

# Minutes SWP General Assembly 2016

Date: 18.05.2016  
Place: EPFL, Lausanne  
Participants: 61 participants representing 30 member organisations participated at the GA (see list of participants in Annexe). 3 members delegated their voting power to the SWP Chairs. In total 33 SWP member organisations were present or represented.  
Minutes: SWP Secretariat

## Agenda

**A) Welcome Coffee (10:00-10:30)**

**B) Get to know the EPFL – CODEV (10:30-12:00)**

**C) Networking lunch & registration (12:00-13:30)**

**D) General Assembly: building a meaning full association (13:30-14:30)**

### D.1 Opening

D.1.1 Opening of the General Assembly by Olga Darazs, Co-Chair of the Swiss Water Partnership

D.1.2 Confirmation of the number of voters and majority for votes

D.1.3 Approval of the Agenda

D.1.4 Approval of the Minutes of the last General Assembly\*\*

D.1.5 Confirmation of previous statutes changes\*\*

### D.2 Membership

D.2.1 Presentation and approval of new members\*

D.2.2 Notification on members which left the SWP\*

D.2.3 Approval of the membership fees for 2016\*

D.2.4 Presentation of SB election results\*

D.2.5 Presentation of the key contributions of the Steering Board in 2015

### D.3 Key achievements 2015 and lessons learnt

D.3.1 Presentation and approval of the annual report 2015\*\*

D.3.2 Presentation and approval of the financial report 2015\*\*

D.3.3 Appointment of the independent auditor for 2015\*

### D.4 SWP: the way forward

D.4.1 Presentation of the main elements of the SWP mid and long-term strategy

D.4.2 Presentation and approval of the action plan 2016-17\*\*

D.4.3 Presentation and approval of the budget 2016\*\*

D.4.4 Introduction of the breakout session

**E) Breakout session: building a meaning full future (14:30-15:30)**

**E.1 UN-Water Theme 2017**

**E.2 Creating the ground for Market**

**F) Coffee Break (15:30-16:00)**

**G) Feedback from breakout sessions (16:00-16:15)**

**G.1 Feedback from breakout sessions and approval of potential new working groups**

**H) Special Topic: Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017 – 2020 (16:15-17:00)**

**I) AOB and closing of the General Assembly (17:00-17:15)**

**I.1 AOB\***

**I.2 Closing of the General Assembly**

**J) Aperitif (17:15-18:00)**

## **D) General Assembly: building a meaningful association**

### **D.1 Opening**

Olga Darazs, co-chair of the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP), welcomed the audience and opened the General Assembly (GA) 2016.

#### **Decisions**

- The GA approved<sup>1</sup> the agenda of the meeting without modification.
- The GA approved the Minutes of the SWP General Assembly 2015.
- The GA confirmed the previous statutes changes regarding the removal of the 50% quorum and the one-year free membership given to start-ups.

### **D.2 Membership**

The GA was notified about the members who have left the platform since the last GA. These organizations are Quantis, WirzSolar GmbH, AF Consult, Smixin, W+S Consult, and Cap Santé.

The results of the SB re-election were presented and the GA welcomed Darcy Molnar and Thomas Zeller as re-elected members of the board, with 36 and 37 votes respectively (out of 42 members who took part in the online election process). No other candidate had been proposed for the Steering Board.

The Co-Chair Thomas Zeller presented the 2015 key contributions of the SWP Steering Board: very active in the conceptual development of the SWP (long-term strategic orientation, phase 2 project document for SDC, member acquisition strategy) as well as in key activities for SWP recognition (especially in developing a partnership with the World Bank).

#### **Decisions**

- The GA approved the two new members: FairMed & South Pole Group.

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<sup>1</sup> If not mentioned in the text, "the GA approved" means that there was no abstention and no against the decision.

- The GA maintained the current annual membership fees as described in the revised statutes.

### **D.3 Key achievements 2015 and lessons learnt**

Agnès Montangero (SWP Secretary General) highlighted that 2015 was a very rich year for the development of the platform. The key element was the establishment of a long-term strategy, enabling the platform to move from a learning-by-doing approach to a more strategic process. She highlighted the steady development of the membership and the choice now to prioritize diversity over maximizing the members, i.e. organizations in energy/food/hydropower sectors are welcomed as well as insurance companies (in relation with flood protection). Partnership development is promising, in particular with the World Bank with concrete ideas. As visibility and recognition are concerned, 2015 was a peak; this was measured for instance by the number of inquiries to become members from others organizations (WWC, IWA). Eventually cross-sectors partnerships are happening (TdH-Noveltis, SECO-eawag among others) and opportunities are explored (Jakarta, Iran, WB).

