

SuSanA GSC Meeting Minutes 30.04.2026

Attendees

GSC: Malesi, Munjed, Girija

Secretariat: Alex, Juri

Missing: John, Dorothee, Amelia, Tomaz

1. Decision-making process: A discussion was held regarding the newly adopted decision-making process. The Secretariat provided a summary of the decisions adopted by the GSC.

- The first decision concerned increasing the quorum to five members in order to allow for broader participation in the decision-making process.
- The second decision related to the participation of Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) in the sanitation report. The GSC approved SuSanA's participation, and the Secretariat has commenced work on the report. Alex is leading this effort and will provide the GSC with regular updates on progress.
- The third decision concerned the establishment of the South-East-Asia Regional Chapter. The GSC approved the establishment of the chapter, and the Secretariat will proceed with the necessary coordination with BORDA, which will take the lead in managing this regional chapter.
- The fourth discussion point addressed the future of the forum. Several GSC members requested further deliberation on this matter. One of the key proposals involved shifting part of the forum's activities to LinkedIn. It was agreed that a LinkedIn group would be established alongside the existing forum on SuSanA, with an initial six-month pilot phase. The moderators will support this transition. Following the pilot period, the success of the initiative will be evaluated based on indicators such as the number of posts, engagement levels, and audience interactions.

2. Shifting the forum to LinkedIn: A question was raised regarding the rationale behind considering a shift to LinkedIn. The Secretariat explained that the current platform incurs high monthly operational costs, while the levels of posts, reposts, traffic, and user interactions have significantly declined over the years. Furthermore, the Secretariat noted that users are increasingly relying on AI-based tools to obtain information and answers to inquiries, which necessitates rethinking the future vision and functionality of the forum.

- The GSC further suggested exploring innovative approaches to strengthen and enhance the forum through the use of emerging technologies, including AI-based tools. Members also emphasized the importance of reconsidering the forum's target audience, particularly young people and early-career professionals, and adapting activities to better respond to their needs and interests.
- The Secretariat reported that one proposal put forward by the moderators was the establishment of a WhatsApp broadcast channel managed by the Secretariat. The channel would disseminate selected and highly relevant content from the LinkedIn group to a broader audience.

3. **Current status of the working groups:** Regarding the current status of the working groups, the Secretariat noted that one WG is currently active. The Secretariat is therefore considering a new approach to reactivate the working groups by assigning them updated objectives, increasing youth participation, and promoting broader engagement from young professionals. Each working group would be assigned a specific task and expected to produce a corresponding document or output. In addition, a timeline would be developed for each group, including details such as the date of establishment, original objectives, achievements to date, current pressing topics, and key knowledge areas relevant to the group's mandate.
4. **Participation of GSC members in conferences and events:** Concerning the participation of GSC members in conferences and events, the Secretariat requested members to share information regarding events in which they will participate. This would enable members to represent SuSanA at such events and strengthen connections with SuSanA associates. The link for submitting event information will be shared through the WhatsApp group.
5. **Strategy Task Force and the Bylaw Task Force:** Updates were also provided on the Strategy Task Force and the Bylaw Task Force. The Strategy Task Force has held its first meeting and initiated preliminary discussions, with a second meeting to be scheduled shortly. The Bylaw Task Force met two weeks earlier and reviewed the comments received on the draft document. The task force has begun compiling the required actions and has completed approximately one-third of the document review process.
6. **Human Right to Sanitation Report:** the Secretariat updated the GSC on the Human Right to Sanitation Report. A draft version of the report has been prepared, and two Advisory Board members have already provided support and input. The clean version of the report will be shared with the GSC members and other concerned stakeholders in due course.