

SuSanA GSC Meeting Minutes 25.06.2026

Attendees

GSC: Mujed, Dorothee

Secretariat: Alex, Käthe

Missing: Amelia, Tomaz, Girija, John, Juri, Malesi

Meeting notes – Agenda

Topics of Discussion

1. Conference Travel Cost Coverage
2. Advisory Board Meeting at the Stockholm World Water Week
3. Updates from SuSanA
4. Updates from the Task Forces

1. Conference Travel Cost Coverage

An update was provided by the Secretariat concerning BMZ funding for the travel costs of GSC members when attending SuSanA-relevant conferences.

Key Points discussed:

- 1) Funding is available but very limited. Financial support for travel costs of GSC members requires a clear mandate and argumentation of travel purpose.
- 2) A spreadsheet for conference attendance was shared with all GSC members. GSC members are encouraged to share their planned conference attendances and indicate wish for financial support. The decision on who will receive the travel cost support will be taken by the GSC on a case-by-case basis. The decision should reflect a clear line of argumentation, such as thematic engagement of the GSC member and regional proximity in relation to the conference.
- 3) The idea was formulated that annually the two presiding co-leads of the GSC will be financially supported in attending the SuSanA Meeting in Stockholm. Four members have expressed their interest in going to Stockholm: Munjed, Malesi, Girija, and Dorothee. The decision on whether to put the system in place of sending the co-chairs to the SuSanA meeting is outstanding and will be submitted to a vote as part of the next “Fast Decision Process”.

Next Steps

- Take a decision on putting a system of sending the co-chairs to the SuSanA Meeting in place.
- Regularly update conference attendances and discuss possible participation support of individual GSC members to SuSanA-relevant conferences on a case-by-case basis (as recurring item of the GSC Meeting).

2. Advisory Board Meeting at the Stockholm World Water Week

The secretariat presented the idea and opportunity for an advisory board meeting at the Stockholm World Water Week. The specific timing could be Sunday, 23.08.2026 before noon as this is strategically placed for maximum attendance. (The World Water Week Conference starts at noon.)

Key Points discussed:

- 1) The meeting could take place in a hybrid format including members of the advisory board and the GSC and could thus provide an important platform for exchange between the two committees.
- 2) There is a high probability for participation of the new BMZ Head of Division. If in attendance, the meeting would have great strategic value in revising and highlighting the value and purpose of SuSanA for the BMZ.

Possible Discussion Points for the advisory board meeting:

- Deliver the purpose and added value of SuSanA for the global sanitation network.
- Further discuss the advocacy role of SuSanA at the UN Water conference (post SDG 2030).
- Engage in the process on how to secure additional funding for SuSanA (financial sustainability).
- Present the status quo of the SuSanA strategy (5-year vision)

3. Updates from SuSanA

- a) International Conference on Non-Sewered Sanitation (ICNSS)
 - 1) Girija (GSC), Nitya (India Chapter Coordinator) and Prit (external consultant) will be in attendance.
 - 2) The conference is being held in Kerala, India and will provide an opportunity for an India regional chapter strategy meeting. Such a meeting is planned to be held prior to the conference). Discussion points will include a possible

shift from the India to a South Asia Regional Chapter as this would likely increase momentum in the region and attract a bigger variety of members and stakeholders.

- 3) Additionally, a joined workshop with CDD India on NSS technologies is planned.
 - 4) A poster presentation by SuSanA on an SFD project in South Africa will also be held.
- b) New Regional Chapter Southeast Asia
- 1) The new chapter is in formation with much interest and momentum gained.
 - 2) The chapter will focus on knowledge exchange within the region and will be supported by Alex Miller (BORDA).
 - 3) The chapter is coordinated by Noka Destalina (BORDA Indonesia) and Sophary Phan (GRET Cambodia).
- c) UN Water conference:
- 1) SuSanA has a coordination role for ID(a) WG1 (human rights-based approaches).
 - 2) Additionally, SuSanA is a participative member of WG1, 2 and 6.

4. Updates from the Task Forces

- a) By-Laws
- 1) One meeting was held between Thomas, Dorothee, and Alex with Sean (external consultant).
 - 2) Many points were discovered where revision of the by-laws is necessary.
➔ The decision was taken that the secretariat will complement the missing points of the document. Subsequently, the final draft will be shared with the GSC to get the GSC approval for a final by-law document.
- b) SuSanA Strategy
- 1) Two meetings have been held so far; the next meeting is scheduled for the upcoming week.
 - 2) There was a strong motion for including an action plan into the strategy that commits members of the GSC to a certain scope of work.
 - 3) It was also discussed to include an approach on dealing with AI into the SuSanA strategy.
 - 4) It was established that the regional chapter leads should function more actively as support and encouragement to increase activities and engagements with SuSanA in their respective region.
- c) Post 2030 Process
- 1) The task force is currently occupied with the SuSanA role in the working groups of ID(a) in preparation of the UN Water Conference. This includes the

drafting of concept note for WG1 that will be submitted to WG 1 co-chairs Ghana and Switzerland.

5. Further Points of Discussion

- 1) There will be a workshop held with Sean, Prit and the SuSanA secretariat (Juri and Alex) on the financial sustainability of SuSanA. The point was raised that the GSC should play some part in this workshop and could join in form of hybrid attendance.
- 2) A general point was raised regarding engagement and commitment of GSC members. A strategy ought to be found that increases GSC member participation and their priorities for SuSanA. An intrinsic motivation for more involvement could be achieved by assigning individual points of focus for each GSC member. It was also brought to attention that annual in-person GSC meetings might heighten participation and involvement in online GSC meetings.
- 3) It was discussed that it is important to keep the BMZ informed about the kind of activities for which the GSC needs financial support to work effectively. Otherwise, it was criticized that the GSC's efficiency is limited.
- 4) The Sanitation Summit of IWA in Cape Town was flagged as important thematic conference for SuSanA

Next Steps

- Further discussion needs to be held on how to approach the conference in Cape Town.
- The GSC involvement in the Financial Sustainability workshop needs to be finalized.
- A strategy for increased GSC participation and involvement needs to be formulated.
- The following decisions need to be taken by the GSC through the Fast Decision Mechanism:

Decisions to be taken by the GSC vote:

1. Should Arne (former head of secretariats) become a member of the SuSanA advisory board?

2. Should the advisory board meeting at the Stockholm World Water Week take place?
3. Should the system of financial support for the attendance of the GSC co-chairs at the annual SuSanA Meeting be put in place?