

# GWOPA Assembly

2- 3 November 2024  
Triumph Luxury Hotel, Cairo, Egypt

Hybrid Event, In-Person and Online



# GWOPA Assembly

Weekend at a Glance

2 – 3 November 2024

## Saturday, 2 November 2024

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09:00 – 16:00	<a href="#">Integrity Training</a>
09:00 – 17:00	<a href="#">Operationalizing Sanitation Focused Operators' Partnerships (SWOPs)</a>
17:00 – 18:00	<a href="#">GWOPA International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting</a>
18:30 – 21:30	<a href="#">Nile Cruise Dinner</a> <i>Reservation required. Cost USD 22 per person. Transportation provided from the venue to the cruise location</i>

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## Sunday, 3 November 2024

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07:45 – 08:45	<a href="#">Stronger Together! Women's Networking Breakfast</a>
09:00 – 18:00	<a href="#">Assembly of GWOPA's Members</a>
18:30 – 20:00	<a href="#">GWOPA Evening Reception</a>

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## Event Location

Triumph Luxury Hotel – [Link to Location Map](#)

Block 19 in front of Katameya Heights Road

Cairo Governorate 11861

See also the GWOPA Assembly Logistics note on the [Assembly website](#).

## Saturday, 2 November 2024, Assembly Pre-Events

Registration desk will be open from 08:00 – 18:00  
Please be sure to collect your name badge!

### Integrity Training

09:00 - 16:00

Room: Vienna

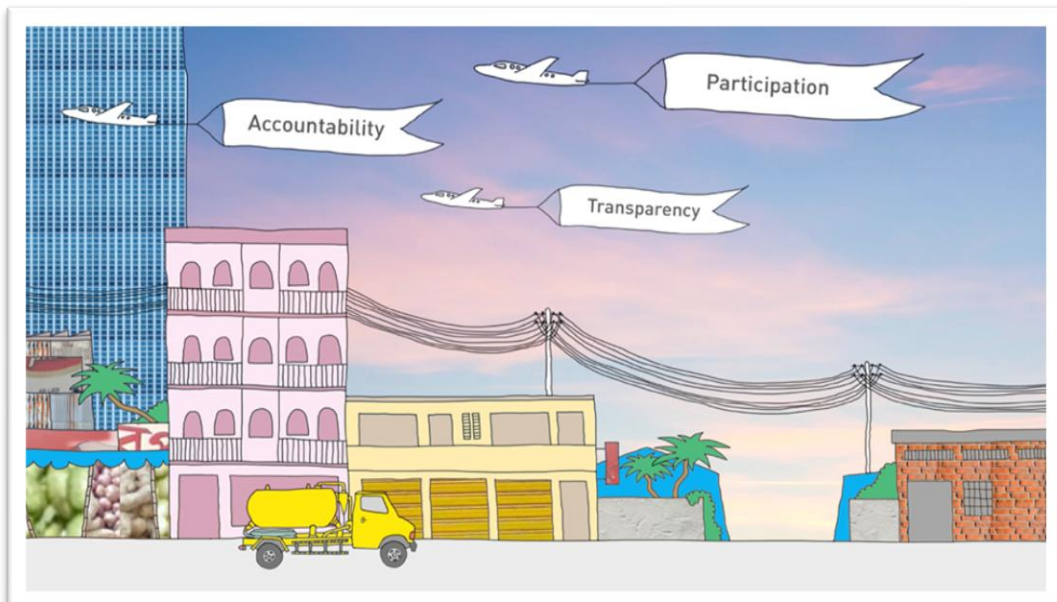
*In-person only*

*Languages: English, no interpretation available*

The "Integrity Training" at the GWOPA Assembly on 2 November 2024, facilitated by the GWOPA member organization Water Integrity Network (WIN), presents a valuable learning opportunity for water and sanitation utility staff. WIN brings extensive experience in developing and applying water integrity tools with utilities, ensuring that participants benefit from expert guidance.

The training focuses on enhancing understanding of key integrity concepts in the sector, using the TAPA Framework (Transparency, Accountability, Participation, and Anti-corruption) to address how integrity failures impact service delivery.

