



SWISS WATER PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2016

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1. Foreword

In 2015 we celebrated the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new universal development agenda. This agenda also includes a standalone water goal (SDG 6). In addition, at the end of the year, COP21 climate change summit reached a historical deal in Paris to attempt to limit the rise in temperatures to less than 2°C.

2016 has launched the time for concrete action and engagement: how do we get there? And what can SWP contribute?

In order to respond to these questions, the SWP board and secretariat worked together to establish a long-term strategic planning to achieve our vision of a globally well recognized brand for high-quality water solutions for water security. This implies to get involved in the monitoring of SDG 6 in Switzerland and some pilot countries, to carry on supporting cross sector collaboration and learning, to develop spaces for critical reflexions and discussion (SWP as think tank) and accompany youth and young professionals to enter the water sector. To achieve results, the SWP relies first on its members and second the SWP established special collaboration with key stakeholders such as WHO and ARE, World Water Council, World Bank and Development Banks.

It is ambitious but the challenges at stake are huge.

The diversity of the SWP makes our strengths and wealth: let's not waste it and move together!



Olga Darazs & Thomas Zeller
SWP Co-chairs



2. About the Swiss Water Partnership

The SWP is a multistakeholder platform launched in 2012, bringing together over 70 Swiss organisations from the academic, civil society, public and private sector to develop, share, and promote innovative solutions for water challenges in developing and transition countries. While Switzerland is in a privileged situation as Europe's water tower, the fact that around 80% of its water footprint is imported calls for the country to take responsibility to support others in achieving water security for their population and aquatic ecosystems.

Driven by its values of solidarity and integrity, the SWP as a partnership strives to become a globally well-recognised brand of high quality solutions for water security and the platform for water in Switzerland. By achieving this vision, the SWP aims at contributing to improving project design by major sector actors and influencing sector policies or their implementation/monitoring frameworks, leading to improved water management and service delivery. Thus, the SWP will contribute to working towards a water secure world.

To learn more about our strategy and our long and short-term objectives and actions, consult our action plan 2017-2018 (→ [Action Plan](#)). You can also visit our webpage to stay informed about ongoing events and news.

3. Achievements

3.1 Platform Development

3.1.1 Strategic Planning

2016 was an important year to consolidate the platform's long-term planning. A nine-year Action Plan was developed, highlighting key milestones towards the SWP vision of 'a globally well-recognised brand of high quality solutions for water security'.

Moreover, the reflections on positioning the platform on specific topics to sharpen its profile resulted in the development of a yearly Activity and Thematic Cycle focusing on the UN Water Theme of the year (see figure on the next page). This will support showcasing specific Swiss water expertise both in Switzerland, for example at the occasion of the World Water Day, and in Stockholm at the World Water Week. Based on this, reflections around the topic of Wastewater (UN Water Theme 2017) have been launched (see section 3.2.1).



Strategic planning



3.1.2 Concepts and Tools

A sponsorship concept has been drafted within the framework of the SWP development and donor diversification strategy. It presents the guiding principles and opportunities for potential sponsors. The proposed approach is to have sponsors buy in the overall SWP vision (rather than specific services) and support a 'value statement' based on the SWP values as described in the statutes. The idea is to have two sponsorship categories, gold and silver, corresponding to two levels of funding and value created for the sponsors. It mainly focuses on mobilising resources for SWP events, both in Switzerland and internationally. The sponsorship concept will be tested within the framework of a planned Wastewater Event in Geneva in 2017.

3.2 Dynamic Learning

3.2.1 Capacity Building Survey

The Capacity Building survey enabled to get an overview of training offered by the different SWP members. This is a very valuable basis to promote Swiss expertise internationally. Additionally, it enabled to prioritise topics for knowledge exchange sessions among the members. Key topics on which members would like to share experiences relate to understanding surface and groundwater resources and supporting the operationalisation of IWRM in rural areas. Finally, the preferred training modality is a one-day exchange of practical experiences. A first event with a focus on assessing water resources is in preparation.

