

Annex .

The OECD Principles on Water Governance and their implementation strategy

The OECD Principles on Water Governance

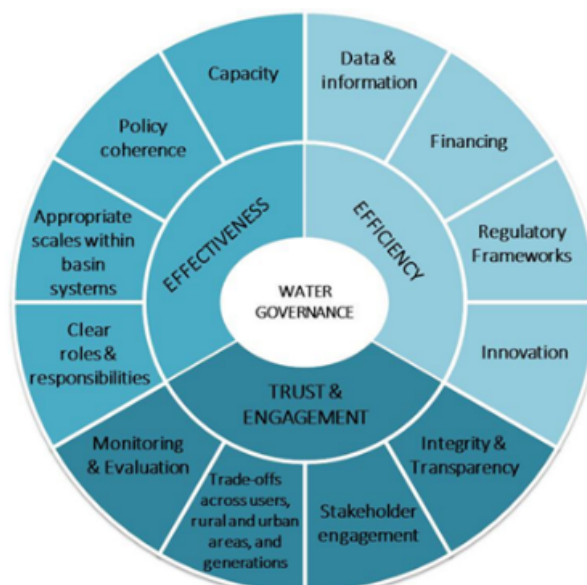
The OECD Principles on Water Governance intend to contribute to tangible and outcome-oriented public policies, based on three mutually reinforcing and complementary dimensions of water governance (Figure 1):

- *Effectiveness* relates to the contribution of governance to define clear sustainable water policy goals and targets at all levels of government, to implement those policy goals, and to meet expected targets.
- *Efficiency* relates to the contribution of governance to maximise the benefits of sustainable water management and welfare at the least cost to society.
- *Trust and Engagement* relate to the contribution of governance to building public confidence and ensuring inclusiveness of stakeholders through democratic legitimacy and fairness for society at large.

The Principles recognise that governance is contextual. They acknowledge that water policies need to be adapted to different water resources situations and places, and that responses should adapt to changing circumstances. The Principles establish that coping with current and future challenges requires robust public policies, targeting measurable objectives according to predetermined time schedules at the appropriate scale, relying on a clear assignment of duties across the responsible authorities, and performing regular monitoring and evaluation. They assert that governance can contribute to the design and implementation of such policies, with the responsibility shared by different levels of government and by civil society, business and a broad range of stakeholders, as well as policy makers.

The OECD Principles on Water Governance provide a framework for understanding water governance systems, determining whether they are performing optimally, and helping to adjust them where necessary. They can catalyse efforts for making good practices more visible, learning from international experience, and putting reform processes in motion at all levels of government, to facilitate change when and where needed. They can also help avoid traps and pitfalls, learning from international experience.

Figure 1. Overview of OECD Principles on Water Governance



Source: OECD Principles on Water Governance, OECD, 2015. <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/OECD-Principles-on-Water-Governance.pdf>

The twelve Principles are the following:

- **Principle 1.** Clearly allocate and distinguish roles and responsibilities for water policy making, policy implementation, operational management and regulation, and foster co-ordination across these responsible authorities.
- **Principle 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.
- **Principle 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.
- **Principle 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.
- **Principle 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.
- **Principle 6.** Ensure that governance arrangements help mobilise water finance and allocate financial resources in an efficient, transparent and timely manner.
- **Principle 7.** Ensure that sound water management regulatory frameworks are effectively implemented and enforced in pursuit of the public interest.
- **Principle 8.** Promote the adoption and implementation of innovative water governance practices across responsible authorities, levels of government and relevant stakeholders.
- **Principle 9.** Mainstream integrity and transparency practices across water policies, water institutions and water governance frameworks for greater accountability and trust in decision making.
- **Principle 10.** Promote stakeholder engagement for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy design and implementation.
- **Principle 11.** Encourage water governance frameworks that help manage trade-offs across water users, rural and urban areas, and generations.
- **Principle 12.** Promote regular monitoring and evaluation of water policy and governance where appropriate, share the results with the public and make adjustments when needed.