By exploring real-life integrity dilemmas through group exercises and discussions, participants gain practical tools and strategies to navigate ethical challenges in their work. This hands-on approach, combined with networking opportunities, equips utility staff with the skills needed to foster a culture of integrity, thereby strengthening the delivery of water and sanitation services and upholding human rights in their communities.



## Operationalising Sanitation focused Water Operators' Partnerships (SWOPs)

09:00– 17:00

Room: Picasso 4

*In-person only*

*Languages: English, no interpretation available*

In March 2023, as a part of the [Water Action Agenda](#), GWOPA has committed to scale up to at least 100 new WOPs/SWOPs by 2030. Aligned with this pledge, [GWOPA's complementary Sanitation Strategy](#) puts forward a goal of

1. Using SWOPs to accelerate universal access to sanitation by transforming GWOPA's approach to sanitation involving all stakeholders.
2. Commit that at least 35 new partnerships committed by 2030 will focus on sanitation (SWOPs).

GWOPA, as a part of the commitment, would like to gather sanitation experts to discuss how to enable the scaling of SWOPs to expand sanitation services. Together, we will discuss the background of developing SWOPs as an approach that focuses on service providers' needs, challenges, and performance improvements through peer learning partnerships. The outputs from this meeting will set the stage for an expert group meeting on designing the SWOPs approach that can be a powerful, low-cost investment approach to increase efficiency and strengthen operators to provide efficient and resilient sanitation services.

### Objectives of the Meeting

1. Share experiences and approaches for SWOPs and their link to urban development and planning
2. Discuss how peer learning can strengthen the capacities of sanitation operators
3. Assess demand, constraints and opportunities for peer learning among sanitation service providers.

This meeting on sanitation precludes an Expert Group Meeting on SWOPs looking at positioning SWOPs in the more comprehensive GWOPA Strategy, developing the how-to SWOP approach and financing mechanisms for SWOPs.

### Expected Outcomes

1. Likelihood of performance improvements in utilities through SWOPs laid out through evidence base and input from practitioners
2. Demand for SWOPs and its role in accelerating SDG 6.2 with a focus on low-income communities are clarified by practitioners for designing SWOPs through Expert Group Meetings.
3. The action plan for operationalising SWOPs is well established and rolled out.
4. GWOPA has adequate background information to scale up sanitation-focused partnerships, learning and exchange.

## GWOPA Transitional Steering Committee Meeting

Room: Picasso 2  
17:00 – 18:00

Introduction of newly elected members and roles and responsibilities of the ISC

- Vote of thanks for SC members stepping down
- Updates and strategic direction
- Review of the Assembly program and role of ISC members
- Coordinating upcoming events, including UNFCCC COP29 and UNCCD COP16

### Nile Cruise Dinner (based on pre-registration)

Cupid Yacht, Abdulaziz Al Saud, Old Cairo, Cairo Governorate 4240110

19:00 – 21:30 (Transportation available at 18.15 from Triumph Luxury Hotel)

Glide along the iconic river Nile, taking in breathtaking city views as you enjoy an evening of relaxation, great food, and lively conversation with fellow attendees. For USD 22 per person, your evening includes transportation from the event venue to the cruise location and dinner, making it a convenient and unforgettable way to immerse yourself in the heart of Cairo. Don't miss this unique chance to unwind, connect, and savour the timeless beauty of the Nile!



## Sunday, 3 November, GWOPA Assembly

Registration desk will be open from 07:15 – 18:00  
Please be sure to collect your name badge!

### Stronger Together – Women’s Mentoring Breakfast

07:45 – 08:45

Venue: El-Khan Restaurant (within Triumph Luxury Hotel)

Co-Conveners: African Women Sanitation Professionals Network (AWSPN), African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA), Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), and the Stronger Together! Coalition

In support of Sustainable Development Goal 6, this women-only breakfast event is dedicated to enhancing female leadership and representation in the water and sanitation sector. Addressing the current gender disparity, the Stronger Together! Women’s Mentoring Breakfast will offer a unique, informal setting for mentorship and networking, empowering female professionals to connect, grow, and collaborate.

The session will feature a speed-mentoring format, where participants will exchange experiences and discuss strategies for overcoming gender-specific challenges. Through peer support and professional guidance, attendees will build relationships that foster career advancement and the collective resilience needed to thrive in a traditionally male-dominated field.

