Participants

Steering Committee Members
1. Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, SWA Executive Chair and Steering Committee Chair (CTA)
2. Mr. Ananda Jayaweera, Sri Lanka (AJ)
3. Mr. Do Manh Cuong, Viet Name (DMC)
4. Mr. Emmanuel Awe, Nigeria (EA)
5. Ms. Erma Uytewaal, IRC (EU)
6. Mr. Evarist Kouassi Komlan, UNICEF (EKK)
7. Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk, Norway (HO)
8. Mr. Jose Miguel Zeledon Calderon, Costa Rica (JC)
9. Mr. Kitchinme Bawa, AMCOW (KB)
10. Mr. Mohammed Zobair Hasan, DORP/FANSA (MZH)
11. Mr. Neil Dhot, Aquafed (ND)
12. Mr. Pim van der Male, DGIS (PvdM)
13. Mr. Rolf Luyendijk, WSSCC (RL)
14. Mr. Thilo Panzerbieter, German Toilet Organization/EWP (TP)
15. Ms. Vanessa Dubois, ARCA (VD)

Permanente Observers
16. Mr. Federico Properzi, UN-Water (FP)
17. Ms. Fiona Gore, WHO (FG)

Guests
18. Ms. Amanda Robertson, USAID
19. Mr. Guy Hutton, UNICEF
20. Ms. Mangalika Lokuliyanage, Sri Lanka
21. Ms. Vivian Gonzalez, Costa Rica

Secretariat
22. Mr. Nelson Gomonda, Secretariat Focal Point
23. Ms. Alexandra Reis, Communications
24. Ms. Heloise Chicou, CSO Advisor
25. Ms. Naomi Parekh, Events and Protocol Manager

Not attending
- Mr. Dominick de Waal, World Bank
- Ms. Fatema Akter, Nagar Darindra Basti Basti Unnayan Sangstha
- Mr. Jyoti Kumar Shrestha, Nepal
- Mr. Kepha Ombacho, Kenya
- Mr. Nilton Trindade, Mozambique
- Mr. Pie Djivo, Benin
- Ms. Rabab Hassan Abbas, Egypt
- Mr. Samson Shivaji, KEWASNET/ANEW
Session 1 Introductions 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 welcomed new SC member Rolf Luyendijk representing WSSCC, saying she was looking forward to continuing previous bilateral conversations about how SWA and WSSCC can collaborate more closely.

CTA asked for feedback on the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting (Maputo, December 2018). Both documents were approved unanimously.

Decision 1: Minutes  
The Steering Committee approves the minutes of its December 2017 meeting.

Decision 2: Agenda  
The Steering Committee approves the meeting’s draft agenda and allows the Executive Chair flexibility to move agenda items, as needed.

Session 2: Updates  
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA updated the group on recent Secretariat activities, including the progress on the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM), the selection of Host for the SWA Regional Advisors, recent participations in the LatinoSan preparatory meeting, upcoming engagement in the World Water Forum and SACOSAN, and ongoing work with GLAAS and the HLPF.

SC members asked for more details on SWA’s engagement in the LatinoSan preparatory meeting and the benefits that came from it. CTA mentioned SWA’s ensuring CSO are now part of the planning of the regional meetings; the in person contact with potential country partners and others (e.g. CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Inter-America Development Bank); the opportunity to make sure that strategic documents reflect have a multi-stakeholder approach; and the visibility given to SWA. VD supported CTA’s response, adding that because of SWA, CSOs in Latin America are now invited to join planning commissions, and are part of the process in the long-term.

Other SC members asked for more details on SACOSAN and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). CTA mentioned that SWA will organize a side-event in Islamabad, focusing on the MAM and invited partners attending SACOSAN to join. Regarding the HLPF, the Secretariat was approached by several partners with proposals for engagement. An overview of these proposals was sent to the Global Architecture Working Group for feedback and guidance. The Secretariat also reached out to the focal points from the 15 SWA countries doing the Voluntary National Reviews and will organize a webinar for them in April. The Secretariat is also trying to make sure that the Chair Kevin Rudd participates in the High-level segment of the HLPF. KB supported SWA’s engagement in the HLPF and called for using this occasion to strengthened collaboration with WSSCC. RL supported this proposal and CTA agreed to reach out to WSSCC to discuss possible joint events.

