



World Water Quality Alliance – Introduction	Page 2
World Water Quality Alliance – Structure	Page 3
World Water Quality Alliance - Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)	Page 10
World Water Quality Alliance - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Page 11

## World Water Quality Alliance -Introduction

During its third session in December 2017 the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted resolution 3/10 “Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems” (UNEP/EA.3/Res.10). It requests the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a world water quality assessment for consideration UNEA at its fifth session. To kick off the development of the assessment, UNEP, with support from the World Meteorological Organization, organized an inception workshop in November 2018. During the workshop, UNEP convened around 50 organizations (UN, research, civil society, private sector), which had expressed interest to engage in the assessment and to also work with UNEP in co-designing agendas and action around emerging issues. This process with strong support from donors marks the emergence of a World Water Quality Alliance as an open community of practice was born and subsequently pursued. UNEP, and more specifically the Global Environment Monitoring Unit in Science Division, acts as the Secretariat of the Alliance.

The World Water Quality Alliance, representing a voluntary and flexible global Expert, Practitioners and Policy Network, advocates the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability. It explores and communicates water quality risks in global, regional, national and local contexts and points towards solutions for maintaining and restoring ecosystem and human health and wellbeing. It aims to serve countries throughout the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. The Alliance focuses on deliverables on three levels:

- i) a global assessment of freshwater quality drawing on science – technology – innovation, including a data fusion approach combining in-situ monitoring, modelling and remote sensing. It will expand to additional sources and illustrate causal chain cases to highlight water quality risks and opportunities
- ii) horizon scanning, agenda setting and investigating selected priority topics based on a collective prioritization process to identify persistent or emerging water quality issues of key environmental and socio-economic concern and,
- iii) following a bottom up-approach, co-designing and operationalization of water quality related services and products, based on a moderated in-country stakeholder driven bottom-up process to identify local demands and needs.

The initial process of identifying partners who would like to contribute to the World Water Quality Alliance followed a simple letter of interest, outlining the organizations field of expertise regarding ambient water quality and the potential contributions to the various work flows. With growing interest and after having received various in-kind and financial commitments from Alliance partners and donors, a Declaration was prepared aiming at formalizing the commitment of the signing organizations in support of the Alliance, always keeping it voluntary in nature. In a parallel process the Alliance is currently electing the members of a Strategic Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee (12 members each, 6 elected by Alliance partners, 6 selected by the Secretariat based on certain criteria). The Committees provide guidance and recommendations to the coordinating, participating and sponsoring organizations and agencies with regards to planning, implementation and further development of the World Water Quality Alliance.

# World Water Quality Alliance – Structure

## Contents

Mission.....	3
Value Proposition.....	3
Mandate.....	4
Structure and terms of engagement.....	4
Governance, Activities and Work Organisation.....	4
Product lines .....	7
Communication.....	8

## Mission

The WWQ-Alliance, representing a voluntary and flexible global Expert, Practitioners and Policy Network, advocates the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability; it explores and communicates water quality risks in global regional and national/local contexts and points towards solutions for maintaining/restoring ecosystem and human health and wellbeing. It aims to serve countries throughout the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Value Proposition

- The World Water Quality Alliance sets priority agendas for key water quality issues of social, political and environmental concern;
- The WWQ-Alliance offers a neutral brokering platform delivering water quality assessments and services and addresses present and future emerging water quality issues at scale;
- The WWQ-Alliance fosters the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development globally and informs its implementation on national, regional and system scale;
- The WWQ-Alliance follows the principles of collective prioritization, and science driven, evidence-based, peer reviewed development and dissemination of information for decision making and advocating for transformational change in and beyond the water sector;
- For members and stakeholders, it provides an inclusive, interdisciplinary, interactive and interoperable platform for science-technology innovation, data sharing and participation- based co-design of products towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets at scale.