# Women’s Networking Mingle



Stronger Together! is made up of

#### Women’s Networks



#### Supporting Partners



## Sunday, 3 November, GWOPA Assembly

Room: Imperia

Interpretation in Arabic, Spanish and French

08:00-09:00	Welcome coffee and registration
<b>09:00-09:45</b>	<b>Opening of the Assembly</b>
09:00-09:10	Opening of the Assembly <i>Dr. Rose Kaggwa, Senior Director, Business and Scientific Services, National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Uganda and Chair of the GWOPA Assembly</i>
09:10-09:15	GWOPA 15-year celebration video
09:15-09:25	Welcoming statement by UN-Habitat <i>Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, UN-Habitat Executive Director, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Chair of GWOPA International Steering Committee</i>
09:25-09:35	Welcoming statement by GWOPA Host City <i>Ms. Katja Dörner, Lord Mayor of Bonn (video message)</i>
09:35-09:40	Voice of utilities <i>Ms. Massaba Keita, Youth Representative, National Public Water Supply Company, SOMAGEP, Mali</i>
09:40-09:45	Welcoming statement by Egypt, World Urban Forum Host Country <i>His Excellency Prof. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation</i>
<b>09:45-11:00</b>	<b>Agenda item 1: Updates on GWOPA's Governance</b>
09:45-10:00	Governance of the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance  Presentation by the Secretariat: Why an Alliance? Why are we stronger together? <i>Ms. Åsa Jonsson, Head of GWOPA, GWOPA Secretariat, UN-Habitat</i>
10:00-10:35	GWOPA Governance Channels: Ways of Working Together  <i>Panel discussion</i> <i>Moderator: Dr. Anne Bousquet, Human Settlements Officer, GWOPA/UN-Habitat</i>  <i>Representatives of GWOPA's Steering Committee:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Thomas Odongo, Managing Director, Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company, Kenya (Utilities)</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Mai Flor, Executive Director, Waterlinks (WOP Regional Platform)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Igor Santiago Ruz, President, Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas de Servicios Sanitarios, Chile (Community Operators and Cooperatives/National WOPs)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. David Boys, Deputy General Secretary, Public Service International (Trade Unions)</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Martha Owiredu-Baah, PA to Executive Director, Integrated Social Development Center, Ghana (Civil Society Organizations)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Neil Dhot, Executive Director, AquaFed (Private Operators)</i></li> </ul>
<b>10:35-10:55</b>	Q&A on governance topics <i>Facilitated by the Chair</i>
<b>10:55-11:00</b>	Conclusion and Adoption of the Charter
<p><b><i>Background documents: Background Note on <a href="#">Governance Structure and Membership; GWOPA Charter</a></i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>For Decision: Endorsement of new International Steering Committee; Adoption of the Charter</i></b></p>	
11:00-11:15	Group photo session and coffee/tea break
<b>11:15 -13:00</b>	<b>Agenda item 2: Framing GWOPA's Strategic Directions</b>
11:15-12:15	<p>Localizing the SDGs: Utilities in the Home Stretch of Agenda 2030</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division, Senior Focal Point, Local Governments and SDG Localization, UN-Habitat</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elin Adolfsson, Global Commission on the Economic of Water</i></p> <p><i>Mr. André Dzikus, Chief, Urban Basic Services, UN-Habitat</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Bernadia Irawati, Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Anton Earle, Global Coordinator, Water Systems, ICLEI</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Azuan Ahmad Zahdi, Chief Corporate Officer, Indah Water Konsortium, Malaysia</i></p>
12:00-12:15	<p>Preparations for GWOPA's 2026-2030 Strategy</p> <p><i>Ms. Åsa Jonsson, Head, GWOPA Secretariat, UN-Habitat</i></p>



