



SWP General Assembly 2019

Date: 12th June, 09:30 – 18:30 | Statutory Part starts at 14:15

Venue: Wasserversorgung Zürich (Hardhof 9, 8064 Zürich)

Participants: In total 38 participants, representing 29 member organizations (see list of participants in Annex).

Detailed Agenda and Minutes

This document presents the detailed agenda and minutes for the General Assembly of the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP). Points marked with a star (*) are statutory issues which are detailed in the following pages of this document. Points marked with two stars (**) are statutory issues for which documents have been sent to you through the weblink. These points are also detailed in the following pages.

AGENDA

A) Welcome coffee and address (09:30-10:00)

B) Discover the Zürich Water Utility and get to know the SVGW and the Swiss Water Supply Sector (10:15-12:45)

C) Lunch (13:00-14:00)

D) General Assembly – Statutory Part (14:15-15:30)

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 (blocks D to I)
- D.1.4 Approval of the [minutes of the last General Assembly](#)**

D.2 Key achievements 2018 and lessons learnt

- D.2.1 Presentation and approval of the [annual report 2018](#)**
- D.2.2 Presentation and approval of the [financial report 2018](#)**
- D.2.3 Appointment of the independent auditor for 2019*

D.3 SWP: the way forward

- D.3.1 Presentation of new elements of SWP phase 3 (2019-2021)
- D.3.2 Presentation and approval of the [action plan 2019-20](#)**
- D.3.3 Presentation and approval of the [budget 2019](#)**

D.4 Membership & Governance

- D.4.1 Notification on members which left the SWP*
- D.4.2 Approval of the membership fees for 2019*



D.4.4 Presentation of SB election results*

E) Coffee Break: (15:30-16:00)

F) Breakout session: building a meaning full future (16:00-17:15)

F.1 Introduction to the breakout sessions (16:00-16:15)

F.1.1 Youth engagement in the water sector

F.1.2 UN-Water Theme 2020 – Climate Change and Water

F.1.3 Dispatch on Swiss international cooperation 2021-2024

F.2 Breakout sessions (16:15-17:00)

F.3 Feedback from breakout sessions (17:00-17:15)

H) AOB and closing of the General Assembly (17:15-17:30)

H.1 AOB*

H.2 Closing of the General Assembly by Thomas Zeller, Co-Chair of the Swiss Water Partnership

I) Aperitif on the Rooftop (17:30-18:30)

MEETING MINUTES

D) General Assembly – Statutory Part

Please find the link to all presentations and background documents [HERE](#).

D.1. Opening of the General Assembly

Olga Darazs, the Co-Chair of the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP), welcomed the audience (incl. Jennifer Fernando, French Water Program and Riff Fullan, facilitator SWP) and opened the General Assembly (GA) 2019. The [minutes of the General Assembly 2018](#) have been sent to the members beforehand.

Decisions:

- The GA approved the agenda of the meeting.
- The GA approved the minutes of the GA 2018.

D.2 Key achievements 2018 and lessons learnt

D.2.1 Presentation and approval of the annual report 2018**

The [SWP annual report 2018](#) highlights the main achievements of the Partnership in executing the action plan approved at the General Assembly 2018. The SWP annual report was discussed, amended and approved by the SWP Steering Board. The Steering Board recommended adopting the SWP Annual Report 2018.

Soraya Kohler, SWP Coordinator, highlighted the following key achievements of 2018 and lessons learned:



- **Strategic development:**
 - The finalization approval and publication of the SWP key document “New phase proposal (2019- 2021)”
 - The youth strategy has been finalised on the basis of the SWP long-term strategy
 - Reflections have been launched on the topic of Leaving No One Behind (UN Water Topic 2019)
 - The concept of the blended finance project “SWP Financing Facility” has been finalised and is ready to pilot. It enhances access to marked-based repayable finance through attractive revenue generation mechanisms and the aggregation of multiple local entities overall aiming at attracting more private capital.
- **Dynamic Learning:**
 - Platform’s role as cross-sector innovation carrier has been strengthened through:
 - Learning event on ground and surface water to foster exchange and share practical experiences
 - Water events on nature-based solutions (DRR; Unlocking Financing)
 - SWP Training offer has been shared with ADfB who shared the document with partner countries and ADB, where Swiss expertise contributed to their capacity development strategy. The demand for Swiss expertise has increased from other regions and partner organisations have SWP on the radar. The joint effort should be continued to convince SWP members that they can engage in this opportunity.
 - A new Working Group on Leave No-One Behind has been launched as an opportunity to promote promising approaches in this field
 - SJWP 2018 winner was Laura Bauer (Litorella uniflora). This was the 2nd edition of the prize, which consists of a joint effort among SWP members and strengthens the SWP position as knowledge hub.
- **Strong Swiss Voice:**
 - The two international conferences World Water Forum (WWF) / World Water Week (WWW) were key events to further develop the international positioning of the SWP. Switzerland is perceived as a credible, experiences partner with a comparative advantage in fields like water stewardship, NBSW, social entrepreneurship. The conferences focused on the topics youth, innovation and blue peace. The conferences contributed to increase SWP visibility and its networking opportunities.
 - Strategic partnerships were enhanced, which was visible through the active requests for Swiss expertise from partners.
- **Water Dialogue:**
 - Water dialogue on the topic of monitoring water-related SDG targets was strengthened, especially through thematic inputs, contribution to the sustainability declaration and definition of Swiss messages at the WWF by the members present at the international conference.

D.2.2 Presentation and approval of the financial report 2018**



The [financial report 2018](#) was reviewed and approved by the independent auditor TBO Revisions, who was appointed for this task by the SWP GA 2018. The detailed financial report was sent to the members. The Steering Board recommended adopting the SWP Financial Report 2018.

Following aspects were explained concerning the financial report:

- Compared to 2016 and 2017, the SWP had a positive annual result in 2018 of CHF 64'995.85. The total operating income of the SWP was a total of CHF 4'25163.75 while the total operating expenditure consisted of CHF 360'073.85. The annual turnover is higher due to contribution to international conferences, to blended financing and to reduction of coordination costs.
- Expenditure per outcome and income repartition are as usual: Most expenses are related to platform development and most income comes from SDC (2/3 of total income).
- The main focus in regard to the platform development consisted in rebalancing the accumulated deficit from 2017. 2018 was the end of the SWP phase 2015-2018 and overall the phase ended with a positive result of CHF 29'000, which is considered as a reasonable buffer.
- Concrete activities consisted in reducing the expenses to the maximum (e.g. material expenses for events and considerable reduction in the coordination activities lead to lower remuneration costs) and making extra efforts in increasing the income (e.g. through additional support to develop further the blended finance concept and income from international events). The annual turnover is higher than last year, which is due to the extra credit received to pursue the strategic decision from the committee to finalize the blended finance concept, but also due to the increased income from the two major international conferences. While the income through membership fee has slightly decreased (-6%), the mobilization of funding for the youth sponsorship (+17%) and income through events (times 4 from CHF 11'245 in 2017 to CHF 46'025 in 2018; +400%) have considerably increased.
- Outlook: For the new phase, the goal is to optimize the funds and keep a buffer in case of financial bottlenecks and to increase income through sponsorship and member acquisition.

D.2.3 Appointment of the independent auditor for 2019

The Statutes require the GA to appoint an independent auditor to review the annual financial report of the SWP. The Financial Reports since 2012 have been audited by [TBO Revisions](#), an audit expert licensed by the Federal Audit Oversight Authority. It was recommended by the Steering Board to appoint TBO Revisions as official auditor of the SWP in 2019.

Decisions:

- The GA approved the 2018 annual report.
- The GA approved the 2018 financial report.
- The GA approved the appointment of the independent auditor 'TBO Revisions' for 2019

D.3 SWP: the way forward



D.3.2 Presentation of new elements of the SWP Phase 3 (2019-2021)

The elements of the new SWP phase (2019-2021) have been discussed and approved by the Steering Board. They are based on the lessons learned of phase 2 (consisting of the SWP analysis and recommendations from the external review).

Soraya Kohler presented following highlights on phase 2 explaining that Phase 1 consisted in launching and building-up the platform, mobilizing members, developing a vision and business model. Phase 2 focused on the consolidation of the (international) recognition of Swiss water expertise:

- SWP had a strong presence and high visibility at the annual World Water Week and the World Water Forum.
- There is a continuous dialogue with key sector actors established.
- The platform management has been professionalized through the consolidation of the strategy in a 9-years plan (optimization of internal processes and communication products, creation of a yearly strategic Steering Board retreat).
- The SWP training offer has been finalized and shared with strategic partners
- Swiss water experts have been integrated in the World Bank (WB) expert roster (dam safety).
- Key topics through study tours and workshops have focused for example on transboundary issues, hydropower, flood protection.
- Swiss Junior Water Prize has been launched in 2017 (incl. international finals).
- SWP youth strategy has been finalized.
- Water dialogue events with the focus on the topic of monitoring water-related SDG targets: Strong Swiss involvement in the consolidation and adoption of a Swiss position paper on SDG 6.
- Innovative finance concept (SWP FF) has been developed to fill the 'SDG trillion gap' with the goal to attract private finances and increase members interest to work on joint projects/market creation.
- The (international) recognition of Swiss water expertise was consolidated.
- Water Policy: Two SDG events were conducted in Phase 2, in close partnership with ARE (Federal Office for Spatial Development) (SDG coordination in Switzerland), SDC (SDG water global architecture), and UN Water (country-level SDG 6 monitoring). A high interest of the members to get involved could be confirmed. The summary of the second event was shared with the participants of the global knowledge sharing event on SDG 6 monitoring (The Hague, 2017).

Soraya Kohler presented the new Elements Phase 3 (based on lessons learned from phase 2 and the external evaluation):



Overall, there are three new elements in Phase 3. They are focussing on innovations for SDG water, the convening power (linked to Strong Swiss voice), and youth for water. The activities aim at

- Diversifying the types of events in which the SWP is involved.
- Strengthening synergies with other water platforms in Switzerland such as Solidarit'eau Suisse and AGUASAN (coherent Swiss water strategy / positions). Having a guest from the French Water Partnership at the General Assembly is a good example how synergies can be strengthened.
- Strengthening youth involvement: For example, two youth representatives from the Water Initiative, Geneva University were invited to join the GA to participate in the discussions.
- Allowing to consider a variety of member's interest and increase the added value of the SWP, a new instrument was introduced: The "Flagship Initiatives" aim at facilitating the development of innovative approaches contributing to achieving the Agenda 2030.
- Galvanizing network on what SDG6 really means, towards more knowledge creation and fostering disruptive, provocative debates.
- Ensuring adequacy between resources and level of ambitions

The 3 main elements that are emphasized in the new phase proposal are:

- Engaging youth in water-related reflections (**Youth for Water**). Youth generates new ideas for the sector and prepare the new generation of water professionals.
- Creating space for reflection and the development of innovations (**Innovations for SDG Water**). It contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of approaches to achieve water-related SDG targets. The idea is to create more creative and provocative debates to open up the debate for new topics (i.e. What does SDG6 mean?).
- Contributing to the critical review, refinement, adoption, and replication of effective approaches and hence to water security based on SWP's convening power and its international presence (**Strong Swiss Voice**).

D.3.2 Presentation and approval of the action plan 2019-20**

The [action plan 2019-20](#) was discussed, amended and approved by the SB of the SWP. The action plan also strives to put the short-term actions into perspective with the long-term vision of the SWP. The Steering Board recommended to adopt the SWP Action Plan 2019-20.

Soraya Kohler presented the main elements of 2019-2020 Action Plan, which can be summarized as follows:

Dynamic Learning:

- Maintain the SWP function as a Think Tank through the implementation of an exchange program (learning event).
- Several activities to connect and attract youth with the aim to put youth strategy into practice (for detailed activities see action plan).



- Develop and test innovative ideas through the new instrument “Flagship initiatives Framework” based on the 9 criterias, which can be found [here](#).

Strong Swiss Voice:

- Promote Swiss Solutions at (international) conferences/ events
- Promote cross-sector collaboration (training offer; study tour)
- Create demand for Swiss water expertise (multilateral & financial organizations; other networks)

Water Dialogue:

- Identify possibilities for SWP members to get further involved in discussions on global policies (e.g. Swiss water initiatives on water privatization, decentralized cooperation, SDG 6 implementation/monitoring internationally & on country level).
- Strengthen the water dialogue in sight of the WWF9

Platform Development:

- Develop the membership base and increase active participation of members (e.g. actively promote the SWP towards new members)
- Continue to maintain and diversify SWP finances (e.g. through Flagship initiatives, acquire sponsorship for the SWWW and the SJWP)

D.3.3 Presentation and approval of the budget 2019**

The yearly budget of the SWP for the period 01.2019 – 12.2019 was discussed and approved by the Steering Board. The [budget for 2019](#) was sent to the members beforehand. The Steering Board recommended to adopt the SWP budget 2019.

