



## 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE OECD INITIATIVE ON WATER GOVERNANCE

7 – 8 November 2013, OECD Headquarters, Paris

### HIGHLIGHTS



The *OECD Initiative on Water Governance* is an international multi-stakeholder network of around 100 delegates from public, private and non-for-profit sectors gathering twice a year in a Policy Forum to share on-going reforms, projects, lessons and good practices in support of better governance in the water sector.

The network was officially launched and gathered for the first time on 27-28 March 2013, with the following objectives:

1. **Advise governments** in taking the needed steps for effective water governance reforms through policy dialogue across decision-makers at different levels;
2. Provide a **technical platform** to discuss analytical work on water governance through peer-to-peer exchanges and knowledge sharing;
3. Provide a **consultation mechanism** to raise the profile of governance issues in the Global Water Agenda and Post-2015 Development Agenda
4. Contribute to the preparation of **OECD Principles on Water Governance** and OECD Indicators on Water Governance.

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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative gathered around 100 delegates from public, private and not-for-profit sectors of 28 countries (click [here](#) to see the list of participants). Since the kick-off meeting of the network in March, 18 newcomers have joined including OECD countries (Turkey, Hungary, Luxemburg, Scotland and Denmark), municipalities (Seoul), donors (DFID, AECID, USAID), energy providers (EDF), NGOs (GIWEH, Global Water Initiative), international organisations (IWRA, UNECE) and academic (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology). Regional spearheads of water networks in LAC, MENA, African and Asian countries also attended.
2. The meeting was presided, for the first time by the new Chairman, M. Peter Glas, and President of the Dutch Association of Regional Water Authorities. High-level political buy-in was also secured with introductory remarks by M. Gonzalo Robles Orozco, Spanish Secretary General for International Cooperation and Development, and the Ambassadors to the OECD of Korea, France and the Netherlands.
3. The meeting had the following objectives (click [here](#) to see the agenda of the meeting):
  - Discuss recent developments in the Global Water Agenda;
  - Kick-off the 4 Thematic Working Groups of the Initiative;
  - Introduce regional partners of the Initiative;
  - Peer-review an OECD assessment of water governance in the Netherlands;
  - Provide for a tour de table of water governance reforms, publications and events;
  - Define a Communication and Outreach Strategy for the Initiative;

### Delegates **WELCOMED**:

4. The **support** deployed by a number of OECD countries (be it financial or political) to help set the foundations of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, namely **Spain** through the Latin American platform of the Initiative; **the Netherlands** with the Policy Dialogue on water governance with the OECD; **Korea** as a major partner on the road to the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF; and **France** as the organiser of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF;
5. The **progress achieved** since the 27-28 March kick-off meeting, in terms of:
  - Catalysing the **political buy-in** from several OECD Ambassadors;
  - Securing some **financial resources** (Spain, Korea, Netherlands) to be further complemented;
  - Selecting a **Chair**, after an open and transparent process and call for applications;
  - Agreeing on [Terms of references](#) for the Initiative;
  - Defining **4 priority areas** around stakeholder engagement, governance and performance of water supply and sanitation, basin governance, integrity and transparency;
  - Providing a **framework** for [working groups](#) and [regional partners](#)' contributions;
  - Rallying **new members** from within and outside the water box;
  - Agreeing on the collective outcome to produce **Principles and Indicators on Water Governance**;
6. The contribution of the Initiative to the **global water agenda**, especially:

- Written comments provided by delegates on the [Budapest Statement](#), the [Delft Declaration](#), and the [7th World Water Forum thematic framework](#); and
- The participation of several members of the Initiative in global water events, such as the [Kick-off meeting of the 7th World Water Forum](#) the 7th World Water Forum in Korea (13-14 May 2013), the [Water Integrity Forum](#) (5-7 June 2013); the [Stockholm World Water Week](#) (1-6 September 2013); and the [Budapest Water Summit](#) (8-11 October 2013);

Delegates **AGREED** that:

7. The parallel meetings of the **Thematic Working Groups** (WG) provided useful insights on expected outcomes, and fruitful comments to be reflected in the revised scoping of each working group:

- WG n°1 will build the **economic case for stakeholder engagement** in water management, and provide evidence on the costs, benefits, drivers, mechanisms and results (including impact assessment) of stakeholder engagement practices in identified cases. Efforts will be devoted to assessing the effectiveness of a wide range of instruments, taking into account context-dependent and place-based policies;
- WG n°2 will dig into governance bottlenecks and instruments that enable or inhibit **performance of water services** looking at both regulatory and non-regulatory tools and monitoring systems in order to develop a framework for assessing the effectiveness of governance functions and modalities in managing water supply and sanitation;
- WG n°3 will provide policy guidance on **basin governance**, considering pros and cons of watersheds as the “relevant” scale for IWRM, drawing lessons from experience (including failures) and shedding light on the economic benefits;
- WG n°4 will develop a set of policy messages to support improved **integrity and transparency** for better water governance, building on good practices and experiences in other sectors, beyond anti-corruption issues and practices.

8. **Regional Partners** will act as a *bridge* with the different continents to link the work of the Initiative with their regional networks in Africa, Europe, MENA, Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

9. The **road to OECD Principles on Water Governance** (to be produced by 2015) should build on key messages and evidence from the thematic working groups, and be backed-up by sound regional consultations in the different continents to scale-up good practices within and outside OECD countries ;

10. The **communication strategy** of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance should adopt a step-by-step approach. While a media strategy will be necessary when the Initiative has produced concrete outputs, a starting point for the moment should rely on a three-tier communication system:

- Coordinators of the different **working groups** will be responsible for exchanging with contributors (e.g. through email distribution list, online working space, working group meeting, etc.).
- Communication from the OECD Secretariat to **delegates of the Water Governance Initiative** should be pursued by email and sharing platforms for heavy documents (e.g. *Dropbox*) ; the creation of an OECD community platform could be considered to facilitate access to documents;
- Each member of the network could contribute to the **broader dissemination** to the Water Community via its own network and tools (e.g. newsletters, websites, email distribution lists, water information systems, events etc.); and

- Some members of the Initiative, representing **networks of networks**, can help with larger outreach, and disseminate the Initiative's results globally;

Delegates **ADVISED** the Steering Committee of the Initiative to:

11. Prepare a detailed **timeline** for the activities to be carried out by the 4 working groups, and a **checklist** with different options to contribute as to thematic and regional activities;
12. Share the updated **Inventory** of Water Governance Tools, Initiatives and Programmes to collect additional contributions and disseminate it broadly to the water community (e.g. putting it online);
13. Consider linkages between the Initiative's **regional partners** and the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF Regional Process;
14. Continue bringing in **new members, especially from outside the water box**, in an effort to widen the perspective and relevance of the Initiative (e.g. Mayors, etc.)

Delegates **SHARED** information on:

15. Recent water governance **books and publications**, including: [“A User’s Guide on Water Governance Assessment”](#) prepared by SIWI, the Water Integrity Network, and UNDP; [“Building blocks for good water governance in the Netherlands”](#), produced by the Netherlands Water Governance Centre; the ADB 2013 [Asian Water Development Outlook](#); and South Africa Water Research Commission’s forthcoming book on water governance;

16. Ongoing water governance **reforms**:

- Mexican officials reported that the OECD report [Making Water Reform Happen in Mexico](#) was used as a strategic instrument by the new administration to develop the National Water Programme, and several OECD recommendations have been included in technical assistance programmes of selected donors;
- The water director of **Chile** used the OECD multi-level governance framework to diagnose governance gaps in Chilean water institutions, and welcomes the Initiative’s guidance to bridge them;
- **Brazil** recently signed a National Water Pact to improve coordination across levels of government and plans to review its water allocation regimes. The OECD-Brazil Policy Dialogue on water governance will provide the evidence base to feed major policy decisions in these two areas;
- **South Africa** is considering the creation of a water regulator and mechanisms to strengthen its water governance and a joint Seminar will be organised in Pretoria next spring by South Africa’s Water Research Commission to discuss pave the way for customised OECD support;
- **France** has just completed an evaluation of water policy and defined a roadmap to address fragmentation of water policy, water quality, and infrastructure financing challenges. Follow-up options could be explored with the Water Governance Initiative to support the implementation of these orientations;

17. Delegates **PROPOSED** in-kind contributions such as:

18. **Hosting seminars** and workshops in Latin America (AECID), Asia-Pacific (ADB), and Europe (UNECE) to share the Initiative's key messages with non OECD countries and carry-out regional consultations as part of the preparatory process of the OECD Principles and Indicators on Water Governance;

19. Creating a specific taskforce to "tease-out" the Initiative's key messages in **developing countries** and help reach additional contributors, which WaterAid and South Africa's Water Research Commission volunteered to lead;

## NEXT STEPS

20. Coordinators of thematic working groups will follow-up with their respective contributors to fine-tune scoping notes, gather contributions and suggest meetings dates between the biannual plenary meetings of the Initiative.

