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High Level Panel on Water

Brief Summary Note of 4th Sherpas/Advisors Meeting

8 August 2016, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

- The 4th meeting of Sherpas/Advisors to the Members of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 8 August 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by the Sherpas from Mauritius and Mexico, with the presence of Sherpas/Advisors of other HLPW members (with the exception of Jordan, Senegal and Peru), as well as the Joint Secretariat. The opening session included participation of H.E. Mr. Muzaffar Huseynzoda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- In his introductory remarks, Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, Co-Chair and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations, thanked the Government of Tajikistan for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the Sherpas. He also thanked the Deputy Minister for gracing the meeting with his presence. H.E. Mr. Huseynzoda welcomed everyone to Dushanbe and expressed the Government of Tajikistan's appreciation for the Sherpas' active cooperation in the development of an effective Action Plan. He underlined the importance of the inclusion of the following key areas in this Plan: resilient economy; water infrastructure and investment; human settlements; water quality, sanitation and health; management/governance of water resources; data and valuing of water. He emphasized Tajikistan's call for the declaration of a new Decade "Water for Sustainable Development" which Tajikistan is ready to promote together with other initiatives that would facilitate the realization of the new global water agenda. The Co-Chair of Mexico, Mr. Damaso Luna, Deputy Director General for Global Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed the great value that the Dushanbe meeting represents by providing an opportunity to address key issues of water and the SDG6 during a world water event with participation of all stakeholders.
- A discussion followed on the latest revisions made to the framing notes of the Action Plan resulting from inputs by Sherpas/Advisors. At the request of the Mauritius Co-Chair, the Joint Secretariat had cross-checked the challenges and priority actions of the Action Plan with the 2030 Agenda water-related targets. The framing notes were adopted as the draft Action Plan by the Sherpas/Advisors who also agreed that the communications experts would eventually prepare a shorter version to be disseminated to the general public.
- Sherpas/Advisors also identified the actions their Head of State/Government is likely to champion, as well as the possible events in which they might participate.



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- Sherpas/Advisors to the HLPW had the opportunity to meet with the President of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, to whom Ambassador Csaba Korosi, Sherpa from Hungary, presented on behalf of the Sherpas, a brief progress report on the development of the Action Plan.
- The engagement with stakeholders was also discussed during the meeting. The upcoming Stockholm World Water Week will provide an appropriate platform for this engagement. The HLPW Sherpas/Advisors will meet there on 30-31 August.
- The Sherpas/Advisors also discussed the arrangements for the meeting of the HLPW in the margins of the next session of the UN General Assembly in September. The HLPW members would announce their agreed action plan on that occasion..
- The next Sherpas/Advisors meeting will take place 30-31 August in Stockholm with the objective of finalizing the draft action plan following consultations with the broader stakeholder community, and preparing the draft agenda of the HLPW for its meeting in the margins of the UNGA.