



7th World Water Forum 2015

April 12-17, 2015, Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Rep. of Korea

Implementation Roadmap

- Synthesis -

Effective Governance

This document synthesises the rationale and core sections of the **Implementation Roadmap on Effective Governance** prepared for the 7th World Water Forum (Korea, 12-17 April 2015). A detailed version of the Implementation Roadmap is available online at:

http://ams.worldwaterforum7.org/progress.asp?s_theme_cd=010130.

This document will be presented and discussed at the 5th meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (Edinburgh, 26 May 2015). It will be revised in an iterative way to include written comments and suggestions to be received from the members of the OECD Water Governance Initiative by **15 June 2015**.

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What is the Implementation Roadmap?

While the 6th World Water Forum focused on identifying *solutions* to meet current and future challenges, the 7th World Water Forum centred on advancing their effective **implementation**.

The Thematic Process of the 7th World Water Forum was structured around 16 priority topics, including “Effective Governance” (theme 4.2). As co-ordinators of this theme, the OECD Water Governance Initiative, the FAO, the Water Youth Network, K-water and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies were tasked to develop an **Implementation Roadmap**. This roadmap is intended as a tool to raise the profile of water governance but also as a proposal to guide the water community’s efforts in achieving effective implementation of governance solutions.

The Implementation Roadmap presents an **action-oriented agenda for change** that can be used by all stakeholders, within and outside the water sector, to align their actions. It sets out a strategic plan for implementing prioritised actions towards effective governance.

What does the Implementation Roadmap aim to achieve?

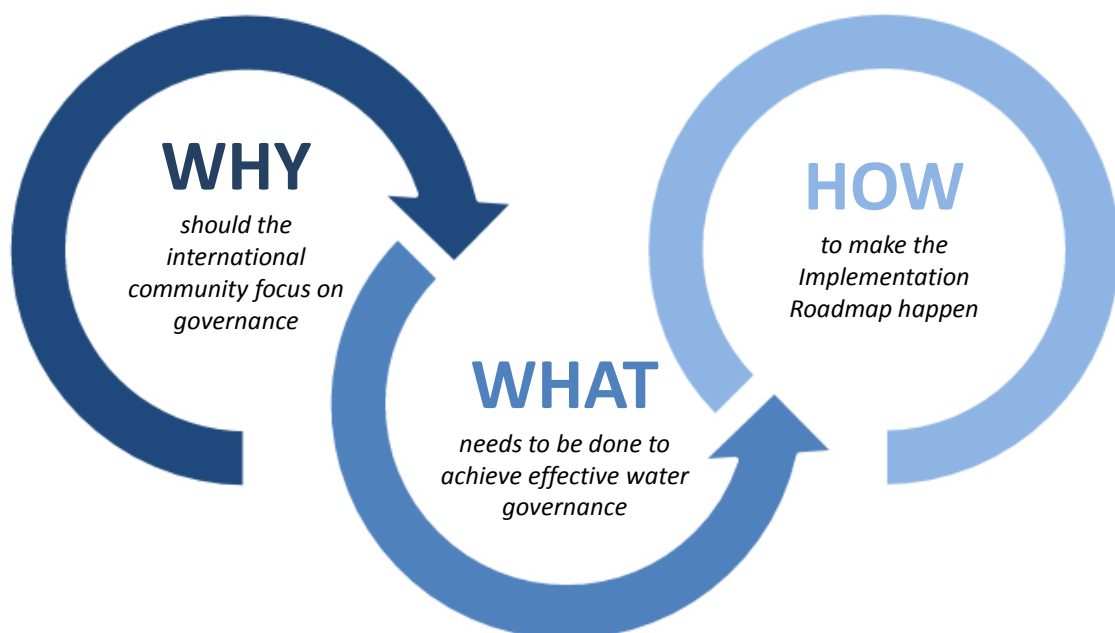
The international community now recognises that the world’s “water crisis” is largely a “**governance crisis**”. Water governance is about “who does what, when, at which scale and how”. It is a *means* to an *end* that should deliver beneficial outcomes for society, the economy and the environment. Good governance should also respond to the problems of today with policies that are consistent with long-term goals.

For these reasons, the Implementation Roadmap calls for **effective governance systems** in the water sector that can help manage “too much”, “too little” and “too polluted” water in a sustainable, integrated and inclusive way, at an acceptable cost and in a reasonable time frame.

