



# The CEO Water Mandate

## Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 22 Nov. 2011

**Present:** M. Glade (Molson Coors); M. Gough (Reed Elsevier); A. Hudson (UN Development Programme); J. Morrison (Pacific Institute); G. Power (UN Global Compact); B. Richter (The Nature Conservancy); J. Rother (Bayer); I. Studer (AkzoNobel Latin America)

Agenda item	
<p>1. General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>G. Power and J. Morrison offered the following general updates:</u></li> <li>▪ As part of the Federal Government of Germany's Bonn2011 Conference, held on 16-18 November and focusing on the nexus of water-energy-food security, the UN Global Compact was invited to convene two special "hot-topic" sessions – one exploring the role of private finance as it pertains to the nexus, and one addressing the topic of corporate water stewardship. This latter session was co-convened by the CEO Water Mandate/Pacific Institute, the Alliance for Water Stewardship, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. At the conference, the Secretariat was also invited to announce, in a plenary session, the impending launch of the CEO Water Mandate's Water Action Hub.</li> <li>▪ Following a decision by the Steering Committee ("SC") during the previous conference call, the Secretariat invited GIZ, the Germany development agency, to appoint a representative as a Special Advisor to the SC. GIZ subsequently accepted the invitation and requested some time to identify the appropriate individual.</li> <li>▪ Also in relation to the effort by the SC and Secretariat to appoint additional non-business Special Advisors, Mr Daniel Yeo, Senior Policy Analyst at WaterAid, accepted the invitation to become a Special Advisor for a two-year term, effectively immediately. Mr Yeo is a globally recognized expert on both water and climate change issues.</li> <li>▪ As directed by the SC, the Secretariat posted on the Mandate webpage the final policy regarding the relationship between the CDP-Water questionnaire and the Mandate's Communication on Progress. The policy stipulates how a company's completed CDP-Water can fulfil the COP-Water reporting requirement.</li> <li>▪ With respect to new endorsers, the Secretariat informed the SC that since the last conference call (in September) 10 companies from the</li> </ul>	

paper-and-pulp industry have endorsed the Mandate. Four of these companies are headquartered in China, and six are based in Indonesia.

***SC members directed the Secretariat to undertake an analysis to ascertain the respective size (based on revenue/sales) of the Mandate's nearly 90 endorsing companies.***

- The technical application in relation to the Global Development Alliance with the U.S. Agency for International Development has passed the initial review process at USAID.
- The Secretariat is finalizing the development of a special stand-alone website for the CEO Water Mandate, which is expected to go live in the coming weeks. The website will feature a capacity-building platform, co-developed with the United Nations Environment Programme.
- The advisory committee for the Mandate's Water Action Hub plans to convene its first teleconference meeting in January 2012.
- The Secretariat is currently working to finalize the service provision contract with PwC related to the water disclosure guidelines project.
- As previously agreed, the Secretariat has initiated in Q4 2011 and will continue through Q1 2012 a concerted outreach effort with civil society organizations, including NGOs that have gone on record expressing concerns about the CEO Water Mandate and specific companies engaged in the initiative. The Secretariat will seek to understand these concerns, while attempting to dispel any misperceptions by providing a full picture of the Mandate, its mission, accomplishments, accountability measures, and future plans.

**2. Rio+20 Summit**

- The United Nations officially changed the dates for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to 20-22 June 2012. The change affects the scheduling of the UN Global Compact's "Corporate Sustainability Forum", including the dates for the CEO Water Mandate's planned activities (previously scheduled for 31 May-2 June). The UN Global Compact is currently finalizing new dates for Rio+20 and the Mandate Secretariat is seeking to schedule CEO Water Mandate activities for 16-18 June. The Secretariat will inform Mandate endorsers as soon as possible with respect to the new dates once confirmed.
- As directed by the SC, the Secretariat prepared for review a draft Communiqué by Mandate endorsing CEOs to Governments that are expected to attend the Rio+20 Summit. As previously agreed, the

intention is for the SC to finalize the Communiqué and then for the Secretariat to share the document with all endorsing companies during Q1 2012 for further refinement. When finalized, endorsers will then be asked to secure the signature of their respective CEOs.

- Overall, the SC reacted favourably to the draft Communiqué. However, there was unanimous agreement by SC members that the Communiqué should include a reference and related Annex to individual actions (recent and/or planned) by companies in relation to their commitment to the CEO Water Mandate. Such information would demonstrate what companies are undertaking and prepared to do as a complement to the recommendations to Governments outlined in the Communiqué.

***SC members directed the Secretariat to revise the Communiqué, with plans to discuss and possibly finalize the document during the next SC conference call in January. The SC also directed the Secretariat to stay alert to any other water-related statements being prepared by other groups in an effort to find alignment.***

### 3. Review of Draft Commitment Letter for Non-Business Stakeholders

- As directed by the SC, the Secretariat prepared for review a draft commitment letter to the CEO Water Mandate from non-business organizations. (At the Stockholm conference in August 2011, endorsers agreed that consideration be given to creating a special “Supporting Stakeholders” section on the Mandate website to cite and recognize non-business organizations that are supporting the Mandate in one form or another. Such recognition would be based on the signing of a commitment letter by an organization wishing to be recognized.)
- SC members generally approved the draft letter which outlines the possible areas that the signing organization could commit to. However, SC members agreed that the letter be revised so that a signing organization does not commitment to specific areas of engagement. As well, it was agreed that the reference to being recognized only on the CEO Water Mandate website be removed.
- The SC decided not to approve this policy until the Secretariat better understands how many non-business organizations (eg, NGOs) will respond to the policy and whether the commitment letter may be too onerous for many NGOs to sign. The risk is that too few organizations may be willing to go through the process of signing the commitment letter. This could have the ultimate effect of publicly understating the number of non-business groups in the Mandate.

***SC members directed the Secretariat to share the revised letter with various non-business organizations to gauge their reaction and potential willingness to sign the letter.***

<p>4. Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Secretariat set the next Steering Committee conference call for mid-January, date-to-be determined.</li></ul>	