sustainable sanitation alliance

SuSanA GSC Meeting Minutes 29.10.2026

Attendees

GSC: Munjed, Amelia, Tomaz, Girija, John, Dorothee

Missing: John, Malesi, Alex

Secretariat: Juri, Skye, Käthe

Meeting notes

1. SuSanA Updates

1.1 Follow-Up on the SuSanA South Asia Meeting

- Two-day Ecosan conference on circular 9.-10. October, Pune, India
- Regional version of the SuSanA Meeting on 10. October
- SuSanA representation via Girija (GSC); Nitya (RC coordinator); Paresh (Forum moderator); Arne (Former secretariat)
- 10 espresso presentations, 34 participants
- > Proof that this concept of decentralized SuSanA meetings in other regions (beyond Stockholm) is well accepted and needed

1.2 AI-Integration

- SANIHUB: Global WASH platform focusing on emergency sanitation and faecal sludge management knowledge for humanitarian practitioners.
- SANIHUB AI: Multilingual AI assistant that answers sanitation/WASH questions and links to the original sources.
- Sanihub proposed a partnership: Non-exclusive collaboration to improve knowledge access and potentially add AI to the SuSanA website, preserving SuSanA's identity and independence.
- Concerns were raised about reduced need for SuSanA and sources losing credit.
- SuSanA's contribution: Selected open-access resources, help with clarifying permissions, and input on the collaboration model and governance.
- Benefits for SuSanA: SANIHUB offered an AI integration for SuSanA at no direct cost, attribution and links back to SuSanA, wider outreach, and usage insights.

Discussion

- AI has critical aspects, but it can bring a lot of potential in terms of accessibility
- Benefit: we have the background of what is happening + if the sources used by the AI from SuSanA are counted, this could show the impact of SuSanA
- Ultimately this would make SuSanA more accessible and not unimportant
- AI is going to happen anyway
- multilingual access is very positive
- How will it be implemented? -> SANIHUB keeps its website, SuSanA gets an AI integration on its own website
- What's the structure of the resources within Sanihub? -> a pilot demonstration would be helpful

- Could there be financial support for a workshop/conference in return? -> This seems rather unrealistic, as they are short on funding. The SuSanA AI integration would be a good return though.
- Benefit for SuSanA that we have all the information/knowledge, access could increase
- The AI doesn't have machine learning and SuSanA content can be removed at any time.
- We need to find out if SuSanA's AI can make use of Sanihubs libraries
- Initial SaniHub was a project that received funding and was able to establish a network, geared toward global wash sector
- Broader merger/collaboration of the networks (Sanihub and SuSanA)?
- Potential point for AI link onto the SuSanA Library package and there is already a fair amount of overlap between the two already.
- AI doesn't bring people together, attend conferences or participate, if anything could potentially increase the opportunities to have more people-interaction

Decision: How to proceed (Open questions, clarify AI integration, responsibilities, request support from AB)?

- **Secretariat to organize a joint call between SaniHub and GSC directly**
    - **discuss next steps**
    - **Want a pilot/trial period first before proceeding for formalised agreement**

2. Advisory Board Meeting 04.11.2026 13-15 pm (CET)

2.1 Agenda Definition

- Advisory Board Meeting was envisioned during last meeting in Stockholm: Coming up with a unified message for the sanitation sector for UNWC26 & Post-2030-Discussions (SuSanA heavily involved in the creation of SDG 6)
- Additional topics: Strategy for engagement with the AB requested, discussion of Knowledge management within their organisations
- Meeting Wednesday, 04.11.26 13-15 pm online – **participation appreciated**
- Suggestion of an additional AB meeting
- SuSanA heavily involved in the creation of SDG 6

Discussion

- Potential additional topics to put on the agenda for the AB meeting:
    - The strategy currently under development and get some feedback (Input by AB)
    - How AB members can help engage their respective regional chapters and members
    - Knowledge management within their institutions
    - Inviting Pedro Arrojo Agudo (Previous UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation) who published a report on "Sanitation in the Amazon region", important knowledge being produced but minimal engagement and inadequate recognition given/promotion.

Decision

- **Tomaz to invite Pedro to the meeting to give recognition to him and Juliet.**
- **Regarding the focus of this meeting on coming up with a unified message on sanitation for the upcoming processes, the following agenda was agreed:**

1. **Setting the scene** (background, expectations for the meeting & Outcome)
2. **Input from Juliet Willes** (requested) – New UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and long term SuSanA-member

3. **Input from Pedro Arrojo** Agudo (requested)
4. **Work on the unified message on sanitation for the UNWC26 & SDG-Beyond-2030-Discussions** - could include:
    - Discussion and further development of SuSanA Drafts attached (all together/working groups)
    - Anchor points for policy advocacy
5. If time is left: **TF: UNWC26 Pitch Deck**; Discussion on leveraging the AB in SuSanAs work, specifically Regional Chapter and activation of members; Discussion on knowledge management within organisations, AI integration; SuSanA Strategy
6. **Wrap-Up** (Outcome, next steps)

3. UN Water Conference 2026

- 8 – 10 December 2026, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- German Pavillion side event on innovative solutions in the sanitation sector with the civil society - SuSanA highlighted as the global sanitation network
- Concept note is under development
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Questions to be discussed:

1. Alexandra Dubois will be present, program and bilaterals not defined yet -> ideas for relevant bilaterals?
2. Pitch Deck Adjustment for UNWC (agreement Stockholm): Task Force Fundraising to be set-up?
3. Participation from GSC members expected?

Discussion

- Amelia won't be attending, as her side event did not get accepted
- Tomaz unsure
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Decisions

- Pitch Deck for UNWC - Postponed to AB meeting next week
- None made