- Expenditure and income are similar to the years before.
- Major expenditure is linked to platform development
- Income is mainly through SDC.
- A new income stream is planned through the flagship initiatives.

Discussion/ Question

- Due the condition from SDC on match-funding, other financial sources need to be looked for.

Decisions:

- The GA approved the 2019-20 action plan.
- The GA approved the budget for 2019.

D.4 Membership & Governance

D.4.1 Notification of members, which left the SWP and exclusion of members



The following members have left the SWP for 2019 because their activities are not enough centered around water/WASH and they have shifted their focus to other strategic topics.

- Swiss Water Solutions
- Aqua Alimentaria
- Waterkiosk Foundation
- Swissaid

Member acquisition strategy in short: the acquisition strategy focuses on a qualitative rather than a quantitative growth with the following key targets:

- Increase the number of members to around 100 within the next 5-10 years (as of 2015)
- Broaden the members' expertise with a focus on energy/hydropower, insurance, investment, water utilities/services as a way to support the implementation of the SWP strategy (innovative cross-sector solutions and policy influencing)
- Contribute to SWP's financial viability with a target of 65,000 CHF (currently at 54'000)

D.4.2 Approval of the membership fee for 2019

According to §6 of the statutes, the membership fees are as following:

- Companies with more than 500 collaborators and Federal Offices: **3'000 CHF** per year
- Companies with 20 to 500 collaborators, Non-Profit-Organizations with annual expenses of more than 40 million CHF and Non-Profit-Umbrella-Organizations: **1'000 CHF** per year
- Small companies, consultants, small NPO's and foundations, university institutes, etc.: **500 CHF**
- Start Ups joining SWP within the **first three years** of their existence get one year of SWP membership for **free**

The General Assembly has the mandate to decide upon the annual membership fee. Olga Darazs and the Steering Board recommended maintaining the annual membership fee as described in the statutes.

Decisions:

- The GA approved the membership fees for 2019.

D.4.4 Presentation of Steering Board re-elections results

Darcy Molnar has been approved for another 3-year term with unanimity (26 out of 26 votes).

D.4.5 Surprise session: Goodbye and welcome

Olga Darazs and the SWP secretariat prepared a surprise session for thanking Thomas Zeller, Co-Chair since 2012 and Agnes Montangero, Secretary General since 2012 for their excellent work over the years. After this warm goodbye, Olga Darazs welcomed Bernita Doornbos as new Secretary General, who started with Helvetas in May 2019.

F) Breakout session: building a meaning full future (16:00-17:15)



F.1-3 Breakout sessions (16:00-16:15)

Riff Fullan (facilitator SWP) introduced the break-out session and explained the process. In groups of 10-15 people during 3 breakout sessions following topics were discussed and had following outcomes:

F.3.1 Youth engagement in the water sector

The goal of this session was to find out how SWP members can best benefit and contribute to the youth strategy, to understand the youth perspective on why such activities are important, and to understand SWP members' needs to define next steps for implementing the SWP youth strategy and fostering synergies among the members. To kick-off the discussion the [SWP youth strategy](#), the results from the survey on SWP member's youth activities (will be distributed among SWP members soon) and the [RWSN mentoring program](#) have been presented. Based on the discussion on needs, potential activities for three age groups have been identified:

- Under 18 years: SWP/ Water prize to be promoted in schools
- 19-25 years: calendar/ database on internships, training opportunities, mentorship programs and theses,
- Over 25 years: Career days, research days
- Additionally, the idea of a SWP youth task force was supported (4 young students/ professionals have expressed their interest in joining)

Next Steps:

- The survey on members' youth activities will be resent to the SWP members and the results will be shared afterwards.

F.3.2. UN-Water Theme 2020 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

The objective of this breakout session was to foster the exchange on this topic and go beyond. As this breakout session on water and climate change marked the launch of the new SWP working group on this topics, possible objectives of the working group have been identified:

- Contributing to influence Swiss governments (local, cantonal, federal) on water and climate change
- Gathering knowledge from the ground in Switzerland and share it at national level
- Contributing to share Swiss cases and expertise at international level (e.g. go to COPs, ...)

Despite the challenge that interests vary among the SWP partners, examples of possible activities have been identified:

- Possible focus of activities: Climate change impact on water resources, water related diseases and well-being in Switzerland
- Sharing of news related to events organized by partners and explore ways for joint collaboration (find synergies and possible ways for collaboration by linking up SWP members and their activities such as the Swiss Climate Change and Water Forum, the Water and Climate change Summit in GE, the findings of a study on CC in Switzerland, scientific Symposium on "Climate Change and Health).