ND suggested that the people involved in the SWA-HLPF stream of work should have a coordination call every month from now on. There was overall support to this proposal. CTA volunteered to
coordinate the production of a paper outlining SWA’s objectives for the event, objectives, expected outcomes, and main messages, by the second week of April.

Regarding the revision of the Secretariat’s budget agreed during the Maputo meeting, EKK informed the SC that UNICEF will submit a proposal to the Governance and Finance Working Group (GFWG) the following week. Following that process, a budget will be send to the SC for approval on a non-objection basis.

**Decision 3: High-level Political Forum**
The Steering Committee asks the Global Architecture WG to comment and offer guidance regarding SWA’s participation in the HLPF, based on options sent by the Secretariat.

**Decision 4: High-level Political Forum**
The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat and SC members involved in SWA-HLPF stream of work to organize months coordination calls.

**Decision 5: High-level Political Forum**
The Steering Committee asks CTA to coordinate production of concept paper of SWA’s participation in the HLPF, by second week of April.

**Decision 6: High-level Political Forum**
The Steering Committee asks CTA to reach out to WSSCC to discuss possible joint events at the HLPF.

**Decision 7: Secretariat Budget**
The Steering Committee asks UNICEF to submit updated Secretariat budget for the consideration of the GFWG the week of 19 March. An agreed version will then be circulated to the Steering Committee for approval on a non-objection basis.

**Session 3: SWA Cycle of Meetings**
*Catarina de Albuquerque*

Following previous discussions, CTA proposed that the SC approves a three-year cycle of High-level Meetings (HLMs). This proposal has been reviewed by the Country Processes and High-level Political Dialogue Working Groups. This three-year cycle envisages:

- Finance Ministers’ Meetings taking place every three years (in April 2020, 2023, 2026, 2029) taking advantage of the World Bank’s Spring Meetings, currently held in DC.

- Sector Ministers’ Meetings taking place every eighteen months, alternately together with the Finance Ministers’ Meeting (April 2020, 2023, 2026, 2029) or together with a Technical or Partnership Meeting, hosted by a SWA country partner (Q1/2 2019, Q3/4 2021, Q3/4 2024, Q3/4 2027, Q3/4 2030) (the 2016 Addis Ababa Meeting Model).

On behalf of CSOs, TP supported this proposal, saying that it was still considerably ambitious. He also appreciated that the MAM and the three-year cycle are well aligned.

There was some discussion around how SWA can increase the HLM’s multi-stakeholder approach, and how can non-country constituencies make a more prominent contribution. Since this discussion had no impact on the meeting cycle, CTA asked the High-level Political Dialogue Working Group to work on this issue and present proposals to the SC at the June meeting.
There were no objections to the proposal and the three-year cycle was approved.

Decision 8: Multi-stakeholder approach to HLMs
The Steering Committee asks the High-level Political Dialogue Working Group to submit proposals to the Steering Committee meeting in June on how the HLMs can better reflect SWA’s multi-stakeholder identity and how non-country constituencies can contribute.

Decision 9: SWA’s Meeting Cycle
The Steering Committee thanks the Country Processes and High-level Political Dialogue Working Groups for their proposal and supports the recommendation to have a Three-Year Cycle for SWA’s Meetings as described in document #4.

Session 4: SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism’s Roll Out Document
_Catarina de Albuquerque_

CTA presented for information a proposal for the roll-out of the MAM. She re-iterated that the document was not final or set in stone, but compiled ideas for moving forward as soon as possible. She mentioned that upcoming SWA events at the World Water Forum and SACOSAN will be good opportunities for collecting feedback from partners and further refining the document.

CTA also mention that a Guidance Document was being produced, and it would, in a practical, simple way, support partners interested in using the MAM. There was general agreement about the need for such a document. There was also approval of the idea of using pilot countries to pioneer the Mechanism.

