



**Summary of Steering Committee Conference Call:  
July 2, 2020**

**Present:** M. Alexander (Diageo), C. Galli (Nestle), E. Tenuta (Ecolab), A. Erickson (TNC), P. Repinski (GWP), L. Xavier (Braskem), F. Koor (Woolworths), M. Gough (NCC), KA Naylor (UNICEF), R. Hamilton (Mandate), J. Morrison (Mandate), L. Karbassi (UNGC), M. HA (Mandate)

Agenda item	
<p><b>1. Welcome and Agenda Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ J. Morrison welcomed everyone to the meeting</li> <li>▪ A deck was shared with participants before the meeting providing some background on the plans for the Mandate’s Strategic review</li> </ul> <p><b>2. CEO Water Mandate Strategy Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Morrison providing background to the Mandate’s strategic review process, reminding participants that 2020 is serving as the “transition” year for the Mandate given the end of the current three year Action Platform, “Water Security through Stewardship” and the launch of its new Water Resilience Coalition</li> <li>• He highlighted that the Mandate will be using June and July to undertake an interview process and develop some recommendations for a way forward for the Mandate on its programmatic, governance, and financial models for 2021 going forward for SC members and full membership to review in late Q3/early Q4 2020.</li> <li>• R. Hamilton then provided an overview of some key findings based on interviews to date that covered four areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Mandate’s current value</li> <li>○ Expanding Mandate’s membership</li> <li>○ Understanding current and future views on corporate stewardship</li> <li>○ Understanding the emerging issues from water</li> </ul> </li> <li>• R. Hamilton noted that overall, there was a genuine appreciate for the Mandate’s work, the process it is taking for this revised strategy, and overall good consensus on the key areas of feedback.</li> <li>• Some key areas of value for the Mandate continue to be its multi-sector nature, convening ability, and ability to learn and push forward on difficult topics.</li> <li>• Interviewees also highlighted other areas for consideration:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Balancing the Mandate’s work on thought leadership technical</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

guidance with convening power, advocacy, coordination, and brokering

- Focusing on scaling stewardship, continuing to lead on “big issues”, and helping to implement guidance through practical tools and case examples.
- Moving forwards, the Mandate could consider looking at issues related to water governance and stewardship, water quality, climate adaptation and resilience, integrating COVID response, and continued focus on water accounting and disclosure/reporting.
- Members were asked for their views on where they viewed the Mandate’s work on technical guidance vs. working as convenors, advocates should be on balance.

***Steering Committee members expressed a number of points on the overview of the SC and also specifically on where to balance the work:***

- 1) General overall agreement that more can be done to help support the application and implementation of guidance***
- 2) That the Mandate is best placed if it focused a bit less on technical guidance development, and more on being an advocate for stewardship, helping convening companies and stakeholders, leading to effective on the ground collaborations, but not to the point of local implementation.***
- 3) SC members acknowledged that technical guidance has been a key strength of the Mandate and has been very useful, this should continue, but a slight recalibration will help drive scale.***
- 4) The Mandate can be a powerful voice if it played at a more strategic level advocating for stewardship and playing the role of the coordinated global voice for businesses on water.***
- 5) Members also noted that the Mandate must be nimble and adapt to the times and develop a strategy that plays to its internal strengths and competencies. They also noted that this should include a review of the organization, governance, and structure of the Mandate to deliver on the strategy.***

***L. Karbassi noted that with the leadership change at the UN Global Compact, the UNGC will also be undergoing a strategic review during the last half of 2020, but that the discussions being held by the Mandate mirror other conversations in other issue areas of the UN Global Compact. There are learnings from other areas of work that can inform the Mandate’s conversations.***