3.2.1 Launching of the Wastewater Group

With the UN Water theme 'Wastewater', the year 2017 provides an important opportunity to promote the perception of wastewater as a valuable resource in the circular economy and its safe management as an efficient investment in the health of humans and ecosystems. The SWP members decided at the General Assembly in May 2016 to launch a Working Group on the topic of Wastewater. The idea is to focus on i) jointly preparing a publication: ii) organising an event in Geneva in 2017 targeting Swiss and (mainly Geneva-based) international actors, and iii) preparing thematic events for the Stockholm World Water



Week 2017 with the aim to promote the Swiss expertise and enlarge the SWP knowledge. Both the Swiss expertise applied in Switzerland (e.g. on micro-pollutants) and the one demonstrated internationally could be highlighted at this occasion.

The group decided to highlight case studies which address different challenges along the entire sanitation chain and which are implemented in different contexts (different levels of coverage, different types of sanitation facilities, rural areas, high-density urban areas, etc.). The focus will be on the approach rather than on technology. Integrated and inclusive approaches, according sufficient importance to governance and management, as well as the engagement of communities in supporting the process are key factors for sustainable projects. The next steps will consist in collecting case studies along the sanitation chain, both in Switzerland and internationally, and analyse them the light of the Human Right Based Approach.



3.3 Strong Swiss Voice

3.3.1 International Events - Stockholm World Water Week 2016

The World Water Week 2016 edition was a key event for the SWP to further develop its international positioning and highlight Swiss water expertise. As in previous years, a SWP booth co-convoked with members (Caritas Switzerland, Cewas, eawag, GIWEH, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Nestlé, SDC, WaterLex and WWF Switzerland) and partners (Geneva Water Hub, International Secretariat for Water, Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium) enabled to provide space for presentations and panel discussions on various topics. Additionally, the SWP co-convoked a series of thematic events with a number of members and external partners, which attracted over 300 participants:

- How to engage local water organisations in an integrity process?
- Water risk in times of globalisation and sustainable development
- Systematic behaviour change to ensure usage of WASH infrastructure
- Turning errors into actions: Continuous Improvements!
- Sigmund Freud, the missing link in Water and Sanitation?
- The Business of Sustainable Water & Sanitation for the Poor





On the initiative and invitation of the Ambassador of Switzerland to Sweden, a networking and knowledge exchange event was organised at the residency of the Ambassador. This event on the use of data and information technology revolution for the water sector brought together 25 participants from the SWP and key international actors such as the World Bank Group, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the akvo foundation. This event was highly appreciated by the members and resulted in a follow-up event in Geneva, led by the Geneva Water Hub in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). This privileged networking and knowledge exchange space is a very promising complement to the events on the Swiss booth. In addition to the SWP programme including events at the booth and thematic events, the new SWP website dedicated to the Stockholm event facilitated communication on the Swiss water expertise. Finally, the Week was a good opportunity to exchange with a number of key organisations including the World Bank Group, African Development Bank, World Water Council, Global Water Partnership, French Water Partnership, and Finnish Water Forum.

For the World Water Week 2017, it is proposed to reinforce the booth as a network hub: a place for meetings, networking and creating business opportunities. Fewer events will be conducted on the booth to leave more space for meetings. Events at the booth will be limited to high-quality cross-sector solutions implemented jointly by several members with a high potential of attracting the attention of the World Water Week audience. Furthermore, more visibility will be given to the members.





3.3.2 Swiss Events - Tech4Dev Conference

SWP together with the Swiss Bluetec Bridge and EAWAG had the opportunity to organise a thematic side event at EPFL's conference "Technologies for Development" (Tech4Dev) on the topic of "serving base of the pyramid markets: from pilot to scale-up". The rationale was both to replicate the BoP event of July 2015 to a new audience and also to establish contact with EPFL organisers in order to mainstream SWP's presence at Tech4Dev. The event enabled SWP members to showcase their experiences, discuss bottlenecks, business innovations and new financing opportunities to enhance scaling up.

