14th MEETING OF THE OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

2-3 November 2020, Virtual meeting

HIGHLIGHTS

The OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI) is an international multi-stakeholder network of 100+ members from public, private and not-for-profit sectors gathering twice a year in a Policy Forum to share on-going policy reforms, projects, lessons and good practices in support of better governance in the water sector. Fourteen meetings have been held since its creation (27-28 March 2013, Paris; 7-8 November 2013, Paris; 28-29 April 2014, Madrid; 24-25 November 2014, Paris; 26 May 2015, Edinburgh; 2-3 November 2015, Paris; 23-24 June 2016, The Hague; 12-13 January, Rabat; 3-4 July 2017, Paris; 20-21 November 2017, Vienna; 12-13 November 2018, Zaragoza; 20-21 June 2019, Berlin; 9-10 January 2020, Paris; 2-3 November 2020, Virtual).

The OECD WGI aims to:

- Provide a **multi-stakeholder technical platform** to share knowledge, experience and best practices on water governance across levels of government;
- **Advise governments** in taking the needed steps for effective water reforms through peer-to-peer dialogue and stakeholder engagement across public, private and non-profit sectors;
- Provide a **consultation mechanism** to raise the profile of governance in the Global Water Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals, World Water Forum, Habitat III, COP etc.);
- Support the **implementation** of the *OECD Principles on Water Governance* in interested member and non-member countries by promoting the uptake of the Water Governance Indicator Framework and peer-to-peer exchanges; and
- **Foster continuity** on governance discussions between two World Water Fora (every 3 years), currently between the 8th World Water Forum (Brazil, 2018) and the 9th World Water Forum (Senegal, 2022).

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Summary of Outcomes

On 2-3 November 2020, the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), held its 14th Meeting online. The meeting gathered 80+ practitioners, policymakers and representatives from major stakeholder groups. The 14th Meeting had the following objectives (see the agenda, list of participants, presentations, and the paper on Tools, publications and events from the 13th to the 14th OECD WGI meeting):

- Peer review the ongoing policy dialogues on water governance in Africa and Asia
- Discuss the WGI contribution to the 9th World Water Forum
- Advance WGI working groups on Capacity Development and Indicators

Delegates were informed of the conclusions of the 2020 Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) led by the Spanish Chairmanship, and the vice chairmanship of Chile, Japan and New Zealand around the theme "The Path to Recovery: Strong, Resilient, Green and Inclusive" where views were exchanged on COVID-19 recovery plans and expectations for international cooperation. To support member countries, the OECD has produced 170+ policy notes mapping responses to the COVID-19 pandemic since March. A specific policy note was produced on Cities Policy Responses to COVId-19, which assesses short and long-term response of 100+ cities worldwide, including the way they are designing innovative and participatory recovery strategies. The OECD Cities Policy Responses note is available on the OECD COVID-19 tracker and portal in English, French, Spanish, Japanese and Portuguese.

Delegates were updated on some of the items discussed at the 13th Meeting of the WGI on 9-10 January 2020. Since then, the report on the Territorial Approach to the SDGs and the Web Tool measuring distance of 600+ cities and 600+ regions to the 17 SDGs where they have core competencies, were released at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in February 2020. The 3rd OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs was held on 16-17 November 2020. More recently, the OECD published the Synthesis Report on the Circular Economy in Cities and Regions, launched virtually on 4 November 2020. Delegates were also updated on the completion of the monitoring report of the 2016 OECD Council Recommendation on Water and progress on adherence.

Delegates were informed of the results of the social media campaign in June 2020 to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the OECD Principles on Water Governance. A total of 15 testimonials were gathered for a social media campaign (28 posts), which resulted in thousands of visits to the Principles web page and reached tens of thousands of people via LinkedIn and Twitter between May and September 2020.

During the session on Water Governance in Asia, delegates discussed the draft report on Water Governance in Asia-Pacific, which contributed to the 2020 Asia Water Development Outlook (AWDO), launched on 18 December 2020. This session highlighted speakers from the Asian Development Bank, Mr Tom Panella, and the Japan Water Agency, Mr Tadashige Kawasaki.

In the session on Water Governance in African Cities, the OECD Secretariat presented the preliminary results from the joint OECD/United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)-Africa survey, to which 36 African cities responded. UCLG-Africa Climate Change Director, Mr Mohamed Nbou, addressed delegates about the African water context and the need for governance paradigm shifts in the region. The mayor of

Chefchaouen (Morocco), Mr Mohamed Sefiani, presented delegates with the water context of water security in the *Blue City* of Chefchaouen. The final report will be launched at a dedicated event in March 2021.

