Participants
1. Patrick Moriarty, Chair (PM)
2. Diana Carlos, Portugal
3. Andre Patinde Nonguierma, Burkina Faso
4. Anna Virginia Machado, LabGea
5. Catarina de Albuquerque, SWA CEO (CTA)
6. Clare Battle, WaterAid
7. Djouou Bocoom, Mali
8. Sumaira Gul, AHKMT
9. Pim van der Male, The Netherlands
10. Yamileth Astorga Espeleta, Costa Rica
11. Kelly Ann Naylor, UNICEF
12. Kepha Ombacho, Kenya
13. Lisa Schechtman, USAID (LS)
14. Lotte Feuerstein, WIN (LF)
15. Mohammed Zobair, DORP
16. Neil Dhot, Aquafed
17. Nguyen Thi Lien Huong, Viet Nam
18. Nicholas Igwe, Zenith Water Projects
19. Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa, Eswatini (NNE)
20. Pie Djivo, Benin
21. Rabab Hassan Abbas, Egypt
22. Sareen Malik, ANEW
23. Sue Coates, WSSCC
24. Tejraj Bhatt, Nepal
25. Vanessa Dubois, ARCA

Guests
• Jon Lane, Strategy Consultant
• Dave Prescott, Strategy Consultant
• Thom Sprenger, Strategy Consultant
• Ulrike Pokorski, GIZ

At the invitation of the Work Groups:
• Abiy Girma, Ethiopia
• Amanda Robertson, USAID
• Ananda Jayaweera, Sri Lanka
• Paul Deverill, DFID
• Sunil Kumar Das, Nepal
• Thilo Panzerbieter, GTO
• Cesarina Quintana, SWA Secretariat Regional Coordinator - Latin America and Caribbean

Secretariat
• Joost Kooijmans, COO
• Alexandra Reis, Communications
• Angie Saleh, Governance and Partnerships
• Heloise Chicou, CSO Advisor
• Muyatwa Sitali, Country Engagement
• Soumaya Benbouchta, Programme Support
• Virginia Roaf, Mutual Accountability Mechanism Advisor

Did not attend
• Dominick de Waal, World Bank
• Felister Lyimo Massa, Tanzania
• Hugo Ramón Ruiz Fleitas, Paraguay (excused)
### Summary of Decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decisions</th>
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<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>July 5th 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision 2: TORs of Sub-Committees</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Steering Committee approves the updated TORs of the Sub-Committees.</td>
<td>Sub-Committees</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decision 3: Mutual Accountability Mechanism</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Steering Committee appreciates the work done by the SWA constituencies and Secretariat on the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, agrees with the proposed next steps, and asks the Secretariat to take into consideration the discussions of the Steering Committee in implementing them. The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to report back on progress at the next SC meetings.</td>
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<td>September 2019 Virtual Steering Committee meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Decision 4: Private Sector Engagement</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Steering Committee:&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;   a) Approves the Private Sector Principles of Engagement, supporting PS Constituency efforts towards demonstrating PS partners alignment with SWA and commitment to conduct their work in an ethical and transparent way, guided by human rights and the principle of mutual accountability;</td>
<td>Private Sector Constituency with support from the Secretariat</td>
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b) Invites the PS to collaborate with the GFSC to incorporate Private Sector Principles of Engagement into the SWA Code of Conduct.

c) Approves the new Private Sector Membership Structure, as a way to incentivise a resourceful and effective PS engagement, that best supports SWA and its mission;

d) Dissolves the Private Sector Work Group, while transferring that Group’s allocated budget to the Secretariat, who will be responsible for ring-fencing it to PS-related activities;

e) Endorses the PS Engagement Action Plan as per the PS Rules of Engagement Paper, as a recognition of the leading efforts from the PS Constituency to working with the Secretariat and other SWA governance bodies towards fostering effective PS engagement within SWA;

f) Asks the Private Sector constituency, with the support of the Secretariat, to report back on progress regarding the PS Engagement Action Plan at the December SC meeting; and

