sustainable sanitation alliance

**Meeting Minutes**
**SuSanA Advisory Board Meeting**

**August 23, 2026**
**09:00 – 11:00 CET**
**Norrsken House Stockholm**

Minutes taken by: SuSanA Secretariat
Meeting called by: Global Steering Committee

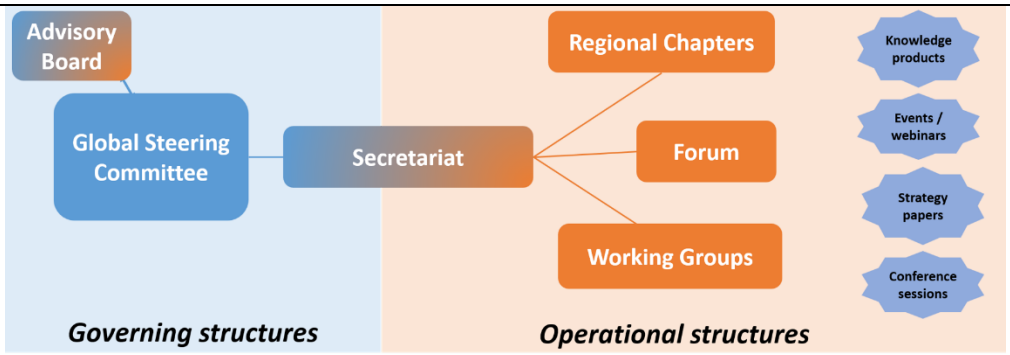


**Participants:**

| Name | Organization |
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| **Advisory Board Members** | |
| Belinda Abraham | Viva Con Agua |
| Arne Panesar | GIZ |
| Madelein Fogde | SEI |
| Prit Salian | isan |
| Sarah Dickin | Uppsala University |
| Jess Mac Arthur | Eawag |
| Judith Maréchal | SuSanA WG Cold Climate Sanitation |

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| Chibambila Simbeye | SLU |
| Abishek S Narayan | EAWAG |
| *Nitya Jacobs (online)* | *Coordinator, SuSanA India Chapter* |
| *Sean Furrey (online)* | *Skat Foundation / RWSN* |
| *Christoph Lüthi (online)* | *Eawag* |
| *Andrea Caceres (online)* | *The AWA Project* |
| *Maha Halalsheh (online)* | |
| *Vishwanath (online)* | |
| *Sunetra Lala (online)* | |
| **Global Steering Committee Members** | |
| Malesi Shivaji | ANEW |
| Dorothee Spuhler | OST |
| **Secretariat** | |
| Juri Jung | GIZ |
| Bettina-Sophie Heinz | GIZ |
| Alexandra Dubois | GIZ |
| Maren Heuvels | GIZ |

| | Agenda Item | Presenter/Moderator |
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| **1.** | **Welcome, round of introduction and objectives** | **Malesi** |
| | • Introduction of the new Global Steering Committee<br>• Ensure all participants understand the roles, responsibilities, and functions of the Global Steering Committee (GSC), Advisory Board (AB), and Secretariat<br>• Present and discuss the SuSanA Pitch-Deck<br>• Encourage open discussion, feedback, and questions to gather diverse perspectives and address concerns | |
| **2.** | **Presentation of the GSC + role and functions of GSC/AB/Secretariat** | **Malesi and Juri** |
| | Global Steering Committee 2025-2028<br>• Malesi Shivaji (Kenya) / Sub-Saharan Africa<br>• Dorothee Spuhler (Switzerland) / Europe & Central Asia<br>• Tomaz Gregori Kipnis (Brazil) / Latin America & Caribbean<br>• John Sauer (USA) / North America<br>• Girija Ramakrishna (India) / South Asia<br>• Amelia Wenger (Australia) / East Asia & Pacific<br>• Munjed Mahmoud Al Sharif (Jordan) / West Asia & North Africa | |




| 3. | **Q&A/Feedback/Open Discussion** | **Malesi** |
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**Advisory Board Role and Responsibilities**