F.3.3 Dispatch on Swiss international cooperation 2021-2024

SDC and SECO are working on a joint draft for the dispatch on Swiss international cooperation 2021-2024, which is currently under public consultation until 23rd August 2019. SDC GPW and the SWP secretariat did a first analysis of the dispatch in relation to water. The objective of this break-out session was to contribute to the public consultation by defining a Swiss/ SWP position regarding the water theme in the Dispatch. There are many good reasons for including a water goal in the Dispatch:

- Added value of the Swiss international cooperation and Swiss interests:
 - It is coherent and consistent with as well as leverages Swiss 'investment' into post MDG and pre-SDG to have water as explicit sustainable development goal
 - Water is central for all SDGs
- Swiss 'investment' in this sector is not (only) charity, but an investment and a responsibility (e.g. water footprint imports)
- Water has not the role in the dispatch that it should have and might not have been included because of fear of having to include other, 'similar' topics (e.g. energy), and thus open the door to diluting the message.
- Questions raise:
 - Is there really an issue? If, yes, it needs to be defined how 'big' it is and to be substantiated.
- Overall the SWP position should take IWRM and a human rights-based approach into account.

Possible action plan

- Input: members were invited to send their feedback on the dispatch
- Draft: The SWP secretariat is about to write a sharp and short message for defining a position paper.
- Consultation: Members will be sent the final draft for enhancement (no additions).
- Reinforcing: Members are invited to 'lobby' the final paper through their key contacts.

H.1 Any Other Business (AOB)*

- The next SWP Steering Committee meeting is in October
- SWJP is looking for sponsors: access the flyer [HERE](#).
- For its mentoring program the rural water supply network (RWSN) is looking for mentors, mentees and partner organizations, starting in 2020: flyer [HERE](#).

H.2 Closing of the General Assembly by Soraya Kohler, Coordinator of the Swiss Water Partnership

The assembly was closed by Soraya Kohler with special thanks to the participants, guests and the Zürich Water Utility (ZüriWasser) for their welcoming.



ANNEX

General Assembly Participants List

Member	Name, Title
Autark Engineering AG	Nancho Zimmermann, Director
Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft	Kate Dassel, Scientific Collaborator
Cewas	Johannes Heeb, Director
Cleantech Alps	Eric Plan, Director
Eawag	Chris Zurbrugg, Director
Eawag	Joaquin Jumenez-Martinez, Researcher
EBP	Risch Tratschin, Water Specialist
Ecopsis	Derko Kopitopoulos, Director
ETH Institute of Environmental Engineering	Darcy Molnar, Coordinator MAS in Sustainable Water Resources
French Water Partnership	Jennifer Fernando, Programme Officer
Geneva Water Hub	Caroline Pellaton
GIWEH	Loukas Garanis
GIWEH	Katerina Polyakova
HEKS	Karl Heuberger, thematic advisor on access to water
Helvetas	Riff Fullan, Head, Knowledge & Learning Helvetas
Helvetas	Maya Wolfensberger, Advisor Climate Change
IBG AG	Benoît PINATELLE, Project Manager
photrack AG	Salvador Peña
République et Canton de Genève	Natacha à Porta
République et Canton de Genève	Georges Clavier
Sanakvo Foundation	Jan-Marc Lehky, member of the board
Skat Consulting	Florian Klingel, Deputy CEO
Skat Consulting	Sandra Fürst, Communication and Network Coordinator
Strategos	Violette Ruppanner, Manager
SVGW	André Olschewski
Swiss Toilet Organization	Karla Schlie, Founder
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute	Guéladio Cissé, Head of Unit
Swiss Water Partnership	Soraya Kohler
Swiss Water Partnership	Thomas Zeller
Swiss Water Partnership	Agnes Montagnero
Swiss Water Partnership	Bernita Doornbos
Swiss Water Partnership	Olga Darazs, Chair
Swiss Water Partnership	Isabel Baier, Facilitator
Switzerland Global Enterprises	David Avery, Head of Cleantech
The Water Initiative - Youth Representative	Elodie Feijoo Seara, current head of the association
The Water Initiative - Youth Representative	Indira Urazova, future head of the association
WEHDI	Florian Thevenon
World Vision Schweiz	Olaf Schönsee