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<td>• Establishes an FMM task team under the HLP DWG and mandates it to undertake the work set out in this note.</td>
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<td>• Endorses the approach set out in this note, taking cognizance of the discussions in the SC meeting, and mandates the TT to carry it forward, while identifying who will take the lead for the option(s) that the SC approves.</td>
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<td>• Requests the FMM task team, in the shortest time possible, to develop and share an outline, a concept note, a calendar with a roadmap and a budget of the FMM.</td>
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<th>Decision 6: Funding of Steering Committee members’ activities</th>
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<th>FMM Task Team/HLP DWG</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secretariat, together with the Finance and Performance Work Group</td>
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</table>
### Decision 7: Secretariat's financial report

The Steering Committee:

a) Approves the Secretariat’s request to raise the 2019 SWA budget ceiling by US$787,837 increasing the total budget to US$5,349,432

b) Requests the Secretariat to present a detailed budget and workplan for the remaining of the year at the September virtual SC meeting.

<table>
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### Decision 8: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Steering Committee:

a) thanks Patrick Moriarty and Vanessa Dubois for their roles as Interim Steering Committee Chair and Vice-chair

b) elects Patrick Moriarty and Chair Sareen Malik Vice-Chair for a period of two years.

| N/A | N/A |

### Decision 9: New partner criteria

The Steering Committee notes the proposed CSO admission principles and endorses the new admission criteria checklist and form for CSOs, and asks the Secretariat to:

a) take all necessary measures to implement this decision,

b) ask CSOs that have joined the partnership and are inactive for more than 2 years to: justify this lack of activity, explain why they are not able to engage and if they still wish to remain in the partnership,

c) add the Code of Conduct to admission forms for all constituencies once it is completed, and

d) together with the Private Sector constituency, gather more information about potential partner Intern Beyond.

| Secretariat | N/A |

### Decision 10: New partners

The Steering Committee accepts the following entities as SWA partners:

**CSOs**

- Anjuman Samaji Behbood (ASB)
- Centro de Estudios Ambientales y Sociales (CEAMSO)
- Global Communities
• Groupe d'action, de Paix et de Formation pour la Transformation (GAPAFOT)
• OSCEAH Madagascar
• Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water (PYPW)
• Population and Development Society (PDS)
• Red de Jóvenes por el Agua Centroamérica
• United Care Foundation
• WATERisLIFE
• Women and Girl-Child Capabilities and Empowerment Organization (WGCCEO)
• World Without Obstacles

External Support Agencies
• United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Research and Learning
• The Center for Water Security and Cooperation
• Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
• WaterLex

Private Sector
• Roto Company Limited

The Steering Committee further requests the Secretariat to

e) ask FANSA and ANEW to inform their members which have applied to become SWA partners that they are already part of the partnership through their membership in those networks.

f) requests the Secretariat to add the following organizations to the SWA website:
   • Indian Institute of Youth and Development (IYD) - member of FANSA
   • Jeunes Volontaires pour l’Environnement (JVE) - member of ANEW
   • WaterCare - member of FANSA
   • Women Environmental Programme (WEP) - member of NEWSAN and ANEW
**Decisions 11: New partners organized per country**
The SC requests the Secretariat to organize all new applications per country and inform the country SC member responsible for that region, so that she/he can be a part of the vetting process.

| Secretariat | N/A |

**Decision 12: Monitoring of the Secretariat performance**
The Steering Committee decides to discuss the Monitoring of the Secretariat’s performance at a dedicated virtual meeting to be held before the end of the year.

| SC | Before end of 2019 |

**Summary of Actions**

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<td><strong>Action:</strong> Country Processes Work Group and High-level Political Dialogue Work Group to hire a consultant to support the development of SWA’s Regional Engagement Strategy.</td>
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Point or partner. There should also be a distinction made between the SC member and their organization.

| Action: Private Sector to share with the SC the first Private Sector newsletter and the letter sent to the UNICEF Executive Director. | Private Sector Constituency | N/A |
Note: all decisions were taken during the Executive Session, but to ensure greater clarity they were added to the sessions where the main discussion happened.

Session 1: Introductions and Overview
Patrick Moriarty, Catarina de Albuquerque, Lotte Feuerstein, Lisa Schechtman

PM welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) to Berlin, thanked the GIZ for hosting and gave an overview of the agenda. The SC unanimously approved the draft agenda and the minutes from the March virtual meeting.

