



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Summary Methods of Work

And Briefing for

Minister Mokonyane, of Water and Sanitation on the occasion of the

HOSTING OF THE SHERPA MEETING

6-8 DECEMBER 2017

CAPE TOWN

Republic of South Africa

Panel Courtesy Meeting:

- *Ministerial working Dinner to be hosted on 07 December 2017 (Time to be confirmed and determined by the Minister's diary)*
- *NB. Minister to represent the President at the Courtesy meeting with the full Sherpa representatives to receive a briefing on the progress, process and way forward on the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW). (Letter from President attached)*
- *Minister will respond on behalf of the President and provide input or suggestions on the legacy of the HLPW*

METHODS OF WORK

TIME: 19:00

Venue: Shimmy Restaurant

Meeting set-up: Meeting/Working Dinner

The Programme Director: Co- Chairs to the HLPW

Introductions: All Sherpas and invited guests

Meeting Procedures: Co-Chairs will introduce the nominated presenter to brief the Minister as per the agreed content by the Sherpa meeting

Response by the Minister: (Notes to be tabled on the after first session in line with adopted Methods of Work for RSA meeting)

Vote of Thanks: Nominee of Sherpa Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF CONVENERERS

- United Nations
- World Bank
- Co- Chairs
- Advisors
- All Sherpa Countries

Excellencies, Convenors, Sherpas to Panel Members

Ladies and Gentleman

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome all our honoured guests and participants to our beautiful sunny South Africa and to this important meeting of Sherpas to our member leaders to the High Level Panel On Water (HLPW), which is significant and crucial to the achievement that our leaders set for themselves on the HLPW.

NB: Minister requested that speaking notes be submitted after the first day of the meeting to capture the spirit of the South African meeting and for relevance of content reflecting the adopted proceedings.

The notes will capture recommendations on behalf of the President, as a Panel member based on the envisaged draft outcome document that will be discussed and drafted in Cape Town.

**BRIEFING ON THE CONTENT OF THE PANEL OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR DRAFTING AT
CAPE TOWN**

MINISTERIAL OVERVIEW ON THE DRAFT CONTENT OF THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT

List of Acronyms

Preface

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

2. What Is the Problem and What Are the Action Areas

3.	<u>Key Recommendations</u>	
3.1	<u>A New Narrative for Water: Changing the Way We Look at Water (Lead author: The Netherlands)</u>	
3.2	<u>Resilient Economies, Societies, and Disaster Risk Reduction</u>	
	<u>Disaster Risk Reduction (Lead author: Dr. Han)</u>	
	<u>Water Use Efficiency (Lead author: Australia)</u>	
	<u>Water, Peace, Migration, and Refugees (Lead author: Hungary)</u>	
3.3	<u>Universal Access to Safe Water and Sanitation (Lead author: Peru)</u>	
3.4	<u>Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements (Lead author: Hungary)</u>	
3.5	<u>Water and the Environment (Lead author: Australia)</u>	
3.6	<u>Water Infrastructure and Investment (Lead author: Hungary)</u>	
3.7	<u>Water Data (Lead author: Australia)</u>	
3.8	<u>Valuing Water (Author: the Netherlands)</u>	
3.9	<u>Water Governance</u>	
	<u>Domestic Water Governance (Lead author: South Africa)</u>	
	<u>Transboundary Water Governance (Lead author: Hungary)</u>	
3.10	<u>Catalyzing Change, Building Partnerships & International Cooperation</u>	
	<u>Innovation (Lead author: Australia)</u>	
	<u>Partnerships for Cooperation (Lead author: Peru)</u>	
	<u>Global Institutional Architecture on Water Cooperation (Lead author: Hungary)</u>	
	<u>International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018–28</u>	
4.	<u>The Way Forward</u>	

INTRODUCTION OF THE DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a transformative plan of action based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The 2030 Agenda seeks not only to eradicate extreme poverty, but also to integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental—in a comprehensive global vision. Over the next 15 years, aiming to reach these universal goals, countries will undertake efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, Member States of the United Nations have committed to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030” (SDG 6). It is broadly recognised that sustainable water management is key to achieving many of the other SDGs as well. Member States adopted the Resolution to proclaim the period from 2018 to 2028 to be the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”. Political leadership and commitment will be of paramount importance in galvanising citizens and communities into action in support of the water-related SDGs.

This report of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) calls on political, community and business leaders to make and promote the changes in policy and practice required to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

To achieve water-related SDGs, many countries must move quickly from awareness to action on their water challenges, through leadership at all levels of their society, supported by international cooperation.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM AND WHAT ARE THE ACTION AREAS

Water is at the core of sustainable development. Water resources and the range of services they provide, underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social wellbeing and inclusive growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions.