The Implementation Roadmap should ultimately help to **strengthen institutions’ capacity** in order to reap the economic, social and environmental benefits of good governance; to **inform public debate and actions**; and to **contribute in facilitating change and reform** where and when needed.

How is the Implementation Roadmap structured?

The Implementation Roadmap is structured around 3 sections:



The first section relates to **why** the international community should focus on water governance and presents the rationale and the ultimate goal to be achieved. The second section relates to **what** needs to be done to achieve this goal and lays down the objectives, the related actions to be taken and the milestones up to the 8th World Water Forum. The third section relates to **how** these objectives and actions should be implemented and suggests an Action monitoring plan with progress indicators as well as a communication strategy.

I. Why focusing on governance?

Rationale for action

The **global pressure on water and related sectors** around the world call for action. Accessible and high quality freshwater is a limited and highly variable resource. Water demand is set to rise by 55% by 2050 and demand from manufacturing is projected to increase by 400% (OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050 [2012]). Over-abstraction and contamination of aquifers worldwide will pose significant challenges to food security, the health of ecosystems and safe drinking water supply, and increase the risk of subsidence. Water infrastructure is ageing, the technology is outdated and governance systems are often ill-equipped to handle rising demand, environmental challenges, continued urbanisation, climate variability and water disasters..

Better governance is instrumental to tackle these water challenges and make political will effective on the ground. Policy responses will only be viable if they are coherent; if stakeholders are properly engaged; if well-designed regulatory frameworks are in place; if there is adequate and accessible information, and if there is sufficient capacity, integrity and transparency. Institutions need to adapt to changing circumstances, and political will and policy continuity are key in the transition towards more inclusive and sustainable practices.

Linking to the Global Water Agenda

To ensure that the Implementation Roadmap is timely and realistic, alignment with other global efforts and frameworks such as the World Water Fora and Sustainable Development Goals is needed. At the 6th World Water Forum (12-17 March 2012, Marseille), six medium and long-term **targets** were defined to tackle governance challenges in the water sector. Since 2012, the Water Governance Initiative (WGI), created on 27-28 March 2013, has been monitoring progress related to these targets.

6th World Water Forum “Good Governance” Targets and Progress

Target 1 By 2015, 50% of countries will have adopted consultation, participation and co-ordination mechanism allowing stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels to effectively contribute to decision-making in a coherent, holistic and integrated way. By 2021, 100% will have done so.

=> Progress

The working group n°1 “Stakeholder Engagement” of the WGI produced empirical data and evidence-based analysis on stakeholder engagement in the water sector, building on an extensive multi-stakeholder survey and practical case studies, published in the OECD report “[Stakeholder Engagement for Inclusive Water Governance](#)” launched at the 7th World Water Forum.



Target 2 By 2015, 50% of countries will have strengthened regulatory frameworks and adopted performance indicators (service delivery) to monitor and evaluate water policies; and all countries will have put in place capacity-building processes at national and local level to foster good governance in service delivery. By 2018, all countries will have done so.

=> **Progress**

The working group n°2 “Governance and Performance of water and sanitation services” of the WGI investigated the bottlenecks and instruments that enable or inhibit the governance and performance of water services looking at regulatory and non-regulatory tools and monitoring system in order to develop a framework for assessing the effectiveness of governance functions. The OECD report on “[The Governance of Water Regulators](#)” launched at the 7th World Water Forum provided an input to the working group activities while analysing the governance arrangements, operational modalities and use of regulatory tools in dedicated water regulators.



Target 3 By 2021, increase by 30% the number of river basin management plans (analysis of initial status and main issues).

Target 4 By 2015, increase the number of countries with water security diagnoses and governance tools, based on existing (local, national, international) regulatory and legislative frameworks and IWRM mechanisms

=> **Progress**

The working group n°3 “Basin Governance” of the WGI has developed key messages on basin governance, considering the pros and cons of watersheds as the “relevant” scale for IWRM, drawing lessons from experience, including failures. Background material was developed on IWRM and cross-border management indicators as well as users’ participation in basin management.



