

Roundtable on Financing Water

Overview: from Paris to Tel Aviv

The Roundtable on Financing Water, a joint initiative of the OECD, the World Water Council and the Government of the Netherlands, was established as a response to the international community's recognition of the critical contribution of water to sustainable development and the need to ensure adequate financing for water. Further details on the rationale and aims of the initiative are available [here](#).

The inaugural meeting was held at OECD Headquarters in Paris on 12-13 April 2017. The meeting gathered around 70 participants, including private investors, development finance institutions, bilateral donor agencies, government officials, NGOs and research institutions. A summary of the discussion highlights and roadmap for future work is available [here](#).

The second meeting of the Roundtable will be held in Tel Aviv, Israel on September 13th, in the context of WATEC. It will provide an opportunity to update participants on on-going analytical work under the several themes in the roadmap for future work. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to engage in discussion and share their views on key issues, including innovation, blended finance and the role regulation in stimulating, or hindering, investment in water security. The outcomes of the meeting will help to steer future work and contribute to future meetings of the Roundtable.

OECD-WWC-Netherlands Roundtable on Financing Water

Wednesday September 13th

Tel Aviv Convention Center, Pavilion 2, Halls G & H

Draft Agenda

9h00 – 10h00	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Mr. Udi Adiri, Deputy Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Israel• The rationale for the Roundtable and update on recent developments Ms. Ellen van Lindert, Ministry for Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands Mr. Tom Soo, Executive Director, World Water Council• Links to global initiatives: The High Level Panel on Water Mr. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Sherpa to the High Level Panel on Water, the Netherlands
10h00-11h20	<p>Session 1. Seizing opportunities generated by innovation: trends in water-related technologies</p> <p>As demand for water increases, water quality standards become more stringent, and the impacts of climate change on water availability become more pronounced, the deployment of water-related technologies, such as drip irrigation, rainwater collection, smart meters, wastewater treatment and reuse, and decentralised systems are likely to become increasingly instrumental to improving water security and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Innovative technologies can improve the efficiency of water use and lower the costs of improving water security. For investors, innovative water technologies and services generate investment opportunities, in particular for venture capital and private equity firms.</p> <p>This session will examine trends in water-related technological innovation and discuss how investors can seize opportunities in this area. What can governments do to facilitate investment in water-related innovation and to ensure finance flows to where it is most needed from a water security perspective?</p>

	<p>Chair: Dr. Xavier Leflaive, Team Leader Water, Environment Directorate, OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (10’): Trends in innovation and diffusion of water-related technologies Ms. Kathleen Dominique, Policy Analyst, Environment Directorate, OECD • Lead discussants share experiences of finance and investment approaches for innovative water technologies Mr. Ari Goldfarb, CEO, Kando Mr. Steven Kloos, Partner, True North Venture Partners Mr. Douglas Meyer, Senior Vice President and National Head of Leumi Water, Bank Leumi USA • Discussion
11h20-11h40	Coffee break
11h40-13h00	<p>Session 2. Seizing opportunities generated by innovation: harnessing new sources of finance</p> <p>Investments in water security generate a range of benefits in terms of valuable goods and services as well as reduced water risks, which can result in significant avoided costs. Valuing water also helps to identify the benefits of good water management and improved water security. The Bellagio Principles on Valuing Water can help in this regard. Innovative policies and business models can be used to convert benefits from investments in water security into revenue streams that support financial returns to investors.</p> <p>This session will discuss cases where innovative business models have been used to tap into new sources of finance for water security.</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Guy Alaerts, Professor of Capacity Building, UNESCO-IHE (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead discussants share examples of innovative business models to tap into new sources of finance and financial instruments and approaches to facilitate investment in water security Mr. Joel Kolker, Lead Water and Sanitation Specialist, The World Bank Mr. Eran Ben David, Financial Advisor of Igudan, Goren Capital Mr. Miroslav Petkov, Director, Head of Financial Services Environmental and Climate Risk Research, S&P Global Ratings Dr. Glenn Yago, Senior Director, Milken Innovation Center, Jerusalem Institute (TBC) • Discussion
13h00-14h30	Lunch for Roundtable participants

14h30-15h50	<p>Session 3. Analysing policies that promote or hinder water security investment: the role of regulation</p> <p>Regulation can be an important driver of investment in water security and generate new markets for innovative products and services. For example, regulation can raise the stringency of water quality standards and wastewater treatment requirements, thus increasing investment in water security and demand for pollution abatement technologies. Regulation that imposes limits on water abstraction can generate increased investment in water conservation and alternative sources of water supply (such as wastewater reuse) along with demand for related technologies. At the same time, regulatory barriers exist that inhibit investment in water security, such as a lack of a clear regulatory framework for wastewater reuse, regulatory limits on private sector participation, or constraints on foreign investment.</p> <p>This session will examine the role of regulation in stimulating or hindering the demand for and supply of water security investment.</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Christopher Gasson, Global Water Intelligence (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages from WATEC’s Workshop of Water Regulators (5’) Ms. Tami Shor, Deputy Director, Water Authority, Israel • Lead discussants share lessons from experience on how regulation can stimulate or hinder investment in water security Mr. Danny Greenwald, Head of Reclaimed Water Department, Water Authority, Israel Mr. Will Sarni, Water strategy and technology advisor, Water Foundry, LLC • Discussion
15h50-16h10	Coffee break
16h10-17h40	<p>Session 4. Blended finance for water security investments</p> <p>In light of the constraints on public finance and substantial investment needs, blended finance is a promising way to leverage contributions from different sources of finance with different risk appetites to scale up investment. Better targeting of public finance (including development finance) and public interventions through policies requires an understanding of their catalytic role in mobilising private finance. This also involves a better understanding of the likely catalytic effect of capacity building on mobilising finance.</p> <p>This session will explore these issues and highlight examples of the effective use of blended finance for water security investments. The OECD will present draft Principles for Blended Finance, which aim to reflect experience gained over the last decade and to promote good practices in the future.</p>

	<p>Chair: Mr. Tom Soo, Executive Director, World Water Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages on financing for the High Level Panel on Water Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, Director of Environmental Sustainability, Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary • Presentation (10’): Scaling up private investment in water security: The potential for blended finance Mr. Paul Horrocks, Senior Policy Analyst, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD • Lead discussants share examples of approaches to blended finance (development finance perspective, private investor perspective, government perspective) Mr. Jean-Paul Penrose, Senior Advisor, DFID, UK Mr. Alejandro Callejas, Vice President of Water Infrastructure, FINDETER public development financing agency, Colombia (TBC) Mr. Yitsik Marmelshtein, Sector Manager (Water and Energy), Ministry of Finance, Israel • Discussion
17h40-18h00	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Re-cap of key points from the discussion and next steps for the Roundtable Dr. Xavier Leflaive, Team Leader Water, Environment Directorate, OECD</p>
18h00-19h30	<p>Networking cocktail</p>

For any questions regarding the Roundtable, please contact: Xavier Leflaive (Xavier.Leflaive@oecd.org) and Kathleen Dominique (Kathleen.Dominique@oecd.org).