



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Thematic Working Groups of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance

1. This document is intended to set modalities for responsibilities and tasks of the Thematic Working Groups of the OECD Initiative on Water Governance. It has been approved by the members of the Steering Committee and shared with official members of the Initiative to scope their contributions to identified working groups.

#### PREAMBLE

2. The OECD Water Governance Initiative is a direct follow-up to the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Marseille, 12-17 March 2013) Core Group on “Good Governance” led by OECD and institutional partners. It was officially launched on 27-28 March 2013 at OECD Headquarters.

3. The OECD Water Governance Initiative is a multi-stakeholder network of (about one hundred) delegates from public, private and not for profit sectors that will gather twice a year in a Policy Forum with the following objectives

- exchange good practices and challenges in fostering good governance in the water sector ;
- lead and discuss analytical work on water governance (country reviews, thematic projects, etc.)
- foster continuity across two World Water Fora through supporting the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Good Governance Targets;
- contribute to the design of OECD Principles on Water Governance; and
- contribute to raise the profile of Governance in the Global Water Agenda (e.g. Post-2015 SDG discussions)

4. Biannual Plenary Meetings of the Initiative, due to limitations in time and frequency, cannot be overloaded with detailed, in depth discussions of specific topics. Therefore, the Initiative needs other ‘units’ to address certain specific thematic issues. These ‘units’ are called ‘Thematic Working Groups’ and should serve as fora for further in-depth discussions and for the preparation of upcoming/emerging topics.

#### MANDATE

5. Thematic Working Groups will carry forward the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum “good governance” targets and support the programme of work of the Initiative. Thematic Working Groups capitalise on the knowledge of the Initiative’s core members and other contributors and networks in order to move forward the related objectives of the Initiative.

6. The 1<sup>st</sup> generation of Thematic Working Groups will focus on the following areas in order to foster continuity between the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF (*Solutions*) and the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF (*Implementation*):

**Thematic Group n°1: *Stakeholder engagement for effective water management, coordinated by OECD, Suez Environnement and WBCSD.***

The group will look at challenges, opportunities and good practices on participation, consultation and co-ordination for effective stakeholder engagement in water management, encompassing both water services and water resources, to support the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Target 1:

*By 2015, 50% of countries will have adopted consultation, participation and co-ordination mechanisms 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*

The objective is to develop a methodological framework and action plan for effective stakeholder engagement in water management, based on a survey across OECD and BRICS countries. It will conclude with the publication of an OECD report (March 2015) providing policy recommendations, indicators and a set of principles that will contribute to the Initiative's broader objectives to design water governance principles and indicators.

The Group will i) provide a *policy forum* across public, private and not-for-profit stakeholders to share experiences in improving stakeholder engagement in the water sector, learning from good practices and draw lessons from failures; ii) define water governance *indicators* that can help track progress on the implementation of the above target; and iii) suggest some overarching *principles* for more effective stakeholder engagement in water services and resources management.

### **Thematic Group n°2: Performance of water supply and sanitation, coordinated by ASTEE**

The group will focus on strengthening regulation, capacity building, monitoring and benchmarking for water and sanitation services performance to support the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Target 2:

*By 2015, 50% 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.*

The Group will i) provide a *policy forum* across public, private and not-for-profit stakeholders to share experiences in strengthening the performance of utilities and sub-national authorities in the water sector, learning from good practices and draw lessons from failures; ii) define water governance *indicators* that can help track progress on the implementation of the target; and iii) suggest some overarching *principles* for better performance in water services management.

### **Thematic Group n°3: Basin governance, coordinated by INBO, OIEau and UNESCO-IHP**

The group will identify frameworks, regulations, institutions and capacities required to strengthen effective basin governance in rivers, lakes and aquifers – including at transboundary level – in support of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Targets 3 & 4:

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

*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 integrated water resources management mechanisms.*

The group will rely on forecasted meetings to provide a *policy forum* where key basin governance experiences can be shared, including INBO General Assembly (August 2013, Fortaleza, Brazil), UNECE meeting (September 2013, Geneva, Switzerland), and EURO INBO group meeting (November 2013, Bulgaria). The Group will also i) suggest *indicators* that can help track progress on the implementation of the above targets; and iii) propose some overarching *principles* for more effective basin governance.

