



# OECD PRINCIPLES ON WATER GOVERNANCE

Antonio Canamas Catala  
OECD Water Governance Programme  
EUROPE-INBO, 23 October 2015



# Water crises are often *governance* crises

---

## Water, a fragmented sector that is sensitive to multilevel governance

- ✓ Local and global issue, with **multiple actors** at different levels
- ✓ Capital –intensive, monopolistic intensity, **market failures**
- ✓ **Interdependencies** across multiple stakeholders are poorly managed
- ✓ Many countries struggle to understand/clarify (and map) **who does what**

## No one-size-fits-all but a need to “mind” and “bridge” the gaps

- ✓ Need for **place-based** policies & **overarching** frameworks, strategy and rules
- ✓ **Taking stock** of what works well and what does *not* work is crucial
- ✓ **Stakeholders** have a role alongside policymakers at different levels
- ✓ Governance : **a means to an end** : manage too much, too little and too polluted water

- Beyond the question of **WHAT** to do to meet the water challenge, there is a need to think about **WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, AT WHICH LEVEL** and **HOW**



## An OECD definition of Water Governance

---

Water Governance refers to :

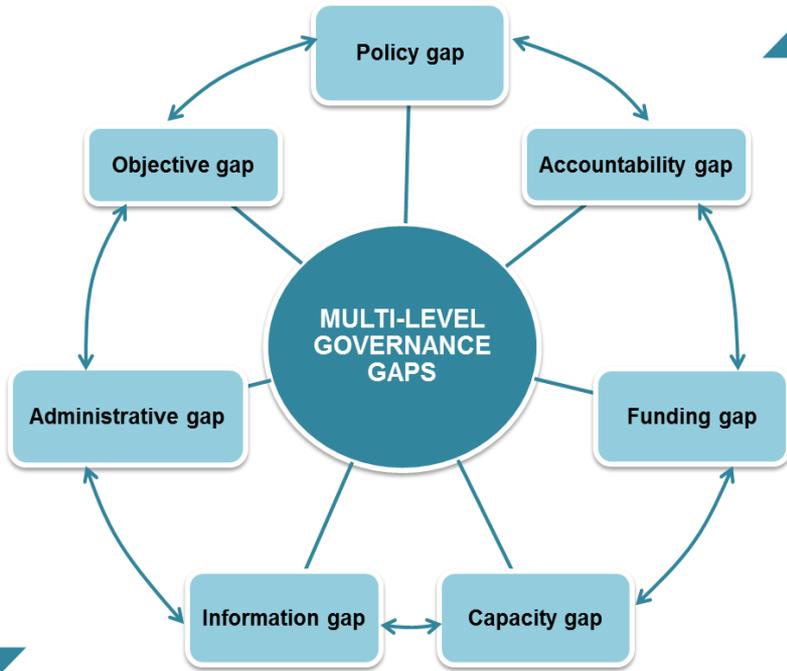
- The range of political, institutional and administrative rules, practices and processes (formal and informal) through which decisions are taken and implemented, **stakeholders** can articulate their interests and have their concerns considered, and decision-makers are held accountable for water management (OECD, 2015)



# Evidence Base

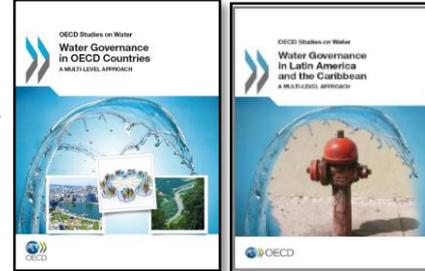
## OECD Multi-level Governance Framework : “Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps”

