

## Climate Task Team

### Terms of Reference

#### Purpose of the Climate Task Team

In 2021 and 2022, SWA has a priority focus on the intersection of climate action and WASH. The science is clear that climate change is hampering the predictability of water availability and demand, affecting water quality, exacerbating water scarcity, putting safe sanitation and access to hygiene at stake, and threatening sustainable development worldwide. With over 300 partners globally, climate change has consistently emerged as a priority topic which, without urgent action, undermines the work of the partnership to achieve SDG 6. In many places, already unreliable access to water and sanitation services is rendered even more precarious as the effects of climate change are increasingly felt, impacting the most marginalized populations disproportionately. At the same time, it is clear that securing universal access to water and sanitation is a vital measure which will help individuals and communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, which are already manifest. SWA's focus on building well governed, well financed WASH systems helps to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and other shocks and stressors.

As 2021 and 2022 will be pivotal years for elevating attention to the need for integrated WASH and climate agendas, the Programme and Strategy Sub-Committee has established a task team on climate action and WASH. The purpose of the climate task team is to ensure coordinated work across SWA's three strategic objectives, informed by the distinct experience and expertise of SWA's six constituency groups. The time frame for the work of the task team is one year, culminating in the Sector Ministers Meeting scheduled to take place in Indonesia in May 2022. After a year, the task team will evaluate the possibility of extending its work depending on clearly identified projects and objectives.



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

SWA's strong focus on raising political will to prioritize water and sanitation is premised on the conviction that achieving SDG 6 requires more than infrastructure. Through its **high-level meetings and convening power**, SWA works to raise awareness with governments and key sector partners about the interlinkages between WASH and climate action, and facilitate greater coordination in WASH messaging related to climate action. SWA also strategically positions itself in key climate related high level processes in order to build traction from existing initiatives and seek the prioritization of adaptation needs for WASH, as well highlighting opportunities for mitigation at global, regional, and national levels. High level engagement is linked to how the SWA partnership works at country level, providing opportunities to highlight key challenges, as

well as to showcase champion countries and inspire others to take action to prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene.

The task team will serve as a platform for information sharing and coordination on the partnership's engagement at key high-level events and process. These include preparations for World Water Week (focus on resilience), COP26, the World Water Forum, and the Sector Ministers' Meeting.



### **Objective 2: Champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services**

The challenges posed by climate change are complex and can only be resolved through collaboration – bringing together development partners to support government led action; and bringing together different government ministries and departments to develop and implement coherent policies. This is especially true, and needed, as it relates to the climate, water and health sectors.

SWA uses its convening power to support capacity building, including through webinars for partners on specific topics related to climate and WASH, as well as facilitating connections within the partnership to match institutions with climate expertise with partners seeking to learn and engage more fully. At the national level, SWA works to bring together climate and WASH stakeholders, including from relevant ministries, in order to facilitate cooperation, knowledge sharing and stronger intersectoral action.

The task team will provide a platform for exchange and coordination for work to support stakeholders working at national level. This will include ensuring linkages between SWA's multistakeholder platforms and the work of SWA partners at country level. Potential areas for engagement include strategies for integrating WASH into NDCs and NAPs, sharing experiences in advocating for and building climate resilient WASH systems, identification of data gaps and research needs for influencing policy making, among other topics.



### **Objective 3: Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments**

A consistent theme which emerged from the Finance Ministers' Meetings convened by SWA in 2020 was the need to explore strategies for the WASH sector to access climate financing. The decision include climate action as a topic at the Sector Ministers' Meeting on climate action will be an important milestone, which can also factor into the next Finance Ministers' Meeting. groundwork for the next Finance Ministers' Meeting.

The task team will serve as a space for SWA partners to identify opportunities to strengthen arguments and evidence for climate financing to support resilient WASH. The task team will also

be a space for partners to share experiences in efforts to access climate financing, and collectively reflect on lessons learned and successful strategies to be shared within the partnership.

There will be efforts to engage in global advocacy and overall awareness concerning the need to increase coordination and financing for climate adaptation and mitigation.

## **Membership of the task team**

The task team will be composed of partners from across the SWA Constituencies (Government, Civil Society Organizations, External Support Agencies, Research & Learning, Private Sector, Utilities & Regulators) and engage non-partners where relevant. Members of the TT 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.

The task team should choose from among its members a Coordinator or Co-Coordinators that coordinate and lead its work, call for meetings, manage the membership, and act as main focal point in liaising with the PSSC and other governance bodies as necessary.

## **Ways of Working/Meetings**

The task team will work together to identify specific outputs under each strategic objective, which will constitute its work plan, and will report to the PSSC.

Meetings will be called at least on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as the work plan requires.