



The CEO Water Mandate

Guidance on Aligning Business Practice with the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

UN CEO Water Mandate Working Conference
Mumbai, India
March 6th, 2013



United Nations Global Compact



CEO Water Mandate: History of the Human Rights Workstream

Q1-Q2 2009:

- Established Human Rights Working Group to further discuss and inform the Mandate's work on this issue
- Released a discussion paper on what it means to adhere to Ruggie's "corporate responsibility to respect" principle in the context of water.

November 2010:

- Released the white paper *The Human Right to Water: Emerging Corporate Practice and Stakeholder Expectations*.
- At working conference in Cape Town, endorsers and the Secretariat agreed to develop a guidance document on the topic.

Q3 2011:

- Drafted preliminary annotated outline for Guide to be reviewed by endorsers and stakeholders at World Water Week in Stockholm.

2012:

- Following feedback from endorsers and stakeholders, the project is reframed and divided into two phases. Phase 1 results in white paper *Bringing a Human Rights Lens to Corporate Water Stewardship: Results of Initial Research* released during World Water Week in Stockholm.



Phase 1: Scope and Objectives

Scope

- Focus on **businesses in their capacity as large scale water users**

Objectives

- To understand trends, developments, and expectations related to the HRWS so as to inform development of operational guidance
- To begin exploration of the extent to which company actions to respect the HRWS may align with existing corporate water stewardship (CWS) practices



Content

- I. Business, Human Rights & the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs)
- II. Trends and developments related to the HRWS at international and national levels
- III. Stakeholder expectations of business related to the HRWS
- IV. Corporate case studies related to the HRWS
- V. Examination of the UNGPs and emerging corporate water stewardship practices
- VI. Conclusions and areas for inquiry during Phase II



The Guiding Principles and Corporate Water Stewardship

Possible area of Divergence

- GP impact assessment concerned about addressing risks to human rights, rather than to business (However CWS practice does focus on impacts to external stakeholders so there is space for exploration)

Areas of Convergence

- 1) Meaningful stakeholder engagement
- 2) Understanding impacts along the value chain (i.e., business relationships) and preventing them wherever possible
- 3) Disclosure/communication of (water-related) impacts and efforts to address them
- 4) Both offer a flexible approach rather than a manual



Aligning Business Practice with the HRWS: Phase 2

Explore the practical ways and degree to which GPs and tenets of CWS can mutually reinforce one another

Key Areas Include:

- How policy commitments related to respecting the HRWS can be aligned with a company's broader water management-related policies and goals;
- The extent to which HRWS-related due diligence processes can be incorporated into existing water-related impact assessments and associated responses;
- How companies can avoid and address water-related human rights impacts arising through its business relationships (without prejudice to the Guide's general focus on companies' direct operations), vis-à-vis broader efforts to engage with suppliers;



Phase 2: Key Implementation Issues (Cont.)

- How companies can consult meaningful on HRWS as part of their broader water-related stakeholder engagement efforts;
- How companies can integrate human rights considerations into their water policy engagement and collective action projects;
- How companies can put in place or support effective operational-level grievance mechanisms;
- How businesses can meet their responsibility to respect the HRWS and related human rights in situations where governments fail to meet their duty to protect; and
- How companies can incorporate human rights considerations in their corporate water disclosure practice.



Phase II: Workplan

Stage 1 (Q2-Q3 2013):

In-Depth Analysis of Respecting the HRWS and Corporate Water Stewardship Policies and Practices

Major Deliverable: Working paper on alignment of respect for the HRWS and corporate water stewardship policies and practices, identifying key areas for discussion

Stage 2 (early Q4 2013):

Consultation on emerging findings and process going forwards

Deliverables: Guidance Template and Process Timeline

Stage 3 (mid Q4 2013 – through Q2 2014):

Development of guidance on the HRWS

Deliverable: Final Guidance



Phase II: Governance

The Wider Public

Communities, Employees, Investors, Non-CEO H₂O Mandate Companies

Technical Expert Group (TEG)

WaterAid, ICCR, OHCHR, UNGC etc

Mandate Human Right Working Group (HRWG)

Various Endorsing Companies

Core Team (CT)

Pacific Institute (CEO Water Mandate Secretariat),
Shift, Oxfam America (*independent advisor)



Phase II: Human Rights Technical Experts Group

- Lovleen Bhullar, Environmental Law Research Society
- Sumi Dhanarajan, National University of Singapore, formerly of Oxfam GB
- Jackie Dugard – Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI)
- Christina Herman – Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (ICCR)
- Patricia Jones – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Jack Moss - Aquafed
- Hannah Neumeyer – WASH United
- John Oldfield - WASH Advocacy Initiative
- David Schilling – Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
- Lene Wendland – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Inga Winkler – German Institute for Human Rights
- Daniel Yeo – WaterAid
- Yolanda Kakabadse (to be invited)
- UNGC Human Rights Office



Phase II: Funding

The Government of Sweden



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The Coca-Cola Company



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The CEO Water Mandate

<http://ceowatermandate.org/about/current-workstreams-and-projects/>