DIAGNOSE THE GAPS

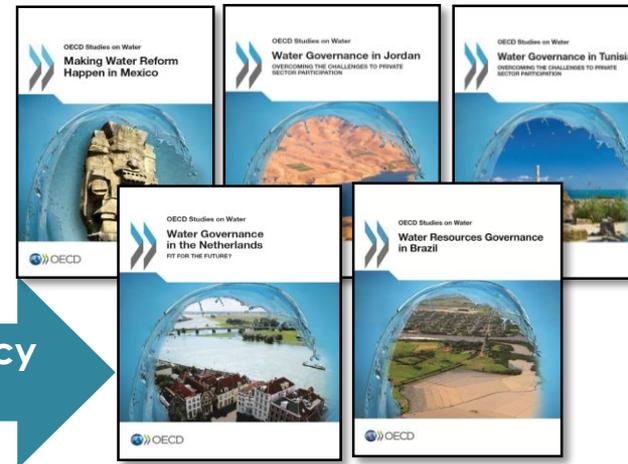


BRIDGE THE GAPS

Benchmarks



National Policy dialogues



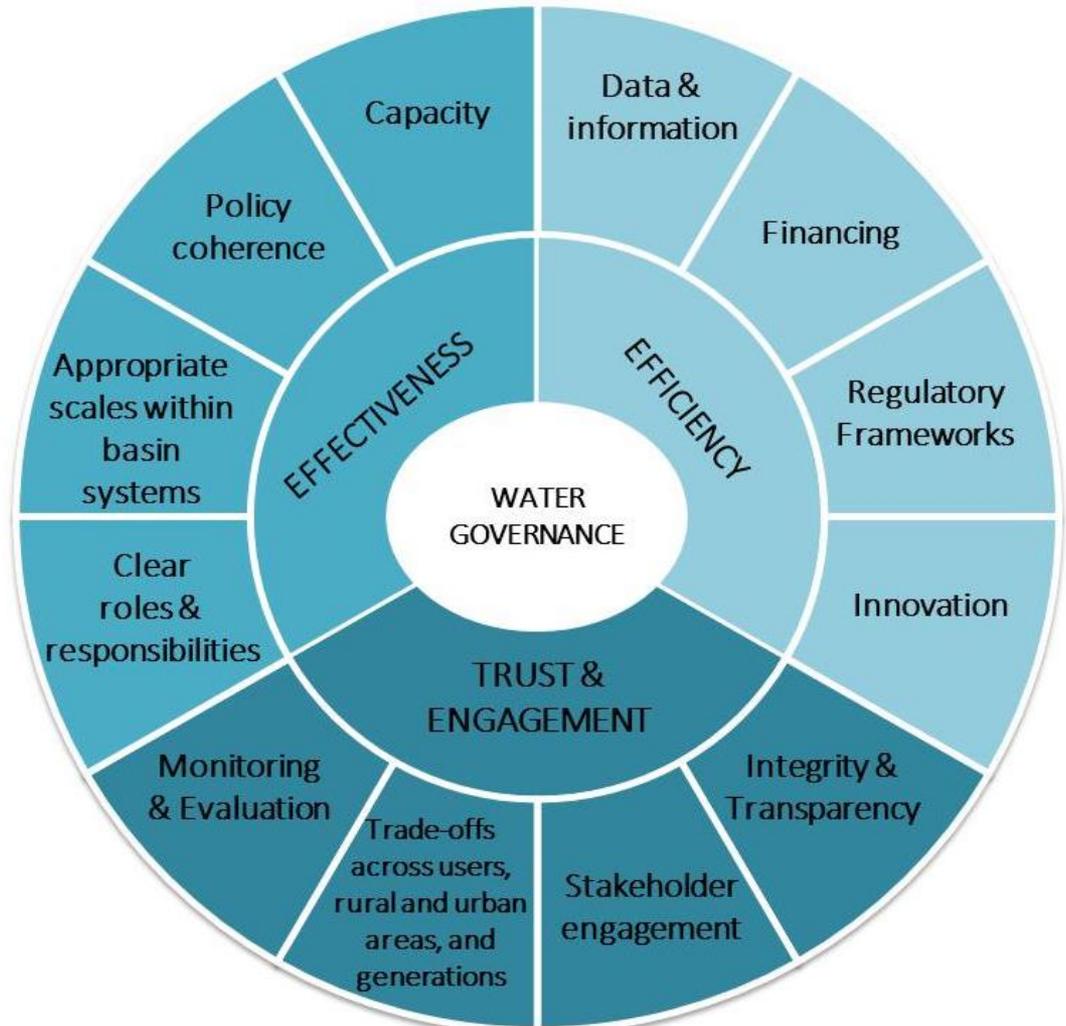
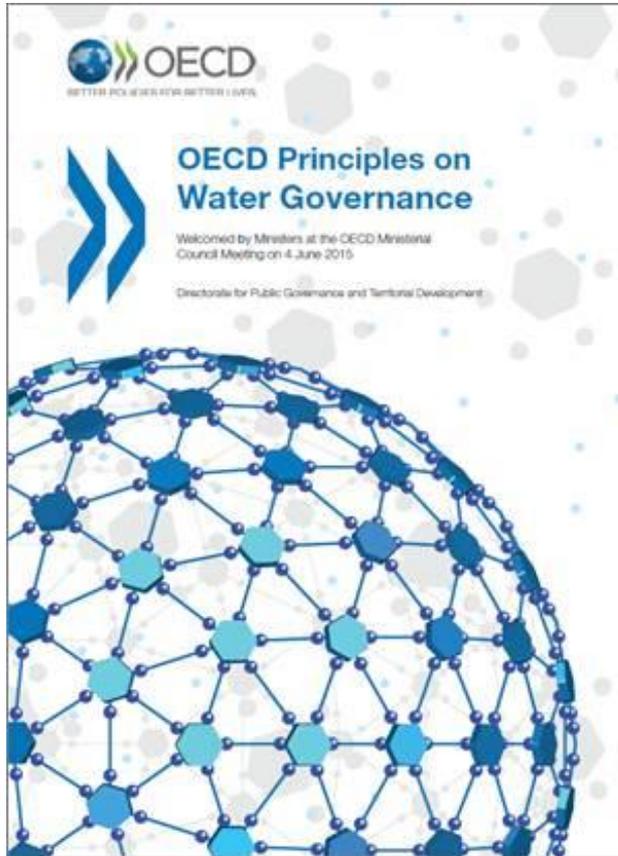
Thematic work



