



**UNSGAB Closing Ceremony  
20 November 2015, 10:00 – 12:45  
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Introduction**

Eleven years have passed since the inception of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB). As the Board's mandate was related to the MDG period, UNSGAB has reached the end of its journey. Therefore it is time to take stock of what was accomplished, ponder how it was achieved, learn from successes and failures, and most especially, voice the unfinished business.

This is why UNSGAB has written its first and indeed only report "The UNSGAB Journey", which will be officially shared with the international community during this Closing Ceremony. Following the logic of the report, the Ceremony will not only look back on the Board's legacy but will also consider its final recommendations intended to add impetus to the work of all actors eager to accelerate progress on the 2030 water agenda.

**Closing Ceremony Objectives**

The objectives of the Closing Ceremony are threefold:

1. honour UNSGAB's legacy;
2. share the Board's experience, lessons learned and recommendations with the international and water community;
3. exchange views about how its recommendations can help set the international community on the right path to implement the 2030 water agenda.

**"The UNSGAB Journey"**

The UNSGAB final report offers three types of recommendations, all of them keeping in mind the comprehensive global Sustainable Development Goal on water and sanitation and the broad and ambitious set of water-related targets:

1. In line with the Board's fields of work, "The UNSGAB Journey" offers **thematic recommendations** (individual chapters of the report) on how to advance progress on drinking-water, sanitation, wastewater, financing, water resources management and water-related disasters.
2. The "UNSGAB Journey" offers **recommendations for action** (page 14 of the report) on a number of global water-related priorities for the implementation of the 2030 water agenda.
3. Noting a mismatch between the integrated and ambitious 2030 vision of freshwater and sanitation management and the international political structures available to

contribute to its implementation, the report makes **structural recommendations** for a more effective global water architecture (page 15 of the report).

### **Closing Ceremony Structure**

- **Opening segment** to set the stage and receive overall feedback from global political leaders
- A **first panel** will gather representatives of member states and will focus on the water institutional architecture (recommendations on page 15 of the report)
- A **second panel** will gather representatives of UN agencies, international NGOs, International Financial Institutions and bilateral donors and will focus on the implementation of the water-related targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (chapter recommendations and recommendations on page 14 of the report).
- **Closing remarks** by the UNSGAB Chair to wrap up the session

For the first panel, discussants should consider the following questions when preparing their interventions:

- Do you agree that there is need for improvement regarding the international water architecture? How could UNSGAB's recommendations help make the international water architecture more fit for purpose? Which recommendation do you consider most relevant in this respect?
- If you support UNSGAB's recommendation for an intergovernmental platform on water and sanitation, how do you envisage it?

For the second panel, discussants should consider the following questions when preparing their interventions:

- Do you think that UNSGAB's recommendations cover the most relevant issues? Have you identified any gaps, and if so, which are these? What recommendations do you consider the highest priority / would you and your organization most strongly support?
- How could your organization take these recommendations forward and contribute to their implementation?

### **Closing Ceremony Agenda**

#### **10.00 – 10.25 Opening segment**

Welcome by Ms. Uschi Eid, Chair of UNSGAB

Remarks by HIH Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan in his role as Honorary President of UNSGAB

Remarks by HM King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands

Speech by Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly

## **10.25 – 10.45 Hand-over of UNSGAB final report by Ms. Uschi Eid to Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General**

Speech by Ms. Uschi Eid

Formal hand-over

Speech by Mr. Jan Eliasson

## **10.45 – 11.38 High Level Panel 1: The water institutional architecture**

Introduction by Mr. Gerard Payen, member of UNSGAB

Moderator: Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDESA

Panelists: representatives of UN Member States

1. Mr. Amadou Mansour Faye, Minister for Water and Sanitation, Senegal, and President of AMCOW
2. Mr. Csaba Korosi, former Co-Chair of the Open Working Group, Director for Environmental Sustainability at the Office of the President of Hungary
3. Ms. Ingrid Hoven, Director General Global Issues – Sector Policies and Programmes, BMZ, Germany
4. Mr. Juerg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations
5. Mr. Tanveer Aslan Malik, Minister of Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering, Government of Punjab, Pakistan

(Introduction 5'; remarks by panelists 25'; interactive dialogue 20'; wrap-up by moderator 3')

## **11.38 - 11.40 Panel members move**

## **11.40 – 12.38 High Level Panel 2: Implementing the Water and Sanitation Goal**

Introduction: Ms. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Wildlife and Tourism of Uganda, and member of UNSGAB

Moderator: Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO and Chair of UN-Water

Panelists: representatives of UN agencies, international NGOs, International Financial Institutions and bilateral donors

1. Mr. Junaid Ahmad, Senior Director Global Water Practice, the World Bank Group
2. Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Executive Chair, Sanitation and Water for All
3. Mr. Christoph Beier, COO, GIZ
4. Mr. Royal Gardner, Chair, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Ramsar Convention
5. Ms. Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, International Chamber of Commerce
6. Ms. Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee Member, Women for Water Partnership

(Introduction 5'; remarks by panelists 30'; interactive dialogue 20'; wrap-up by moderator 3')

## **12.38 - 12.40 Panel members move**

**12-40 - 12.45 Wrap-up of the whole session: Mr. Poul Nielson 5'**