CTA then guided the group through the list of pending decisions from previous SC meetings. At the recommendation of the Secretariat, the SC agreed that “Decision 4: Outreach to constituencies” of the 6 December 2018 meeting should be removed from the list as it is included by default in the Secretariat's workplan report. The group discussed how important the Focal Points were for the activation of the partnership at country level, and how face-to-face meetings have a unique benefit to achieve that objective. The SC asked the Secretariat to consider organizing annual Focal Point regional face-to-face meetings.

It was also agreed that “Decisions 21: Main vs. Alternate” of the 6 December 2018 meeting will be taken up by the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee. The Chair also asked the Secretariat to add a “Deadline” column to the decisions table.

Regarding the pending Regional Engagement Strategy, the Country Processes Work Group (CPWG), together with the High-level Political Dialogue Work Group (HLPDWG) informed the group they will hire a consultant to support its development.

The CEO then presented an overview of the SC feedback forms submitted to the Secretariat. She remarked on the increase of the average number of days dedicated to SWA since January: 17 (an increase from 7 days since December 2018). This was expected because of the SMM. The SC generally agreed this was an impressive amount of time dedicated to SWA and where the richness of the partnership lay. Following the discussion, Patrick urged all SC members to fill out the form, as this is a useful tool to track activities. He also asked the Secretariat to change the feedback form to make a distinction between time spent on SWA as a SC member, Focal Point or partner. There should also be a distinction made between the SC member and their organization.

CTA followed with a report on the Results Framework, reminding the group that most indicators are taken from JMP or GLAAS, so the table remains mostly the same as in 2017, as only Objective 5, related to the Sector Ministers’ Meeting (SMM) has been updated. The SC agreed that a Results Framework that cannot be regularly update and measured is not fit for purpose - this should be a priority for the work done around the Strategy.

CTA then reported back on Secretariat’s activities between January and June 2019. She pointed out that most activities during the first four months of the year were related to the SMM and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM). Where afterwards, the focus has been mostly on preparations for the Finance Ministers’ Meeting (FMM), follow-up around the MAM and work around the new Strategy. CTA also highlighted the main tasks in the Secretariat's workplan until the end of the year, in particular the Strategy's regional consultations, the five planned country visits and, internally, the transition to the Trust Fund and recruitments. During the discussions, the SC urged the Secretariat to involve other partners in the planning of the country visits. The same request also applies to the
Finance Handbook for ministers. In general, the SC asked the Secretariat to share more regularly information about its activities, in particular events it is being involved in and country visits it is undertaking, where synergies with partners can easily be created.

During Session 1 the Chairs of the Sub-Committees also had the opportunity to give the SC an update of their activities and those of the Work Groups they coordinate. LS informed the group that, as requested in Lisbon, she and the Chair of the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee had agreed on ways to streamline both of their Terms of Reference and workplans. The Strategy WG was leading that work stream and will ensure all constituencies were going to be consulted through the process. She also reported the HLPDWG was until recently working of the SMM review and will, from now on, focus on the 2020 Finance Ministers’ Meeting (FMM). LS also reminded the SC of the work around the Global Leadership Council, that so far has not been fleshed out. A small group of the HLPDWG, with representatives from the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee is leading on this. The CPWG is focusing on the roll out of the MAM and second edition of the Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles. The WASH-Nutrition WG has been slowly incorporating into the work of the Sub-Committee, but more work still needs to be done. These groups need to be further aligned, and the new Strategy will provide more clarity on how to make that happen.

LF then updated the SC on the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee. She noted that since there was not a lot of interest to join the Governance Work Groups, the Sub-Committee had decided to make the groups more informal, composed of experts in certain areas, called on as needed, for example, as the Secretariat negotiated the new MOU with UNICEF. KLN informed the group that the UNICEF Executive Director had just signed the decision memo for the creation of the SWA Trust Fund, which means the ultimate reporting line of the CEO is the Steering Committee. LF pointed out that with this development, the responsibility of the SC had just been upgraded and was glad the Finance and Performance WG was looking into the monitoring of the performance of the Secretariat. She also informed the group that CTA had volunteered to chair the Fundraising WG.