- Meeting dates for WG n°1 on stakeholder engagement were set for 17 January, 13 June, and 19 September 2014 at OECD Headquarters, Paris.
- Meeting date for WG n°4 on integrity and transparency was set for 22 January 2014 in The Hague, the Netherlands and 20 March at OECD Headquarters, Paris during the OECD Water Integrity Workshop;
- Dates for WG n°2 and n°3 will follow shortly;

<p>Working Group 1: <b>Stakeholder engagement for effective water governance</b></p> <p>Coordinators' emails: <a href="mailto:Aziza.akhmouch@oecd.org">Aziza.akhmouch@oecd.org</a> and <a href="mailto:Alexandre.brailowsky@suez-env.com">Alexandre.brailowsky@suez-env.com</a></p>	
<p>Working Group 2: <b>Governance &amp; Performance of water supply and sanitation</b></p> <p>Coordinators' emails: <a href="mailto:pierre-alain.roche@astee.org">pierre-alain.roche@astee.org</a> and <a href="mailto:tom.williams@iwahq.org">tom.williams@iwahq.org</a></p>	
<p>Working Group 3: <b>Basin Governance</b></p> <p>Coordinators' emails: <a href="mailto:a.aureli@unesco.org">a.aureli@unesco.org</a>, <a href="mailto:jf.donzier@oieau.fr">jf.donzier@oieau.fr</a> and <a href="mailto:d.Valensuela@oieau.fr">d.Valensuela@oieau.fr</a></p>	
<p>Working Group 4: <b>Transparency &amp; Integrity</b></p> <p>Coordinators' emails: <a href="mailto:TBastemeijer@win-s.org">TBastemeijer@win-s.org</a>, <a href="mailto:Hakan.tropp@siwi.org">Hakan.tropp@siwi.org</a> et <a href="mailto:doleary@transparency.org">doleary@transparency.org</a></p>	

21. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Initiative will be held on **28-29 April 2014** in Madrid, Spain.

22. The **timeline** for the preparation of *OECD Principles on Water Governance* is as follow:

- **Mid-March 2014:** Working Groups coordinators will submit a 3-5 pager to the Secretariat with key messages/principles and indicators on their topics.

- **Early April 2014:** The Secretariat will consolidate a background paper providing the rationale for the Principles on Water Governance, and a set of preliminary messages to be sent to all members of the Initiative two weeks ahead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Initiative (28-29 April 2014, Madrid - Spain):** Discussion on the background paper on the principles in a dedicated session;
- **By the summer 2014:** Production of the first draft of Principles, building on the Working Groups' inputs;
- **Fall 2014:** Submission of the draft to all members of the Initiative for preliminary written comments;
- **4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Initiative (November/December 2014):** Discussion on the revised draft;
- **7<sup>th</sup> WWF (12-17 April 2015):** Presentation and Discussion in a specific session;
- **2015:** Consultation with member states; Regional consultations in the different continents, in co-operation with the Regional Partners of the Initiative;



## SUMMARY RECORDS

### *Opening Remarks*

23. Joaquim Oliveira-Martins, Head of the OECD Regional Development Policy Division, welcomed the presence of delegates from a wide range of institutions, countries and backgrounds. He emphasised the innovative nature of the network and welcomed the wealth of experiences from delegates and the fundamental contribution of institutions within the Steering Committee. The Initiative also counts on the support of Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD and strong advocate for work on water, and several members of the OECD Horizontal Programme on Water.

24. Peter Glas, President of the Dutch Association of Regional Water Authorities and appointed Chair, thanked the delegates for their presence at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance. He introduced himself and said that his two degrees in biology and administrative and environmental law were the start of his life-long career in water management research then public service in the Netherlands. Ten years ago, he was appointed Chairman of one of the 24 Dutch regional water authorities, and in 2010 he became president of the Dutch association of regional water authorities. He has also represented the Netherlands in the EU Water Association. His experience gave him first-hand evidence of the indispensable combination of science, engineering and economics with effective stakeholder interactions as a prerequisite for good water management. In light of the growing global water crisis, he stressed the key role of the Initiative in sharing practices, tools and methodologies across countries and institutions to take stock of successes and lessons from failures to support good governance. He conveyed his intention to serve the Initiative in the next 3 years and contribute actively to the network strategic orientations, priorities, activities and results.

### *Remarks by OECD countries supporting the Initiative*

25. The Chair reminded delegates that a number of countries have supported the OECD Initiative on Water Governance politically and financially, and have been instrumental to set up the network. **Spain** is a key partner for the Latin American platform of the Initiative. The **Netherlands** have engaged in a peer-review process to assess the performance of Dutch water governance and its capacity to cope with future challenges. **Korea** is a major partner on the road to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (WWF), and **France** is the country that organised the previous WWF (Marseille, 2012) from which the Initiative took off.

26. Mr Gonzalo Robles Orozco, Secretary General for International Cooperation and Development of **Spain**, Director of the Spanish agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), expressed the strong support of the Government of Spain to the OECD Initiative on Water Governance, as an opportunity for decision makers and stakeholders to discuss, learn, share and improve water governance practices. He underlined that Spain not only provided a financial contribution to the network but also supports the efforts of the Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The Spanish Government is currently carrying out several projects, such as the [Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund](#) (FCAS) in 19 LAC countries; AECID is collaborating with the World Bank to support the Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Administration in the implementation of river basin management plans, and contributing to the launch of the *Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean*. AECID celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and organised a 3-day stock-taking of water related projects in view of the post-2015 UN Development Agenda (click [here](#) for more information on the UN System Task Team for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda).

27. Mr Noe Van Hulst, Ambassador of the **Netherlands** to the OECD, expressed his enthusiasm as regards the ambitions of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance as well as its impressive achievements and pushed towards a strong commitment from all to concretize the ambitious goals of the Initiative and



influence the global dialogue on water policy. He welcomed the new chair Mr Peter Glas and the work of the OECD on water governance in the Netherlands as an important process to guide policy reforms.

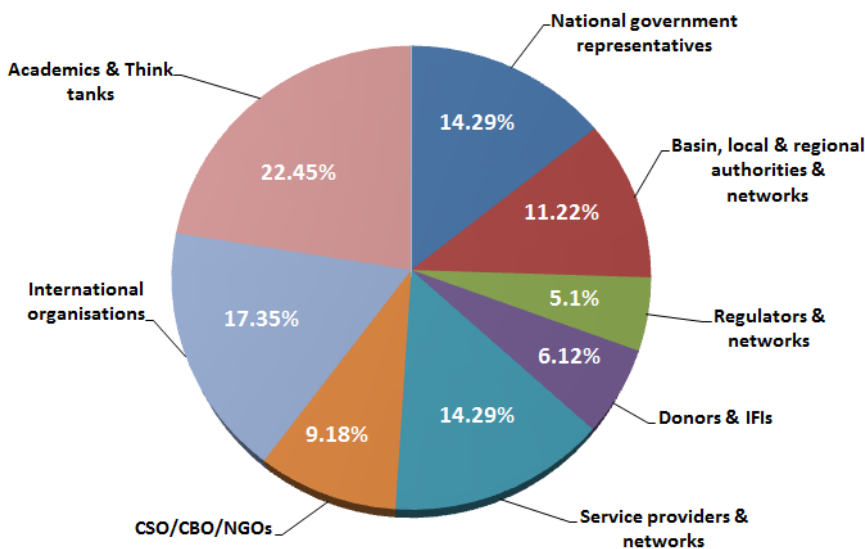
28. Mr Sihyung Lee, Ambassador of **Korea** to the OECD, conveyed the full support of Korea to the OECD Initiative on Water Governance and its multi-faceted efforts to resolve the water crisis. He highlighted some of the initiatives carried out in Korea in the water management sector, such as creating the *Watershed Management Committee* to ensure stakeholder engagement and constructing and expanding water infrastructure. He underlined there is still much to be done in the Asian-Pacific region to provide clean water for all. As part of the commitment to improve water governance, Korea will be hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> Water World Forum in 2015 in Daegu, to provide answers to the worldwide water crisis.

