



United Nations



High Level Panel on Water

Brief Summary Note of 1st “Sherpas”/Advisors Meeting

April 13, 2016, Washington DC

- The World Bank Group and the United Nations, as the Joint Secretariat of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), hosted the first meeting of the “Sherpas”/Advisors to the Panel members on Wednesday 13 April, 2016 in Washington, DC. The meeting was co-chaired by Mauritius and Mexico.
- After welcoming remarks from the Joint Secretariat, the Co-Chairs and delegations discussed their vision for the Panel and the possible areas of focus. The meeting emphasized the need for the Panel to have a clear action-oriented vision towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals influenced by water, and in particular SDG 6 – “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. Recognizing the complexity and interlinkages with multiple stakeholders, the meeting stressed the importance for the Panel’s work to be inclusive but action orientated, delivering on the key water issues agreed upon UN Member States in the 2030 Agenda. In order for the HLPW to deliver, it was suggested by several Delegates to explore the possibility to extend the Panel’s term by 1 to 2 years.
- Highlighting the water challenges countries are facing due to climate change, population growth, unsustainable water management, lack of safe drinking water and sanitation, and the negative impact to economy, society and environment, the meeting emphasized the Panel’s commitment to achieve a transformational impact. The importance of integrated water resource management was discussed, and therefore the need for cross-coordination between sectors, ministries and countries. The meeting discussed the importance of the Panel putting forward innovative, integrated and long-term effective solutions, which are economically self-sustaining.
- The meeting requested the Joint Secretariat to provide a short Communique to be issued on the occasion of the First Meeting of the HLPW. The meeting also welcomed the strategic note, as provided by the Joint Secretariat, and provided guidance for revisions. This (revised) background note will be annexed to the Communique.
- The meeting underscored the importance for the Panel of engaging with other Member States and non-state actors and requested the Joint-Secretariat to develop modalities for this engagement.