Following a question from the SC on the contract with UNOPS in Geneva, CTA reminded the group of their decision to close the UNOPS-hosted SWA office for financial reasons, but that, due to work being done with partners in different time-zones, that the Secretariat was looking into ways of expanding SWA’s Geneva Hub and finding a new host.

The SC generally agreed with the updated TORs of both Sub-Committees.

**Decision 1: Secretariat workplan July-December 2019**

The Steering Committee approves the Secretariat July-December 2019 workplan. It the next two weeks it requests the secretariat to:

- e) increase information to Steering Committee members around activities, in particular the Sector Finance Chapter of the Handbook and country visits,
- f) develop and share a joint calendar where the Secretariat and Steering Committee members can include the events, they will attend in the future,
- g) include dedicated fundraising activities in the workplan and
- h) ensure the EOC minutes are shared with the Steering Committee and are available to the wider partnership

**Decision 2: TORs of Sub-Committees**

The Steering Committee approves the updated TORs of the Sub-Committees.

***

**Action:** Secretariat to consider organizing annual Focal Point regional face-to-face meetings.
**Action:** Secretariat to remove “Decision 4: Outreach to constituencies” (of the 6 December 2018 meeting) from the list of pending decision and regularly report on it via their workplan report.

**Action:** Governance and Finance Sub-Committee to lead on the implementation of Decision 21 of the 6 December 2018 meeting.

**Action:** Country Processes Work Group and High-level Political Dialogue Work Group to hire a consultant to support the development of SWA’s Regional Engagement Strategy.

**Action:** Secretariat to change the feedback form to make a distinction between time spent on SWA as an SC member, Focal Point or partner. There should also be a distinction made between the SC member and their organization.

**Session 2: SMM Update**

*Catarina de Albuquerque*

CTA ran through the 2019 SMM figures, highlighting the over 300 participants from 74 countries and the 53 ministers attending. She also summarized the preparatory process, which consisted of four webinars with over 360 individual participants, as well as 76 bilateral calls between Secretariat and country focal points. 42 countries submitted Country Briefs. In terms of lessons learned by the Secretariat, CTA mentioned the leadership of the HLPDWG as a great step forward, as well as the connection between the SMM and LatinoSan. On the downside she flagged the low attendance of the high-level representatives of the External Support Agencies, and the inconsistency in the quality of the facilitation of the Ministerial Dialogues.

There was a general agreement that it was a positive and relevant SMM, with the Private Sector representatives mentioning the likely transformative potential of the meeting, and CSO representatives pointing out the increase in participation and engagement of the LAC organizations. Representatives from the ESA constituency mentioned how high-level representatives of their organizations still found it hard to see the relevance of the SMM for them, and that also, they felt the focus should be entirely on the ministers and not on the ESAs. Other comments also mentioned that there was relevant ESA representation, just not at ministerial level. Country representatives emphasized that for their ministers it is very important to see a “matching” participation from ESAs. The SC asked the HLPDWG to make recommendations on this issue ahead of the next FMM. The webinars were singled out as a key part of the preparatory process, and a good opportunity for ministers to engage.

**Action:** HLPDWG to make recommendations, ahead of the FMM, around how to increase ESA high-level engagement and participation in the SWA High-level Meetings.

**Session 3: Update Mutual Accountability Mechanism**

*Virginia Roaf*

VR gave a presentation that summarized the Mutual Accountability Mechanism’s (MAM) activities around the SMM. She highlighted the 47 countries tabling commitments, as well as the 71 partners that did the same at global level and the 18 partners that did it at country level. Altogether, partners tabled more than 300 commitments. VR also underlined there is still work to be done to improve the commitments and to make them more realistic, inclusive, time-bound and anchored in national development plans. This will be the short-term focus of Secretariat and of the HLPDWG. Other actions to be implemented in the next few months include a MAM-dedicated event at the Stockholm World Water Week, the creation of a dedicated webpage for each country on the SWA website, the development of guidance on each constituency’s role on the process of monitoring and review, and preparation for the 2020 FMM.
During the discussion, the SC generally agreed that the disparity in the quality of commitments needs to be tackled and it reflects how engaged the different Focal Points are and the political leadership in the sector. It was also agreed that, since the MAM has become so central for SWA, it should be properly resourced.

