

**Minutes of the 1st meeting of the**

**Advisory Committee of the UNW-DPC**

Location: UN Campus, Bonn

Date: 13 June 2008

Duration: 09.00- 15.00

Chair (Items 1-3): Prof. K. Osterwalder

Chair (Items 4-9): Prof. W. van Vierssen

Minute-taker: UNW-DPC

Present:

UNU

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| Prof. K. Osterwalder (Rector) | All Items |
| Prof. J. Bogardi (Vice-Rector in Europe a.i.) | Items 1-5 |

AC Members

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| Ms. M. Catley-Carlson | All Items |
| Prof. A. Das Gupta | All Items |
| Prof. A. Salih | Items 5-9 |
| Dr H. P. Schipulle | All Items |
| Prof. W. van Vierssen | All Items |

UNW-DPC

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| Dr R. Ardakanian (Director) | All Items, except Item 8 |
| Mr S. Crouch | Items 1-7 |
| Dr M. Hare | Items 1-7 |
| Dr R. Klingbeil | Items 1-6 |
| Dr J.L. Martin-Bordes | Items 1-6 |
| Dr. C. van der Schaaf | Items 1-6 |

Donors

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| Mr H.F. Grübel (BMBF) | Item 7 |
| Mr F. Marré (BMZ) | Item 7 |
| Mr C. Merdes (BMZ) | Item 7 |

**Item 1: Welcoming address**

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Apologies: Prof. B. Braga (AC Member - sent statement and apologies), Prof. A. Salih (arrived at 10.25, in time for part of Item 5), Prof. J. Bogardi (left at 09.55, Item 5)

**Item 2: Adoption of agenda**

The meeting agenda was adopted.

**Item 3: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee**

Prof. van Vierssen was elected Chair by acclamation; no Vice-Chair was elected.

**Item 4: Report on UNW-DPC establishment**

The Vice-Rector in Europe, UNU, explained the history of the establishment of the UNW-DPC, starting from Tajikistan’s proposal for a UN Water Decade, to the founding of the UN-Water mechanism and its three support programmes: WWAP, UNO-IDfA and UNW-DPC. He emphasized the importance of the, often unique, joint role that the German Government, UN-Water and the UNU have played in the creation and goal-setting of UNW-DPC, as well as the selection of the programme’s Director. Due to UNW-DPC being hosted by UNU, the Advisory Committee of the UNW-DPC, meeting today for the first time, has been set up along UNU rules.

AC asked that the role of UNW-DPC be clarified, with respect to whether or not it should function as a board.

Response: it should deal with both substantive issues and board-like ones, based on UNU rules and regulations. Access to relevant information, such as budgets, will be given. However, it should not carry out daily management. Its role would be one of oversight only. Responsibility would remain with the UNU.

**Item 5: UNU development strategies and expectations for UNW-DPC**

The Rector of UNU then presented his vision of the strategic development of the UNU and also the role that UNW-DPC could play in it. He made the following points, during his presentation, regarding the UNU:

* Important to bridge gap between UN agencies and UNU;
* Ability to hire staff, long term, essential;
* New institutions planned for Dresden (water), Slovakia, Latvia, Spain, Algeria and Brazil (negotiations underway for one in China);
* Collaboration being carried out with Club of Rome;
* UNU should become a world leader in research in a few areas;
* UNU should focus on knowledge production
  + Deep in what we produce
  + Wide in what we collect
* Selection criteria for working with other organizations should be whether or not they combine both social and natural sciences;
* UNU needs to solve accreditation problem – an expert board needs to be set up to do this – possible route: acknowledging General Assembly as UNU’s national government?
* Need to network UNU with leading industrial actors;
* Need to create peer review and alumni review processes;
* Need to go for larger funding sources: millions rather than hundreds of thousands;
* UNU goal should be to train next generation of water policy people;
* The new Twinning Strategy would work, in general, on the 1 + 2 principle:
  + A UNU institution would create one new UNU local institute in developing country linked to existing local university;
  + Each member of staff in the original UNU institution would spend at least 50% of time in joint projects with twinning institute;
  + By 2009, the UNU institution knows its plan for implementation and have discussed this with donor government;
  + Funding to be done by host country topped up by agencies in developed country of existing institute’s origin;
  + This should not be a MoU – but specific and detailed cooperation;
  + Money is available from sponsoring governments, when they pay up.