29. Ms Pascale Andreani, Ambassador of **France** to the OECD, warmly welcomed the OECD Initiative on Water Governance as a multi-stakeholder platform that will push forward the [good governance targets](#) elaborated in Marseille during the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF and which will set the basis for a fruitful contribution to the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF in Korea. She reported that France is actively engaged in this process and the presence of different French stakeholders in the Initiative testifies to this commitment. She welcomed the horizontal approach of the Initiative across OECD departments and international organisations. She drew attention on the next [UN Conference on Climate Change](#) (COP 21) to be hosted by France in 2015 and welcomed the Initiative as a timely platform to contribute, in addition to the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF and the post-2015 agenda, to the COP 21 discussions including on climate change adaptation policies and financing mechanisms.

***Progress achieved since the kick-off of the Initiative***

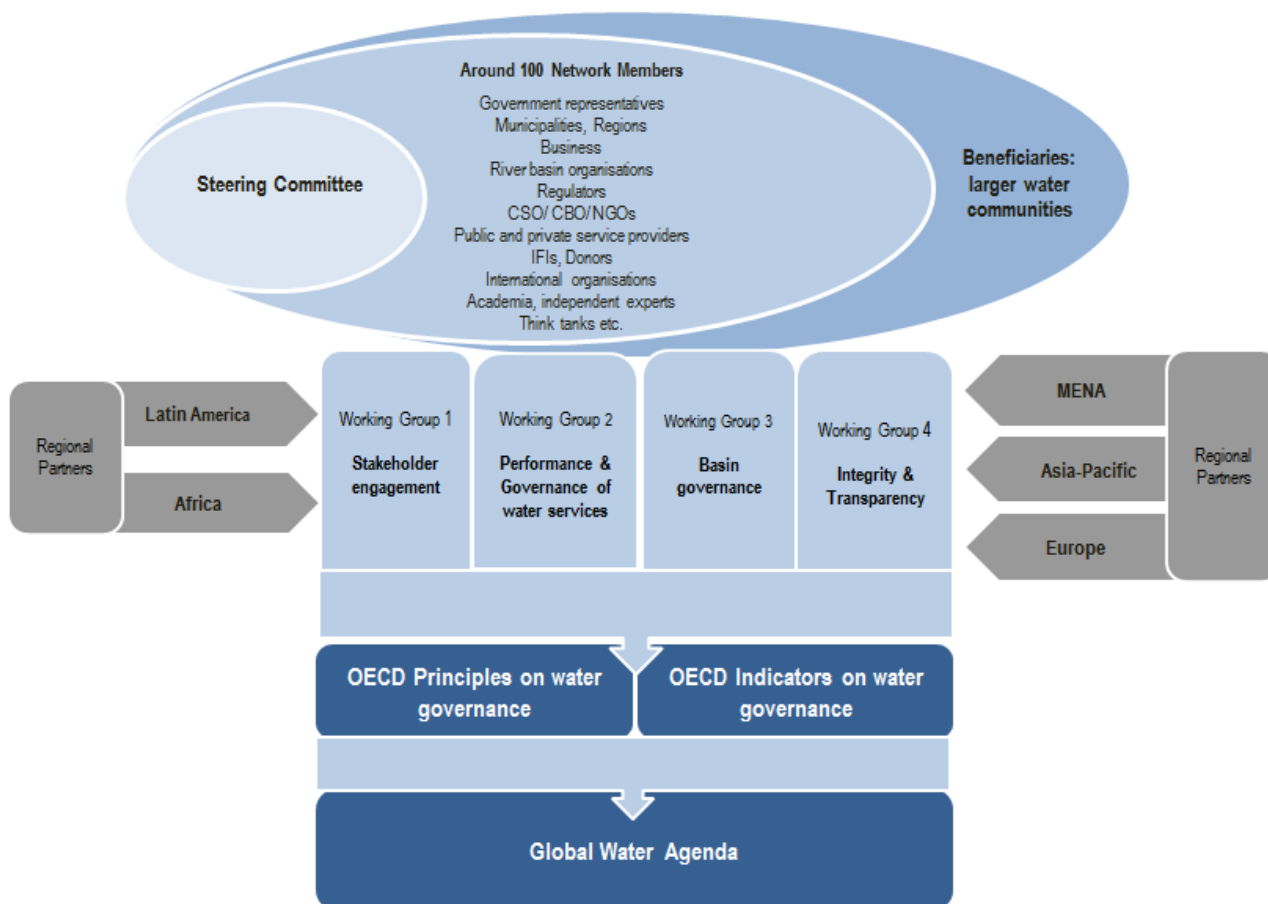
30. Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the OECD Water Governance Programme, provided an update on the results achieved since the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance on 27-28 March 2013. Political buy-in from several OECD countries was secured. Terms of reference for the Chair, Steering Committee, thematic working groups and regional partners were produced by the Secretariat and circulated to delegates in July 2013. The Chair was selected by the Steering Committee for 3 years. Newcomers have joined the network including national representatives (Denmark, Luxemburg, Turkey, and Hungary), energy providers (EDF), municipalities (Seoul Metropolitan Government) and donors/international organisations (USAID, ADB, AECID, DFID, Global Water Initiative).

**Composition of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance**



31. Activities of the Initiative are now structured around 4 Thematic Working Groups (click [here](#) to access terms of reference) on i) stakeholder engagement; ii) performance and governance of water and sanitation services; iii) basin governance; and iv) integrity and transparency, as well as Regional Partners in Latin America, Asia-Pacific, the Mediterranean, Europe and Africa (click [here](#) to access terms of reference). Contributions gathered from delegates include a wide range of options such as sharing experiences on recent initiatives, events, reforms; contributing to peer-to-peer dialogue; contributing to the global water agenda; mobilising their staff; hosting working group or regional meetings; and funding studies and research. In practice, delegates from the Initiative have contributed to key events in the global water agenda by providing feedback on the Budapest draft statement, leading the governance stream of the Budapest Water Summit and the preparation of the World Water Council, and taking part in analytical work (e.g. Netherlands draft report). The Inventory of tools, initiatives and guidelines to foster good governance in the water sector, prepared as part of the preparatory process of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF has been updated and will be available online in January 2014.

### Structure and objective of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance



32. The objective of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance is to produce analytical guidance, international comparisons and evidence on Water Governance, building on delegates' experience and peer-to-peer dialogue in support of reform processes. In particular, an important outcome of the Initiative is to contribute to the preparation of OECD Principles on Water Governance to be discussed and enriched in the different OECD bodies and committees throughout 2015 and adopted by the OECD Council as an OECD instrument. To back up this objective, the Initiative will contribute to the definition of Water Governance Indicators. The network will also serve as a platform for the preparatory process up to the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF concerning the governance stream of the thematic framework.

### *Contribution to the Global Water Agenda*

33. The first session of the meeting discussed the outcomes and milestones of global water events involving the OECD Water Governance Initiative. High level officials from host countries reported on the Budapest Water Summit (8-11 October 2013), the Water Integrity Forum (Delft, 5-7 June 2013) and the roadmap to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (2015). All emphasized a call for greater emphasis on *governance* in the Global Water Agenda; stressed the importance of *governance* as a major condition for success of water reforms; acknowledged the Initiative's contribution in this field; and welcomed further guidance to remove implementation bottlenecks.

