

First Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative

27-28 March 2013,
OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris
Room CC 1 (Conference Center)

The OECD Water Governance Initiative provides for a **multi-stakeholder network** and **policy forum** to share ongoing reforms, projects lessons and good practices in support of better governance in the water sector.

The initiative builds on the OECD-led Good Governance Core Group of the 6th World Water Forum (Marseille, 12-17 March 2012) and seeks to bridge the gap between two World Water Fora with a community of practice aiming to:

- contributing to the **OECD water governance programme** through peer-reviewing, policy dialogue across decision-makers, exchange of experiences, and design of OECD Principles on Water Governance;
- supporting the **implementation of the governance targets** designed in Marseille up to the 7th WWF in Korea;
- setting an **International Observatory** on water governance to collect innovative tools and success stories
- setting up a **Web Portal on Water Governance** to link existing water governance platforms, tools, methodologies and programmes worldwide
- Providing **policy guidance** in support of the global water governance agenda such as the International Year on Water Cooperation and the development of sustainable development goals

The Initiative is composed of **85 delegates** from different geographic and institutional background in OECD and non OECD countries: senior representatives from national governments, local and regional authorities, service providers and their networks, economic and environmental regulators, non-for-profit organisations, river basin organisations and their networks, donors and international financial institutions, international organisations, think tanks and independent experts. Delegates **will meet twice a year** at OECD Headquarters, Paris to implement the Initiative's programme of work, and several thematic and regional working groups (to be defined during the launch meeting) will contribute to the Initiative's objectives throughout the year. The Initiative is hosted by the OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate. Its strategic orientation relies on a steering committee of 15 members (tic) including the thematic and regional working groups' coordinators, a representative from the World Water Council, a representative from the Korea Forum organisation, and sponsors.

This first meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative has the following **objectives**:

1. Agree on the **scope, mandate and activities of the Initiative**;
2. Take stock of the **progress since the 6th World Water Forum** in particular for targets related to stakeholder engagement, performance of water services, river basin management, (ground)water security, integrity and transparency in the water sector;
3. Exchange views on “ **The Governance Challenges for Water Policies in Future Cities**”, which will frame OECD water governance programme of work over 2013-2014;
4. Discuss **strategic and operational organisation of the Network**: value added of the Observatory, support to Principles on Water Governance, leadership of regional/thematic working groups, inputs to the global water governance agenda, synergies with forthcoming events etc.

Wednesday 27 March 2013 OECD Conference Center, Room CC1 (Table U seating)	
9h30 – 10h30	Registration of Participants and Coffee Networking
10h30	Video message from Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General
10h35 – 11h	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rolf Alter, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD ▪ Dogan Altinbilek, Vice-President of the World Water Council
11h – 13h	An OECD Water Governance Initiative: Why, to do What and How? Chair : Rolf Alter, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate Presentation of the rationale, scope and proposed activities of the Network Group discussion <u>Questions for delegates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Where are the current gaps to advance on the water governance agenda and how can the OECD Water Governance Initiative help bridge them? – How can we maximize the value added of the Initiative, building on what already exists? – What could be your own contribution to this multi-stakeholder platform? – Should other critical stakeholders be involved in this Initiative beyond present delegates?
13h – 14h	Lunch Buffet, Room George Marshall, OECD
14h – 16h	One Year after Marseille : Where do we Stand? Chair : Aziza Akhmouch, Water Governance Programme, OECD Progress in implementing the 6th WWF Good Governance Targets (30') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basin management plans as instruments for water governance, Daniel Valensuela, INBO ▪ Integrated water resources management through the lens of water security, Alice Aureli, UNESCO ▪ Stakeholder engagement for effective water management, Alexandre Brailowsky, SUEZ ▪ Performance of water services : enhancing regulation and capacity, Pierre-Alain Roche, ASTEE ▪ Integrity and anti-corruption policies in the water sector, Teun Bastemeijer, WIN ▪ Information, transparency and accountability in the water sector, Hakan Tropp, SIWI A regional perspective (30') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tour de table of water governance targets progress in the different continents Group discussion (1h) <u>Questions for delegates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Are there critical dimensions overlooked the governance targets and how to address them? – How can you contribute to the implementation of these targets in your respective fields?
16h – 16h30	Coffee Break
16h30–18h	Roundtable discussion on recent water governance reforms at national level Chair : Mario Marcel, Deputy Director, OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate Group Discussion