Regarding the UNW-DPC, the Rector mentioned among other things:

* UNW-DPC has a very special and unique role to play in UNU;
* UNW-DPC could support bridging a link between UN agencies and UNU;
* UNW-DPC should not be considered an outsider;
* UNW-DPC could support the UNU’s work on knowledge production;
* UNW-DPC would not be among the first organisations to take part in twinning.

AC expressed thanks for the presentation. With respect to the plan for UNU twinning institutions, it sought further information on the following issues: where the money is to come from for this activity; what the added value of UNU is, as a selling point to host countries and existing institutions and whether building new structures rather than using existing ones in developing countries is the most efficient means of achieving the UNU’s goals. The rector responded that where the UNU-host country relationship is functional, there are enough funds. Additionally, since 13 countries have already invested money and resources in setting up current UNU institutions, and several more institutions are in the planning, there is proof of the confidence that host countries have in the UNU and its added value to them (in terms, for example, of internationalization of their institutes’ activities). He also reminded the AC that the UNU will be linking to existing Universities in the host country and there will be no new structures involved in this respect.

**Item 6: Director’s report**

The Director of the UNW-DPC reported to the meeting what UNW-DPC had achieved since its establishment in August 2007 and what it was planning to do in the forthcoming reporting year, till June 2009.

The Director reported that in the time period August 2007 – June 2008, UNW-DPC was established and the Work Plan for 2007-2009 formally agreed. Despite the fact that the UNW-DPC programme officers first arrived between April and June 2008, UNW-DPC, since August 2007, has completed over 20 main activities and has a further 10 ongoing, which will carry over into the next reporting period. Out of the 15 specific activities set out in the Work Plan, 11 have already been begun in some form or other. Activities carried out include presentations at workshops, public relations and publication writing. However, major contributions have been in work carried out to:

* survey UN-Water members and partners on their capacity development activities and their support needs;
* create an online repository of UN-Water capacity development activities;
* organise innovative training seminars and workshops;
* develop contributions to the 3rd World Water Development Report (WWDR3) and one of its side publications on capacity development;

Since its inauguration in August 2007, UNW-DPC has also tried to cooperate in the activities and goals of the UNU, its host and a UN-Water member. It takes active part in the CONDIR meetings and UNU international courses. In addition, it has been working with UNU-IHDP and UNU-INWEH on integrated water resources management-based training courses. Further work is planned with the UNU.

UNW-DPC is also fulfilling its mandate of representing the interests of and networking for the UN-Water members and partners. A principle of UNW-DPC is that each of its activities is to be carried out with the collaboration of some UN-Water members or partners. With this in mind, in this time period, at least seven UN-Water members have been involved, as significant collaborators, in important UNW-DPC activities that have been completed or will bear fruit in 2008/2009.

Thematic areas included integrated water resources management (IWRM), adaptive water management, urban water management, trans-boundary water management, health impact assessment, climate change, knowledge management and institutional capacity development. Synergies are being sought between these areas to support efficient planning and allocation of resources for the coming reporting period.

The Director concluded that future work will continue to focus on the implementation of the different areas of the Work Plan and will include supporting workshop and training activities as well as the development of the Capacity Development Observatory for providing support for UN-Water members and partners in the monitoring and analysis of capacity development activities and needs worldwide. The strategic development of UNW-DPC would focus on moving towards multilateral cooperation with UN-Water members and working on both individual and institutional capacity development.

