OECD PRINCIPLES ON WATER GOVERNANCE
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**
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

Objective gap
Accountability gap
Policy gap
Funding gap
Information gap
Capacity gap
Administrative gap

BRIDGE THE GAPS

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

Benchmarks

National Policy dialogues

Thematic work
OECD Principles on Water Governance

Endorsed by OECD’s 34 Member States at the Ministerial Council Meeting on 4 June 2015
Clearly allocate and distinguish roles and responsibilities for water policymaking, policy implementation, operational management and regulation, and foster co-ordination across these responsible authorities

Manage water at the appropriate scale(s) within integrated basin governance systems to reflect local conditions, and foster co-ordination between the different scales

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

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

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

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

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

Steering Committee

110+ Delegates gathering every 6 months in a Policy Forum

Regional partners [Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa]

WG n°1 Governance & performance of water services

WG n°2 Stakeholder engagement

WG n°3 Basin governance

WG n°4 Integrity & Transparency

OECD Principles on water governance

OECD Indicators on water governance

Global Water Agenda
A Multi-stakeholder Declaration on the Principles
(7th World Water Forum, Daegu-Korea, 13 April 2015)

Endorsement of the Principles by 65 Major Groups, which also committed to put them in practice
Next steps (2016-2018)

- Implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance
- Online Observatory of water governance best practices with success stories & pitfalls to avoid
- Outreach & Dissemination: With regional consultations and stakeholder dialogues
- OECD Water Governance Indicators towards an OECD Water Governance at a Glance report
THANK YOU

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