## Mandate

It constitutes a direct implementation action towards the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEA, Resolution on “addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems” (UNEP/EA.3/Res.10 from 2017) coordinated by UNEP

## Structure and terms of engagement

WWQ-Alliance Membership is free, voluntary and with no mandatory obligations. It is driven by thematic expertise and motivation to join, based on Expression of Interest by parties. Engagement can be in various levels ranging from active implementing to observing which may allow to become active in a technical/strategic advisory role. The level of active engagement of a specific party involved may change subject to thematic activity.

Members are explicitly encouraged to feed in their specific expertise, networks, and draw as appropriate on their existing or upcoming work programmes/flows, available or upcoming relevant data and any other capacity as appropriate. They are encouraged to actively engage in the “Agenda Setting Process” and assist the global community in addressing key water quality issues of socio-political and environmental concern.

The Alliance includes and explicitly invites expert organisations, academic or departmental institutes, UN-Water members and partners, member state representatives and representatives of the donor communities, NGOs, and civil society.

## Governance, Activities and Work Organisation:

### **Governance:**

The work of the Alliance in technical and scientific terms is guided by a “**Technical Advisory Committee, TAC**”;

- Membership to this Committee is identified and selected based on respective interests expressed by members;
- Membership in this TAC role shall be for a minimum of 2 years (renewable once) and shall not exceed a total number of 12 parties;
- If number of expressions exceeds 12, 6 members of the Committee will be selected by an election (simple majority). The Secretariat will nominate the remaining 6 members;
- The TAC shall have one Chair and Co-Chair to be nominated by open ballot; (their mandate will be for 2 years). Draft ToR for the TAC are attached to this outline;
- UNEP will have an ex-officio role in this TAC and assists the TAC in its support for the WWQ-Alliance and its guidance given to implementation of key activities.

A “**Strategic Advisory Committee, SAC**” oversees the priority agenda setting of the Alliance in a strategic context. It provides guidance and recommendations on possible priorities and positioning the Alliance in the accelerating global demand for water quality information. It fosters links with relevant socio-political processes, the 2030 Agenda, relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional/national processes as well as global monitoring and reporting mechanisms and funded initiatives such as the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (coordinated by UN-Water);

The SAC screens the horizon and informs the Alliance on new emerging developments of relevance including in the donor community and provides guidance on those including outreach and possible avenues towards resource mobilisation (incl. private sector, ODA and philanthropy);

- Membership to this Committee is identified and selected based on respective interests expressed by members;
- Membership in this SAC role shall be for a minimum of 2 years (renewable once) and shall not exceed a total number of 12 parties
- If number of expressions exceeds 12, 6 members of the Committee will be selected by an election (simple majority). The Secretariat will nominate the remaining 6 members;
- The SAC shall have one Chair and Co-Chair to be nominated by open ballot; (their mandate will be for 2 years); Draft ToR for the SAC are attached to this outline;
- UNEP will have an ex-officio role in this SAC and assists the SAC in its support for the WWQ-Alliance and its guidance given to implementation of key activities.

#### **Work arrangement and structure:**

Point of departure for the WWQ-Alliance: The Alliance is an inclusive, interdisciplinary, interactive and interoperable implementing platform and facilitating Community of Practitioners delivering on current and future water related intergovernmental and/or technical mandates given in the form of governing body decisions of members and on emerging key topics as they arise.

The work shall comprise assessment products, commonly agreed special products on priority WQ issues (reflecting collective agenda setting) and co-designing and working with stakeholders towards up and downstream information services for operational application. One face to face meeting of the WWQ-Alliance per year is foreseen to report, review and agree on new priorities. (See figure and text below for more detail)

