Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 6 March 2012

Present: M. Glade (Molson Coors); J. Morrison (Pacific Institute); W. Pinto (Banco do Brasil); G. Power (UN Global Compact); J. Rother (Bayer); M. Whaley (Allergan); D. Yeo (WaterAid)

Agenda item

1. Review of Inputs to Draft Communiqué

- Following the previous Steering Committee conference call on 18 January, the Secretariat sent the third draft of the CEO Communiqué to all endorsing companies for review and comment. (As previously described, this Communiqué – to be signed by as many endorsing CEO’s as possible – will be announced and presented during the Rio+20 Summit in June. The purpose of the Communiqué is to call on Governments attending the Rio+20 Summit to make water security a greater priority and to partner more actively with companies on solutions. The Communiqué will also contain an Appendix that will summarize key commitments and planned actions by Mandate endorsing companies.)

- In advance of the 6 March conference call, the Secretariat prepared a summary of substantive comments and suggestions by a number of endorsing companies. The Secretariat reported that many endorsing companies offered quite positive feedback on the draft Communiqué in terms of contend and policy recommendations.

- During the call, the Secretariat presented each of the main content-oriented suggestions by those endorsers that offered feedback. (Suggestions of an editorial nature were not included.) SC members approved virtually all of the suggestions.

SC members directed the Secretariat to incorporate the input and to send this version to SC members for final review. Once approved, the final Communiqué will be sent to all endorsers by the Secretariat at the beginning of April with a request to secure the endorsements and signatures of their respective CEO’s.

2. Plans Related to World Water Forum (Marseille)
The CEO Water Mandate will convene three working sessions in Marseille during the World Water Forum, covering the following Mandate workstreams: i) the Water Action Hub; ii) development of global guidance on corporate water disclosure; and iii) development of guidance on good practice around collective action.

3. Miscellaneous Items

- In recent conversations with CH2M HILL regarding their WaterMatch website, it was agreed that there is no need to develop an MOU at this stage. Rather, a representative from CH2M HILL will continue to be involved in the development of the Mandate’s Water Action Hub.

- The Secretariat informed the SC that it will soon finalize and send to all endorsers the general communication regarding the importance of the Mandate’s Communication on Progress-Water policy. The communication will also highlight recent policy enhancements, including a provision related to the Carbon Disclosure Project water questionnaire.

- The next conference call of the Steering Committee will be scheduled for April.