3.3.3 Developing Strategic Partnerships

Constructive exchanges took place in 2016 with a number of potential strategic partners such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, World Water Council, Global Water Partnership, French Water Partnership, Finnish Water Forum, and Switzerland Global Enterprise. Those exchanges were extremely relevant in promoting the Swiss water expertise. The World Bank for instance offered to include SWP members in its expert roster. The African Development Bank proposed to share the SWP training offer with its partner countries. Regular exchanges with potential partners will continue in the months to come.

Additionally, the SWP and Switzerland Global Enterprise jointly organised a meeting to assess opportunities and challenges for Swiss organisations to enter the water market in Iran. The input by SGE enabled to get an understanding of the current situation in Iran. Moreover, sharing of experiences in Iran by SWP members such as IBG and the Canton of Geneva was extremely useful. The group of interested members agreed to meet again to pursue the reflections on a possible involvement in Iran.



"Fishbowl" discussion between participants of the workshop on hydropower systems operations and maintenance

3.3.4 Study Tours / Workshops in Switzerland

Workshop on Operation & Maintenance of hydropower systems

On the occasion of the "hydro 2016 Conference" in Montreux, the World Bank and SECO took the opportunity to organise a workshop in Switzerland on Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of hydropower systems. The SWP supported the planning, organisation, and facilitation of the event. It also provided thematic support. The workshop brought together stakeholders of the hydropower community from developed and developing countries to exchange and share knowledge on O&M challenges faced by owners and operators of hydropower systems. The workshop enabled to identify a series of measures to support the sustainability of hydropower systems through improved O&M. It also resulted in a series of potential follow-up actions such as for example the creation of an online platform that would facilitate exchange of good practices among the O&M community, and supporting establishment of sub-regional technical training centres for hydro operators.

Water Study Tour in Switzerland

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) joined hands with the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP), the Geneva Water Hub (GWH) and Cleantech Alps to organise a study tour in Switzerland. The study tour was targeted



to the Pakistani and Afghan delegates participating at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) in October 2016.

The technical visit combined a series of presentations and field visits and contributed to :

- provide an understanding of the Swiss policy and approaches related to transboundary water management, flood protection, and hydropower,
- create spaces for reflection on the potential of adaptation / replication of some of the approaches in the participants' contexts, and
- extend the participants' network with Swiss based organisations and resource persons as basis for potential longer term partnerships.



3.4 Water Dialogue

The SWP Water Dialogue focuses on monitoring and implementation of SDG 6. Following the strong implication of SWP members in contributing to the Swiss position on a dedicated water goal, the SWP strives to highlight opportunities for the members to get involved in SDG Water monitoring and implementation in Switzerland, in selected countries, and internationally. A series of meetings took place to better understand the SDG processes in Switzerland (Federal Office for Spatial Development), at country level (UN Water), and globally (SDC). An event will be organised in 2017 to inform the members about ongoing processes and opportunities to get involved. The reflections will also aim at enhancing knowledge exchange among the three different levels.

