



High Level Panel on Water

Brief Summary Note of Sherpas/Advisors Meeting

22-23 May, 2016, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- The government of The Netherlands hosted the meeting of the Sherpas/Advisors to the Members of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), from 22-23 May 2016 in Rotterdam. The meeting was co-chaired by Mauritius and Mexico with the presence of Sherpas/Advisors of all HLPW members, as well as the Joint Secretariat and invited experts.
- Sherpas/Advisors discussed the zero draft action plan of the HLPW and highlighted, amongst others, the importance of separating the actions of Panel Members from those of the Sherpas/Advisors and other actors (including the “Friends of the Panel”). The meeting highlighted the need for a stronger link between the Action Plan, the Terms of Reference of the Panel, the Joint Communique and Background Note as adopted on April 21.
- Sherpas/Advisors also highlighted, amongst others, the importance of achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, as well as access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. The link between the successful implementation of SDG 6 and other SDGs – and related targets - was also noted as an important consideration for the further development of the Action Plan.
- The meeting informally agreed on a conceptual framework for the action plan (“the flower”, as illustrated below) while also highlighting the need for a clear linkage between (i) the conceptual framework (“the flower”), (ii) identified priority actions and (iii) key events in which the narrative and transformative actions could be advanced.



- Selected experts were invited to the meeting in their individual capacity and were requested to share knowledge and experience related to elements of the zero order draft action plan. As a follow-up to the meeting, experts were asked to provide further input to elements of the revised action plan by drafting indicative ‘framing notes’ addressing key areas identified in “the flower”.

- The meeting also discussed the need to establish an interactive/dynamic platform as an open-ended collaboration space for (i) Sherpas amongst themselves, and (ii) a possible platform for “Friends of the Panel” to engage with the Panel. Such an open-ended platform would provide, amongst others, the opportunity to share information, ask questions, solicit comments and feedback from a broad audience, including Friends of the Panel.



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- A zero order draft Communication Strategy of the HLPW, as prepared by South Africa, was presented and briefly discussed. Further inputs by Sherpas/Advisors were requested with a view to revise the Communication Strategy, also taking into account substantive progress made during the meeting. The importance of shared messages of the HLPW was also underscored, taking into account regional specificity and the dynamic nature of the Panel and its activities.
- The Sherpas/Advisors had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Mark Rutte to whom they presented, amongst others, an initial progress report on the development of the Action Plan.
- The meeting also took note of the opportunity to further engage with other member states and Friends of the Panel over the summer possibly in the margins of international events, such as the launch of the World Water Forum in late June in Brasilia, the Dushanbe High Level Symposium on SDG6 and Targets to be held on 9-10 August 2016, and the World Water Week in Stockholm in late August/early September, ahead of the HLWP endorsement of its Action Plan.
- In closing, the Sherpas/Advisors expressed strong appreciation for the Netherlands host and welcomed the offer of Mexico to host the next Sherpas/Advisors meeting on July 6-8 in Mexico City. Selected experts will be invited to participate in part of the Mexico sessions. The Sherpas/Advisors took note of the possibility for convening another Sherpas/Advisors meeting in early August in Tajikistan in the event the Mexico meeting will not reach a conclusion on the Action Plan.