

The High Level Panel on Water

Mobilizing action and financing towards SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs

Brief Summary Note - Open session and public consultation

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

14:00 – 15:30 PM, NL Pillar Hall

World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden

An open session and public consultation was held at the Stockholm World Water Week on 31 August 2016. The session included the participation of over 200 stakeholders, from the wider water community, representing governments, international organizations, academia, the private sector and civil society. Sherpas/Advisors to the High Level Panel on Water provided an overview of the current status of the Panels work, as well as the way forward. Participants had the opportunity to discuss in groups and report back to the plenary on their hopes for the HLPW, as well as the support they could provide to implement the actions.

Participants expressed their contentment of seeing water and sanitation at the highest political level. The expectations are high for the Panel to enhance the political support for water and related areas. Emphasizing the need for the Panel to focus on implementation, participants hope the Panel will strive for long-term impact. The HLPW is expected to place the necessary structures to ensure that their recommendations are implemented even beyond the timeframe of the Panel. Therefore, participants emphasized the need for stakeholder participation and linking the Panels work to existing and new networks. From championing water actions at national level, to mobilizing other Heads of State and Governments, the Panel's actions should maintain water and sanitation at the highest level. The list of expectations for the Panel is long, from identifying structural changes for dealing with the global water architecture, to mobilizing financial resources, to putting efforts into capacity building, and drawing synergies with other sectors. The annex provides a compilation of the inputs received during the session.

Participants also highlighted their readiness to support and collaborate in the implementation of the HLPW's Action Plan. They confirmed their readiness to engage in the work of the HLPW, for example by organizing and convening specific events and platforms, as well as providing analytical work. An overview of the contributions offered can be found in the annex.



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Annex – Inputs received

1) What is your greatest hope for the Panel?

The Panel will:

1. Push the water topic high on the political agenda.
2. Focus on implementation. The actions defined will strive for long-term impact, beyond the existence of the Panel.
3. Put the structures in place to ensure that their recommendations are implemented even beyond the time frame of the Panel.
4. Promote water at all levels and create momentum.
5. Identify structural changes to deal with the global water architecture.
6. Have a positive effect to overcome the fragmentation in the water sector.
7. Enhance the importance of data/information to mainstream the political will for implementing concrete approaches and agenda elevation.
8. Mobilize other Heads of States/Governments.
9. Take leadership at the national level.
10. Have an important role in triggering and catalysing investment, and reaching out to finance ministers, responsible for the policy area.
11. Focus on making recommendations that will glean commitments from governments and international organisations and use its political power to check those same organizations and governments.
12. Lay on the table sensitive issues like water pricing
13. Demolish misbeliefs like water is sacred and profit is evil. It is time to talk about themes like social tariffs.
14. Bring inspiration, and integrate in non-water meetings.
15. Make strong statements to encourage early action on the SDGs based on existing structures from the MDGs to get a head start.
16. Consider the power of recreation to contribute to water management and water sanitation endeavours/advocacy.
17. Focus on education and vocational training to build a work force for the water sector.
18. Mobilize financial resources for the water and other sectors to improve water management.
19. Advocate the general acceptance and implementation of international water law (e.g. UNECE Water Convention)
20. Use existing mechanisms.
21. Lead to greater collaboration to share not only best practices, but also lessons learned.
22. Take a set of concrete actions (e.g. subject their country to an OECD review on governance; to enlist others to subject themselves to a governance framework); take OECD principles and work on implementing those.
23. Commit to action and show progress to general public.
24. Ensure stakeholders have equitable access to new finance that will be raised.



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25. Take a helicopter view to look at global pitfalls and will benchmark achievements across globe.
26. Elevate the sanitation agenda.
27. Politically strengthen the water sector.
28. Drive an integrated approach to the SDGs and Climate Change.
29. Shift the narrative around water to make it more about service delivery.
30. Generate awareness beyond just “water groups”/sector people.
31. Lead by example.
32. Embrace the transformative agenda.
33. Embrace social inclusion and equality.
34. Put politics aside and follow through for greater good.
35. Recognize the economic good of water
36. Increase the visibility of water to citizens, communities and to other sectors.
37. Focus on most off track issues (e.g. urban and rural sanitation) and also most off-track countries and regions.
38. Drive real, smart, financial commitments, not just a “talking shop”, but specific and measurable.
39. Strengthen accountability for progress, by coordinating with accountability agencies/mechanisms (e.g. JMP), raising the profile of global accountability initiatives (similar to the Global Nutrition Report or EFA Global Monitoring Report) and by communicating progress around SDG related water targets.
40. Achieve more than other previous efforts. There is a danger in what is being proposed because of insufficient money and weak institutions.
41. Do more on policy development - expecting the Panel to forge progress on so much is unrealistic. Instead, we should focus on a selection of issues to show real progress.
42. Show that SDGs are achievable.
43. Look at effective models of implementation, and discontinue ineffective models.
44. Apply open innovation for assembling models that can be presented to leaders for replication. The import of successful models would force change.
45. Recognize, through effective messaging, that sanitation and water are prioritized in equal measure.
46. Draw synergies with other areas: nutrition; education; climate change agenda
47. Drive real, smart and financial commitments - specific and measurable
48. Give a platform that is inclusive of the voice of the next generation and youth
49. Promote the usage of innovative approaches for data collection and encourage capacity building in this area.
50. Mobilize funds to build capacity.



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2) How could your organization and constituency contribute to this agenda?

1. Creating a financing group under the Panel, piloting different forms of water financing.
2. Including the outcome of Habitat III in the work action plan of the Panel.
3. Creating a partnership among utilities for capacity building, leading to better water and sanitation services and promote sustainable universal access
4. Advising the Panel on introducing economic instruments for improving water allocation.
5. Collaborating with the Panel on water and peace
6. Global Citizen - bringing 8 million in support
7. Global Citizen Festival on September 24 - giving leaders the mandate to take bold action.
8. Bottom-up awareness raising through sharing best practices and knowledge from the field.
9. Advocacy and support through networks and platforms.
10. Academia making data and research easily available.
11. Bringing transdisciplinary knowledge to other sectors.
12. Raising awareness using innovative technological means.
13. Contributing to capacity development e.g. vocational trainings, standardization and knowledge management.
14. Contributing to monitoring process.
15. Providing wastewater expertise.
16. Contributing to awareness raising about water in the 2030 Agenda.
17. Producing and disseminating communication about the Panel.
18. Facilitating dialogue and engagement with youth.
19. Analytical and technical support.
20. Platforms beyond “the normal spaces” and “the usual suspects”.
21. Citizens engagement and education.
22. The voices of particular marginalized communities (e.g. people with disabilities, indigenous communities, slum-dwellers).
23. Creating awareness through campaigns.
24. Implementing through civil society.
25. Mobilizing finance at every level - making people on the ground contribute to the efforts.
26. Identifying best practices, especially what young people are doing and how they can contribute.
27. Building supportive social networks.
28. Consultations to help Panel avoid problems.
29. Building knowledge of implementation lessons and failures.
30. Capacity building of students.
31. World Water Congress - in late May next year in Cancun, Mexico - platform for Panel members and to promote work.
32. University and youth networks to facilitate voices and engagement of youth.
33. Public participation and linking the Panel work to existing and new networks.