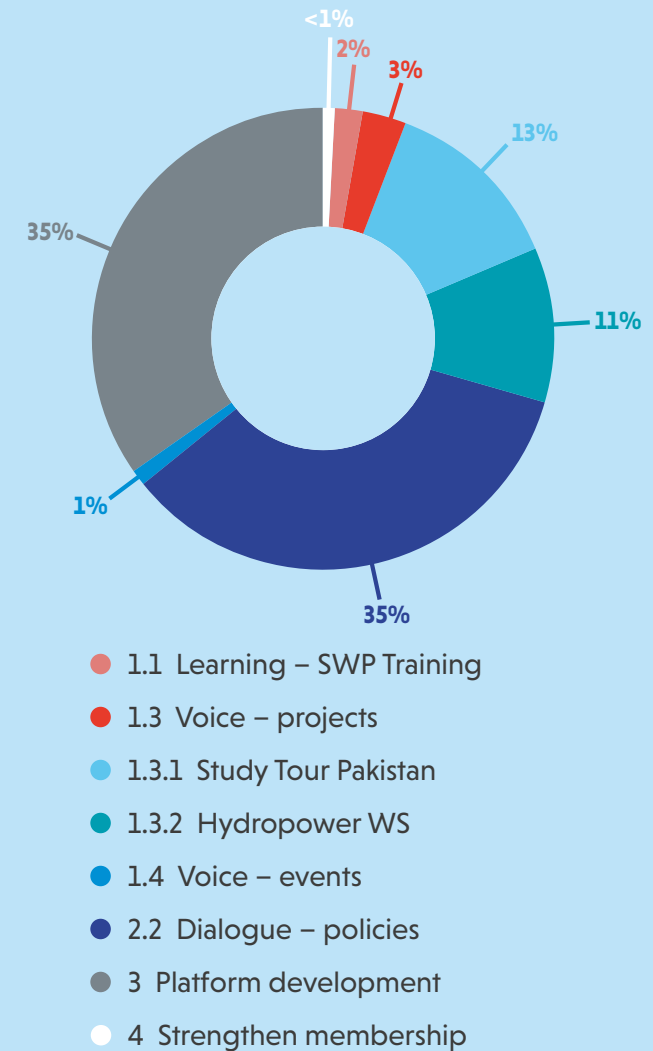
4. Financial Overview

In 2016, the total expenditures of the SWP were of CHF 481'290.17 while the total income was of CHF 475'000.20. This leads to a negative result of CHF -6'289.97. The annual income (+55.28 %) and expenditures (+39.88 %) are significantly higher than in the previous years due to the two extra-mandates conducted by the Swiss Water Partnership (see under section 3.3.4).

Expenditures were in line with the budgeted amount, while the income (excluding the extra-mandates) slightly under topped the budgeted amount of CHF 375'000.00 by CHF 24'469.50. Reflexions are ongoing in order to diversify and increase the sources of income (see point 5. Outlook).

Remuneration accounts for approximately 65% of all expenses. The remaining 35% are material and travel costs. As in previous years, the overall expenses (including remuneration, material and travel expenses) are mostly related to the development of the platform (ca. 35%) and the participation at international and national events (ca. 35%). Platform development expenses encompass all activities necessary to run the association (organisation of Steering Board Meetings and the General Assembly, finances, communication via the webpage and infomail, etc.). The voice event category is mainly composed of costs linked to the Stockholm World Water Week (ca. 25% of the total expenses) and other events in Switzerland (e.g. eco.naturkongress).

**Expenditure per outcome 2016
(total including remuneration)**



5. Outlook

The reflections in 2017 will focus on further creating value for the members, diversifying and enhancing financial resources for the platform (among others exploring opportunities to link up with impact investors), and refining the organisational model to best respond to the members' expectations.

Learning and exchange opportunities will be created in Switzerland among others on the topics of assessing water resources, wastewater, and nature-based solutions for water (UN water theme 2018). The Swiss Junior Water Prize will be launched in partnership with the Swiss Toilet Organisation.

In Switzerland, a number of events will be organised such as on the SDG Water, and on Wastewater. Moreover, the SWP members will be given visibility at the Expo Arab-Swiss Water Day and at the eco.naturkongress. SWP members will also have opportunities to highlight their expertise internationally, mainly at the World Water Week. Finally, 2017 will be an important year to launch the preparations of the World Water Forum 2018.

6. Members of the Swiss Water Partnership

The SWP is composed of over 70 member organisations (73 at the end of 2016). Members are organisations based in Switzerland but working internationally towards achieving the vision of a water secure world for all at the global level. Non-governmental Organisations, academic institutions, cantonal and federal public entities, the private sector through SMEs, start-ups, consulting firm and transnational companies, as well as other professional networks and associations are members of the SWP.

The member organisations of the SWP define its activities through their active involvement in the decision processes of the partnership, which are the general assembly and the steering board (see section 7.1). Under the SWP umbrella, members further enhance their expertise, visibility and potential impact by learning from each other, by jointly developing and discussing new ideas, by promoting them within national and international events and by bringing them to key international actors in the water sector.

To have an overview of the members of the SWP and their expertise, visit the SWP webpage (→ [Member list](#)).



