



OECD Water Governance Initiative

12th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative

20-21 June 2019, GLS Campus, Berlin, Germany

On 20-21 June 2019, the [OECD Water Governance Initiative](#) (WGI), held its [12th meeting](#) at the GLS Campus, Berlin, Germany. 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. The WGI is hosted by the OECD and its [Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities](#) (CFE).



SUMMARY AND KEY OUTCOMES:

- The report [Applying the OECD Principles on Water Governance to Floods: A Checklist for Action](#) was released officially. Delegates can download the e-version of the report on the [OECD iLibrary](#) (username: oecd2019-cfe; password: ilibrary2019).
- Delegates shared **updates on water governance** including the preparation of the [2021 Water integrity outlook](#) (WIN); Supporting SDG 6.5.1 monitoring and implementation on integrated water management (GWP); and the need for including more than one indicator to monitor SDG 6.b on community participation in water and sanitation (WHO). Delegates shared the outcomes of the [National Congress on the Environment \(CONAMA\)](#), 26-29 November, 2018, Madrid, Spain; and the [10th Water Economics Forum](#), 26 March, 2019, Granada, Spain. Delegates also informed about upcoming meetings: the 12th Ibero-American Forum on Regulation, 16-17 October, 2019, Cartagena, Colombia; and the [2nd Asia-Pacific Water Regulators Forum](#), 1 November, 2019, Hong Kong. Delegates were updated about the preparatory process of the [9th World Water Forum](#) (Dakar, 2021) and OECD-WGI co-leadership over the Means & Tools theme under which governance is one priority area. Initial discussions have suggested trust, transparency and accountability, multisector policy coordination and inclusiveness as important topics to advance.
- Delegates discussed the preliminary findings from the *OECD – Women for Water Partnership* literature review on **“Women and Water decision-making”**, and provided guidance on the proposed survey and methodology to build further evidence.
- Delegates discussed the Programme on **“Water Security for Sustainable Development in Africa”**, especially the synergies with existing initiatives, cooperation with regional players, identified donors, and proposals for collaboration from 60+ institutions to produce data, host events or share case studies. The outcomes of the Hague’s Workshop (21 March 2019) were also shared with calls for multi-stakeholder partnerships anchored in Africa, and insights from BMZ, AMCOW and South Africa’s Water Research Commission shed light on policy and governance challenges faced in the sector.
- In the presence of Mr Pablo Bereciartua, Secretary of Water Infrastructure and Policy of Argentina, delegates peer-reviewed the OECD draft Report **“Water Governance in Argentina”**. It provides assessment and policy recommendations to address institutional fragmentation, strengthen economic regulation, support better planning and investment, and reinforce basin management. Delegates, including peer-reviewers from Spain and the Netherlands, provided guidance to fine-tune proposed ways forward, building on international best practice. Delegates were updated on the fact-finding mission of the National Water Policy Dialogue with **Peru**, and the capacity development scope of the third National Policy Dialogue with **Brazil**.
- The session on **water governance in Germany**, arranged by BMU, encouraged exchanges on a variety of subjects such as water-sensitive urban development, holistic water infrastructure, sustainable water management, Germany’s National Water Dialogue and the status of drinking water quality in the country.
- Two breakout sessions were dedicated to advancing the work of the **Working Groups on Indicators and Capacity Development**. Delegates discussed and agreed on the outputs for the 9th World Water Forum, the timeline and priority setting, as well as the set of activities to be carried out.
- A field excursion took place on: **Water management in Berlin at the time of the Wall**. It included a visit to the Berlin Wall Memorial, followed by a lecture illuminating that water cooperation unexpectedly took place between East and West Berlin. But due to increasing unreliability of cross border water exchanges, both sides saw it as required to reduce the vulnerability of their own system, leading to alignment of supply networks around the new political geography of division.

Detailed **Highlights** from the meeting will be shared with WGI members by 25 July, 2019 for written comments. The final version will be available online by early September 2019.

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 and its 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

