

MINUTES
HYDROPOWER SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING #32 (video conference call)
17 February 2021 (11:30-12:30)

Attendees	Apologies
<p>Ashok Khosla (HSGC Chair)</p> <p>Roger Gill (Chair, hydropower owners/operators)</p> <p>Pedro Sirgado (alternate, hydropower owners/operators)</p> <p>Richard Taylor (Chair, hydropower suppliers/consultants)</p> <p>Jürgen Schuol (alternate, hydropower suppliers/consultants)</p> <p>Jian-hua Meng (Chair, environment/conservation organisations)</p> <p>James Dalton (alternate, environment/conservation organisations)</p> <p>Daniel Menebhi (Chair, advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Geir Hermansen (alternate, advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Sunil Poudel (alternate, emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Lesha Witmer (Chair, social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Jiwari Abdullah (alternate, social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Ruth Tiffer-Sotomayor (Chair, financial institutions)</p> <p>Elisa Jianliang Xiao (alternate, financial institutions)</p> <p>Eddie Rich (ME)</p> <p>Joao Costa (ME)</p> <p>Alain Kilajian (ME)</p> <p>Amina Kadyrzhanova (ME)</p> <p>Bénédicte Nsalambi (ME)</p>	<p>Shi Guoqing (Chair, emerging economy country governments)</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
<p>HSGC 32.1 Welcome and apologies</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed those attending and opened the meeting. The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>In-coming Chair, Ashok Khosla and committee members introduced themselves to each other.</p>

32.2 Agenda	The agenda was accepted.
32.3 Handover to new Chair	Committee members thanked the Chair for chairing the HSGC. The Chair handed over the role of Chair to the in-coming Chair. The in-coming Chair took over chairing the meeting.
32.4 Status of actions from last meeting	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the status of outstanding actions were discussed. A committee member requested ME to address an outstanding action on communications plan.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to discuss with a committee member an outstanding action on communications plan.</p>
32.5 HSGC procedures – initial proposals from Chair	<p>The Chair presented initial proposals for HSGC procedures. Committee members raised no objection.</p> <p>Decision 1: The HSGC approved initial proposals for HSGC procedures: Committee papers to be sent out 14 days in advance of an HSGC meeting, Chambers to have their own groups on Basecamp, and the Vice-Chair to be selected internally from the HSGC members.</p>
32.6 Consultation results and next steps for Hydropower Sustainability Standard	<p>A committee member presented consultation results and next steps for Hydropower Sustainability Standard. The ME provided an overview of costs and benefits of ISEAL certification and recommended that the Standard should seek ISEAL certification if sufficient financial resources were made available.</p> <p>Committee members agreed that ISEAL certification would provide credibility to the Standard.</p> <p>A committee member commented that ISEAL certification would be critical in getting acceptance beyond IHA members and offered help in obtaining financing.</p> <p>A committee member commented that external validation would be important for the Standard to address greenwashing concerns.</p> <p>A committee member suggested to apply to become ISEAL Community Member and look for additional funding for the Code Compliant level. They offered to have a separate conversation with ME on identifying potential savings within the SECO funding which could be reallocated to cover some costs for the ISEAL certification. They added that maintaining the Standard should be financially self-supporting.</p> <p>A committee member suggested to seek ISEAL Code Compliance after the Standard launch.</p> <p>A committee member noted that ISEAL certification was important for civil society but did not carry weight outside of the stakeholder group. They added that priority should be placed on supporting the development of the Tools and the Standard.</p> <p>A committee member noted that more work was required on quality assurance of HESG in relation to HSAP. They offered to look for financing.</p> <p>A committee member offered to discuss with ME the funding possibility under Norad-IHA cooperation programme. They suggested to open up a consultation in the HSGC to discuss Standard “plus” methodology (rating beyond good practice) and sustainability in progress labelling.</p>

	<p>Action 2: The ME to follow up with HSGC and other potential donors to seek funding to begin ISEAL certification process (i.e. apply to become ISEAL Community Member).</p>
32.7 Update on IHAS	<p>The ME provided an update on the IHAS work programmes.</p> <p>A committee member clarified that the HESG fund was open to applications from the countries on the Swiss government’s priority list. They added that Myanmar and Mali had been temporarily removed from the list due to democratic issues in the countries.</p>
32.8 Any other business	<p>A committee member mentioned a published report from the UN Special Advisor on Human Rights on water issues and suggested that IHA get in touch with the Human Rights Commission. Another committee member mentioned the UNU report on ageing infrastructure and dam collapse in India.</p> <p>The ME provided an update on the HSGC elections noting the nominations deadline of 15 March. They reminded the environment, financial institutions and emerging country economies chambers to send their updated modus operandi.</p> <p>A committee member provided an update on the work with the Climate Bonds Initiative noting the hope and expectation that a proposal around sustainable hydropower qualification for green bonds would be submitted to the next Board meeting in early March.</p> <p>Another committee member requested more time for HSGC meetings.</p> <p>Action 3: The chamber chairs and alternates to promote the nominations process for the HSGC elections within their chambers.</p> <p>Action 4: The ME to support the environment, financial institutions and emerging country economies chambers to complete their updated modus operandi.</p> <p>Action 5: The ME to look into the report from UN Human Rights Commission and decide on further steps.</p> <p>Action 6: The ME to provide an update to the HSGC on the progress with Climate Bonds Initiative at the next HSGC meeting.</p>
32.9 Summary of decisions and actions	<p>Decision 1: The HSGC approved initial proposals for HSGC procedures: Committee papers to be sent out 14 days in advance of an HSGC meeting, Chambers to have their own groups on Basecamp, and the Vice-Chair to be selected internally from the HSGC members.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to discuss with a committee member an outstanding action on communications plan.</p> <p>Action 2: The ME to follow up with HSGC and other potential donors to seek funding to begin ISEAL certification process (i.e. apply to become ISEAL Community Member).</p> <p>Action 3: The chamber chairs and alternates to promote the nominations process for the HSGC elections within their chambers.</p> <p>Action 4: The ME to support the environment, financial institutions and emerging country economies chambers to complete their updated modus operandi.</p> <p>Action 5: The ME to look into the report from UN Human Rights Commission and decide on further steps.</p>



	Action 6: The ME to provide an update to the HSGC on the progress with Climate Bonds Initiative at the next HSGC meeting.
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