Agenda Item (title):

Progress update from the Task Force on Country-level Engagement

Background Brief
30th UN-Water Meeting – 31 January and 1 February 2019 – Rome, Italy

Background Brief prepared by: *Task Force on Country-level Engagement (thru Marianne Kjellen)*

Main Issues of this Agenda Item:

- Present snapshot of strategic choices relating to what strategy UN-Water should take vis-à-vis country-level engagement
- Obtain reactions on strategic choices and way forward for producing strategy

Introduction / Background / Rationale (less than 200 words please)**:**
In response to External Review recommendation for UN-Water to prepare a strategy for engagement with countries, a Task Force to develop a strategy on country-level engagement was created.

Building on previous findings of the former UN-Water Task Force on Country-level Coordination, the present Task Force will elaborate how UN-Water might add value to country level support to water-related endeavors in view of the UN reform process.

This Task force is co-lead by UNICEF and UNDP.

Progress Update (less than 200 words please)**:**
The Task for has elaborated its terms of reference (attached) with the main purpose of developing a strategy for UN-Water relating to country-level engagement, and held a first skype meeting in December 2018.

The set of members (list included in ToR) has expanded.

The second meeting of the Task Force, set for second week of January 2019, will discuss

- strategy options and,
- plan the process for developing the strategy

The results of the discussion will be presented orally at the 30th SPM meeting, with the request for immediate reflections/reactions to the strategic options and process to guide the further work of the Task Force.

Proposed Action by UN-Water, if any (less than 100 words please)**:**

Proposed Draft Decision, if any (less than 100 words please)**:**

The SPMs take note of the progress of the Task Force on Country-level Engagement, approve the Task Force's Terms of Reference and as per the management response to the UN-Water External Review request the Task Force to present strategy options at the 31st UN-Water Meeting and the finalized strategy at the 32nd UN-Water Meeting.

Annexes (if any)**:**

- TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE
  (2.2.1_UN-Water task force on country engagement - TORs 4.0)