Target 5 By 2018, 30 countries will have committed to promote integrity in the water sector, diagnose/map existing or potential corruption risks, and ensure that anti-corruption policies are well implemented and effective

Target 6 By 2018, 30 countries will be implementing: transparent water budget processes, including information about water infrastructure investment planning and implementation (financial, technical, and socioeconomic impacts); and methods and tools for improving transparency and accountability within the water sector

=> **Progress**

The working group n°4 “Integrity and Transparency” of the WGI has worked to 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, and beyond anti-corruption issues and practices. A Water Integrity Forum was organised in the Netherlands on 5-7 June 2013 and concluded with the [Delft Statement on Water Integrity](#). On 20 March 2014, the working group also held a [Water Integrity Workshop](#) as part of the OECD Integrity Week to discuss challenges and best practices in promoting integrity in the water sector and identify valuable lessons from project and policy levels. The working group also kicked off activities to develop a set of indicators for monitoring integrity and transparency.



In September 2015, a new **universal Sustainable Development Agenda** towards 2030 will be launched. Implementing the water-related SDG will require countries to translate global goals into concrete actions on a number of water topics. However, countries will have to address a number of governance challenges related to water policy design, regulation and implementation.

The Implementation Roadmap on Effective Governance can help countries overcome these “gaps” by providing a **frame of reference** that governments and the broader range of stakeholders can use to assess the enabling environment for reaching the water-related goal. While the SDGs pursue macroscopic goals in a formal and structured engagement of governments, the Implementation

Roadmap can contribute by reaching for more concrete objectives, bringing together various stakeholders, and attaining broader information in a more flexible way.

Links to water and good governance in the Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **Target 6.1:** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- **Target 6.2:** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- **Target 6.3:** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and increasing recycling and safe reuse by [x] per cent globally
- **Target 6.4:** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- **Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- **Target 6.6:** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
- **Target 6.a:** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- **Target 6.b:** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- **Target 16.5:** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- **Target 16.6:** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- **Target 16.10:** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- **Target 17.14:** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- **Target 17.16:** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- **Target 17.17:** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

II. What should be done?

12 objectives for Effective Governance

The Roadmap lays down **12 objectives** based on **OECD Principles on Water Governance**, which can help governments set the governance frameworks needed for SDGs 6, 16 and 17.

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
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
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

III. How to make the Implementation Roadmap happen?

Monitoring progress

The Implementation Roadmap suggests a set of **concrete actions** to be carried out by public, private and non-profit actors up to the 8th World Water Forum to advance on the 12 objectives. The Water Governance Initiative will provide a platform to track progress, through its biannual plenary meetings as **key milestones** to take stock of what was done, well or not, what remains to be done, as well as lessons learned. A set of measurable **indicators** will also be developed to evaluate the progress achieved for each objective.

“**Check-up**” meetings with the World Water Forum Secretariat will take place annually up to 2018 to discuss the advancement of the Implementation Roadmap and take note of the international community’s efforts in advancing water governance. Also, an [Action Monitoring System](#), set up at the close of the 7th Forum, serves as an interactive online platform to monitor progress, share lessons learned from implementation, and showcase the contribution of various institutions.

Communication

Improving governance in the water sector requires **bringing the attention** of decision-makers and practitioners in making real changes. The importance of governance is also echoed in the Forums’ Ministerial declarations, the outcomes of the parliamentary and local authorities’ processes, and across the Regional and Citizen processes.

Further communication efforts are needed to raise the profile of water governance in political

agendas and international discussions, and to bring the broad range of stakeholders on board. The Implementation Roadmap suggests **communication plans** for each Effective Governance objectives and with targeted audiences, to support the advocacy efforts of the WGI towards better governance in the water sector.