34. High-level political support was lined up for the **Budapest Water Summit**, which was opened by Ban Ki-Moon and the heads of several UN agencies. The Summit Statement (accessible [here](#)) advocated for a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal on Water addressing universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the improvement of integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to water resources management, the reduction of pollution and increase of collection, treatment and re-use of water, as well as increased resilience to water-related disasters. OECD led the governance stream of the Summit as a member of the drafting group and programme committee; organised a high-level panel on good governance during the Summit, and several members of the Initiative commented on the draft statement during the consultation process. The Summit also called for a UN-led intergovernmental process to follow-up the implementation of the water-related goals (such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and advocated for a governance sub-goal (or target) within the water SDG with a strong focus on *measurement*. There was also a call for stronger institutions to carry-out transboundary water monitoring programmes as well as further studies on the economic benefits of water governance. Hungarian officials invited delegates to support these recommendations with policy guidance, experience sharing and the development of metrics to track progress. The work of the Initiative towards OECD *Principles* on Water Governance and OECD *Indicators* on Water Governance will help measure the effectiveness of institutional frameworks, the costs of bad water governance and the economic benefits of better governance in the water sector. As such, it will contribute to supporting implementation of a water SDG in the post-2015 development agenda. The [Budapest Statement](#) was introduced as a set of recommendations at the close of the Summit.

35. Continuity is being sought between the solution-oriented 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum of Marseille (2012) and the implementation-driven 7<sup>th</sup> **World Water Forum** of Korea (2015). Since the [7th WWF kick-off meeting](#) held in Daegu, Korea on 13-14 May 2013 significant progress has been made in shaping the preparatory process. Several workshops have taken place as part of international water events (Asia-Pacific Water Summit, Stockholm World Water Week, Budapest Water Summit) to move forward. The Thematic Process builds on the work carried out for the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF with the action goal being “the future we want” and action tools being “the engines for changes”. An implementation roadmap will be developed based on the different themes and a monitoring system will be set-up after the Forum to follow the implementation. A novelty in the next Forum is the development of a “science and technology” stream, in addition to the traditional political, thematic and regional processes of the Forum. A draft thematic framework has been circulated and commented on by several members of the Initiative; which includes an item on “effective governance” to be developed towards the forum as an “action tool” or “implementation mechanism” for better water management. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder consultation of 27-28 February 2014 (Korea) will officially start the preparatory process and catalyse the contribution of a wide range of institutions, countries and individuals. Calls for contribution and interests will help shape the working groups by mid-2014 and registration process will follow. The draft Forum programme will be available on the fourth quarter of 2014.

36. The 1<sup>st</sup> **Water Integrity Forum** held on 5-7 June 2013 in Delft, Netherlands was hosted by UNESCO-IHE and the Dutch Water Governance Centre. The event gathered more than 60 organisations

from the public, private and non-for-profit sectors with the goal to provide a platform of discussions and raising the profile of integrity and transparency in the global water agenda. Key messages include i) the need for complementarities of water for food and water for energy and for cooperation between sub-sectors; ii) the importance of trust, especially in the context of river basin governance and the lack of effective monitoring; iii) the issue of urban WASH related to limited knowledge and financial resources; and iv) the question of integrated urban water management which poses new integrity challenges in cities. The Water Integrity Forum concluded with the [Delft statement](#).

### ***Regional partners' contribution to the network: reaching-out to non OECD countries***

37. **Chile** will support all the thematic working groups and act as a platform to help develop and share the work of the Initiative in the LAC region. Regional consultations will be carried-out to “test” the Principles and Indicators on Water Governance on the ground, when a draft is ready for submission.

38. The **Turkish Water Institute** (SUEN) will support the work of the OECD Initiative on Water governance in Middle Eastern and Central Asian countries where SUEN provides capacity-building activities and coordinates academic research projects.

39. The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) will share valuable work on water governance in the Asia-Pacific region. ADB recently published the [Asian Water Development Outlook](#) which provides insights on 5 dimensions of water security and compares 49 countries based on governance indicators from the World Bank. ADB is also working with the GWP Technical Advisory Committee on the correlation between water security and governance in 20 countries from the Pacific region. To help data collection and sharing, a workshop was organised on 26-27 November 2013 with countries and international agencies to discuss the design of an Asia Water Information System in order to improve data quality and management in the region, including civil society. A demonstration version of the system (tested on 3-4 countries) will be available by the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF. ADB will also share a series of multi-sector country water assessments which focus on governance and investment needs. Delegates were invited to participate in a Women Water Leader Conference which will bring together water professionals and women water leaders to foster leadership at higher levels. The correlation between water governance and gender is also highly relevant for the Initiative, especially the working group on stakeholder engagement. ADB offered to host a regional meeting in the Asia-Pacific region.

40. The **Mediterranean Institute for Water** (IME) will contribute as a partner in the MENA region following its involvement in the governance stream of the Regional Process at the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF, in cooperation with GWP-Med which had two emphases: governance and financing, and multi-level governance approaches. The IME will share with the Initiative the diagnosis study carried-out in 2012-2013 on a comparative study on water governance across 7 Mediterranean countries.

41. The **Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean** will link to the work of the Initiative with on-going projects on water governance in the region, including the [UfM-labelled governance and financing project](#) launched in May 2013 and jointly carried-out with the OECD. Two consultation workshops have already taken place in Tunisia and Jordan and progress reports on the governance bottlenecks to the mobilisation of financing in Mediterranean water will be shared with the delegates early 2014. Other GWP-Med projects and programmes of relevance to the Initiative include [GEF MedPartnerships](#) on the protection of large marine and coastal ecosystems and the EU funded Programme Sustainable Water Integrated Management. GWP-Med also manages the Mediterranean Secretariat of the [EU Water Initiative](#); provides technical and administrative support to prepare the UfM Water Strategy; and supports the [Petersberg Phase II Athens Declaration Process](#) which facilitates transboundary cooperation of shared water bodies. GWP-Med facilitates the Secretariat of two cycles promoting sustainable development and

water in the Mediterranean agenda: one with Mediterranean parliamentarians and the other with Mediterranean journalists.

42. The **Marcelino Botin Foundation Water Observatory** (Spain) is developing activities in Latin America and will help the Initiative collect data and good practices in the LAC region, especially with two on-going projects: i) a recently-completed report on “Water for Food and Human Well-being in Latin America: Status and Challenges in a Globalized World”; and ii) a study, in collaboration with the University of Sao Paulo, to foster information transparency in Brazilian state water agencies. Spanish water authorities also undertook a “transparency scan”, in co-operation with Transparency International-Spain, which led to the publication of 3 reports providing valuable case studies and lessons to WG n°4. Similar research will be carried out soon in Portugal and Mexico. A kick-off meeting to launch the preparation of the Water Ethics Charter will take place in March 2014.

43. The **Spanish Development Agency** (AECID) will partner with the Initiative in the Latin American region, building on projects related to IWRM, access to basic services and governance issues with 3 cross-cutting themes: gender, climate change and health. AECID carries-out extensive knowledge-management and capacity-building activities in Latin American (and MENA) countries to help bridge the capacity gap diagnosed in the OECD report ["Water Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: A multi-level approach"](#) . Four training centres have been created in Guatemala, Uruguay, Colombia and Bolivia, the latter focusing on water and sanitation and climate change. AECID offered to host an international seminar to present the work of the 4 thematic working groups of the Initiative and share the key messages of the network with key actors in the LAC region to move forward toward OECD Principles and Indicators on Water Governance.

44. The **Butterfly Effect** NGO coalition will contribute to the regional partnerships of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance by linking, amongst others, regional CSO/NGOs with countries to work on governance: [FANCA](#) (Chile) and [FAN-Mex](#) (Mexico) in the LAC region; Eastern Alliance in the EECCA region; the [Nile Basin Discourse](#) for Africa and possibly the Mediterranean platform. [Women for Water Partnership](#) (WfWP) members in the various regions are also willing to contribute. The [International gender, water and development conference](#) to be held in South Africa on 19-21 February 2014, and organised by the government of South Africa and WfWP, can provide a stepping point to link the messages of the Initiative with gender and integrity issues. Value added would spur from linking the regional partners of the Initiative to the Regional Process of the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF, for which a preparatory meeting is scheduled on 12-14 June 2014 in Burkina Faso.