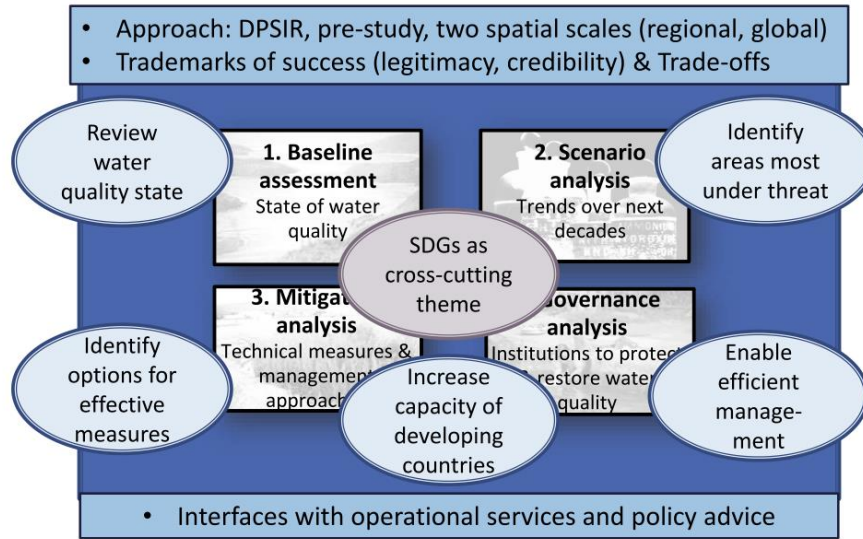


**Deliverables in detail:**

One central task of the Alliance following the underlying mandate is to support the delivery of the UNEP World Water Quality Assessment:

The WWQ-Assessment is built out of several components (see [2016 UN-Water Analytical Brief: Towards a Worldwide Assessment of Freshwater Quality](#) and figure below). It aims to define a global baseline, illustrate specific causal chain and nexus contexts in representative cases and over time establish a continued monitoring, reporting and action platform that invites science and technology innovation by all members as appropriate.

## Roadmap towards a Worldwide Water Quality Assessment



## Product lines

The WWQ-Alliance delivers

a) on the World Water Quality Assessment

b) on the Agenda Setting and ad hoc Requests for Action and Information products - in a platform of global expert peers within and beyond UN-Water, Institutes, Public and Private sector, Governments and Donors, Civil Society

a) On the WWQ-Assessment:

The Assessment aims to deliver a baseline of the Global Water Quality in draft by UNEA-5 (March 2021) and a full assessment by UNEA-6 (March 2023)

It will look into the specific implications of water quality on ecosystems, health and food.

The approach will employ and test the combined and fusion approach linking in situ data, earth observation and advanced modelling – incl. machine learning.

The process shall involve and draw on existing work of the whole set of Alliance members as it contributes to the agreed design of the WWQ-Assessment

A set of Case Studies selected to be representative for regional settings is to be developed to illustrate the specific implications of water quality for people and the environment (a modern nexus lens to be applied)

The Assessment is a partnership process with coordinating and leading Principle Investigators for certain components (PIs)

All members are encouraged to contribute.

The goal is not just to provide a baseline in complementation and underpinning the SDG 6 collective integrated monitoring but also to establish a technical and network process that allows a continued updating of the baseline while at the same time prioritize and derive thematical products of WQ issues and/or regional concern.

b) On Agenda Setting:

The products of the horizon scanning and peer discussion process in the Alliance and the Expert Group on water Quality and Wastewater evolve in this exchange and networking peer discussion on an ad hoc and demand-driven basis.

This is being demonstrated already by the priorities identified during the Inception Workshop held in Geneva end of November 2018. Those priorities can be found in the Meeting Report and currently encompass

Themes:

- WQ and Health incl. urban contexts (Cities)
- WQ and Food (incl. agricultural practice, water use and quality and security)
- WQ and Ecosystems

Cross Cutting:

- Groundwater quality and management
- Investment priorities and water quality hotspots

Ad Hoc Request:

WWQ-Alliance has received a request by UNEP to address the monitoring and intervention concepts for freshwater microplastic pollution – this work is currently under implementation

## Communication

a) **Annual Meeting;**

The WWQ-Alliance holds one annual global meeting face to face which all members are encouraged to attend, new parties can be invited upon request by members

Hosting shall be provided by one or more members (rotating)

Participation is on own expenses – a limited amount of support for developing country participants shall be made available upon request

b) **UN-Water Expert Group for Water Quality and Wastewater:**





## World Water Quality Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Strategic Advisory Committee, SAC, formulates the overall concept and scope of the World Water Quality Alliance.