Session 5: Revision of Governance Document
_Erma Uytewaal_

EU gave an update to the SC on behalf of the GFWG. [at this point, and for conflict of interest reasons, CTA left the meeting] Regarding the recruitment of the CEO, EU informed the SC that there were 148 applicants and interviews with the short-listed will be held on 28 March, with a panel consisting of UNICEF and several SC members. The short-list will be proposed by a human resources consultant following interviews with around 15 applicants. ND objected to the fact that the private sector was the only constituency not represented in the interview panel.

EU also re-iterated that Terms of Reference of the future post of Chief operating officer will need to be revised.

EU also asked the SC for their approval of the recruitment of a consultant to support the GFWG in updating the Governance Document, based on the discussions held in Maputo. The consultant’s Terms of Reference is currently being reviewed by USAID. There were no objections.

Decision 10: Update from the Governance and Financing Working Group
The Steering Committee thanks the GFWG Chair for his update. The SC also decides to support his recommendation to rehire the Governance consultants with a view to finalizing a first draft of the new Governance Document that takes into account the decisions taken and discussions held at the December 2017 Maputo SC meeting.
Session 6: SWA’s Framework & Middle-Income Countries
Catarina de Albuquerque

CTA reminded the group of the SC decision in June 2015 that stated the partnership would no longer only focus on the most off-track countries. Since that time, more middle-income countries (MICs) joined SWA, especially from Latin America. She explained some work still needs to be done on articulating how the partnership can be useful for middle-income countries and vice-versa.

She presented the discussion paper prepared by the Secretariat and made the following proposal for next-steps:

- Discuss paper with the Global Water Architecture, Country Processes and the High-level Political Dialogue Working Groups, to ensure the findings in the paper are consistent with their work, and to identify further areas for exploration.
- Validate analysis of the framework with a number of selected MICs and HICs (including other SWA stakeholders at country level) and identify the specific learning needs and preferred modalities for learning through consultation.
- Elaborate and implement a plan to engage with International Finance Institutions (including both current SWA partners and potential partners) exploring their interests, expectations and potential obstacles for becoming active partners.
- Explore the applicability of SWA’s Guiding Principles to MIC’s and High-level Income Countries’.
- Use the Mutual Accountability Mechanism to further explore these issues.

On behalf of the CSO, VD welcomed this exercise and supported the paper. CSOs would like SWA to do this exercise not only for MIC, but also to lower-income countries: articulate clearly how SWA engages with them and vice-versa. CTA agreed to confirm with the Secretariat if there is was already a document outlining this.

Decision 11: SWA’s Framework & Middle-Income Countries
The Steering Committee thanks the Secretariat for the “Analytical Paper on the Relevance of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to Middle and High-Income Countries” and supports the “Next Steps” contained therein.

Decision 12: Low-income countries
The Steering Committee asks the Executive Chair to confirm with the Secretariat whether there is was already a document outlining this.

Session 7: AOB
Catarina de Albuquerque

To close the meeting, CTA asked if there were any objections to the recent application by the Government of Nicaragua. There was a unanimous welcome to the new partner.

She also flagged that, although the Chair had volunteer to discuss with the Government of India the possibility of a high-level meeting there at the end of 2018, that he was not able to travel to India yet. There has been no further update on the Chair’s travel plans and CTA underlined the increasing challenges of organizing such an event as time passes without confirmation.
GH informed the SC of a sub-regional meeting in Swaziland (13-16 May), supported by UNICEF, of four countries (Swaziland, Lesotho, Comoros, and Namibia) aimed at strengthening the Enabling Environment for Achieving WASH SDG Targets. The meeting provides an opportunity to Comoros and Namibia, who not currently note members of SWA, to understand and consider joining the partnership. The meeting will also involve other SWA partners working in the region to participate.

PvM informed the SC of the work the Global Architecture working Group has been doing on developing a position paper for SWA based on the Synthesis Report and the upcoming HLPF. There was a proposal that this issue should be discussed during the half-day retreat at the next SC in-face meeting. There were no objections.

**Decision 12: Nicaragua**
The SC welcomes the Government of Nicaragua to the partnership.

**Decision 13: Global Architecture Working Group**
The SC to discuss position paper by Global Architecture Working Group's position paper at the half-day retreat at the next SC in-face meeting.