

Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 11 March 2011

Present: D. Bena (PepsiCo); M. Bhutani, M. Chaturvedi (HCC); M. Ginster (Sasol); M. Gough (Reed Elsevier); J. Morrison (Pacific Institute); G. Power (UN Global Compact); A. Salloum (Dow Brasil)

Agenda Items		
1.	General Updates	
	 G. Power provided a summary of recent developments: The planned May working conference will be relocated from Cairo to Copenhagen. (Initial plans for the Copenhagen event are described below.) Per the decision by endorsers at the S Africa conference in November 2010, the CEO Water Mandate core document was officially amended in January to recognize in its Preamble the 2010 UN resolutions affirming the human right to water and sanitation. With respect to the Mandate's decision to appoint to its Steering Committee four non-endorsers as Special Advisors – i) NGO representing social issues; ii) NGO representing conservation issues; iii) UN Agency; iv) public sector water entity – the following update was provided: 	
	 Brian Richter, Managing Director, Global Freshwater Program, The Nature Conservancy, accepted an invitation to join the Steering Committee as a Special Advisor. An invitation was sent to the UN Development Programme with discussions continuing. Discussions with WaterAid commenced; however, management changes at WaterAid have placed these conversations on hold. The individual invited from the International Water Association declined due to resource-time constraints. 	
	 Given the decline from the individual at the IWA, the Steering Committee directed the Secretariat to identify and invite an appropriate individual from the Global Water Partnership. With respect to the UN-related Special Advisor position, the Steering Committee agreed that the World Health Organization should be invited in the event that UNDP is unable to join the SC for any reason. Regarding finances, the Secretariat's recent appeal to Mandate endorsers in relation to the voluntary annual contributions (to 	Secretariat

support the Secretariat) generated approximately US \$100,000 as of 1 March. This amount is expected to cover general operating costs related to the Secretariat for calendar 2011. (This excludes funding needs related to working conferences, other bigger-ticket projects, and priority workstreams.)	
2. Update on Priority Workstreams and Work Areas	
 J. Morrison provided an update on the priority workstreams and works areas: 	
 Regarding <u>water disclosure</u>, the Secretariat is refining a concept note around the project which aims to develop corporate water reporting guidance – in collaboration with the Carbon Disclosure Project, the World Resources Institute, the Global Reporting Initiative, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. 	
 Regarding <u>water and human rights</u>, the Secretariat will present at the Copenhagen conference a concept note in relation to the plans to develop operational guidance elucidating how companies can respect the human right to water. 	
 Regarding <u>water and public policy</u>, the Secretariat is developing plans to support corporate implementation of the recently released "Guide to Responsible Business Engagement with Water Policy". Conversations are under way with at least one organization on the development of relevant training materials. The Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat to explore other organizations as possible partners in this regard. 	Secretariat
 Regarding the Mandate's projects in relation to <u>collective action</u>: i) four endorsers in the apparel sector – H&M, Levi Strauss, Nautica, Nike – are scoping a project, in partnership with UNEP, to convene supply chain workshops in Cambodia and/or Vietnam; ii) Sasol, the Secretariat, GIZ, and other stakeholders recently met in S Africa to explore the scope of possible local, regional, and/or country-level collective action project(s). 	
 A Steering Committee member suggested coordinating with the World Economic Forum and its planned country-level water projects. 	SC Member
 A Steering Committee member suggested that the Mandate seek partnerships with more Government Ministries where relevant. Project financing could also be an opportunity in this regard. 	Secretariat
 Regarding the <u>Water Action Hub</u>, four endorsers have indicated financial commitments to support the development of this envisioned on-line platform, to be developed in partnership with UNEP, IBLF, and Deloitte. The Secretariat is currently scoping the project. 	Secretariat
[SEE SECTION BELOW]	

3. Draft MOUs with Carbon Disclosure Project; World Resources Institute	
 The Steering Committee approved the draft MOU with the Carbon Disclosure Project, which seeks to improve water disclosure tools and practices. The Steering Committee supported the overall objective of the draft MOU with the World Resources but felt the document contains too much detail and should focus largely on strategic considerations. The Steering Committee directed the Secretariat to revise the document along these lines and share the new draft with WRI. 	Secretariat
4. Initial Plans for Copenhagen Conference	
 The CEO Water Mandate plans to convene its seventh working conference and related activities in Copenhagen, on 16-17 May. The working conference (planned for 16 May) will focus on one central topic – ie, corporate water disclosure, building on the Mandate's previous and planned work in this area. On 17 May, the Mandate will hold working group and project meetings in the morning, as well as a joint afternoon session with the annual gathering of Caring for Climate, to explore the climatewater nexus as well as to look for working synergies between the two initiatives. In addition, on the evening of the 16th the Mandate Secretariat will hold a special briefing session on the initiative's priority workstreams and projects. 	
 The estimated budget for Copenhagen is US \$50,000-\$60,000. As with past conferences, the Secretariat will seek several endorser sponsors to cover the costs. 	Secretariat
 The Steering Committee strongly supported the initial plans for Copenhagen. (The Secretariat noted that a scouting mission to India will be undertaken in April to explore the possibility of holding a future Mandate conference in India. India has been suggested in the past by several endorsers.) 	Secretariat
8. Miscellaneous	
 The UN Global Compact Office is leading the development of a private-sector track for the UN's Least Developed Countries Conference, to take place in Istanbul on 9-13 May. This major UN conference, expected to attract approximately 6000 delegates, will feature a special private-sector session on "Business and Water" where the CEO Water Mandate will be incorporated. M. Gough represented the Mandate at a recent board meeting of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), and provided a brief report on the outcome of that meeting. 	Secretariat

 M. Cheturvedi has agreed to step down as the Mandate's alternate representative on the AWS Board, in order to be eligible to apply to represent HCC on the AWS's soon-to-be-formed International Standards Development Committee. 	
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