45. The Water Research Commission (WRC) of **South Africa** is building a substantive regional footprint in Africa and will be a key partner of the Initiative in the region to collect experiences and good/bad water governance practices, and share relevant work. The WRC has worked extensively on water governance, sanitation and groundwater governance (with UNESCO-IHE). It is coordinating the African case studies for the [Global Water Futures & Solutions](#) process toward the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF by examining governance arrangements in 3 major river basins. The planned South Africa-OECD policy dialogue on water governance will also contribute as a mechanism for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing to disseminate results in the African region. The International water and gender conference to be held in South Africa (February 2014) can provide a stepping point for the OECD Initiative on Water Governance to discuss the role of gender in water governance in an innovative way. Similarly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference [Freshwater Governance Conference](#) (to be held in Adelaide, Australia in November 2014) will be an important milestone for the Initiative up to the 2015 WWF.

46. **UNECE** has two inter-governmental legal instruments that can provide frameworks for water governance in the Pan-European region and beyond: i) the [UNECE Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#) is an important legal framework for



improving water governance and IWRM, in particular at the basin level. It strengthens transboundary water cooperation and measures for the ecologically sound management and protection of transboundary surface waters and groundwater. Through an amendment, the Convention is being opened for all UN member states. It not only provides an inter-governmental forum for discussing transboundary water cooperation and sharing good practices, but also supports countries through assessment, capacity-building, guidance and projects on the ground: e.g. a guidance tool is under development to help identify, evaluate and quantify the benefits of transboundary cooperation. Under the Convention and the EU WFD and in cooperation with the OECD, National policy dialogues on IWRM are carried out in 9 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Intersectoral cooperation is also promoted through the preparation of a thematic assessment on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins. Conclusions of the OECD Water Governance Initiative will be shared with the Water Convention delegates; ii) the [Protocol on Water and Health](#) is a unique legal instrument for improving water governance at national level and aims to ensure the appropriate supply of safe water and sanitation to all populations by linking the water and health sectors. It requires Parties to set targets in several sector, according to their specific priorities. The publication “[No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region](#)” was launched at the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF and spurred the development of an equitable access score card to help countries assess to what extent they have progressed towards ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation, including for vulnerable and marginalized groups. It has already been tested in France (Paris), Portugal and Ukraine. A wider use of the score card will start in 2014-2016. Results will be shared with the delegates and UNECE will convey the messages of the Initiative to the parties involved and collect inputs.

47. The **Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination** in Central Asia (SIC-ICWC) provides technical support and implement data-sharing, capacity-building and research projects and is committed to share experiences and outcomes with the OECD Initiative on Water Governance. A global technical paper on achievements and challenges of IWRM implementation in the Central Asian region of relevance to the network will be launched in early 2014. Several activities are also being carried out with Russian-speaking audiences in collaboration with INBO and the network of Eastern Europe-Central Asia-Caucasus river basin organisations, which met on 7-8 November in Moscow, Russia (click [here](#) for the meeting report).

48. The **Network of Asian River Basin Organisations** (NARBO) is committed to support the Initiative in the Asia-Pacific region to foster better water management at basin level to achieve water security and share good/bad practices with delegates to provide for benchmarking of river basin experiences.

49. **Australia** will link the work of the Initiative in the Asia-Pacific by sharing the results of the *Centre for Comparative Water Law & Policy* project on governance of desalination and groundwater, especially for fracking and agriculture purposes. The *Australian River Institute* will also share good and bad lessons from the implementation phase of the Murray Darling Basin Plan as regards the sustainable diversion limit for surface and groundwater consumption and environmental flows. A possible area of interest for the Initiative would be to look at the evaluation of the outcomes of the Murray Darling Basin Plan to assess how governance meets the expected results. The *International Water Centre* can also provide interesting inputs to the Initiative on training activities for water leaders. The Centre carries out capacity-building activities to widen the skills of water professionals and bridge disciplines. Australia is supporting the provision of cultural water flows for indigenous people seeking practical recognition, which could be an interesting issue to be tackled in the thematic working group 4 on integrity and transparency.

50. **Mexico** will support the Initiative in Latin America by fostering capacity-building and experience sharing, stemming from the efforts of the Mexican Technological Institute on Water (IMTA) which worked with the German Development Cooperation agency (GIZ) to develop specific groundwater

technology and share the findings with water experts in Central America. Mexico will continue fostering trilateral cooperation to strengthen water management and governance in the LAC region.

51. **Spain** is currently involved in 3 regional networks of relevance to the OECD Initiative on Water Governance: i) the [Iberamerican conference of water directors](#) which annual meetings offer an ideal opportunity to convey key governance messages of the network; ii) the [Mediterranean network of basin organisations](#) to engage the members in the activities of the Initiative; and iii) the [Euro-Mediterranean Community of Irrigators](#) gathering key water users and which experiences can be useful to widen the audience of the Initiative.

52. **IRSTEA** will convey the activities of the Initiative in Africa as a member of a European research network that studies transformative governance processes and multi-level stakeholder engagement in the region. IRSTEA will provide delegates with insights from implementing operation processes on social justice, integrative planning, participatory simulation activities, and water service performance.

53. The **Global Water Initiative** is funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and focuses on water for agriculture, especially small farmers in Central America and Africa. The Global Water Initiative is committed to share regional perspectives with the Initiative on the governance of agricultural water and food security, as well as the results of research activities to improve governance and access to water for local farmers.

54. The **International Water Resources Association (IWRA)** is a network of multi-disciplinary scientific researchers from 70 countries and is planning to create its own water governance special interest group which should be linked to the on-going work of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance, especially in view of the [2015 International IWRA Congress](#) (25-29 May 2015, Edinburg, Scotland).

55. **AgroParisTech** is working on a cooperation project between Latin America and Europe with the objective to share experiences in scientific and academic trainings in the field of water and sanitation services, and basin governance. Outcomes of the project will be shared with delegates.

56. **Seoul Metropolitan Government** will bring in the OECD Initiative on Water Governance the much-needed perspective of municipal actors and called for further representation of sub-national authorities in the network. Seoul is currently looking at new policies to better manage water for citizens and lessons learnt will be conveyed to the delegates.

57. **GIWEH** will organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Water Resources and Environmental Management (ICWRE 2014) on 13-15 May 2014 in Antalya, Turkey. The ICWRE-2014 follows successful ICWRE-2011 (20-24 November 2011; Marrakesh, Morocco) and ICWRE-2013 (09-11 April 2013; Geneva, Switzerland). The conference will aim at bridging the gap between policy, science and practice in the field of water resources and environmental management; becoming an efficient discussion platform for stakeholders from all over the world; contributing to debates on environment related topics that take place on national different levels; sharing knowledge; and raising awareness of environmental issues. The 2014 conference is entitled "[Role of Governance in the Management of Water Resources and Environment](#)". Members of the OECD Water Governance Initiative were invited to welcome take part in the conference.

#### ***Presentation of the 4 Working Groups & Breakout discussions***

58. Working Group n°1 on **stakeholder engagement for effective water governance** will build the economic case for [stakeholder engagement in water governance](#), and provide evidence on the costs, benefits, drivers, mechanisms and results (including impact assessment) of stakeholder engagement practices in identified cases. Efforts will be devoted to assessing the effectiveness of a wide range of



instruments, taking into account context-dependent and place-based policies. Stakeholder engagement is a powerful instrument to help achieve efficient, sustainable and equitable water policy, manage trade-offs and set incentives to build partnerships. It requires proper analysis that can help scale up and replicate success stories. The project aims at providing recommendations and a checklist for action, on the basis of international comparisons and will produce an official OECD report to be released at the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF in Korea.

59. Working Group n°2 on the **governance and performance of water services** will dig into governance bottlenecks and instruments that enable or inhibit performance of water services looking at both regulatory and non-regulatory tools and monitoring systems in order to develop a framework for assessing the effectiveness of governance functions and modalities in managing water supply and sanitation. The working group will also develop a clear terminology of performance dimensions. It will build on the report "[Improving the performance of water and sanitation public services](#)" launched in Marseille and contribute to the development of indicators focusing on i) the evaluation of regulatory frameworks; ii) the development of a monitoring system to evaluate the level of investments and results; and iii) the development of methodologies in support of international benchmarking.