6.1 Member List

Alliance Sud
Antenna Technologies
Aqua 4D
Aqua Alimenta
Aquasis Solutions
Autark Engineering AG
Bern University of Applied Sciences - Agricultural, Forest and Food Science - HAFL
BHP - Brugger and Partners
CARITAS Switzerland
CEWAS/Seecon
Cleantech Alps
Creaholic
CSD Engineers
Direction Générale de l'Eau du Canton de Genève
EAWAG / EAWAG Sandec
EBP Schweiz
ecopsis
ecos

EPFL - CODEV
Ernst Peyer Stiftung
ETHZ - Chair of Architecture and Urban Design
ETHZ-Institute of Environmental Engineering
Fairmed
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office - FSVO
Federal Office for Agriculture - Fachbereich Internationale nachhaltige Landwirtschaft
First Climate
Geberit International AG
Geo Expertise
Georg Fischer AG
Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health - GIWEH
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Holinger AG
hydrosolutions ltd
IBG Grombach
iDE - International Development Enterprises
International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance
Minikus Vogt & Partner
Nestlé S.A.



Noveltis Switzerland

Odermatt & Brockmann

Platform for International Water Law - University of Geneva

Prana Sustainable Water

RobecoSAM AG

RWB Holding

Sanakvo Foundation

Schweizerische Umweltstiftung

SEAS SA

Skat consulting Ltd

SoPAS

South Pole Group

State Secretariat of Economic Affairs - SECO

Strategos SA

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC

Swiss Fresh Water

Swiss Gas and Water Industry Association - SVGW/SSIGE

Swiss Interchurch Aid - HEKS

Swiss Red Cross

Swiss Society of Hydrogeology

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Swiss Water Association - VSA

Swiss Water Solutions SA

SWISSAID

Terre des Hommes

The Gold Standard Foundation

Trunz Water Systems

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)

University of Neuchatel - Centre for Hydrogeology and Geothermics (CHYN)

Visible Solutions AG

Vivamos Mejor

Waterkiosk Foundation

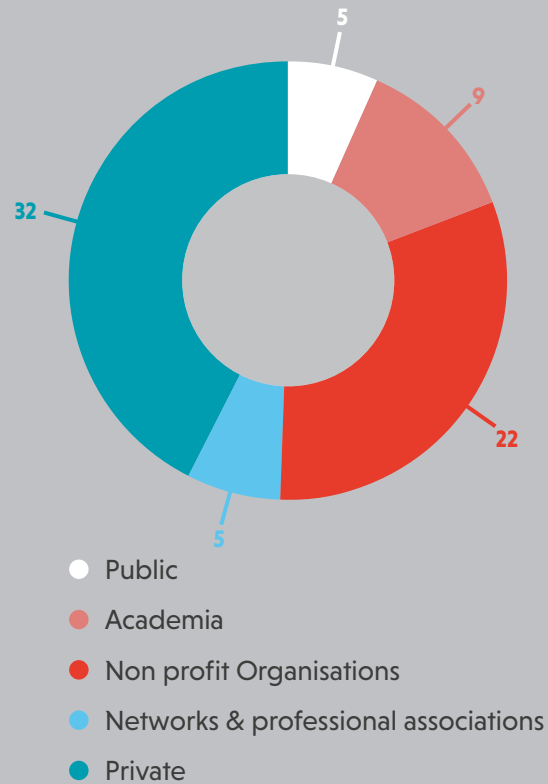
WaterLex

World Vision Switzerland

WWF Switzerland



Repartition of members end 2016



7. Organisational set-up

7.1 Steering Board

The SWP Steering Board meets twice a year to review the Secretariat's work and give them strategic advice. In 2016, 2 members of the Steering Board – Darcy Molnar (ETHZ – Institute for Environmental Engineering) and Thomas Zeller (independent) - came to the end of their mandate. They both successfully ran for an additional mandate.

In the 8th Steering Board meeting (October 2015), the members of the board have reappointed Olga Darazs and Thomas Zeller as co-chairs of the SWP Steering Board.



Olga Darazs is geologist and hydro geologist by training and has over twenty years of project management experience. Olga Darazs is president of the CSD Holding SA Advisory Board, as well as the president of the Swiss Society for Hydro-geology.



