



The CEO Water Mandate

Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 18 Jan. 2012

Present: F. Batz (GIZ); J. Gildi (Banco do Brasil); M. Glade (Molson Coors); M. Gough (Reed Elsevier); N. Govender (Eskom); A. Hudson (UN Development Programme); J. Morrison (Pacific Institute); G. Power (UN Global Compact); J. Rother (Bayer); I. Studer (AkzoNobel Latin America); D. Yeo (WaterAid)

Agenda item	
<p>1. Welcome and General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ G. Power welcomed Steering Committee members to the first conference call of 2012, stating that the Secretariat believes that the CEO Water Mandate is well positioned to further advance its momentum, broaden its scale, and deepen its impact. ▪ G. Power welcomed the two newest Special Advisors to the Steering Committee: <u>Mr Franz-Josef Batz</u>, Head of International Policy and the Infrastructure Team, GIZ; and <u>Mr Daniel Yeo</u>, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterAid. Messrs Batz and Yeo will serve two-year terms as non-voting Special Advisors to the Steering Committee. ▪ G. Power expressed appreciation and gratitude to <u>Mr Mark Gough</u> of Reed Elsevier for his overall contributions to the Mandate and his active participation in the Steering Committee. Mr Gough has announced that he is leaving his position at Reed Elsevier to pursue other interests, and has said that he and Reed Elsevier will seek to find a replacement for his various Mandate-related roles. (As part of this change, Mr Gough will also be stepping down as the CEO Water Mandate representative on the board of the Alliance for Water Stewardship; see related item under Miscellaneous Items.) 	
<p>2. Draft Communiqué From Mandate CEO's; Update on Rio+20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As directed by the Steering Committee, the Secretariat prepared for review the second draft of the Communiqué by Mandate endorsing 	

CEO's to Governments that are expected to attend the Rio+20 Summit. As previously agreed, once approved by the Steering Committee, the Secretariat will then share the draft Communiqué with all Mandate endorsers in Q1 for further refinement. When finalized, endorsers will then be asked to secure the signature endorsements of their respective CEO's.

- The second draft – which included new language on endorsers' actions and a supporting template in Appendix, as well as references to the importance of education, incentives/rewards, and responsible purchasing by consumers – found general approval with the SC. Only small revisions were suggested to these new additions, including a proposal that the Appendix, when completed with examples of actions by endorsers (of no more than 5 sentences), include links to endorsers' websites where further information could be found.

- One SC member suggested that the Secretariat review the recently issued United Nations' "Zero Draft" – the main governmental negotiating text for the Rio+20 Summit – to explore whether the draft Communiqué could find suitable alignment and strengthening references, especially in relation to water and sustainable development objectives. This suggestion found favour with the SC. Related, the UNDP Special Advisor to the SC agreed to convene a meeting between the Mandate Secretariat and UNDP to explore further linkages between the Mandate and the broader UN development agenda.

- The Secretariat informed the SC that the UNGC will convene a UN Corporate Sustainability Forum (CSF) on 15-18 June in the days prior to the official Rio Summit (scheduled for 20-22 June). Within the CSF the Mandate will convene a number of water sessions on 16, 17, and 18 June – including sessions related to the Mandate's three priority workstreams (disclosure; collective action; human rights). The Secretariat is currently developing the agenda for this Rio CSF "water track".

SC members directed the Secretariat to revise the Communiqué along the lines described above, with plans for the Secretariat to send to all endorsers for review and further refinement. After incorporating any additional suggestions, the final text would be sent to all endorsing companies for CEO approval and signatures – a process to be completed before the Rio Summit.

3. Review of Draft Terms of Reference for Collective Engagement Working Group; Review of Invitation from WaterMatch

- At the Mandate's Stockholm conference in August 2011, endorsers agreed that the Policy Engagement Working Group should be redefined to focus more on collective action, and that new terms of reference be developed for this group.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ J. Morrison presented the draft terms of reference to the SC for review, and highlighted a number of key planned or envisioned projects, including: i) the Water Action Hub, an on-line tool to allow companies to more easily identify and collaborate with stakeholders on a location-specific basis; ii) a good practice guide on collective engagement, to be developed, pro-bono, by Ross & Associates; and iii) the advancement of on-the-ground collective action efforts such as those under way or being developed in partnership with UNEP, USAID, GIZ, and others. ▪ The SC approved the draft Terms of Reference, and directed the Secretariat to ensure that this group coordinates, where appropriate, with the existing multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Water Action Hub given the overlap on this specific project. ▪ The Secretariat informed the SC that the CEO Water Mandate has been invited to be a “collaborating organization” by CH2M HILL in relation to the company’s WaterMatch Website, an online mapping tool allowing industrial and agricultural users to locate nearby wastewater treatment plants for prospective water reuse projects. The Secretariat, while recognizing the potential benefits of an alliance, suggested to the SC that the Secretariat further explore the possibilities and implications with an eye towards developing a draft MOU that would delineate the relationship between Watermatch and the Water Action Hub for review by the SC at a later date. The SC approved this recommendation. 	
<p>4. Discussion of Communications on Progress Policy Relating to COP-Water Review Process and Endorser Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Secretariat informed the SC that a recent COP-Water by an endorsing company made a misleading claim suggesting that the report had been independently reviewed by the Pacific Institute. In fact, COP-Water reports are reviewed by the Mandate Secretariat <u>following</u> their actual publication to ensure that the minimum COP-Water criteria have been met, but are not presently evaluated for accuracy, relevancy or material completeness. ▪ Because of this incident, as well as important new aspects relating to COP-Water policy, the Secretariat proposed that it develop and send to all endorsers a general communication on the COP-Water policy. This purpose of the communication would be to highlight the importance of the COP-Water report, and remind endorsers of some recent additional aspects, including the new policy that links the COP-Water to the CDP-Water questionnaire, and the cross-references to the UNGC Advanced level COP. Further, the communication would state that companies should not indicate that their reports have been reviewed or evaluated in any way by the Mandate Secretariat prior to publication. If a company wishes to 	

make such a claim, then it must request that an advanced copy of the report be reviewed by the Secretariat, and that any subsequent claim state that the review only relates to satisfying the minimum criteria of the Mandate.

- The Secretariat proposed that the SC, at a later day, consider whether the Mandate Secretariat should explore establishing a review process that might include a pre-publication evaluation into content areas beyond the minimum criteria.

SC members directed the Secretariat to develop and send a general communication to all Mandate endorsers as described above. The SC agreed to consider, at a later date, the idea of expanding the report review function, understanding that such an expanded function would have Secretariat resource implications

5. Plans Related to World Water Forum (Marseille)

- The Secretariat informed the SC that G. Power, due to family obligations, will not be able to attend World Water Forum, and that Mandate-related activities in Marseille will be led by J. Morrison.
- Because the Secretariat is actively developing many key projects for partial or full delivery at the Rio Summit, the Secretariat proposed that the Mandate activities in Marseille consist primarily of working-level discussions tied to projects currently in development. SC members agreed with this proposal.

6. Miscellaneous Items

- Because of his impending departure from Reed Elsevier, M. Gough will be stepping down as the Mandate representative on the board of the Alliance for Water Stewardship. The Secretariat invited SC members to consider taking his seat, and to communicate this interest to the Secretariat. M. Gough offered to fully explain the role and related duties to any interested SC members.
- The Secretariat informed the SC that it is continuing to share the recently finalized letter to non-business stakeholders to assess reaction and gauge their willingness to sign such the letter. The letter outlines the areas that signing organizations could commit to in relation to the Mandate.
- The next conference call of the Steering Committee will be scheduled for early March.