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## High Level Panel on Water

### **Brief Summary Note of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sherpas/Advisors Meeting**

7-8 July, 2016, New York, UN Headquarters

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Sherpas/Advisors to the Members of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) was held at UN Headquarters in New York, on 7-8 July 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by the Sherpas of the Panel Members of Mauritius and Mexico, with the presence of Sherpas/Advisors of other HLPW members (with the exception of Jordan and Senegal), as well as the Joint Secretariat and UN-Water.
- The opening session included participation of UN Deputy Secretary General (DSG) Mr. Jan Eliasson and Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations. The meeting also included a session with civil society representatives.
- After welcoming remarks by the Co-Chair Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations, DSG Eliasson thanked the Heads of State/Government for serving as members of the HLPW. Mr. Eliasson shared his experiences on world's water challenges and highlighted the importance of the Panel as a mechanism that could provide the leadership required to champion a transformative, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources. The DSG suggested the HLPW develop models of water cooperation, where different needs can be combined for a fair water distribution. Mr. Eliasson emphasized the importance of water not only to meet the SDGs, but also to achieve peaceful societies and meet human rights. He further stressed water to be a factor of peace and unity rather than a factor of division and conflict. This could be a strong message of the HLPW. The DSG closed by emphasizing the importance of ensuring the participation and continuous efforts of all stakeholders, as well as an effective media strategy. Ambassador Camacho (Mexico) and Ms. Jennifer Sara, Acting Senior Director, Global Water Practice of the World Bank Group, followed the remarks by the DSG, by thanking him for his contributions and highlighting the importance of the HLPW in the implementation of SDGs and related targets.
- Representatives from civil society were invited to share their views and recommendations to the HLPW in a special session. They emphasized the importance for the Panel to ensure the realization of the human right to water and sanitation in the implementation of SDG 6, as determined by paragraph 7 of the declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They expressed their concern about the emphasis on private sector participation and private financing, which can result in the inability of governments to ensure the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all. Furthermore representatives strongly recommend that advocacy on financing and implementation focus on public financing strategies and include, in the HLPW public communications, the human right to water and sanitation. Sherpas/Advisors thanked the representatives of civil society for their engagement and highlighted the importance of their collaboration.



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- Taking into account the words of the DSG and civil society, as well as building on the outcomes of the preceding Sherpas/Advisors meetings in Washington D.C and Rotterdam, Sherpas/Advisors at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting focused on the potential actions for the HLPW within its two-year mandate. A questionnaire by the Sherpas/Advisors, on possible actions the Head of State/Government could take, served as a basis for discussion as well as framing notes on the 8 areas identified in the conceptual framework (Resilient Economies, Water Infrastructure & Investment, Human Settlements, Environmental Services, Water Quality, Sanitation & Health, Water Governance, Water Data and Valuing Water) along with cross-cutting areas. The framing notes were prepared by Sherpas/Advisors and selected experts and synthesized by the Secretariat. Out of these documents the Secretariat had compiled a list of potentially 82 actions which were discussed in the meeting.
- Following in-depth discussions on the 82 potential actions, Sherpas/Advisors separated into different working groups to revise the synthesized framing notes and potential actions. Sherpas/Advisors further discussed opportunities to engage with different stakeholders in order to receive inputs and feedback on the draft action plan. The Dushanbe Symposium (9-11 August) and the Stockholm World Water Week (28 August – 2 September) were mentioned as possible platforms for engagement.