Thomas Zeller is an agricultural engineer by training and has over thirty years of experience in managing water and agriculture projects and water policy dialogue in Switzerland, West- Africa and Central- and South America. At his retirement in 2012 Thomas Zeller was Deputy-Head of the Water Initiatives Division of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Steering board members

SB Member	Member organisation	Elected	End of Mandate	Sector
Johannes Heeb	Cewas	2015	2018	Private
Eric Plan	Cleantech Alps	2015	2018	Network / professional associations
Olga Darazs, Co-Chair	CSD Engineers	2015	2018	Private
Chris Zurbrügg	Eawag	2015	2018	Research
Darcy Molnar	ETHZ, Institute of Environmental Engineering	2016	2019	Research
Nidal Salim	Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health	2015	2018	Non Profit
Ulrich Steiner	Holinger AG	2015	2018	Private
Edi Medilanski	State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)	2015	2018	Public sector
Christian Eggs	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	2015	2018	Public sector
René Müller	Waterkiosk Foundation	2014	2017	Non Profit
Jean-Benoît Charrin		2015	2018	Independent / Non Profit
Thomas Zeller, Co-Chair		2016	2019	Independent / Public

7.2 Secretariat

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation hosts the SWP Secretariat. The Secretariat team consists of three water experts who are sharing a full time position. You can contact the secretariat by writing to info@swisswaterpartnership.ch



Secretary General: Agnes Montangero

Agnes Montangero holds a PhD in environmental engineering and has more than 13 years of experience in programme management as well as design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects in the field of water and environmental sanitation. Currently she leads the Water and Infrastructure team of Helvetas, which gives thematic advice and training to Helvetas' WASH, water for food, water governance, policy and advocacy as well as trail bridges and infrastructure projects in over 16 project countries.



Focal point Swiss-Romandie: Anne Sophie Aublet

Anne Sophie Aublet's professional background is in tropical farming and water management with more than 10 years of experience in strategy development and program management as well as design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects in the fields of rural water and environmental sanitation and food security. She works for Skat consulting, which was subcontracted by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in order to assure a presence in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.



Coordinator: Lucien Blaser

Lucien holds a BSc in Geosciences and Environment and a Master in Development studies. He completed a one-year academic traineeship at SDC's Global Programme Water Initiatives from 2014 to 2015 and joined the SWP at the end of 2015. The coordinator is the main contact point of the SWP, for external request as much as for its members.



7.3 Working and Discussion Groups

The SWP aims at providing its members opportunities to take the lead and/or actively engage in discussion or working groups on specific topics or in preparation of a specific event.

The SWP Steering Board clarified that any member can launch a discussion group to exchange, discuss or innovate. Discussion groups are a dynamic tool open to any member interested in shaping the SWP.

The creation of a working group is more formalised as the Steering Board has to validate it along its planned objectives and outputs. It needs a host member and 2-3 other members from at least two different sectors.

The following table presents the working and discussion groups that exist today, but since these are dynamic groups hosted by SWP members and can easily be linked to the SWP activity streams and value propositions, new groups may emerge and some existing may phase out.



7.3.1 Working Group

Name	Objective	Lead
Water integrity	Sensitise Swiss organisation on water integrity issues	Cewas
SWWW 2017	Organise meaningful cross sector thematic events & jointly present Swiss water knowhow and expertise at the SWP booth.	SWP
Junior Water Prize	Support the organisation of the Swiss Junior Water Prize and the participation of the finalists to the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.	Swiss Toilet Organisation
Wastewater – UN Water Theme 2017	Prepare the concept for an event in Geneva Discuss and prepare meaningful inputs on the UN Water Theme 2017 (Wastewater) and illustrate the results of the reflections on a web-based report.	WaterLex

7.3.2 Discussion Group

Name	Objective	Lead
Capacity Development	Develop joint training	Eawag
SDG 6 monitoring & implementation	Discuss the processes underway towards implementation and monitoring water-related targets in the SDG framework and identify possibilities for SWP members to get involved.	SWP
Iran water market-Chair	Exchange on the opportunities linked to the opening of the Iran market and on possible collaboration on the Karun River.	SWP





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