Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director’s Informational Briefing to the
Committee of Permanent Representatives

(d) Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA)

Agenda Item 3 (d)

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In January 2012, UN-Habitat issued an open Call for Expression of Interest (EoI) to host the Secretariat of the Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA). The following presentation will outline the Call process, describe the candidatures received, and present GWOPA’s recommendation for hosting.

Water Operators’ Partnerships (WOPs) are solidarity-based peer support partnerships that help operators develop their capacities to play their important role in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and moving towards the fulfillment of the Right to Water. GWOPA is the global mechanism to promote WOPs between water and sanitation operators around the world.

UN-Habitat led the establishment of GWOPA upon the request of former UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan as a priority recommendation of the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board Hashimoto Action Plan. Since its launching in 2007, the GWOPA Secretariat staff and operational costs have been financed through UN-Habitat’s Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF), with the intention that GWOPA progressively seek a suitable longer-term funding arrangement. External hosting is now being pursued in an effort to mobilize sustainable financial resources for this UN-Habitat led initiative.

The Call for Expression of Interest was officially issued on January 31st 2012 in a Note Verbale to UN-Habitat Permanent Representatives and, as well as to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. UN-Habitat received three candidatures received by the close of the call at the end of April, 2012.