One lesson learnt is indeed to carry on facilitating the creation of cross-sector partnerships, that's SWP core business. However ensuring room for informal exchanges should not be neglected to enable SWP to act as think tank. A stronger focus on key activities/themes for 1-2 years is needed as well as a sharpened communication.

#### **Decisions**

- The GA approved the 2015 annual report.
- The GA approved the 2015 financial report.
- The GA approved (one abstention, no against) the appointment of TBO revisions as official auditor for 2016.

### **D.4 The way forward**

Lucien Blaser (SWP coordinator) presented the main elements of the mid and long term development of the SWP, including the thematic cycle of activities. Anne Sophie Aublet (SWP secretariat) highlighted the key results from the Capacity Development Survey: the current training offer in Switzerland and the identified knowledge gaps.

#### **Decisions**

- The GA approved the 2016-2017 Action Plan.
- The GA approved the 2016 Budget.

## **E) Breakout session: building a meaning full future**

### **Breakout session: UN Water Theme 2017**

Many challenges were identified regarding the wastewater theme: reuse of wastewater (incl. the legal framework), urban infrastructures and the micro-pollutants issue, the community focus (CLTS in slums, community involvement), water quality & health risks.

Suggestions were made to i) create a working group and follow the thematic cycle with WaterLex taking the lead, ii) compile cases (good practices, solutions, problems without solutions) and publish the results on WWD 2017 and iii) prepare 3-5 thematic events for the Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW) with the aim to both promote the Swiss expertise and enlarge the SWP knowledge.

Participants of the WG are for now the following: GIWEH, Holinger, Nestlé, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, ETHZ, Aqua Alimenta, FairMed, SECO, TPH, CSD and FOPH in addition to WaterLex who is taking the lead.

### **Breakout session: creating the ground for market**

Participants were first invited to brainstorm and suggest ideas for cross-sectors partnerships, mainly for business opportunities but not only. 5 topics were submitted: involvement in the Citizen Forum at the World Water Forum (WWF) 2018 in Brazil, Iran water market as business opportunity for Swiss expertise, water governance in Tunisia, water kiosks and water from air/ from lab to market.

- **Citizen Forum at the WWF in Brazil:** Kick-off event is in June, with GIWEH being vice-Chair of the committee. Ideas for activities to be conducted at the Forum and illustrating solutions for youth, women and indigenous empowerment should be submitted by early June. The group recommends to lobby for a strong citizen forum unlike what happened in Korea.
- **Iran water market as business opportunity for Swiss expertise:** topics were identified as entry points (technical topics –such as desalination, irrigation but overall governance issues, i.e. IWRM); a meeting is already planned on May 27<sup>th</sup> in Bern with Switzerland Global Enterprise (SGE) to share experiences and discuss concrete opportunities.
- **Water governance in Tunisia:** A 3 day conference will be organised in Tunisia in November 2016 by GIWEH. This will enable to gather representatives from the government, private sector, and civil society. There is a need to support the implementation of national strategies. In this context, partnerships between Tunisian actors and Swiss organisations may be developed. SWP members will be kept informed about opportunities to get involved.
- **Water kiosks:** many players & approaches, an overview would be useful and the group suggests to launch a WG (lead: Skat)
- **Water from air/ from lab to market:** The SWP could help bring this experience at scale. In addition business development is needed as well as financing. Any organization interested to support the process is kindly invited to contact the secretariat

## **H) Special Topic: Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020**

Odile Keller, Head of Division Analysis and Policy from SDC, presented the main elements of the new dispatch and illustrated how water is reflected in the five accents foreseen in the dispatch. The five accents are:

(i) Mitigate the consequences of crises and seek solutions to conflicts; (ii) increase engagement in fragile contexts; (iii) provide opportunities and promote inclusion to reduce poverty and inequality; (iv) reduce global risks to ensure sustainable development; and (v) mobilize all partners in order to achieve more sustainable results. The proposal of the Federal Council is based on an ODA around 0.48% of GDP. The dispatch is now being discussed in Parliament. Some of the debates include: (i) the targeted level of ODA for the next four years; (ii) priorities between humanitarian aid and development aid; and (iii) the contribution of development cooperation to reduction of migration flows and to security.

## I) AOB and closing of the General Assembly

No additional points for discussion were submitted to the Secretariat ahead of the General Assembly. None of the attendees wished to raise a question or an issue in this part of the Assembly.

The assembly was closed by Olga Darazs, after having extended the gratitude of the entire Steering Board to Marco Daniel for his work as SWP coordinator since the foundation of the partnership and wishing him success in his future endeavours.

## Annexe

- Presentation SWP GA 2015
- SDC presentation on the dispatch