

## SuSanA GSC Meeting Minutes 28.05.2026

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### **Attendees**

GSC: Malesi, Mujed, Amelia, Tomaz, Girija, John, Dorothee

Secretariat: Juri, Käthe

Missing: Alex

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### **Meeting notes – Agenda**

#### Topics of Discussion

1. Update on the BMZ Workshop
2. Brainstorming Session on Working Groups
3. Update on the SuSanA Meeting
4. Update on Conference Participation
5. Updates from Task Forces

#### 1. Update on BMZ–SuSanA Workshop

An update was provided on the BMZ–SuSanA Secretariat Workshop held on 13 May 2026, which included representatives from BMZ and the SuSanA Secretariat. The workshop focused on the current status of SuSanA, its future sustainability, visibility, and strategic direction.

#### **Key discussion points included:**

- 1) Long-term Financing of SuSanA: Current funding has been secured until 2028, including support for website hosting and core operations. Discussions focused on potential financing mechanisms beyond 2028 to ensure SuSanA's long-term sustainability.
- 2) Various options were explored, including cost-effective operational models, outsourcing selected secretariat functions, co-financing arrangements, and providing support to organisations interested in taking on specific responsibilities.
- 3) Stakeholder Mapping and Donor Engagement: BMZ highlighted the need for systematic stakeholder mapping and engagement with potential donors. It was suggested that bilateral meetings be organised with prospective donors during events like the SWWW where BMZ representatives are present.
- 4) Visibility and Branding of BMZ within SuSanA: As BMZ is the donor of SuSanA, they asked for visibility on the website and conferences.

- 5) **Regional Chapters and Working Packages:** Updates were shared on SuSanA's working packages, including regional chapters, working groups, and conference participation activities.
- 6) **Private Sector Cooperation:** BMZ's revised strategy encourages all projects to explore opportunities for private sector engagement. However, it was stated that private sector engagement is not a must for SuSanA if it doesn't fit into the necessary agenda of the network
- 7) **Thematic Priorities and Future Opportunities:** Participants emphasised the need to focus on topics that currently attract funding and policy attention, including market development, sanitation financing, and water-related initiatives supported by organisations such as the World Bank. The relevance of SuSanA's work in these areas should be assessed to leverage emerging opportunities and maintain momentum for sanitation-related discussions.

## **Next Steps**

- Continue exploring sustainable financing options for the post-2028 period.
- Conduct stakeholder mapping and identify potential donor organisations.
- Organise bilateral discussions with prospective donors during upcoming events.
- Strengthen SuSanA branding and visibility efforts.

## **2. Brainstorming Session on Working Groups**

An interactive discussion was held on revitalising SuSanA's Working Groups (WGs) and exploring how the GSC can contribute to the long-term sustainability of WGs.

The background and status of the Working Groups were presented. While SuSanA has 14 Working Groups covering a wide range of thematic areas, it was noted that member engagement and leadership commitment have declined over time. Currently only one WG, Cold climate is active. The discussion therefore focused on identifying ways to reactivate the Working Groups and better utilise the expertise available within the network.

### **Key points discussed included:**

- 1) The potential to leverage the expertise and networks of Working Group members by focusing on topics of active interest and relevance.
- 2) Opportunities to connect Working Groups with organisations and initiatives working in related thematic areas, thereby fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and joint activities.
- 3) The possibility of strengthening linkages between regional chapters and Working Groups to enhance engagement and outreach.
- 4) The potential benefits of clustering related Working Groups to improve coordination and facilitate more effective functioning.

- 5) The need to identify and prioritise “low-hanging fruit” opportunities that could help reactivate Working Groups and demonstrate early success.
- 6) The importance of engaging Working Group co-leads to better understand the current status of each group, assess interest levels, and identify opportunities for collaboration and future activities.

## Next Steps

- Identify priority thematic areas and potential partner organisations for collaboration.
- Assess opportunities for clustering related Working Groups and strengthening engagement through regional chapters.
- Develop a roadmap for reactivating Working Groups and increasing member participation.

## 3. Update on the SuSanA Meeting

1. An update was provided on the upcoming SuSanA Meeting scheduled for 22 August 2026 at the Norrsken Foundation, Stockholm, with provisions for online participation.
2. A total of 17 proposals has been received and clustered into four thematic areas:
  - a. SuSanA General Assembly
  - b. Finance and Private Sector Engagement
  - c. Climate-Resilient WASH and Circular Economy
  - d. Innovation and Leadership in WASH
3. The proposed programme includes updates from the Secretariat and GSC followed by thematic discussions.
4. The Event Task Force is coordinating the organisation of the meeting.
5. The importance of in-person meetings for strengthening collaboration and advancing strategic discussions was highlighted.
6. As no face-to-face GSC meeting is planned during the Stockholm event, participants suggested exploring the possibility of organising an in-person GSC meeting alongside a regional conference or at another cost-effective location.
7. It was agreed that a public Event Task Force meeting has to be established to allow interested members to support the meeting preparations.

## 4. Update on Conference Participation

1. GSC members were requested to update the conference participation tracker to indicate their planned attendance at upcoming events.
2. The tracker will support coordination of SuSanA representation and identify opportunities for collaboration and networking.
3. The ICNSS Conference (Kerala, India) was highlighted as a particularly relevant opportunity, as it is being organised in collaboration with local partners and provides

an opportunity for regional GSC members and SuSanA stakeholders to meet and engage in person.

4. Conference participation was encouraged where feasible to strengthen SuSanA's visibility, partnerships, and regional engagement while being cost efficient.

## 5. Updates from Task Forces

### **By-Laws Task Force**

- The Task Force has held one meeting to date.
- Members were encouraged to review the by-laws document for further discussions.
- A follow-up meeting will be planned for further discussion and action.

### **SuSanA Strategy Task Force**

- No major updates were reported from the Strategy Task Force at this stage.
- The next Strategy Task Force meeting is scheduled for 4 June 2026
- Members were encouraged to participate in the upcoming discussion on SuSanA's strategic direction.

## 6. Next Meeting

- The next GSC meeting is scheduled for 25 June 2026, one hour later than the regular meeting time.