



13th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative

9-10 January 2020, OECD Headquarters, Paris, France

On 9-10 January 2020, the [OECD Water Governance Initiative](#) (WGI), held its [13th meeting](#) at the OECD Headquarters in Paris, France. The meeting gathered 80+ practitioners, policymakers and representatives from major stakeholder groups. The [agenda](#), [list of participants](#), [presentations](#), and [pictures](#) from the event are accessible online.



SUMMARY AND KEY OUTCOMES:

- The report [Water Governance in Argentina](#) was officially released. Delegates can download the e-version of the report from the [OECD iLibrary](#) (username: 2020cfe-oecd; password: ilibraryaccess).
- Delegates were informed of progress on the implementation of the [OECD Council Recommendation on Water](#), OECD Contributions to the G20, and progress on the road to the 9th World Water Forum by representatives from the OECD, World Water Forum and World Water Council.
- Delegates shared **updates on research and analysis on water governance** including: water governance studies in Africa (Mali and Niger) (Waterpreneurs and Action Contre la Faim); progress on the preparation of the [2021 Water Integrity Outlook](#) (WIN); Improving Water Governance in Norway using the OECD Principles on Water Governance (Norwegian Environment Agency); example of a virtual campus as an innovative platform for delivery of capacity development (Cap-Net); and the [Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice](#) (WCEL).
- Delegates also **informed about past and upcoming meetings**: Water Governance in Cidade da Praia, Cape Verde, 17 September 2019; [11th INBO World General Assembly](#), 30 September – 3 October 2019, Marrakech; [25th United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (COP 25), 2-13 December, 2019, Spain; [IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition](#), 1 - 5 December 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka; [IWRA XVII World Water Congress](#), 11-15 May 2020, Daegu, Korea, and the [4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit](#), 19-20 October 2020, Kumamoto, Japan.

- The session on **Localising and Measuring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** presented the [OECD Action Plan on SDGs](#) and the [OECD Programme on A Territorial Approach to the SDGs](#), which documents how cities and regions use the SDGs to improve their plans, strategies and policies, and measures their distance to SDGs targets, compared with national average and peer cities. During the session, delegates were also updated on the measurement of official development assistance to the water and sanitation sector for target 6.a.1. Delegates were provided with examples of national voluntary reviews on the SDGs, in Israel, Netherlands and Peru.
- Delegates discussed the OECD Programme on [Water Security for Sustainable Development in Africa](#), and in particular a dedicated Survey on Water Governance in African Cities. Findings were shared on OECD work on urbanisation in Africa, including the [Africapolis](#) database, which maps new urbanisation dynamics in the region. Evidence was presented from the [African Economic Outlook 2016](#) on the rural-urban divide in terms of access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- In the session on **Water Governance in Asia**, delegates discussed the progress of the OECD's collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to produce the 2020 Asian Water Development Outlook, and introduced a survey to 40+ countries in the region on water governance. Key findings were presented from relevant works on water governance taking place in Asia, including the OECD [Multi-Dimensional review of Thailand](#), as a practical example of the application of the [OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework](#). Delegates discussed the OECD's work on [integrated urban policies](#) and [disaster risk management](#) in the Asian region, and their potential to improve water resources management.
- Delegates peer-reviewed the OECD draft Report "**Water Governance in Peru**" in the presence of Peru's Vice Minister for Environment, Mr Gabriel Quijandría Acosta, and provided guidance to fine-tune recommendations, building on international best practice.
- Delegates were updated on the outcomes of the Workshop on Water Infrastructure held in Brasilia in October 2019 as part of the **Third Phase of the National Water Policy Dialogue with Brazil**, focused on the implementation of the OECD's Recommendations made during the 2015 and 2017 Policy Dialogues. The OECD's broader work on [effective public investment across levels of government](#) was shared amongst delegates due to its relevance in considerations of infrastructure.
- During the session on **Water Governance for Indigenous Peoples**, the authors from the Australian National University and the University of Guelph (Canada) discussed the article "[Whose Rules? A Water Justice Critique of the OECD's 12 Principles on Water Governance](#)" and the OECD presented his work on [Linking Indigenous Communities to Regional Development](#). Some ways forward were proposed to apply the principles to Indigenous Peoples and other specific groups and contexts.
- **Updates from the OECD Horizontal Water Programme** were provided on [the reform of water policies in agriculture and the monitoring of progress](#) (Trade and Agriculture Directorate), [the governance of water regulators](#) (Public Governance Directorate), harnessing the benefits of the [sustainable ocean economy](#) for developing countries (Development Co-operation Directorate) and [water and climate change adaptation](#) (Environment Directorate).
- Two back-to-back sessions were dedicated to advancing the work of the **Working Groups on Indicators and Capacity Development**. Delegates participated in lively co-creation workshops and group discussions to advance the deliverables for the 9th World Water Forum.

Detailed **Highlights** from the meeting will be shared with WGI members by the end of February 2020 for written comments.

The final version will be available online by early March 2020.

The [OECD Water Governance Initiative](#) is a multi-stakeholder network of 100+ delegates from public, private and non-profit sectors gathering twice a year in a Policy Forum to share on-going reforms, projects, lessons and good practices in support of better governance in the water sector. It was launched on 27-28 March 2013 and is chaired by Peter Glas, Delta Programme Commissioner, the Netherlands. The WGI is hosted by the [OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities](#) (CFE), and coordinated by a multi-stakeholder steering committee (see below logos). For more information, please contact water.governance@oecd.org