**Decision 3: Mutual Accountability Mechanism**

The Steering Committee appreciates the work done by the SWA constituencies and Secretariat on the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, agrees with the proposed next steps, and asks the Secretariat to take into consideration the discussions of the Steering Committee in implementing them. The Steering Committee asks the Secretariat to report back on progress at the next SC meetings.

**Session 4: Private Sector**

*Neil Dhot and Nicholas Igwe*

ND gave a summary of the discussions on Private Sector Engagement held during the SC retreat. He pointed out that the SMM was a turning point that galvanized and focused the constituency for the first time, and that they had already started to deliver on their action plan, such as the constituency newsletter and the letter sent to the UNICEF Executive Director (ED) on behalf of the constituency. ND also informed the SC that the progress towards the commitments tabled by the private sector will be tracked weekly, and that this tracking is public.

The SC asked ND to share the ED letter and newsletter. The SC welcomed the thorough work done by the PS and there was a general agreement that other constituencies should also undertake a similar process and approach to engaging with SWA.

**Decision 4: Private Sector Engagement**

The Steering Committee:

- **g)** Approves the Private Sector Principles of Engagement, supporting PS Constituency efforts towards demonstrating PS partners alignment with SWA and commitment to conduct their work in an ethical and transparent way, guided by human rights and the principle of mutual accountability;

- **h)** Invites the PS to collaborate with the GFSC to incorporate Private Sector Principles of Engagement into the SWA Code of Conduct.

- **i)** Approves the new Private Sector Membership Structure, as a way to incentivize a resourceful and effective PS engagement, that best supports SWA and its mission;

- **j)** Dissolves the Private Sector Work Group, while transferring that Group’s allocated budget to the Secretariat, who will be responsible for ring-fencing it to PS-related activities;

- **k)** Endorses the PS Engagement Action Plan as per the PS Rules of Engagement Paper, as a recognition of the leading efforts from the PS Constituency to working with the Secretariat and other SWA governance bodies towards fostering effective PS engagement within SWA;

- **l)** Asks the Private Sector constituency, with the support of the Secretariat, to report back on progress regarding the PS Engagement Action Plan at the December SC meeting; and

**Action:** Private Sector to share with the SC the first Private Sector newsletter and the letter sent to the UNICEF Executive Director.
Session 5: Preparations for the 2020 Finance Ministers’ Meeting
Joost Kooijmans

JK called the SC’s attention to the discussion paper prepared by the HLPDWG about the FMM. They looked at different format options for the FMM, and recommended, as in previous years, an FMM of approximately two hours under the auspices of the World Bank President, convened by the Bank and SWA during the Spring Meetings. In previous years SWA also organized an SMM back-to-back for sector ministers accompanying their finance counterparts. The SC discussed whether to follow the same pattern, since there has been recently a large-scale SMM, and also considering the costs a new SMM would imply. The general consensus was that another SMM is not recommended. Those efforts should focus on organizing a very successful FMM, as well as a solid preparatory process. Some SC members mentioned that besides a closed-door FMM, partners should coalesce around and be engaged in the organization of several Financing SDG6 events during the week of the FMM. Several SC members also pointed out the need to invest in the preparations of the messages the sector has for finance ministers (e.g. key role of the private sector, innovative and non-traditional finance, the business case for WASH).

The SC asked the HLPDWG to proceed with the development of the outline, concept, roadmap and budget of the FMM, and to keep the SC updated.

Decision 5: Finance Ministers’ Meeting

The Steering Committee:

- Establishes an FMM task team under the HLPDWG and mandates it to undertake the work set out in this note.
- Endorses the approach set out in this note, taking cognizance of the discussions in the SC meeting, and mandates the TT to carry it forward, while identifying who will take the lead for the option(s) that the SC approves.
- Requests the FMM task team, in the shortest time possible, to develop and share an outline, a concept note, a calendar with a roadmap and a budget of the FMM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Steering Committee members only)

Session 6: Governance and Secretariat
Lotte Feuerstein, Catarina de Albuquerque and Patrick Moriarty

LF reminded the SC of their request to the Finance and Governance Sub-Committee to make a recommendation on whether SWA should fund activities implemented by SC members under the SWA umbrella. LF explained that currently, there is no mechanism in place that allows funds to be used by SC members. However, the Sub-Committee recognized that it might be in the best interest of the partnership to consider this possibility, especially once the SWA Trust Fund is in place. The SC agreed to the Sub-Committee’s recommendation.

