Plumbing Council requested to be part of the CSO constituency, but that they might be more suited to join private sector constituency – she will approach them to know more about their work.

HC also mentioned Jamn Maintenance (Private Sector), were not endorsed by in-country contacts (Ministry of Public Works, Liberia) given that the organisation was unknown to them. Jamn Maintenance also does not have a website and very little is known about it. She also informed the SC that Children and Young People Living for Peace” (CYPLP) applied to join in April 2018, but they were already part of the partnership. She also mentioned that the Secretariat would like to work on tighter criteria for new partners that exclude small CSOs that do not have the capacity to engage with peers, government, and other national, regional and global partners. They generally join SWA looking for funding and require significant Secretariat resources to brief and engage them. There was a general agreement to this proposal.
**Session 19: Briefing Papers**  
*Catarina de Albuquerque*

CTA called the SC’s attention to the draft Briefing Paper on eliminating inequalities that was part of the SC documents. CTA asked for comments to that paper and informed the group of the Secretariat decision to develop other Briefing papers on other themes. These Briefings offer partners concrete information and suggestions on the steps they could take and approaches they could embrace to make elements like elimination of inequalities, gender equality, integrity, human right to WASH among others a tangible reality in their activities. CTA also asked SC members to suggest future topics.

**Session 19: Nutrition Working Group**  
*Thilo Panzerbieter*

TP referred the SC to the report by the Nutrition Working Group included in the meeting’s background documents and asked the group to use his time slot to put forward an idea for multi-stakeholder country delegations at the HLMs. The idea, based on a concept from the SUN movement, is that countries nominate “country delegations” to HLMs. The country Focal Point of each country nominates multi-stakeholder delegates. It would encourage a multi-stakeholder approach at country level and be more time and cost-efficient for the SWA Secretariat, as in-country donors would be encouraged to sponsor the delegations and handle the logistics.

TP argued that such an approach could be a game changer for SWA as it would change how country stakeholders sit, travel, discuss with their government counterparts, and would strengthen the link between national and global work of SWA.

The SC was generally positive about the idea, recognizing the opportunities presented by such an arrangement, as well as the challenges. There was a recommendation that the HLPDWG considers this concept for upcoming HLMs.

The SC also discussed the importance of the WASH-Nutrition link. KoC mentioned that he knew several private sector companies working on the nexus and would direct them to SWA. There were also references to the controversial conclusions of a recent study measuring the benefits of WASH, and nutritional interventions to improve child health and development. TP informed the SC that the Working Group partners are aware of the study and some are preparing evidence-based responses. Several SC members also made the point that the WASH-Nutrition link is valuable for donors. ARo, also asked for USAID to be represented in the group.

**Session 20: Private Sector Working Group**  
*Kevin O’Callaghan*

KoC reminded the SC of the growth of the private sector constituency and that the objective of the Working Group is to work on the rules of engagement of the private sector with the partnership.
He acknowledged that in the past there were some issues with the private sector becoming a constituency on its own rights, but that the work being done by the WG to clarify engagement and the extremely varied fabric of the constituency would prevent any abuse and increase collaboration.

He referred to recent activities, including public representation and ‘behind the scenes’ activities (e.g. panel on human right to water during World Water Forum, strong engagement on the governance review).

The SC generally agreed SWA is putting in place the processes that will avoid any action against the Guiding Principles through actually including the private sector in the governance and strategic planning of SWA. This should be reflected in the countries, by strategically engaging (like-minded) private sector in policy making. SDC and WSSCC representatives expressed interest in becoming part of the Private Sector Working Group.

There was a suggestion for SWA to work more closely with the WASH for Work initiative, that involves mainly the private sector. There was no opposition to this.

Session 21: Country Engagement Activity
Amanda Robertson

With this off-the-agenda session, AR was responding to the SC’s desire to dedicate some time to a further discussion around country engagement and give further guidance to the CPWG and the Secretariat. She explained that one area in particular where more guidance would be helpful is around operationalizing the MAM, so she suggested group work around the following:

1. What elements are needed to mobilize a MAM pioneer country? What is needed from partners and what is needed from the secretariat?
2. What would a successful MAM pioneer country look like in a year's time?
3. What is needed to leverage successful participation in the MAM for delivering sustainable services for all?

After the debate, the groups shared their main conclusions and there was a general agreement that:

- Every pioneer country needs a core group of national level actors to lead the process. This group could be drawn from a new or existing platform;
- Documenting results is key and should be taken into consideration in the planning stage;
- Conclusions, learnings, results and challenges may differ from country to country. One or more constituencies might be more involved that others, but all must participate;
- It is still necessary to agree on how the new commitments will differ from the ones put in place for the past accountability mechanism; and
- MAM must be very tailor-made for each country, and ideally have a good buy-in from different regions and type of countries.
Session 22: Executive Session

During the Executive Session, the SC discussed several topics ahead of agreeing on decisions. Regarding attendance of SC meetings and the fact that Zimbabwe has not attended the last three, the group agreed that this can harm representation and the functioning of the body. The SC asked the Executive Chair to reach out to Zimbabwe to express the SC’s concerns and ask for a justification of their absence, as well as agree on next steps. In the future, the CEO and Chair of the Steering Committee will make a judgement call on how to proceed regarding such situations. The group also agreed that the preparation call with the Chair of the SC is key to achieving a successful meeting.

The SC also reviewed outstanding actions from previous meetings. There was an agreement that actions should not be stand-alone items like decisions, but part of the minutes. Also, decisions should be simplified and avoid duplications with already existing Terms of Reference of SC members or Working Groups. KoC asked the Secretariat to send Neil Dhot a list of outstanding SC actions/decisions that are related to the private sector.

The SC then went in detail through the changes to the Governance Document presented by the external consultant. The number of seats on the SC and its division among constituencies was discussed in detail before an agreement was reached. The updated and final document will be translated, circulated and made public on SWA’s website as soon as possible.

The SC also elected Patrick Moriarty as interim Chair of the Steering Committee and Vanessa Dubois as its interim Vice-Chair. PM will chair the upcoming SC meeting in September and both will oversee the identification of the chairs of the newly-created Sub-Committees ahead of the in-person meeting in December.

Decision 10: 2018 Sector Ministers’ Meeting (SMM)
The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a summary of the discussions held during session 14, which should be conveyed to the High-level Political Dialogue Working Group (HLPDWG). The Steering Committee also asks the HLPDWG to prepare a concept note by September 2018 for the 2019 SMM based on the strategic focus and topics recommended by the Steering Committee.

Decision 11: New partners
The Steering Committee rejects the application of the organization Jamn Maintenance.

Decision 12: New partner criteria
The Steering Committee requests the Civil Society and the Private Sector constituencies to review the criteria for joining the partnership ahead of the September virtual Steering Committee meeting.

Decision 13: Update from the Governance and Financing Working Group (GFWG)
The Steering Committee approves the GFWG Workplan for the next semester of 2018.
Decision 14: Zimbabwe
The Steering Committee asks the Executive Chair to raise concerns with Zimbabwe regarding their attendance of Steering Committee meetings in view of decision 15 of the Lisbon 2015 meeting.

Decision 15: Nutrition Working Group (NWG)
The Steering Committee approves the NWG’s Workplan for the next semester of 2018.

Decision 16: Date and location of the second in-person SC meeting of 2018
The Steering Committee agrees that the second in-person meeting will take place in 4-6 December in a location to be determined.

Decision 17: Governance Document
The Steering Committee approves the new Governance Document.