60. Working Group n°3 on **basin governance** will provide policy guidance on basin governance, considering pros and cons of watersheds as the “relevant” scale for IWRM, drawing lessons from experience (including failures) and shedding light on the economic benefits looking at the multifaceted issues calling for integrated water management. The working group will provide responses for an integrated water resources management at rivers, lakes and aquifers level, looking at multi-partnerships. It aims at identifying good governance practices; designing indicators to assess the effectiveness of policy; developing principles of good governance; and promoting knowledge-sharing on regulatory frameworks for transboundary waters.

61. Working Group n°4 on **integrity and transparency** will support improved integrity and transparency for better water governance, building on good practices and experiences in other sectors, beyond anti-corruption issues and practices. Where applicable, it will include experiences with generic anti-corruption and integrity tools that can be used in different sectors (e.g. transparency and integrity in procurement). Integrity issues should be considered at local, national, international and inter-sectoral (water, energy, food) levels. The working group will aim to provide policy and learning platforms (for OECD and non OECD countries and organisations); develop water governance guidelines, principles and code of conduct; set-up knowledge-based platforms and tools to assess integrity issues.

62. Coordinators of and contributors to the working groups gathered during parallel working sessions<sup>1</sup> with the objectives to:

- Agree on the objective of the working group and expected outcomes;
- Comment on the preliminary scoping note prepared by the coordinators;
- Map (within the working group) who does what, how and when;
- Identify on-going projects/reforms/tools that can contribute to the WG;
- Agree on an action plan and communication strategy;

63. Outcomes of the WGs breakout sessions include advice from contributors to:

- Clearly define the *semantic* to be used based on agreed-upon terminology and concepts, as well as the (geographic and thematic) *scope* to be covered;

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<sup>1</sup> Specific summaries from WG breakouts will be prepared separately and shared with the WGS' respective contributors.

- Highlight the *value added* of each WG activities as compared to what already exists, and build complementarities across the WGs;
- Develop *measuring systems*, including quality indicators, for assessing the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement mechanisms (WG n°1); water services performance (WG n°2); basin governance (WG n°3); and integrity and transparency instruments (WG n°4), to be tested on the ground with *case studies* within and beyond OECD countries;
- Build on the *concrete inputs* to be provided by the contributors: i.e. good/bad practices, lessons learnt, on-going projects, methodologies, tools, studies and guidelines;

### ***Peer-review of the OECD Report “Water Governance in the Netherlands: Fit for the Future?”***

64. The peer-review of the OECD report “Water Governance in the Netherlands: Fit for the Future?” gathered members of the OECD Water Governance Initiative and delegates from the OECD Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems. The discussion provided valuable insights and experience from a wide range of stakeholders and delegates on the findings of the OECD report, which will be fine-tuned to include comments received and officially launched in March 2014

65. The objective of the OECD/Netherlands policy dialogue on water governance is to assess to the performance of Dutch water governance and to what extent it is fit for future challenges, and suggest ways forward to adjust or reform policies as needed. Findings pointed out, amongst others, the existence of an *awareness gap* among Dutch citizens about water management functions and water risks; increasing *regional disparities* and related costs for the water sector; and the opportunity for further *economic incentives* for water use efficiency. The point was made that Dutch longstanding performance in water management should not lead to complacency since several pressing issues call for immediate action.

66. Key recommendations suggested by the OECD Secretariat in the report include the need for i) independent accountability mechanisms to enhance cost-efficiency and performance; ii) reorganisation across the water chain based on the principle of *forms follow functions and places*; iii) strengthened economic incentives to reduce costs, allocate them fairly and manage risks; and iv) more policy coherence between water, land use and spatial planning.

67. Francesco Nunes Correia, member of the Initiative and peer-reviewer from **Portugal** for the OECD/Netherlands policy dialogue on water governance shed light on the triple trap in Dutch water governance: i) the *trap of public confidence* can have negative impacts, such as decrease in public participation, and may distort the consensus-building process by diminishing the role of the less-vocal, leading to potential capture by the most-vocal and the most-organised stakeholders; ii) the *trap of perceived safety*, as more attention should be devoted to the uncertainty related to the natural events (large confidence intervals) to design precautionary at an affordable cost; and iii) the *trap of excellence*: i.e. the recognition of excellence can lead to some conservatism in institutions, and the Netherlands should somewhat become “an improved version of itself”.

68. Sasha Koo-Oshima, adviser at the **US** Environmental Protection Agency and international peer-reviewer for the policy dialogue highlighted the impressive and outstanding engineering in terms of hard and soft infrastructure which prevent floods and sea level, as well as beach and coastal erosion. Dutch water management which has long been relying on systematic involvement of civil society and wider stakeholders (the so called Dutch cultural “polder model”) has witnessed a reduction of stakeholder engagement over time. In the United States, where public participation is crucial for public policy setting, a number of programmes, including [Urban Waters](#), the [River Rally](#), and [Brownfields](#) help to engage citizens, through innovative communication tools. Similarly, public participation is critical for watershed planning

and for restoring and protecting water quality, and multi-stakeholder participation is a key step in building partnerships at watershed level. Market-based incentives are preferred to direct regulation, as a more politically viable and less costly way to bring about the swiping private sector changes needed to meet environmental objectives and at the same time address green economy and growth strategies. In the United States, the Clean Water State Revolving Funds are used to capitalize national and subnational contributions below level market interest rate for projects that improve water quality including non-point source pollution controls, watershed protection and restoration, and estuary management projects. The revolving nature of these programmes provides on-going funding sources that will last into the future and is a valuable experience in terms of funding mechanism for the Dutch Delta Programme.

69. On the topic of stakeholder engagement, delegates highlighted the need to have deeper insights on environmental NGOs' perspective, as well as industrial and business water users. The **Butterfly Effect** advised to further emphasize the negative impact of the change in Dutch regional water authorities' election law on public participation as it gave a more prominent role to political parties, making more difficult for civil society to be involved. **Belgium** suggested presenting and discussing the report with experts from countries neighbouring the Netherlands to better align water policies. **Paris** advised not to focus only on economic and technical aspects but to look at the sustainability of water systems in a more holistic way, calling for a more consultative, democratic and localised approach. **WBCSD** drew attention on the limited representativeness of the industrial and business water uses, despite the energy sector taking 50% of the total water use and the general call from business to be part of the solution space related to water risk.

70. On the question of capacity building, **UNESCO IHE** advised the OECD Secretariat to look at how the Dutch supporting-knowledge infrastructure is organised, how it has been sustained over time and how it is likely to evolve in the future. For instance, the Netherlands Water Partnership has an important intermediary role in bringing the parties together and encouraging knowledge-sharing to keep building up knowledge base. More information would also be needed on the shortage of 20,000 water professionals identified in the report for the decade, with implications for the sustainability of the Dutch water governance system.

71. Regarding the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, **France** underlined the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem assessment to ensure the sustainability of water policies. Delegates commented on the adequacy of the Dutch water governance system and the application of the WFD in light of the various exceptions granted to the Netherlands. The OECD Secretariat was advised to consider both the positive evolution of Dutch water quality over time and the more recent evolution of the Dutch ecological status, pollution and hydro-morphological pressure when assessing the performance on the implementation of the Directive. It was also recommended to explore the possible need for an office on water ecosystem/biodiversity data in the Netherlands. The **Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse Water Agency** raised the question, in light of the EU exemptions granted to the Netherlands, whether the Dutch governance system would be fit to reach the WFD target in the future. The issue of **governance scale** for water management was mentioned and the relevance of hydrographical districts in the Netherlands was questioned. Delegates also reminded that Dutch water policy tends to have a low level of ambition vis-à-vis EU policy, because it is an antropocene environment, and other important principles of the WFD also deserve attention, such as the full cost recovery principle, economic balance across water users, and transparency.

72. Among financing mechanisms, the Dutch Water Bank should be pointed out as a model of dedicated financing institution for water which guarantees loans to public sector organisations. It was suggested to have a closer look at the Delta fund and the effectiveness of its application for financing to assess the validity of the Dutch model.

73. On the issue of policy coherence, **AIDA** stressed the importance of capturing the link between water and land use as essential not only to ensure safety from flood, but also to protect surface and groundwater resources from diffuse pollution, salt intrusion, untreated discharges, etc. The Dutch water policy, regulatory and administrative system was welcomed as exemplary for other countries dealing with such complex issues.

