



High Level Political Dialogue Work Group (HLPDWG) Terms of Reference

Purpose of the High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group



Objective 1: Build and sustain the political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation, and hygiene

The mission of the SWA partnership is to eliminate inequalities in realizing the human rights to water and sanitation – by raising political will, ensuring good governance, and helping to optimize financing. The High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group plays an important part within SWA's governance structure to support the partnership on raising political will. Through identifying the best opportunities to engage with high-level leaders, and conceptualizing SWA's value added and contribution at those opportunities, the WG works in coordination with the other SWA governance bodies to ensure that this mission is accomplished. This is enhanced and accomplished on annual basis through a workplan that reflects the SWA priorities and helps implement them under the umbrella of the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee; which further contributes to the overall SWA annual workplans.

Theory of change (ToC)

The new SWA theory of change outlined in the Strategic Framework details how objective one will be achieved, together with objectives two and three. The ToC emphasises the importance of high-level political dialogue to achieve the objective; however, there will be a range of activities required to achieve objective one.

Figure 1. Theory of Change for Objective One (part of overall SWA Theory of Change)



The first Strategic Objective of Sanitation and Water for All's 2020-2030 Strategic Framework is to build and sustain political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene. The

Framework identifies three tracks of work for achieving this objective, where the High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group (HLPDWG) aims to support the partnership, its Secretariat, and its Steering Committee (SC) as follows:

Intermediate Objective	How it relates to this Work Group	Interaction with other WGs
1- Holding high-level multi-stakeholder political dialogues and sustaining their impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The HLPDWG will support SWA in its engagement with political leadership at the highest level to prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene as a key intervention to promote human, economic and social development, stability and resilience to climate change. ▪ The HLPDWG will support the SWA partnership in convening and supporting partners to prepare for the High-level Meetings of sector ministers and finance ministers, which will continue to identify solutions for structural weaknesses in water, sanitation and hygiene systems. ▪ The HLPDWG supports efforts to ensure that meetings build on one another, that they are held in diverse contexts and that their outcomes are reflected in the work plans and priorities for the partnership. ▪ The HLPDWG will also support the partnership to use other opportunities and meetings at national, regional and global level to further the objective of political prioritisation of SWA and the elimination of inequalities in water, sanitation, and hygiene with the vision to achieve universal access to safe and sustainable services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The HLPDWG will work in coordination with the Country Processes Work Group (CPWG) every year to determine a number of priority countries for high-level engagement where SWA can target their political leadership and engage with them through different fora nationally, regionally, and globally. ○ Work with the CPWG to guarantee the country preparatory processes are in line with the high-level ambition and objectives of the meeting. ○ Work with the Systems and Finance Work Group (SFWG), especially relating to Finance Ministers' Meetings, where it is essential to bring the work of the SFWG to the meetings and vice versa, to ensure that the SFWG follows up on outcomes of those meetings.
2- Strengthening connections between the SWA partnership and broader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The HLPDWG will support SWA to expand its high-level political dialogue on water, sanitation and hygiene into a broader range of 	

Intermediate Objective	How it relates to this Work Group	Interaction with other WGs
sustainable development agendas	issues; guided by global and national engagement priorities, and alliances with relevant partnerships and platforms. The 2020-2030 Strategic Framework identifies issues such as gender, climate, humanitarian response, nutrition, health, education, and human rights, where specific and mutually re-enforcing action can be pursued. This will be done in line with the Secretariat work plans and directions of SC decisions as well as in coordination with the other PSSC work groups; namely the CPWG and the SFWG.	
3- Facilitating and encouraging the closing of data gaps and using existing and new evidence for effective policy advocacy to support decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The HLPDWG will support the partnership to identify trends, prioritize work and, selectively, to identify the data needed or available to measure results, using national, regional and global evidence and data sources made available by the range of experts and partners within its membership and making it available for the Secretariat and the partnership. ▪ The HLPDWG, will also work with the Secretariat to identify gaps in the evidence base and encourage partners' efforts to close these gaps and increase disaggregation, in particular for women and girls; to guide more effective decision-making at the highest level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The HLPDWG will work in coordination with the SFWG to support their efforts in tracking data, especially relating to financing, and ensuring data is deployed strategically through political and high-level advocacy by the partnership in different global, regional, and national opportunities.

Membership of the Work Group

The Work Group will be composed of members from across the SWA Constituencies (Government, Civil Society Organizations, External Support Agencies, Research & Learning,

Private Sector, Utilities & Regulators) and engage non-members where relevant. Members will be selected based on where they can contribute to at least one of the three main pillars outlined above, to ensure a deep expertise is available and an adequate representation across SWA constituencies. A target membership is 15-20 members, with at least 5 members with their main expertise in each of the pillar workstreams.

The Work Group will also strive to bring in independent experts to fill any gaps in expertise required to achieve its objectives and deliver on its work plans.

Work Group members will be expected to attend all work group meetings, and in general dedicate around ten workdays per year on average to various work group activities. They will be encouraged to contribute resources and/or make in-kind contributions to Work Group activities, including hiring additional experts or making experts from their organizations' available when possible. If there is a need for SWA to hire independent consultants to perform any of the functions, the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee shall help secure the resources available to fund these activities. This should be planned and submitted as part of the annual work plan and budget proposal for the Work Group.

The Work Group should choose from among its members a Coordinator/Chair that coordinates and leads its work, calls for meetings, manages the membership, and acts as main focal point in liaising with the PSSC and other governance bodies as necessary. According to the Governance Document article #2.7.7, *“Work Groups may be headed by a Work Group Coordinator, who should be nominated by a Steering Committee member but can be drawn from the SWA partnership. Work Group Coordinators are approved by the Steering Committee (or the decision may be delegated to the Executive Oversight Committee as needed). The Work Group can also decide to choose a Co-Coordinator to share the responsibility with the afore-mentioned Chair/Coordinator.”*

Ways of Working/Meetings

The High-Level Political Dialogue Work Group is expected to meet at least four times per year, generally ahead of the SC meetings so that it can report directly to the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee (PSSC) that handles presenting its work to the SC. Meetings can either be virtual or face-to-face.

A quorum will be established with at least half the Work Group's members. The Work Group is normally to agree by consensus. In some cases, a vote may be needed if consensus cannot be achieved. In this case, each member has a vote. Should a vote be evenly split, the Chair/Coordinator will have a casting vote.

The Work Group may choose to form smaller Task Teams, that are ad hoc groups with time-limited nature to work on specific tasks or projects that are pre-identified. Those Task Teams may draw upon the membership of the Work Group and/or include external experts or partners who are not part of the core Work Group but have expertise relevant to the task they are formed to address.

Minutes of the Work Group and or its Task Team(s) will be circulated to all members of the HLPDWG and made available online. They will also be made available, upon request, to any other partner.