



# The CEO Water Mandate

## Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 25 March 2014

**Present:** J. Arango (Grupo Nutresa); C. Brown (Olam); M. Ginster (Sasol); J. Maestu (UN-Water); J. Morrison (Pacific Institute); C. Piedrahita (Grupo Nutresa); G. Power (UN Global Compact); H. Rippman (Nike); H. Share (AB InBev)

Agenda item	
<p>1. Update on Engagement in Post-2015 Development Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ G. Power said the UN Global Compact and CEO Water Mandate continue to be actively involved in relaying the perspectives and recommendations of companies committed to responsible business generally, and corporate water stewardship specifically, in relation to the UN Post-2015 deliberations.</li> <li>▪ On 18 February 2014, the UN General Assembly convened a special thematic session on the topic of “Water, Sanitation, and Sustainable Energy”. In his opening remarks to the more than 170 Member States attending the session, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the importance of the CEO Water Mandate as a public-private collaboration platform. In addition, a senior representative of Unilever plc, speaking during a subsequent panel before Governments, drew attention to the CEO Water Mandate’s Water Action Hub, describing the Hub as an important implementation vehicle for multi-stakeholder, water-related projects.</li> <li>▪ In relation to the inter-governmental UN Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Global Compact has on two occasions shared with the OWG Co-Chairs its special Issue Brief on Water and Sanitation, which suggests an overall water and sanitation goal with four related targets. G. Power shared with the Steering Committee the OWG’s just released discussion paper outlining 19 thematic focus areas, one of which covers water and sanitation, with several suggested targets the closely align with those outlined in the UNGC Issue Brief. The OWG paper will be discussed by the OWG as it seeks to develop a more concise and consolidated list of proposed goals to be presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2014.</li> </ul>	

- G. Power relayed that several individuals have suggested that the CEO Water Mandate consider developing a special communiqué to Governments and the Open Working, signed by endorsing Chief Executive Officers of the Mandate. The communiqué would, among other things, urge Governments to agree on a dedicated SDG on water and sanitation.

***Steering Committee members agreed that there could value in developing and delivering such a communiqué, but directed the Secretariat to explore several options in relation to how Mandate CEOs might communicate to Governments. The options will be presented during the next Steering Committee conference call.***

## 2. Overview of Upcoming Peru Conference

- J. Morrison provided an overview of the Peru general conference and related activities – running from 8 April to 10 April. He said conference registrations were approaching maximum levels, with between 175 and 200 delegates expected. (The conference is being financially sponsored by Grupo Nutresa, Netafim, SABMiller, and ABInBev.)
- On 8 April there will be a field trip to a Netafim drip-irrigation project, as well as a visit to a SABMiller facility.
- On the evening of 8 April there will be seminar showcasing “Global Water Stewardship Initiatives”. This will include the global launch of the Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard; the public launch of the ICMM’s Global Water Strategy and Action Plan; and a briefing by the 2030 Water Resource Group.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The event on 9 April will focus on “Corporate Water Stewardship, Collective Action, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Exploring the Relevance for Peru”.</li> <li>▪ On 10 April, the CEO Water Mandate will convene its “Lima Multi-stakeholder Conference”, which will include discussions on the effectiveness of partnerships; the human right to water and sanitation; and corporate water disclosure.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Several SC members emphasized the importance of adequately addressing water stewardship by the mining sector, given the presence of this industry in Peru.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>One SC member said they were pleased that several large Latin American companies have endorsed the Mandate prior to the Peru event, and suggested that the conference should be used as a recruiting tool for even more companies from the region.</i></b></p>	
<p>3. Plans for World Water Week 2014: Stockholm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Secretariat is beginning to plan the Mandate’s activities in relation to World Water Week (Stockholm), scheduled for early September.</li> <li>▪ At this stage, the Mandate plans to hold a joint event within the main World Water Week conference, in partnership with GIZ, AWS, WBCSD, and the Water Integrity Network. In addition, the Mandate will hold its usual multi-stakeholder session at the Rica Talk hotel, adjacent to the conference center.</li> <li>▪ The Mandate and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) are coordinating and partnering on plans.</li> </ul>	
<p>4. Possible Collaboration with The Nature Conservancy</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Secretariat presented for discussion two possible projects with The Nature Conservancy – one, the development of a paper/guide on how to measure the sufficiency of collective action projects; and two, the development of a basic toolkit for companies just beginning the water stewardship journey.</li> </ul>	

***Understanding that the Secretariat will be meeting with The Nature Conservancy during the Peru conference, SC members directed the Secretariat to further scope both possible projects. In relation to the first project proposal, one SC member expressed concern about whether the Secretariat has the time and “bandwidth” to work on such a paper, given other priorities. With respect to the second project, several SC members saw significant value in developing a basic Mandate starter kit, with one member saying that it would present a great opportunity to emphasize the importance of managing water in the supply chain.***

5. Other Items

- The Secretariat informed the SC that Mr Carlos Piedrahita will be retiring from Grupo Nutresa and therefore stepping off the Steering Committee. He is replaced by Mr. Jorge Arango, Group Vice President of Sustainable Development for Grupo Nutresa. G. Power thanked Mr Piedrahita for his exemplary commitment and support, including in relation to helping to organize the Peru conference, including recruiting several Latin American companies to the Mandate.
- J. Maestu, UN-Water, drew attention to UN-Water’s Post-2015-themed conference, planned for 15-17 January 2015 in Zaragoza, Spain, and encouraged the Mandate to participate and integrate its thinking and work. She shared a conference flyer with the group.
- The next conference call of the Steering Committee will be scheduled during the May-July timeframe.