74. On the topic of regulation, the **UK Environmental Agency**, a peer-review institution for the Policy Dialogue, shared the experience of privatisation and regulation in the United Kingdom where 3 regulatory agencies oversee drinking water companies, water quality, and, in the case of OFWAT, pollution and water bills. The role of NGOs was mentioned as a valuable counter-power that helps the government avoid the “trap of excellence” and strike a balance between the different interests.

75. Delegates also shared experiences of relevance to the Netherlands. In **Spain**, the Segura River Basin and the Region of Murcia is the most water-stressed region in Europe. MoUs signed between the central administration and different autonomous regions contributed to involve stakeholders at various levels. The experience of the Spanish national hydrogeological plan also provides an example of coordination mechanism between different river basins characterised by public participation process for resource allocation. Licences and permits for water uses have also been used in River Basin Management Plans to help better allocate water in scarce regions.

76. **Korea** shared the experience of the Watershed Management Fund, created in 1999, which builds on the user-pay principle to apply charge on end users of raw or purified water derived from public waters and can provide an example of tool to ensure financial sustainability. It helped improve water quality and support communities’ projects. In **Seoul**, the city has designed long-term plans (up to 2050) fostering rain infiltration and rainwater reuse. The city uses infiltration and rainwater-reuse technologies and set up citizens committees to encourage participatory water management.

77. Dutch authorities welcomed comments from delegates, expressed their satisfaction on the overall policy dialogue, OECD assessment and peer-to-peer discussion. They will build on OECD recommendation to encourage the involvement of NGOs, and further discuss independent accountability mechanisms, taking into account the existing democratic oversight within regional water authorities. Drinking water companies are also committed to push forward the use of new and various technologies to enable the water reuse and pollution reduction. OECD recommendations from the policy dialogue will feed major decisions on water governance in the coming months, including on new water safety standards, freshwater strategy, stakeholder engagement, regional disparities and economic incentives, which will ensure impactful action.

78. The OECD Secretariat shared final words in light of the discussion regarding: i) checks and balances should be scaled-up in the Netherlands, building on more independent challenges and the stakeholder participation, which includes a broader range of options than national and independent oversight; ii) the privileged access to funds for water management should be further discussed to strike a balance between securing financial resources, maintaining transparent allocation of costs and creating incentives for cost efficiency; and iii) the specific environmental characteristics of the Netherlands should be better recognised while providing practical suggestions for improvement. The final report will be launched on 17 March 2014, in The Hague.

#### *A communication and dissemination strategy for the OECD Initiative on Water Governance*

79. Building on the discussion held at the kick-off meeting of the Initiative (27-28 March 2013), delegates discussed options for a crescendo approach to the communication strategy of the network. It was agreed that the development of a meta-observatory linking up all water governance related initiative in the

form of a one-stop-shop should be carefully thought of, in light of the value added that can be brought. The Initiative could explore, at a later stage, who can carry-out such an exercise and how to support (including by raising funds) the effort of stakeholders willing to do so.

80. The Secretariat prepared an **Inventory of existing tools, initiatives and guidelines on water governance** building on the 4 core thematic areas which now counts more than 100 websites and which will be submitted for comments to delegates before being widely disseminated in January 2014.

81. Delegates stressed that the Initiative is still at its early stage and the communication strategy will take form as the substantive work is developed, especially as part of the thematic working groups. The **process should be gradual** and **priority should be given to internal communication** while ensuring effective communication with the larger community on what the Initiative does. Advice was given to refrain from becoming a depository of all existing initiatives but rather focus on action and results. Communication through email is simple yet effective for internal communication. External communication will require, at a later stage, specific mechanisms and a **media strategy for specific targeted audiences**, building on the tools already at hand (e.g. OECD can link with national governments; INBO with river basin organisations, etc.).

82. Delegates raised the issue of non-OECD countries that could benefit from the messages and guidance to be developed by the Initiative. WaterAid suggested developing a **specific taskforce to tease-out targeted messages for emerging and developing countries** as a value added of the network. Delegates emphasised the crucial importance of developing targeted messages and disseminating them in all regions to involved stakeholders globally. **Regional partners** will have a key role to play to act as relay. It could also be valuable to link with the **communication taskforce of the WWF**. The wealth of networks of networks (including represented in the Initiative) should also be capitalised to widen the audience. Existing water information systems can also be useful to relay Initiative-related information and key messages (e.g. Eau France).

83. Coordinators of the working groups agreed that the Initiative should first focus on developing quality substantive outputs and formulate **straightforward messages** on the road to Principles on water governance. These would provide the Initiative with a **“single common voice”**, especially up to the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF and for the post-2015 development agenda. The contribution of the Initiative to the Budapest declaration was fruitful and should be replicated. Coordinators will add communication guidelines in the revised scoping notes of the working groups, and will resort to email distribution lists and online working spaces to easily exchange information. Further effort should also put in defining the audience targeted by the Initiative, and how they can be reached. Members willing to contribute to the specific taskforce on outreach to non-OECD/BRICS countries are invited to contact the Secretariat.

#### ***Recent water governance reforms, programmes & initiatives***

84. Delegates shared progress and key messages from recent water reforms:

- **Mexico** considered the 2013 OECD report ["Making Water Reform Happen in Mexico"](#) as a strategic instrument to design the (2013-2018) National Water Plan, and some indicators of the report are being used by Donors to develop their technical assistance programme with CONAGUA. Delegates were invited to the [Closing Ceremony](#) of the 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, to be held in Mexico City, on 5 - 6 December 2013, and organized by UNESCO in collaboration CONAGUA.
- **Chile** used the OECD Multi-level Governance Framework to diagnose major bottlenecks to reforming Chilean water institutions in a recent study carried out by the World Bank to which the

OECD contributed as a peer-reviewer. Emphasis is now put on the implementation of these recommendations, and ways forward to consider.

- **Brazil** has recently signed a National Water Pact with incentives to improve states' water resources management. The forthcoming OECD/Brazil Policy dialogue on water governance will provide policy guidance on multi-level governance and water allocation regimes in Brazil. The draft report will be discussed at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative in December 2014, and launched in April 2015.
- **South Africa** is looking for best practices and guidance to improve the performance of water governance. A book project on water governance is underway and will be launched in November 2014 in Adelaide, Australia, in the framework of the [2nd Freshwater Governance Conference](#). The book will offer analytical literature and academic contributions examining water governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Several members of the Initiative are contributing to it.
- **France** completed an evaluation of water policy and defined a roadmap to address fragmentation of water policy, water quality, and infrastructure financing challenges, which was endorsed at the [General Conference on Environment](#) of 20-21 September 2013. Two reports on French water policy have been released by the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (click [here](#) to access the report), and by the Parliamentarian Michel Lesage (click [here](#) to access the report), underlined the regional and municipal levels as the relevant scales to structure the new French water governance system, and called for a consolidated approach to address the highly fragmented water and sanitation service sector in France. Follow-up options are now explored, possibly in the form of an OECD policy dialogue on French Water Reform.

85. Delegates shared information about latest publications on water governance:

- The [“User’s Guide on Water Governance Assessment”](#) prepared by SIWI, the Water Integrity Network, and UNDP provides instruments and methodologies for water governance assessments which are useful to shape policies and re-calibrate water related reforms. The guide relies on a comprehensive approach to promote outside-the-water-box thinking taking into account local context, formal and informal institutions, and the role of policy and power relations.
- The publication [“Building blocks for good water governance in the Netherlands”](#), produced by the Netherlands Water Governance Centre, outlines five building blocks to help assessing the strengths and weaknesses of water governance systems around the world: i) powerful administrative organisation of water management; ii) legally embedded system of water law; iii) adequate financing system and economic analyses of water measures; iv) a systematic approach; and v) the participation of stakeholders.
- Two (forthcoming) publications from the Botin Foundation Water Observatory: “Water for Food and Human Well-being in Latin America: Status and Challenges in a Globalized World” comprises 15 essays providing analytical and fact-based views of the progress achieved in Latin America on water and food security issues and challenges ahead; and “Integrated water resources management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Revisiting the paradigm”, which analyses tools for a more effective IWRM focusing on the links between water economy and environmental aspects, to help revisit the current paradigm of water and food security.