To start the debate and collection of responses from the AC, Prof. Braga’s comments on the meeting documents all AC members received were then summarised by the Director, as follows:

* Pleased with progress;
* Focus should be on:
  + water and sanitation sector in developing world
  + incorporation of the "socio-economic" variable
  + targeting local water authorities and their operators esp. in urban supply systems.
  + E-learning - reaches a very large audience at very reasonable costs
* A lot of activities have been put forward ;
* Very important are the initiatives related to
  + transboundary water management and
  + water supply loss reduction
* Focus more on the MDG issue.
  + E.g. An e-learning course that could be offered to water supply and sanitation utilities in the developing world to improve operations

The participating members of the AC responded with the following comments and advice:

* Congratulations on a good report and good staff recruited;
* Too many activities – they should be streamlined
  + Focus on groundwater and social aspects in rural areas, e.g. in Africa
* Try to bring in information from UN-Water first, before getting information in from outside UN-Water, but note that not all knowledge lies within the UN;
* You should know who your clients are: UN-Water, developing countries or the wider world?
  + Answer (from Director): UN-Water is the main client – UNW-DPC provides first and foremost an interface to UN-Water, not to the world. We will first work bilaterally with UN-Water members to make sure we achieve progress in the developing countries. Through our success bilaterally, we will draw in the other UN-Water members to work together with us.
* UNW-DPC should develop indicators and criteria for success of their work
  + Do we measure in terms of how well we support the UN-Water or in terms of how well UN-Water supports the developing countries?
  + Also survey clients’ views on effectiveness of UNW-DPC.
* Whilst maintaining visibility, keep tackling the key remit to further development UN-Water coherency;
* Continue to always work with UN-Water members;
* Maintain the ability to differentiate between activities that really do develop capacity and those that merely recycle established knowledge;
* Balance workshop and non-workshop activities;
* Maintain a regional focus e.g. focus on Africa, followed by further regions.

**Item 7: Meeting with Donor representatives**

Representatives of the Donors, the BMZ and BMBF, were invited to join this item of the meeting. There was an open exchange between the AC and the Donors that included the following comments and advice:

* (Chair) Very impressed with the rocket-like start to UNW-DPC.
* (BMZ)
  + A terrific job has been done so far;
  + The vision of UNW-DPC is a very important one;
  + Keep balance between activism and isolationism;
  + Strategically consider how to support the complexity that is the UN-Water mechanism.
* (BMBF)
  + Creating impact will be key to UNW-DPC success (without starting own organization), e.g. drinking water loss reduction workshop is a good way of getting visibility.
* (AC)
  + Impact is important, but long term goals are also important: improve world, thanks to a better UN-Water;
  + UNW-DPC could have been initially set indicators and targets rather than the work plan.
* (BMZ)
  + Goal of UNW-DPC is clear: support UN-Water to meet the MDGs & one UN voice
* (BMBF)
  + Wait till next year and the AC can get a better picture of how well the UNW-DPC is doing
* (AC)
  + UNW-DPC should link with ongoing workshops connected to Paris Declaration, e.g. the forthcoming Ghana workshop;
  + Support of UN-Water and Donors in reviewing progress is important;
  + UNW-DPC should focus on the remit of supporting UN-Water to carry out its necessary activities;
  + Start at sub-regional and work slowly up to regional;
  + Focus on demand-side analysis work, mapping is a priority area of impact and added value for UNW-DPC;
  + Work plan activities should be prioritized;
  + UNW-DPC should be seen as an enabler, rather than an implementer.
* (UNW-DPC)
  + Whilst UNW-DPC will be continuing working on projects for UN-Water, overall, more resources will go on mapping, observatory and gaps analysis.

The Donors left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.

**Item 8: *In camera* session**

The Director and remaining UNW-DPC staff were asked to leave the meeting so that the AC could discuss, *in camera,* about what they had heard and discussed (based on UNU procedure of AC meetings).

**Item 9: Discussion and closing of meeting**

The director was asked to return and additional conclusions of the AC were reported to him. These included:

* Thanks being offered to UNW-DPC team and all participants for a very good meeting;
* The UNW-DPC Work Plan can be considered as having been reviewed and endorsed by the AC
* Coherency between the activities of the Programme Officers should be maintained;
* UNW-DPC should seek to develop a knowledge-base of capacity development that UN-Water cannot find anywhere else;
* UNW-DPC should make use of and learn from the experience of others who have developed knowledge management systems in this sector;
* Capacity development in groundwater could be a major contribution that UNW-DPC could make;
* GTZ should be collaborated with, since they are very experienced in the capacity development field;
* Each AC member agreed to use their expertise to support the development of a book chapter for UNW-DPC.

END