OECD 2011 : Water Governance in OECD Countries : a Multi-Level Approach



# OECD Principles on Water Governance



**Endorsed by OECD's 34 Member States at the Ministerial Council Meeting on 4 June 2015**

# Enhancing the *effectiveness* of water governance

- 1** Clearly allocate and distinguish roles and responsibilities for water policymaking, policy implementation, operational management and regulation, and foster co-ordination across these responsible authorities
- 2** Manage water at the appropriate scale(s) within integrated basin governance systems to reflect local conditions, and foster co-ordination between the different scales
- 3** Encourage policy coherence through effective cross-sectoral co-ordination, especially between policies for water and the environment, health, energy, agriculture, industry, spatial planning and land use
- 4** Adapt the level of capacity of responsible authorities to the complexity of water challenges to be met, and to the set of competencies required to carry out their duties

# Enhancing the *efficiency* of water governance

**5** Produce, update, and share timely, consistent, comparable and policy-relevant water and water-related data and information, and use it to guide, assess and improve water policy

**6** Ensure that governance arrangements help mobilise water finance and allocate financial resources in an efficient, transparent and timely manner

**7** Ensure that sound water management regulatory frameworks are effectively implemented and enforced in pursuit of the public interest

**8** Promote the adoption and implementation of innovative water governance practices across responsible authorities, levels of government and relevant stakeholders

# Enhancing the *trust* and *engagement* of water governance

**9** Mainstream integrity and transparency practices across water policies, water institutions and water governance frameworks for greater accountability and trust in decision-making

**10** Promote stakeholder engagement for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy design and implementation

**11** Encourage water governance frameworks that help manage trade-offs across water users, rural and urban areas, and generations

**12** Promote regular monitoring and evaluation of water policy and governance where appropriate, share the results with the public and make adjustments when needed



# Multi-stakeholder and bottom-up at the OECD

## OECD Water Governance Initiative





# A Multi-stakeholder Declaration on the Principles (7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Daegu-Korea, 13 April 2015)



**Daegu's Multi-stakeholder Declaration on the OECD Principles on Water Governance**  
 Headed to the OECD's Secretary-General Angel Gurría at the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF on 13 April 2015

..

We, organisations from the public, private and non-profit sectors, major groups and individuals, actively engaged in the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), an innovative multi-stakeholder network of 120+ delegates gathering twice a year in a Policy Forum, strongly believe that water crises are often governance crises and:

1. Fully support the upcoming OECD Principles on Water Governance as a solid framework to help national and subnational governments design and implement better water policies for better lives, in cooperation with the broad range of stakeholders within and outside the water sector;
2. Applaud the bottom-up, multi-stakeholder and inclusive process behind the preparation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance since the creation of the Water Governance Initiative on 27 March 2013, as a follow-up to the OECD commitment made at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Marseille, 2012);
3. Call upon local and governments from OECD countries to approve the Principles at the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Regional Development Policy Committee, 29 April 2015 and to give them a strong and high-level political impetus at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, 3-4 June 2015;
4. Look forward to the integration of the Principles into an OECD Recommendation to give them a legal nature and strong moral force, and to provide a consensual baseline to identify and scale up best practices and trigger changes in governance and policy;
5. Invite developing and emerging countries to endorse the OECD Principles on Water Governance and to adhere to the subsequent Recommendation;
6. Pledge that all stakeholders use the Principles to guide their activities and practices in order to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, trust and engagement in water governance;
7. Commit to disseminate the Principles widely within our organisations, to our members, networks, partners and the public at large;
8. Invite the OECD to develop water governance indicators, with the same bottom-up and inclusive process, to monitor progress in the implementation of the Principles, especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;
9. Expect the Water Governance Initiative to continue playing an important role in gathering international expertise to facilitate benchmarking and peer-learning on each of the Principles;
10. Thank the OECD for its commitment and leadership and stand ready to contribute to future collective efforts in support of good governance in the water sector.