	<p><u>Questions for delegates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are recent and ongoing water governance reforms in your respective countries? – Which obstacles to effective water management do they help address? – What is still needed to improve water governance in your respective countries?
18h	Cocktail, Room George Okrent, OECD
<p>Thursday 28 March 2013 OECD Conference Center, Room CC1 (Table U seating)</p>	
8h45 – 9h15	<u>Coffee networking</u>
9h15 – 9h45	<p><u>Welcoming remarks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yves Leterme, Deputy-Secretary General, OECD ▪ Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO
9h45 – 11h	<p><u>Meeting the Water Governance Challenge in Cities and their Hinterland</u></p> <p>Chair : Anthony Cox, Coordinator of the Horizontal Water Programme, OECD</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p><u>Questions for delegates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the critical urban water management challenges in developed and emerging countries? – What can help address the policy challenge? How can we fill in the knowledge gap to make urban water reforms happen? – What is the level of stakeholder engagement in OECD cities and their hinterland? Where is public participation lagging, why and how to make it effective? – What are the good practices to address rural-urban linkages in water management? – What are the conditions for quality and consistent urban water regulations? – How does groundwater governance contribute to sustainable urban management? – What is the role of eco-innovations in supporting better governance?
11h – 11h30	Coffee Break
11h30 – 13h	<p><u>Roundtable discussion on water governance reforms in rural and urban areas</u></p> <p>Chair : Joaquim Oliveiras-Martins, Head, Regional Development Policy Division, OECD</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p><u>Questions for delegates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Which countries or cities have taken the lead in addressing rural/urban water challenges in the context of broader water resources management? – How to address competing demands across users? How to manage related trade-offs? – How can NGOs help improve urban water management in developed and emerging countries?
13h – 14h	Lunch Buffet, Room George Marshall, OECD
14h – 16h	<p><u>Strategic Orientations of the OECD Water Governance Initiative</u></p> <p>Chair: Aziza Akhmouch, Water Governance Programme, OECD</p> <p>Group discussion on the organisation, management and financing of Initiative</p> <p><u>Questions for delegates</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do delegates have advice and suggestions on the governance of the network? - Who is willing to lead a thematic or regional working group? Are there in-kind contributions? - What are suitable funding options for the OECD Water Governance Initiative? - How to link the Initiative with forthcoming major events and activities? <p>Group discussion on setting an Observatory and Web Portal on water governance</p> <p><u>Questions for delegates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the good practices in terms of Observatory and Web Portal? Which lessons can we take from them? - How can an OECD Observatory federate existing thematic and regional initiatives on water governance? - Do you have comments on the draft inventory of water governance tools, initiatives and platforms prepared by the OECD ? - What should the Observatory cover or not cover?
16h – 16h30	Coffee Break
16h30 – 18h	<p><u>On the road to OECD Principles on Water Governance : Taking stock of what already exists</u></p> <p>Chair: Claire Charbit, Deputy Head, Regional Development Policy Division, OECD</p> <p>Group discussion</p> <p><u>Questions for delegates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the recent and ongoing efforts and projects to design water governance instruments and policy guidance? - What would be the value added of an OECD Water Governance Instrument to help guide decision-making? How is it complementary to other initiatives ? - Where are the remaining gaps and how can OECD principles help link better governance with better water policy outcomes? - Can the Good Governance Group key messages for the 6th WWF serve as a basis for discussion?
17h45 – 18h	<u>Conclusion and next steps</u>