CTA then informed the group that, as per their recommendations, the Secretariat is decentralizing itself: all Regional Coordinators should be in place shortly, and IRC in The Netherlands and LNEC in Portugal were selected as hosts of three more positions. This expansion is empowering partners and bringing costs down. Also, there is an agreement in principle from SDC to supply free office space in Geneva as SWA’s team based there expands. CTA also pointed out that, since the team was expanding...
regionally, the (bi)annual in-person team meeting(s) become even more important for coordination. The SC had no objections to the plan.

PM asked for the SC’s input into the idea of reducing the deadline for receiving SC-related documents ahead of each meeting from 10 working to 5 working days, so as to allow more time for Work Group to contribute. The SC discussed this proposal and decided not to accept it as that would reduce by half the consultation process among constituencies.

Decision 6: Funding of Steering Committee members’ activities

The Steering Committee approves the recommendation of the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee and asks the Secretariat, together with the Finance and Performance Work Group, to consider implementing a structural way to disburse funding that is still overseen by the SC and allows other groups within SWA to initiate activities at national, regional, and global levels.

Session 7: Financial update

Joost Kooijmans

JK gave the SC a financial update that included an overview of grants (expiry and utilization), operational budget vs expenditure status (as of 29 May 2019), staff costs summary for 2019 and estimated human resources costs, and funding outlook. He reminded the SC of the SWA approved budget for 2019 of US$4,561,595 and that, as of 30 May 2019, the SWA Secretariat had used a total amount of US$2,356,844. This is above the foreseen spending, mostly because the SMM was more expensive (e.g., more ministers attending than budgeted and flights more expensive due to VISA restrictions) and also because PCAs with staff hosts imply the locking of funds for the next years. The SWA Secretariat is proposing to raise the 2019 SWA budget ceiling by US$787,837 increasing the total budget to US$5,349,432. This funding is available: SWA has US$1,357,653 available in SIDA, DGIS, DFID and USAID grants to be depleted until the end of 2019.

JK also explained that, in terms of fundraising, SWA needs to fundraise US$8,820,637 for 2020 and 2021 for operations and staff cost. Fundraising prospects include $1.5 million already in the pipeline, $3 million under discussion, as well as multi-year funding partnerships with 5 donors, in sync with the establishment of the Trust Fund and the development of the new SWA Strategy.

The concerns of the SC focused mostly of the need for fundraising beyond 2019, and the contingency plan for a situation where the funding does not materialize. The group also discussed the impact of the creation of the SWA Trust Fund and how it increases the need for financial planning and reporting. JK informed the SC that SWA would still be using the same UNICEF systems for procurement, recruitment and financial control, and that UNICEF also has a small team dedicated to just supporting the partnerships they host.

Decision 7: Secretariat’s financial report

The Steering Committee:

c) Approves the Secretariat’s request to raise the 2019 SWA budget ceiling by US$787,837 increasing the total budget to US$5,349,432

d) Requests the Secretariat to present a detailed budget and workplan for the remaining of the year at the September virtual SC meeting.

Session 8: Election of SC Chair and Vice-Chair

Lotte Feuerstein and Vanessa Dubois
The SC proceeded to elect its Chair and Vice-Chair. LF informed the group that she had received three applications: one for the Chair and two for the Vice-Chair positions. She explained the procedure for elections as detailed in the Governance Document: since there was just one candidate for Chair, Patrick Moriarty, he would be elected by acclamation. The election for Vice-Chair would be done by secret ballot. The two Vice-Chair candidates were Jabulile Mashwama of Eswatini and Sareen Malik of ANEW. All three candidates had the opportunity to shortly explain their reason to accept their nomination. Because Ms. Mashwama was not present in the room, the Secretariat showed a short video interview where she outlined the important of SWA and her vision for the partnership.

Patrick Moriarty was elected as SC Chair by acclamation. Sareen Malik was elected as SC Vice-Chair.

**Decision 8: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Steering Committee:

- c) thanks Patrick Moriarty and Vanessa Dubois for their roles as Interim Steering Committee Chair and Vice-chair
- d) elects Patrick Moriarty and Chair and Sareen Malik Vice-Chair for a period of two years.