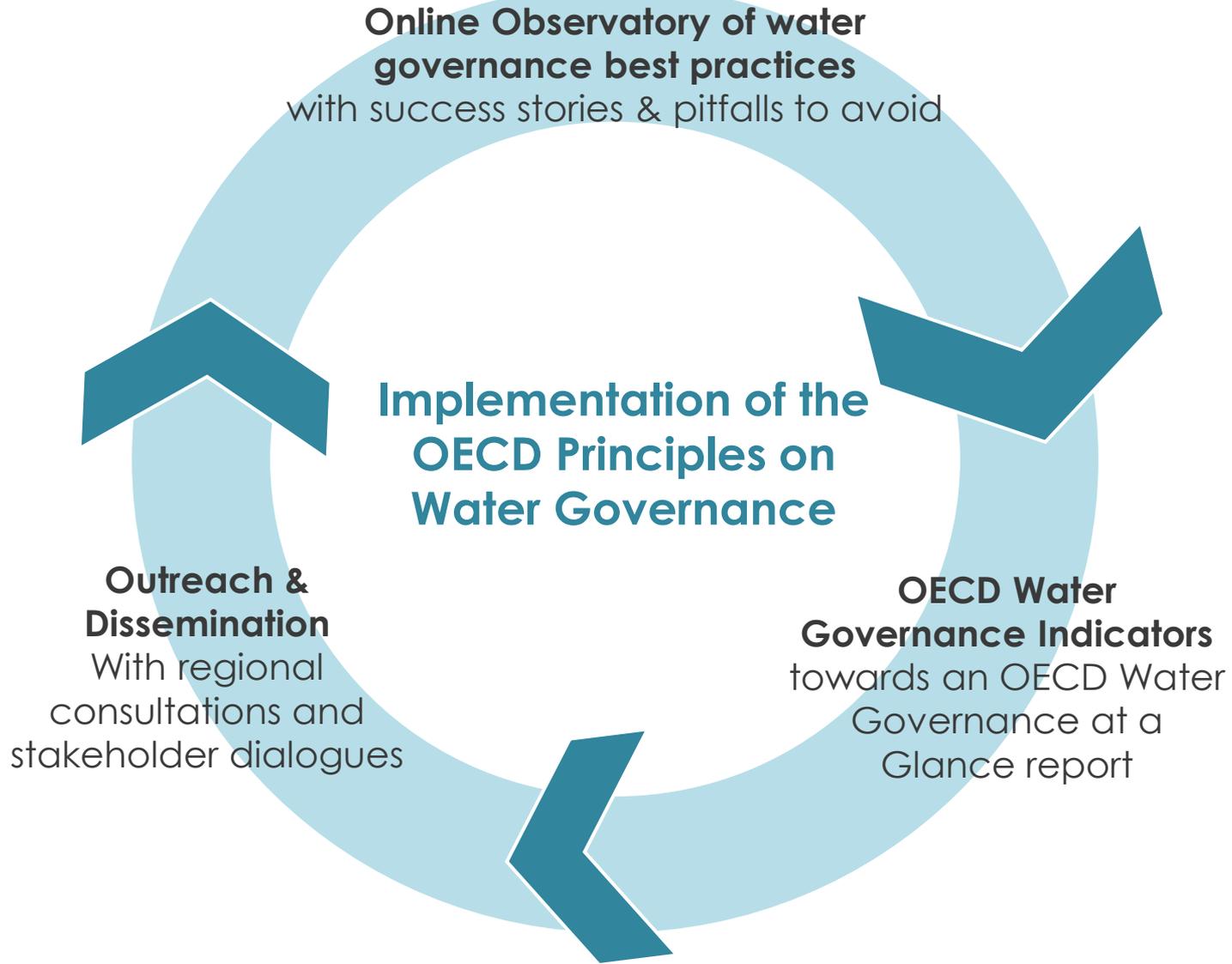
Endorsement of the Principles by 65 Major Groups, which also committed to put them in practice





# Next steps (2016-2018)

---





# Download the Principles!



## OECD Principles on Water Governance

Welcomed by Ministers at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on 4 June 2015

Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development

Translation in 15 languages



*English*



*French*



*German*



*Spanish*



*Portuguese*



*Italian*



*Dutch*



*Greek*



*Korean*



*Turkish*



*Hebrew*



*Japan*



*Chinese  
(Mandarin)*



*Russian*



*Hindi*

+ **Arabic**



**THANK YOU**

**[www.oecd.org/gov/water](http://www.oecd.org/gov/water)  
[antonio.canamascatala@oecd.org](mailto:antonio.canamascatala@oecd.org)**