Floods, droughts, regional conflicts and water scarcity are already imposing large social, environmental and economic costs around the world—and will be exacerbated by climate change. Over the last 20 years, the overwhelming majority of disasters (90%) have been caused by floods, storms, heat waves and other weather-related events ([UNISDR 2015](#)). Growing populations and increasing demand for food and energy will exacerbate scarcity problems, as will poor decisions on water allocation and use. Agriculture is the economic sector that accounts for 70 percent of global

freshwater withdrawals and, between 2003 and 2013, as much as 84 percent of the total economic impact of droughts in developing countries was absorbed by agriculture ([FAO 2015](#)).

Today, 2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services ([WHO/UNICEF 2017](#)). Without safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities at home and in places of work and education, it is disproportionately harder for women and girls to lead safe, productive, healthy lives. Addressing the needs of females in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene is a key driver in achieving gender equity and locking in the potential of half of global society.

For the first time in history, more than half of the global population lives in towns and cities. By 2050, that proportion is expected to have risen to two-thirds ([UN-DESA, 2014](#)). The high concentration of people and economic activity in cities has reached a critical level—that is, one at which many of today’s most complex water challenges need to be addressed in a comprehensive way.

Water pollution resulting from human activities is associated with biodiversity loss, reduced ecosystem functioning and the unsuitability of water for various uses and has clear health and socioeconomic impacts. Therefore, protecting or restoring the environment, as well as taking an integrated approach to build and natural infrastructure, is often a cost-effective and sustainable way to avoid water stress.

Adequate infrastructure to manage water resources and provide water services is of vital importance for social and economic development, but the investment gap is large and growing. While international aid spending on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) increased from \$6.3 billion to \$7.4 billion between 2012 and 2015, future commitments declined from \$10.4 billion to \$8.2 billion in the same period ([GLAAS 2017](#)).

Water crises are usually governance crises. Technical solutions often exist, but the challenge is translating them into “who does what, at which level and how.” Solutions without functional institutions will not be sustainable. Water governance is inherently complex, as many stakeholders across multiple sectors are involved, hydrological and administrative boundaries often conflict and available data are incomplete. It therefore requires a “whole of society” approach. Unfortunately, good water resources management and service delivery require good, reliable data—currently lacking in many parts of the world on key topics.

While water stress is growing, farmers, businesses and households often have few incentives to consume less, maintain water quality or allocate it to the most productive use. Making the social, environmental and economic values of water explicit gives people incentives to manage water more efficiently and makes decisions involving trade-offs between different water uses more transparent and better-informed.

Although the water issue is multifaceted and varies among and within countries, it often includes the following elements:

- Overconsumption and pollution, which compromise the availability of safe water and sanitation for downstream and future users;
- Absence of processes to acknowledge the different values society water resources have for society;
- Lack of investment in water projects due to relatively poor returns and high risks;
- Weak or absent processes for managing transboundary rivalry;
- Low-quality or insufficient data on water, its uses and the effects of water issues (scarcity, flooding, eutrophication, etc.);
- Weak legal frameworks and governance practices

To date, the lack of political awareness and leadership on water has hampered the advancement of sustainable development globally. As

water-related risks increase in many parts of the world, water and sanitation challenges are moving up the international agenda. This growing global concern is reflected in the high-profile Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 and other water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda.

To overcome these challenges, in 2016 the HLPW launched an Action Plan representing a comprehensive and integrated approach to helping ensure the

availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG6), as well as contributing to the achievement of the other SDGs that rely on the development and management of water resources. As the international community has agreed to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030, we should aggressively pursue the right course of action if we want to be successful. Unless countries implement far-reaching policy changes, those ambitious targets will definitely not be met universally. And given the dire consequences of failure, we cannot accept the possibility of failure in this context.

The areas of action are summarised in the accompanying graphic, which represents a comprehensive agenda for action. As the action areas are interdependent, some specific actions overlap to some extent and mutually reinforce each other.



To move quickly from awareness to action, a number of key considerations and principles need to be taken into account:

- Political leadership for a **comprehensive approach** – technical solutions to many of the world’s water problems already exist but strong and coordinated leadership is required to make progress;
- A Commitment to the **human right** to safe drinking water and sanitation;
- **Transparency and inclusion** – all interested organisations shall be given equal chances to engage and contribute;
- **Autonomy** – organisations need to define, organise and drive their own engagement in support of the agenda — the Panel will set directions and provide momentum;
- **Collaboration** – having an effective working interface between existing organisations and the Panel is critical. It will include both online and direct interactions with the Panel or their Sherpas.
- **Continuous engagement** through regular consultations.

Conclusion

- The Co- Chairs will convey the invitations to Panel Members to the Minister for her further briefing to the President, including the Launch of the outcome Document in the side-lines of the World Water Forum in Brazil from 18-23 March 2018 (Invitation and Note Verbal forwarded to Presidency)
- The Launch of the Water Decade, as the Vehicle to be used to track the legacy of the HLPW and the roll out of the initiatives.