It provides guidance and recommendations to the coordinating, participating and sponsoring organizations and agencies for planning, implementing and further developing the WWQ-Alliance.

Specifically, the Strategic Advisory Committee is called upon to:

- regularly review and refine/adjust overall direction of the Alliance, its priorities and deliverables,
- overseeing strategic alignment, coherence, synergies with approved workplans, mandates and priorities of individual Alliance members for the overall benefit of the Alliance work and its partners
- review and assess the development and implementation of the priority components and products of the Alliance, and report to the sponsoring organizations and participating agencies as required
- review objectives and recommend coordinated actions by sponsoring and participating organizations and agencies, in order to optimize the Alliance's performance and coherence including with but not limited to UN-Water, recognizing the roles and responsibilities, working arrangements and recommendations of established scientific and technical bodies of such organizations and agencies
- facilitate and support the Alliance in the mobilization of resources as appropriate for targeted action, products and services as defined by the Technical Advisory Committee, TAC, and anchored in the approved Priorities and annual Implementation Plans
- facilitate the exchange of information among sponsoring and participating organizations and agencies, and in general make the objectives, resource requirements capabilities and outputs of the Alliance known to UN-Water and relevant national and international bodies namely the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEA and as appropriate other governing bodies of members, and the relevant elements of the 2030 Agenda SDG process

Membership shall be limited to a maximum of 12 including sponsoring agencies and UN-Water in an observer role. The SAC shall ideally meet once a year associated with and preceding the TAC meeting – it can have additional meetings remotely upon request which shall be called upon by UN Environment Programme coordination unit.

Membership to this Committee is identified and selected based on respective interests expressed by members;

Membership in this SAC role shall be for a minimum of 2 years (renewable once).

6 members of the Committee will be selected by an election (simple majority). The Secretariat will nominate the remaining 6 members.

The SAC shall have one Chair and Co-Chair to be nominated by open ballot (their mandate will be for 2 years).

## World Water Quality Alliance Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee, TAC, provides technical and scientific guidance, defines and fine-tunes the priority topics of the World Water Quality Alliance and assists formulating them into cutting-edge objectives, approaches, products and services;

The TAC can draw on and will consider input received from the UN-Water Expert Group on Water Quality and Wastewater which can be called upon at any time required for specific contexts and fostering dialogue between demand and supply communities

Primary functions of the Technical Advisory Committee will be to:

- develop a priority list of topics and actions to be reflected in an annual Implementation Plan for the Assessment work flow and the topical focus areas and their implementing Working Groups;
- encourage collaboration between the Working Groups and any other relevant partners, both within and outside of the programme;
- oversee alignment with relevant science policy and monitoring/reporting processes such as the water quality and ecosystem related data drives and synthesis processes of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, including integrated and targeted monitoring initiatives in UN-Water and beyond;
- work closely with the coordinating manager in the UN Environment Programme and the key implementing agencies and support staff in implementing the objectives of the Alliance;

The TAC reports annually the development and implementation of the Working Groups to UN Environment Programme, and the Strategic Advisory Committee.

The max membership shall be limited to 12, including Chair and Co-Chair and UN-Water representative as an observer.

One physical meeting per year is planned.

The UN-Water Expert Group on Water Quality and Wastewater shall serve as a supporting mechanism to address advice requirements of Alliance concern and also bring together target audiences both from the supply and demand/client sides as appropriate.

Membership of this Committee is identified and selected based on respective interests expressed by members;

Membership in this TAC role shall be for a minimum of 2 years (renewable once)

6 members of the Committee will be selected by an election (simple majority). The Secretariat will nominate the remaining 6 members.

The TAC shall have one Chair and Co-Chair to be nominated by open ballot; (their mandate will be for 2 years).