Tentative communication plans for the Effective Governance objectives

<p><u>Objective 1 – Clarity of roles and responsibilities</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elaborate institutional mappings on who does what at which level in the water sector – Provide a platform for countries to share experience and foster peer-learning <p>Target audience: Governments; Regulators; Academia; Business; Civil society; Watershed institutions; Service providers</p>
<p><u>Objective 2 – Appropriate scales within basin systems</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collect and disseminate success stories on integrated basin governance systems – Collect stories on failures in setting up IWRM and lessons learned (e.g. barriers) <p>Target audience: Governments; Watershed institutions</p>
<p><u>Objective 3 – Policy coherence</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collect and disseminate success stories on coherent policy approaches across water-related sectors – Organise workshops to encourage dialogue across communities of practice – Collect stories on failures to set-up cross-sectoral coordination and lessons learned (e.g. barriers) <p>Target audience: Governments; Business; RBOs; Service providers; Agricultural actors; Land developers</p>
<p><u>Objective 4 - Capacity</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Produce guidance to strengthen governments’ capacity (e.g. standards, guidelines, training manuals, etc.) – Bring capacity building organisations together to encourage knowledge sharing. <p>Target audience: Governments; International organisations; Public corporations; Academia; Business; Civil society; Watershed institutions; Service providers</p>
<p><u>Objective 5 – Data and Information</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support dissemination of water governance initiatives, reforms, publications (e.g. during WGI biannual meetings) <p>Target audience: Governments; International organisations; Public corporations; Academia; Business; Civil society; Watershed institutions; Service providers; Media</p>
<p><u>Objective 6 - Financing</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Share best practice regarding financing structure on a national / sub-national scale <p>Target audience: Governments; Public corporations; Business; Service providers</p>
<p><u>Objective 7 – Regulatory frameworks</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Produce guidance on water regulation (e.g. in the framework of the OECD Network of Economic Regulators) – Disseminate mapping of current regulatory frameworks to identify barriers and opportunities <p>Target audience: Governments</p>
<p><u>Objective 8 – Innovative governance</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Share best practices on innovative governance approaches – Share key barriers that hinder innovative governance practices to facilitate mainstreaming. <p>Target audience: Governments; Public corporations; Academia; Business; Civil society; Watershed institutions; Service providers</p>
<p><u>Objective 9 – Integrity and Transparency</u></p> <p>Suggested communication actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify, scale-up and trickle down success stories on effective integrity and transparency practices (e.g.

as part of the Water Integrity Forum)

Target audience: Governments; International organisations; Public corporations; Business; Civil society

Objective 10 – Stakeholder engagement

Suggested communication actions:

- Create an online platform of successful cases on stakeholder engagement

Target audience: Governments; International organisations; Public corporations; Academia; Business; Civil society; Watershed institutions; Service providers; Agricultural actors; Donors; Parliamentarians; Media

Objective 11 – Trade-offs among users, rural-urban and generations

Suggested communication actions:

- Disseminate best practice / lessons learned from countries with high rate of disparity and their key measures for managing trade-offs.

Target audience: Governments; Public corporations; Business; Civil society

Objective 12 – Monitoring and evaluation

Suggested communication actions:

- Carry-out regular monitoring and assessment of country's water governance frameworks, at various levels, using existing tools (e.g. TAP framework, OECD Multi-level Governance Framework, etc.) and Water Governance Indicators to share the outcomes publicly.

Target audience: Governments; Public corporations; Business; Civil society; Watershed institutions; Service providers

Tentative key milestones

26 May 2015: Discussion of the Implementation Roadmap synthesis at the 5th OECD WGI Meeting.

15 June 2015: Written comments and suggestions of contribution from WGI members.

23-28 August 2015: Discussion at the Stockholm World Water Week to strengthen the ties between the Implementation Roadmap and the post-2015 development agenda.

2-3 November 2015: Discussion at the 6th OECD-WGI Meeting on a tentative Action Plan with intermediary milestones to conduct regional consultations on the Implementation Roadmap, with the support of the Regional process of the 7th World Water Forum and in co-operation with potential regional “champions”, e.g.:

- *MENA:* GWP-Med, UfM, IME;
- *Europe:* European Commission, Turkish Water Institute, Europe-INBO;
- *Asia-Pacific:* ADB, NARBO, Korea, China;
- *Africa:* AMCOW, South Africa;
- *Americas:* Mexico, Chile, Spain/AECID, United States

2016-2018 (dates tbc):

- *Annual check-up meetings* of the 7th World Water Forum thematic co-ordinators to discuss advancement of the Implementation Roadmap;
- *WGI Plenary meetings* to report back on the Implementation Roadmap's progress (e.g. implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance, activities of the thematic working groups and regional partners, etc.);
- *Regional consultations* on the Implementation Roadmap to analyse the specifics from the different continents and to develop a database of good water governance practices specific to each region. These consultations will also provide a reality check in each continent to the OECD Principles on Water Governance;
- *8th World Water Forum* to report back on the impact of the Implementation Roadmap in making Effective Governance happen on the ground.