



# The CEO Water Mandate

## Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call, 6 October 2009

**Present: N. Barak (Netafim), R. Barbieri (Diageo), M. Jimenez (Nestle), M. Ginster (Sasol), M. Gupte (Hindustan), J. Morrison (Pacific Institute), G. Power (UN Global Compact)**

Agenda item	Task
<p>1. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gavin Power provided an update on several items:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the spirit of transparency and disclosure, the report of the recent Stockholm conference was widely distributed, including through a special news item on the UN Global Compact's website.</li> <li>○ On 22 September, the UN Global Compact assisted the Secretary-General in the convening of a special heads of state-business leaders summit on climate change at UN Headquarters during the General Assembly. Gavin noted that the UNGC organized three roundtables on "water security" where the Mandate was prominently featured.</li> <li>○ Recruitment: a major African mining company is seriously considering joining the Mandate. In addition, on 29 October, a group of institutional investors will hold a webinar with a number of large companies to encourage them to join the Mandate. This is a follow-through of the action by the Principles for Responsible Investment earlier in the year in which investors contacted 100 large companies to ask them to endorse. This initial action led to 10 companies joining the Mandate. Gavin and Jason Morrison will participate in the webinar.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>[SEE NEXT SECTION BELOW]</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>

<p>2. Agenda Item One: Policy Engagement Guide and Workstream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gavin introduced the project outline and funding proposal for the “Guide to Business Engagement with Water Policy and Management”, and shared the news that the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and its aid agency, GTZ, have agreed to fund the entire project at a projected cost of US \$175,000.</li> <li>▪ Jason Morrison and his team at the Pacific Institute will lead the development of the Guide, in partnership with Stuart Orr from WWF, other experts, and in consultations with endorsers and other stakeholders.</li> <li>▪ Jason outlined the development process of the Guide as presented in the Sept 16<sup>th</sup> project plan, noting that the first full draft of the Guide will be ready for review at the 5<sup>th</sup> working conference of the Mandate to take place in Q1 2010 (see below).</li> <li>▪ Summaries and notes of the consultations will be periodically sent to the Steering Committee; in addition, the Steering Committee will receive updates during future conference calls.</li> <li>▪ It is planned that the final Guide will be announced and released at the Global Compact Leaders Summit on 24-25 June 2010.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>3. Item Two: Proposed Alignment with Alliance for Water Stewardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gavin introduced a document developed by the Secretariat which recommends exploring a strategic relationship with the Alliance for Water Stewardship, with the possible development of an MOU outlining mutually beneficial activities.</li> <li>▪ Gavin and Jason noted that the AWS is working on the development of standards for corporate water stewardship. It was also noted that the Mandate essentially represents a policy</li> </ul>	

<p>framework for water stewardship so some alignment could maximize synergies and achieve complementarity. The Secretariat introduced a proposal to pursue a baseline MOU that would initially describe “two-way information-sharing relationship”, with an eye towards possibly transitioning to a more formal recognition or endorsement of any standards that might be developed out of the AWS’s planned three-year process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A general discussion among Steering Committee members ensued whereby some benefits and risks were outlined.</li> <li>▪ Benefits: having the Mandate and its elements represented in a possible international standard on water stewardship; finding synergies between workplans and activities; delivering good guidance to endorsers and other companies on stewardship best and emerging practices (eg, via the final standards product).</li> <li>▪ Risks: a certification scheme or standard endorsed by the Mandate or perceived to be endorsed could send the impression that the Mandate has developed into a quasi-regulatory platform, or suggest new requirements of endorsers. In addition, the AWS is thus far largely an NGO-driven initiative, and the Mandate wishes to retain its identity as a business-oriented initiative with stakeholder involvement. Any collaboration would need to ensure the distinct identities of the initiatives.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that an MOU should be considered following the first roundtable of the AWS, planned for early 2010. By this time the stakeholder nature and direction of the AWS should be clearer. In the meantime, the Secretariat will inform the AWS that it is interested in the Mandate (and its elements) finding some incorporation into the developing standard(s).</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>4. Item Three: Fifth Working Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was suggested that the dates for the fifth working conference be set for 22-24 March at UNHQ in New York – pending confirmation of venue at UNHQ. At least one day would be devoted to a multi-stakeholder review of the draft “Guide to Business Engagement with Water Policy and Management”. In addition the other two Mandate workstreams will be addressed, along with an endorser-only meeting per the format for previous working conferences. Another day (order of days to be determined) will be devoted to the human rights working group and review the compilations of human rights practices.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretariat</p>