86. Delegates shared on-going projects and initiatives on water governance:

- **Scotland** presented the [Hydro-Nation Initiative](#) which aims to maximise the benefits to the Scottish economy through the economic development and good stewardship of Scotland’s water



resources. The Scottish Government will support the development of Scotland's "hydro economy" through three main actions: i) utilising Scottish expertise to improve water resources efficiency and create a low carbon water nation; ii) raising Scotland's international profile as an international leader on water management and governance; and iii) developing a water centre of expertise and research with international reach.

- **Canada** shared with the delegates the on-going work of the Water Governance Centre and the University of British Columbia on a Water Innovation Lab, to be launched during a workshop on "[Water and Innovation: An Interdisciplinary Exploration](#)" on 29-30 January 2014 in Vancouver, Canada, to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and cutting-edge research on innovative solutions to pressing water problems.
- **Australia** shared the challenges faced while developing the Murray Darling Basin Plan, in particular the issue of scale and the difficulty to separate the outcomes delivered by the basin plan and those stemming from other drivers. The [International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management](#) provides training and research expertise in water of interest to the OECD Initiative on Water Governance. The [2nd Freshwater Governance Conference](#) will be held in Adelaide, Australia, in 5-7 November 2014.
- **INBO's** [pact for better basin management](#) signed at the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF provides governance principles and practical experiences on IWRM. Together with GWP, UNECE and UNESCO, INBO is now preparing 2 new manuals to be launched at the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF in Korea on adaptation of basins to climate change; and the restoration and preservation of the aquatic systems.
- **UNECE** mentioned the [Protocol on Water and Health](#), the [Equitable Access Score-card](#), the thematic assessment on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus and on-going activities to collect good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins as relevant mechanisms to foster coherence between water and other policy fields. UNECE also suggested to and better link the work of the Initiative with the post-2015 discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **USAID** is currently working in cooperation with the IDB on two tools of interest to the OECD Initiative on water Governance: a guide on gender and water management on countries partners in Latin America and a tool on sustainability for water services with a focus on sustainability in rural areas, which first draft will be discussed in Bolivia.
- **IRSTEA** mentioned on-going work on social justice assessment, multi-level plan and processes, and the interaction with stakeholders. The complementarities of scientific research and policy should be fostered to provide for new governance approaches.
- The **OECD** and **GWP-Med** are collaborating on a [project](#) looking at governance and regulatory bottlenecks to mobilising financing through public-private partnerships in the Mediterranean water sector and supporting the development of international action plans. The two first countries reviewed are Jordan and Tunisia, and final reports will be launched in May 2014.
- **UNESCO-IHP** shared the next steps of the [Groundwater governance project](#) toward a global framework for action. A world-wide Inventory of transboundary aquifers is also underway, building on the UNESCO [atlas of transboundary aquifers](#). Two UNESCO centres will soon open in Stockholm, in collaboration with SIWI, related to water governance issues, and in Montevideo, with the support of the Uruguayan government, on transboundary governance.



## *Conclusion*

87. The OECD Initiative on Water Governance is now on a structured path toward the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF in Korea, building on experiences and mobilisation at all levels, which is the unique value added of the network. Good governance is a framework condition for improved policy outcomes, more satisfied citizens and users, and protected ecosystems. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting provided a glimpse of the wealth of case studies and good practices that can be shared and that can feed the activities of the working groups. The objectives and key messages of the network must build on consensus and lead to concrete actions. The collective contribution to the preparation of water governance principles and indicators is a result-oriented approach that can bring much value to the Water Community. The working groups will be active between plenary meetings to move forward the objectives. The modalities and programme of work for each working group will be communicated to the contributors in the revised scoping notes, to be sent by coordinators in the coming weeks. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance will take place on **28-29 April 2014, in Madrid, Spain.**

## ACRONYMS

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AECID</b>	Spanish agency for International Cooperation for Development
<b>AIDA</b>	International Association for Water Laws
<b>ASTEE</b>	Association Scientifique et Technique pour l'eau et l'environnement
<b>BRICS</b>	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
<b>CONAGUA</b>	National Water Commission( Mexico)
<b>DFID</b>	UK Department for International Development
<b>EDF</b>	Électricité de France
<b>EECCA</b>	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FANCA</b>	Freshwater Action Network – Central America
<b>FAN-Mex</b>	Freshwater Action Network – Mexico
<b>GIWEH</b>	Global Institute for Water Environment and Health
<b>GIZ</b>	German Development Cooperation agency
<b>GWP</b>	Global Water Partnership
<b>GWP-Med</b>	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IME</b>	Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau
<b>IMTA</b>	Mexico Institute of Water Technologies
<b>INBO</b>	International Network of Basin Organisations
<b>IWA</b>	International Water Association
<b>IWRA</b>	International Water Resources Association
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resource Management
<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>NARBO</b>	Networks of Asian River Basin Organisations
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SIC-ICWC</b>	Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination
<b>SIWI</b>	Stockholm International Water Institute
<b>SUEN</b>	Turkish Water Institute
<b>UfM</b>	Union for the Mediterranean
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nation Development Programme
<b>UNECE</b>	United National Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNESCO-IHE</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – Institute for Water Education
<b>UNESCO-IHP</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – International Hydrological Programme
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WBCSD</b>	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
<b>WfWP</b>	Women for Water Partnership
<b>WRC</b>	Water Research Commission (South Africa)
<b>WWF</b>	World Water Forum

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## CALENDAR OF 2014-2015 WATER-RELATED EVENTS

<b>Date &amp; Location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Conveyor(s)</b>
27-29 January 2014 Duncan, Canada	Watershed 2014 Conference <a href="#">“Toward watershed governance in British Columbia and beyond”</a>	University of Victoria
29-30 January 2014 Vancouver, Canada	<a href="#">Water and Innovation: An Interdisciplinary Exploration</a>	University of British Columbia
19-21 February 2014 East London, South Africa	<a href="#">“Global Water and Gender Conference”</a>	WRC – South Africa; DWA; SADC; AMCOW; WfWP
27-28 February 2014 Daegu, Korea	<a href="#">7<sup>th</sup> WWF Stakeholder Consultation Meeting</a>	World Water Council
3-7 March 2014 Chapel Hill, United States	<a href="#">Nexus 2014: Water, Food, Climate and Energy</a>	University of North Carolina
11-13 March 2014 Colombo, Sri Lanka	<a href="#">International Conference on Water Resources and Hydropower Development in Asia</a>	International Journal on Hydropower & Dams
20-21 March 2014 Tokyo, Japan	<a href="#">World Water Day main celebrations</a>	UN Water
9-10 April 2014 (tbc) Geneva, Switzerland	<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop UNECE joint Bodies</a>	UNECE
13-15 May 2014 Antalya, Turkey	<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water Resources and Environmental Management</a>	GIWEH
26-30 May 2014 Dakar, Senegal	<a href="#">Africa Water Week</a>	AMCOW
27-29 May 2014 Istanbul, Turkey	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> International Water Forum</a>	SUEN
May 2014 Beijing, China	International Conference on Water, Energy and Food	IUCN, IWA
1-5 June 2014 Singapore	<a href="#">Singapore International Water Week</a>	
3-6 June 2014 Orléans, France	<a href="#">93rd ASTEE Conference “Innovating in local environmental public services”</a>	ASTEE
12-14 June 2014 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	<a href="#">Africa Water 2014 – Prelude to the 7th WWF</a>	WWC
31 Aug – 5 Sept 2014 Stockholm, Sweden	<a href="#">Stockholm World Water Week</a>	SIWI
9-12 September 2014 San Francisco, United States	<a href="#">13th IWA International Specialised Conference on watershed and river basin management</a>	IWA
21-26 September 2014 Lisbon, Portugal	<a href="#">IWA World Water Congress</a>	IWA
5-7 November 2014 Adelaide, Australia	<a href="#">Freshwater Governance Conference 2014</a>	Australian Water Association
12-17 April 2015 Daegu, Korea	<a href="#">7th World Water Forum</a>	World Water Council
25-29 May 2015 Edinburgh, Scotland	<a href="#">IWRA World Water Congress</a>	IWRA