



The CEO Water Mandate

Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 28 April 2011

Present: M. Bhutani (HCC), M. Chaturvedi (HCC); M. Ginster (Sasol); M. Gough (Reed Elsevier); A. Hudson (UN Development Programme); J. Morrison (Pacific Institute); G. Power (UN Global Compact); B. Richter (The Nature Conservancy); M. Whaley (Allergan)

Agenda item	Task
<p>1. Welcome and General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ G. Power officially welcomed as Special Advisors to the Steering Committee: <u>Mr Brian Richter</u>, Leader of the Global Freshwater Team at The Nature Conservancy; and <u>Mr Andrew Hudson</u>, Head of Water Governance at the United Nations Development Programme. As leading experts in the areas of freshwater stewardship and water governance, respectively, Messrs. Richter and Hudson will provide strategic counsel and perspectives to the Steering Committee. ▪ G. Power provided the following general updates: ▪ The UN Global Compact is currently leading the development of a significant “Private Sector Track” in relation to the upcoming UN Least Developed Countries Conference, scheduled for 9-13 May, 2011, in Istanbul. The conference, which occurs only once every ten years, focuses on the development challenges related to the 48 “LDCs” as defined by the UN. Mr Power noted that the Private Sector Track will feature a number of special sessions on critical sustainability and development issues, including a session on corporate water sustainability and the CEO Water Mandate (being organized by Mandate endorsing company Netafim). In addition, the UNGC and UNDP are organizing a special conference dialogue with bilateral development agencies on key development and sustainability issues. ▪ Several large corporations have recently endorsed the CEO Water Mandate – including Merck, the U.S.-based pharmaceutical company; Grundfos, the Denmark-based water equipment supplier; and Woolworths, the S Africa-based retailer. These endorsements continue the Mandate’s upward trajectory in terms of corporate participation. There is also increasing diversification in terms of industries and sectors. 	

- The Memorandum of Understanding between the CEO Water Mandate and the Carbon Disclosure Project has been finalized. The MOU outlines collaboration with respect to improving water disclosure tools and practices.
- A draft MOU between the CEO Water Mandate and The World Resources Institute has been developed (and was shared with Steering Committee members prior to this conference call.) The MOU focuses on areas of collaboration in relation to improving corporate water risk management practices, including integration to the degree feasible between the Mandate-UNEP Water Action Hub and Aqueduct, a global water risk database.

One SC member asked whether any Mandate endorsers had expressed concerns about collaboration in relation to a single third-party tool or platform, given the growing proliferation of such resources. The Secretariat said that no MOU entered into by the Mandate would confer exclusivity, adding that the Mandate (per a decision taken at the governance meeting in S. Africa in November 2010) will explore numerous strategic alliances where beneficial to the initiative and consistent with the Mandate's priority workstreams. The Secretariat reported that no endorser has thus far expressed concern in relation to question raised on MOUs.

- SC members agreed to review the draft MOU and offer any comments by close of business, 3 May.

2. Overview: Copenhagen Conference Agenda

- J. Morrison presented an overview of the upcoming seventh working conference and related activities of the CEO Water Mandate, scheduled for 15-18 May in Copenhagen. This working conference will take place within the context of "UN Global Compact Week" – a first-ever event which will bring together the numerous special workstreams, initiatives, and Local (Country) Networks of the broader UN Global Compact initiative.
- The Secretariat reported that it has fully covered the budget of the CEO Water Mandate conference, thanks to the generous sponsorships of Dow, Nestle, PepsiCo, and Stora Enso.
- On the evening of Sunday, 15 May, there will be an informal discussion on collaboration with GIZ in relation to the German Government's Bonn Process, which is designed to develop inputs and content for the Rio+20 Summit in 2012 – especially in relation to the water-energy-food nexus.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Day One of the Mandate conference, on 16 May, will be conducted in partnership with the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment – a sister initiative of the UN Global Compact. The day will include several sessions focusing on water disclosure; communicating water risk, especially at the company-investor nexus; and effective water management practices. ▪ Day Two, on 17 May, will focus on two priority areas of the Mandate – collective action, and the human right to water. With respect to collective action, discussions will focus on the development of the Water Action Hub, in addition to discussions on Mandate-related collective action efforts planned for Southeast Asia and South Africa. With respect to human rights, the Mandate will continue its long-running focus on this topic with discussions centering on evolving corporate practices, and the scoping of the Mandate’s planned operational guidance. ▪ One SC member said that it might be beneficial to involve Catarina de Albuquerque, the UN Independent Expert on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, in the human rights discussions. (The Secretariat had previously sent an invitation, but scheduling conflicts may make it difficult for Ms de Albuquerque to attend. The Secretariat noted that Ms de Albuquerque’s staff has been involved in previous Mandate discussions on this topic.) ▪ The Secretariat said that because of logistical and programming challenges related to this particular event – especially in relation to the many activities planned for UN Global Compact Week – it is proving difficult to schedule an endorsers-only meeting during the seventh working conference. If such a meeting cannot be arranged, the Secretariat would convene the next endorsers-only meeting at the eighth working conference to be held in conjunction with Stockholm World Water Week (late August 2011).. ▪ One SC member observed that the many water sustainability tools being developed in the general water space are extremely broad in nature, and lack the “granularity” required when one considers the importance of specific river basins and watersheds. This member recommended that the Mandate seek to advance efforts to bring about more granularity as tools, etc., are developed. 	
<p>3. Miscellaneous Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Mandate has scheduled its sessions at World Water Week in Stockholm for 25-26 August, 2011. 	