12:15-12:30	Mentimeter and open discussion <i>Julie Perkins, Programme Management Officer, GWOPA Secretariat, UN-Habitat</i>
<p><i>Background documents: <a href="#">GWOPA Strategic Plan 2020-2024</a>; <a href="#">GWOPA Mid-term Evaluation</a>; <a href="#">GWOPA Revised Results Framework</a></i></p>	
<p><b>13:00-14:00</b> Lunch break</p>	
14:00-14:45	<p><b>Agenda Item 3: State of Utilities: Emerging Trends and Capacity Needs</b></p>
	<p>The State of Water and Sanitation Utilities: Highlights from the Emerging Global Report <i>Mr. John Butterworth, Director, IRC Global Programme, based on the forthcoming Global Report Overview</i></p>
	<p><u>Espresso presentations:</u></p> <p>Services in low-income settlements <i>Ms. Faustina Boachie, Head of Low-Income Customer Support Unit, Ghana Water Company Limited</i></p> <p>Climate adaptive solutions <i>Mr. Ignatius Jean, Executive Director, Caribbean Waste and Water Association</i></p> <p>Post-disaster recovery <i>Lusia Sefo-Leau, CEO Pacific Water and Wastewater Association</i></p> <p>Digitalization for Effective Utilities <i>Dr. Sophie Naue, Urban Innovation and Technology Specialist, UNITAC</i></p> <p>Gender and inclusion <i>Ms. Leticia Ackun, Gender Specialist, African Water and Sanitation Association</i></p> <p>Open discussion, including other critical issues for utilities</p>
<p><i>Background documents: <a href="#">Summary extract of Global Report Inception</a></i></p>	
<p><b>14:45-15:30 Agenda item 4: State of S/WOPs: Emerging Trends and Priorities</b></p>	
	<p>Overview of Special Issue on Water Operators' Partnerships <i>Ms. Julie Perkins, Programme Management Officer, GWOPA/UN-Habitat</i></p> <p><u>Espresso presentations:</u></p> <p>The opportunities of South-South and Triangular WOPs <i>Mr. Subekti, Director, Association of Indonesian Water Supply Companies, PERPAMSI</i></p> <p><i>Zoe van den Bossche, Programme Officer, Water Team, European Union Directorate General for International Partnerships</i></p>

	<p>Linking WOPs and Finance <i>Zoe Van den Bossche, EU DG INTPA</i>          Operationalizing SWOPs <i>Mr. Golden Manyanga, Branch Manager, Luapula Water and Sanitation Company</i></p> <p>Full Water-Cycle WOPs  <i>Mr. Frodo van Oostveen, CEO, World WaterNet</i></p> <p>Open discussion and set up for Working Groups</p>
<p><i>Background documents: Special issue on WOPs published research articles <a href="#">1</a>, <a href="#">2</a>, <a href="#">3</a>; <a href="#">GWOPA Sanitation-strong Strategy</a></i></p>	
<p>15:30-15:45 Coffee break and move to break out groups</p>	
<p><b>15:45 – 16:45 Agenda item 5: Accelerating joint action to scale up WOPs towards achieving SDG 6 (Break out groups)</b></p>	
<p>15:45-16:45</p>	<p><i>Three parallel breakout sessions and one for online participants</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocacy – how to collectively build political support for utilities and WOPs?</li> <li>2. Alliance building – how do we work together? Opportunities to engage, fundraise, lobby and achieve our 2030 water pledge</li> <li>3. Knowledge Management – what knowledge and tools are needed to support effective WOPs at scale?</li> </ol>
<p><b>16:45-18:00 Agenda item 6: Ways forward for the Alliance</b></p>	
<p>16:45-17:15</p>	<p>Plenary discussion for Outcome note.          Renewed endorsement of Water Action Agenda and how to implement it as Alliance</p>
<p>17:15-17:30</p>	<p>Alliance Messages we are bringing to WUF12, COP29, COP 16 and beyond  <i>Lothar Mikulla, Senior Communicators and Advocacy Consultant, GWOPA</i></p>
<p>17:30-17:50</p>	<p>Closing Mentimeter: Reflections and commitments</p>
<p>17:50-18:00</p>	<p>Closing statement</p>
<p>18:30-20:00</p>	<p>GWOPA Evening Reception</p> <p><i>Dr. Rose Kaggwa, Chair of the Assembly</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Alexander Solyga, Country Director, GIZ Egypt</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Yasmine Mostafa, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States</i></p> <p><i>GWOPA representatives on the 15-year anniversary journey</i></p>

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