### **Thematic Group n°4: Integrity and Transparency in the water sector, coordinated by WIN, SIWI/UNDP Water Governance Facility and Transparency International**

Building on the outcomes (and statement) of the Water Integrity Forum (5-7 June 2013, Delft), the group will identify challenges in overcoming corruption, malpractice and abuse of powers for better integrity, ethics and transparency in water management to support the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Targets 5 & 6:

*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.*

*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.*

The Group will i) provide a *policy forum* across public, private and not-for-profit stakeholders to share experiences in strengthening water integrity and transparency; ii) define water governance *indicators* that can help track progress on the implementation of the above targets; and iii) suggest some overarching *principles* for better integrity and transparency in the water sector.

7. Thematic Working Groups will be led by members of the Steering Committee. They will communicate and report the results of their work to the Initiative during plenary meetings. When possible, cooperation and/or information exchange between Thematic Working Groups and Regional Partners should be fostered.

8. In addition to the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Targets implementation, Thematic Working Groups will contribute to the broader objectives of the Initiative to i) *provide a policy forum* across public, private and not-for-profit stakeholders to share experiences, learn from good practices and draw lessons from failures; ii) define *water governance indicators* that can help track progress on the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF Targets; and iii) contribute to the design of *overarching principles on water governance*.

9. Working Groups are created for a predefined time, normally the duration from one programme of work to the next (every 3 years, up to the next World Water Forum). Their mandates may be extended or closed, based on a consensus of the Initiative.

## **COMPOSITION**

10. Each coordinator of Thematic Working Groups should lead the efforts of several contributors to be engaged on a voluntary basis, with open membership. Members of the Initiative can volunteer to contribute to a given Thematic Working Group by answering a call for contributions to be issued by the Steering Committee at each renewal of the programme of work of the Initiative.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES & ACTIVITIES**

11. Coordinators of Thematic Working Groups shall:

- Submit to the Steering Committee a final list of organisations and experts willing to get involved as Working Groups contributors;
- Propose an action plan and list of activities based on discussions with contributors;
- Lead the activities of their respective Working Groups, including coordinating a progress report on governance targets' implementation to be prepared by the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF (Korea, April 2015);
- Raise the necessary funds to carry-out their respective activities;
- Ensure the liaison with the Steering Committee (e.g. quarterly up-dates of on-going activities, etc.) and the members of the Initiative (e.g. presentation of up-coming projects and events, etc.);
- Liaise with other Thematic Working Groups' coordinators to support cross fertilization;
- Mobilise relevant existing networks to consider linkages with governance-related topics;
- Relay all relevant information to their contributors (e.g. Chair's strategic orientations and decisions, key messages and decisions from Steering Committee meetings, key messages and decisions from the Initiative's biannual plenary meetings, etc.);

12. The following list of priority activities for Thematic Working Groups (2013-2015) Programme of work is indicative and subject to prioritisation and selection.

| <b>Priority activities for the Thematic Working Groups</b>                           | <b>Possible outputs (to be customised within each group)</b>  |
|--|---|
| 1. Identify and share best practices   | Case studies and data with regards to thematic focus for each Working Group   |
| 2. Identify and share bottlenecks and lessons learnt from failures                   | Case studies and data with regards to thematic focus for each Working Group   |
| 3. Develop policy tools  | Principles of good governance in the thematic area<br>Action plans for the implementation of “good governance” targets<br>Indicators on water governance in the thematic area |
| 4. Produce/share analytical work   | Case studies, data, methodologies<br>International comparisons<br>Working papers on specific topics   |
| 5. Feed the discussions for the design of OECD Principles on Water Governance        | E.g. Key messages on the thematic area  |
| 6. Organise events   | Events on specific thematic areas of the Initiative   |
| 7. Feed the Inventory of existing water governance tools, platforms, and initiatives | Up-to-date information/data on on-going water governance projects, publications, etc.   |

13. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Initiative (7-8 November 2013), Thematic Working Groups are expected to deliver to the Steering Group *a concept note* with their expected activities and a *tentative programme of work*, to be shared with the members of the Initiative.

14. Thematic Working Groups will share their findings, progress and suggestions at each biannual meeting of the Initiative, including a stock-taking of the implementation of related 6<sup>th</sup> WWF governance targets.

15. Every 3 years, Thematic Working Groups should submit a result-based evaluation report on the outcomes of their programmes of work to the Steering Committee, to be integrated in the performance assessment report of the Initiative.