- What is the maximum capacity of the AB? How can the expertise of 60 members be leveraged meaningfully?
- Maren emphasized the rapid changes in the sector, with people leaving and WASH groups shrinking due to funding --> AB Responsibility: Act as the stable core of the sector.
- Abishek suggested using AB meetings to provide a sector update/overview.
- Arne's suggestion: 2 AB meetings per year --> 1 hybrid meeting in Stockholm (before/after the SuSanA Meeting) + 1 meeting elsewhere (fully online or hybrid, combined with a sector conference in the Global South). Additionally, an AB meeting should be organized in October/November to unify voices prior to the upcoming UN Water Conference in December 2026.
- The option of organizing AB meetings for different global time zones was raised
- Madeleine proposed aligning AB meetings with sector events and using downtime for online meetings.
- Christoph suggested consulting the AB with a concrete agenda and SuSanA update beforehand to allow better preparation.
- Dorothee reminded that the GSC must lead the organization of AB meetings.
- The AB questioned how to improve communication: SuSanA Forum? WhatsApp group?
- GSC and Secretariat will develop a concept for better AB engagement and present it at the next AB meeting.

**Fundraising**

- Proposal for a New Task Force with Fundraising focus
- Idea of activity suggested by Maren: Develop a standard pitch deck (based on the WASH funders' version) for the UNWC in UAE. Revise content to address a broader audience and be ready to pitch SuSanA at the event.

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| | • Madeleine shared that the Klarna App Foundation may be interested in contributing to the South-East Asia Chapter (follow-up needed).<br>**Future of the Secretariat**<br>• Juri highlighted the BMZ reform, which questions whether the Sector Programme can continue hosting the SuSanA Secretariat. BMZ is keen to share Secretariat responsibilities with other organizations. Proposal: Explore a decentralized Secretariat model. | |

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| **4.** | **Presentation of the pitch-deck** | **Dorothee** |
| | • Presentation of the 6-7 slides developed by the Secretariat with the support of the GSC (Amelia Wenger) to present at the WASH funders Meeting planned for Tuesday 25.09.2026 at SWWW2026 (Radisson)<br>• 10min presentation and 20min Q&A<br>• Paired with a presentation of the Urban Water Catalyst Initiative from GIZ<br>• Around 7 private funders will be present (incl. Aqua for All, Siemens Foundation, Stone Family Foundation, SHF, One Foundation and the Case for Her)<br>• Pitch will be done by Alex and introduced by Dr. Andreas Schaumeyer (Head of Division for Food security and Water) from BMZ | |
| **5.** | **Q&A / Feedback / Open Discussion** | **Dorothee and Alex** |
| | • We do more than Knowledge Sharing, we build capacity for the Sector. Needs to appear more clearly<br>• More focus on impact, especially cross-sectoral outcomes<br>• AI is using SuSanA knowledge, and we need to take credit somehow. No way to quantify that.<br>• WASH funders are interested in impact (this is why SuSanA needs an annual report or an impact report) --> add one slide on it<br>• Every pitch needs to be targeted<br>• Emphasis on the neutrality of SuSanA<br>• On the proposed activities slides, highlight 3-4 key activities categorized according to their timeframe (short, medium and long-term)<br>• Basket Fund must be presented more prominently, as the funding mechanism of such a complex network is going to be of interest for the WASH funders | |

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| | • Emphasize the fact that SuSanA enables to decentralize SuSanA Activities on the ground, instead of “just” channeling the funds<br>• “Sounding board" is not a particularly intuitive or exciting term<br>• "Knowledge Sharing" in the AI era doesn't sound so convincing. It is more around curation - in the firehose of information, it's important to give visibility to what experts think are the significant new or established solutions or evidence<br>• Be consistent with 3 main functions/terminology: circles & 3 ledgers at the end<br>• Sean strongly recommends that everyone looks at Community Health Impact Coalition — Because CHWs work they have incredible focus and clarity, which is leading to flywheel of success<br>• Unclear if the activities presented are already happening or ideas for prospective funding... (clarify in title) | |
| **6.** | **Next steps** | |
| | • Secretariat will share the final PPT after revisions based on the feedback)<br>• GSC will call for the next AB meeting around Oct-Nov 2026<br>• GSC and Secretariat will develop a concept for better AB engagement and present it at the next AB meeting<br>• GSC will establish the new “Fundraising” Task Force<br>• The task Force should prepare the pitch-deck for UAE | |