**Session 9: New applications**

*Joost Kooijmans*

JK reminded the SC of their decision to ask the CSO constituency to recommend ways of dealing with the increasing number of applications coming to the SC. The SC 2015 decision to allow individual organizations to join SWA instead of just networks allowed for more organizations to engage with the partnership and for broader representation. It has also brought specific expertise from individual organizations that otherwise might not be mobilized. On the other hand, this has serious impact in the Secretariat’s and constituency’s capacity to engage with all partners. Some of the CSOs joining lack experience in advocacy and have little capacity to be active and engage.

The CSOs are suggesting a new set of admission principles that lead to a stronger recommendation for individual organization to engage via the network, without preventing them to join individually if that is their preference. There was some concern by the SC that it might be the case that in some countries the networks are not independent or effective. The CSO representatives underlined that, although the networks are the preferred entry point into SWA, the new criteria do not prevent individual organizations to join, on the contrary, they promote an exchange with the organizations about their objectives when joining SWA and the best way to achieve them. The power to refuse a partner will always remain in the hands of the SC, informed by the due diligence process of the constituency and Secretariat. The applicants will always have a right to appeal from a negative decision. There were no objections to this arrangement and agreed with the Secretariat’s proposal regarding new partners.

**Decision 9: New partner criteria**

The Steering Committee notes the proposed CSO admission principles and endorses the new admission criteria checklist and form for CSOs, and asks the Secretariat to:

- g) take all necessary measures to implement this decision,
- h) ask CSOs that have joined the partnership and are inactive for more than 2 years to: justify this lack of activity, explain why they are not able to engage and if they still wish to remain in the partnership,
- i) add the Code of Conduct to admission forms for all constituencies once it is completed, and
together with the Private Sector constituency, gather more information about potential partner Intern Beyond.

**Decision 10: New partners**
The Steering Committee accepts the following entities as SWA partners:

**CSOs**
- Anjuman Samaji Behbood (ASB)
- Centro de Estudios Ambientales y Sociales (CEAMSO)
- Global Communities
- Groupe d'action, de Paix et de Formation pour la Transformation (GAPAFOT)
- OSCEAH Madagascar
- Pakistan Youth Parliament for Water (PYPW)
- Population and Development Society (PDS)
- Red de Jóvenes por el Agua Centroamérica
- United Care Foundation
- WATERisLIFE
- Women and Girl-Child Capabilities and Empowerment Organization (WGCCEO)
- World Without Obstacles

**External Support Agencies**
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

**Research and Learning**
- The Center for Water Security and Cooperation
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
- WaterLex

**Private Sector**
- Roto Company Limited

The Steering Committee further requests the Secretariat to

k) ask FANSA and ANEW to inform their members which have applied to become SWA partners that they are already part of the partnership through their membership in those networks.

l) requests the Secretariat to add the following organizations to the SWA website:
- Indian Institute of Youth and Development (IYD) - member of FANSA
- Jeunes Volontaires pour l’Environnement (JVE) - member of ANEW
- WaterCare - member of FANSA
- Women Environmental Programme (WEP) - member of NEWSAN and ANEW
Decisions 11: New partners organized per country

The SC requests the Secretariat to organize all new applications per country and inform the country SC member responsible for that region, so that she/he can be a part of the vetting process.

Session 10: Decisions related to Sessions 3, 4 and 5
Patrick Moriarty

The SC revised the draft decision proposed by the leaders of session 3, 4 and 5, and decided to approve the one related to the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (see page 6) and the FMM (see page 7). Regarding the Private Sector engagement, the SC agreed not to create separate rules for the constituency and instead align the criteria for joining and working together across all constituencies.

Due to the delay of the meeting, the SC decided to postpone their discussion on monitoring the performance of the Secretariat to another dedicated virtual meeting.

Decision 12: Monitoring of the Secretariat performance

The Steering Committee decides to discuss the Monitoring of the Secretariat’s performance at a dedicated virtual meeting to be held before the end of the year.

Session 12: Report back from Executive Session

There was no need for a report back, as none of the observers or guests came back to the room.

Session 13: AOB
Patrick Moriarty

There was no AOB.