Delegates peer-reviewed the OECD draft report on the Water Governance in Cape Town, South Africa, based on the evidence gathered through a virtual fact-finding mission that took place in July 2020. The session highlighted the input of Cape Town Director of Bulk Services , Mr Mike Killick, and peer-reviewers, Ms Caroline Figueres (The Netherlands) and Mr John Dini from the Water Research Commission of South Africa. The final report will be published in March 2021.

Delegates were updated on progress on the global agenda. Mr Abdoulaye Sene, Executive Director of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, provided members with a first-hand update on the progress towards the Forum and of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Forum's timeline. Ms Teresa Liguori Forum Coordinator, World Water Council, provided official confirmation of the World Water Forum's postponement to March 2022.

Two back-to-back sessions were dedicated to advancing the work of the Working Groups on Indicators and Capacity Development. Delegates participated in polls and lively group discussions to comment on the draft Working Paper on Indicators "Water governance as a means to an end: a stocktaking of impacts and measurement frameworks" and the draft Toolkit for self-assessing water governance systems at basin, local and national level.

Next Steps

Next steps on the road to the 15th WGI meeting (April 2021, date to be confirmed) are to:

- Advance the **Working Group on Indicators**, presenting the final OECD Working Paper to be released in 2021 and ways forward. Meetings with working group members will take place during the course of 2021 to include insights form experts and dig deeper into specific aspects of the research through contributions from interested members.
- Advance the **Working Group on Capacity Development** through the pilot-testing of the Toolkit. Members of the working group will be invited to contribute. Progress will be shared at the next WGI meeting.
- Present the findings of the **OECD Water Governance African Cities, The Water Governance in Cape Town, South Africa** and the policy paper on the **water governance in Asia-Pacific** to be launched in a dedicated event in March 2021.
- Consider and propose **future avenues of action** for possible analytical work on blue cities, women & water, circular economy & water, and additional city or country policy dialogues over 2021-2020.

Day 1: November 2, 2020

Welcoming Remarks

Mr Peter Glas, Chair of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), opened the meeting by acknowledging that the current COVID-19 crisis led to this virtual setting. He thanked the Secretariat, the OECD WGI members connected across time zones and the Steering Committee members for attending. He emphasised the WGI's commitment to advance work towards the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar.

The **Chair** shared updates following the 13th OECD WGI Meeting (Paris 9-10 January 2020). Since the last meeting, the Secretariat has advanced on water governance reviews in Africa and Asia and the Working Groups documents. The Steering Committee held two meetings (20 March and 9 September 2020) to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on WGI activities. The Steering Committee and several WGI members signed a Letter to the Rapporteur of the UN on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (received and acknowledged on the Rapporteur's webpage). He also shared the link to the new webpage of the OECD Water Governance Programme. The Chair presented the agenda, list of participants, and thanked the WGI members who contributed to the document on Tools, publications and events from the 13th to the 14th OECD WGI meeting, which intends to replace the *Tour de table* usually held during in-presence meetings but will not occur this time given the virtual format.

Ms Aziza Akhmouch, **Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD Secretariat,** provided an update following the 13th OECD WGI meeting and an OECD-wide perspective of events since then. She informed delegates that the OECD held its 2020 Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) on 28-29 October 2020 around the theme "The Path to Recovery: Strong, Resilient Green and Inclusive" under the Chairmanship of Spain and vice-chairmanship of Chile, Japan and New Zealand to exchange views on COVID-19 recovery plans and expectations for international co-operation. The discussions focused on the projections from the OECD Interim Economic Outlook 2020. All G20 countries except China will have suffered recessions in 2020, with an average GDP decline by 4.5% in 2020 for OECD countries. Although a fragile recovery is expected next year, output at the end of 2021 will still be below levels at the end of 2019 in many countries, and well below what was projected prior to the pandemic. European countries such as the UK, Spain and France are amongst the hardest hit. To support member countries, the OECD has produced 170+ policy notes mapping responses to COVID-19 pandemic since March. One of these policy notes collects responses provided to the crisis by 100+ cities worldwide, including measures such as protecting vulnerable groups, fostering the continuity of local public services such as drinking water and sanitation, or supporting local business recovery. The Policy note provides recommendations for building back better, smarter, greener and more inclusive cities. The Policy note is available in English, French, Spanish, Japanese and Portuguese.

Ms Akhmouch then provided follow-up on the 13th OECD WGI meeting (Paris, 9-10 January 2020). She informed members of the launch of the report A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals and its Web Tool, which measures the distance to the 17 Goals of more than 600 cities and regions in OECD countries. The report and the database were both launched at the World Urban Forum (Abu Dhabi, 8-13 February 2020). She also highlighted the launch of the Synthesis Report on the Circular Economy in

Cities and Regions, including a dedicated section on water as the key sector for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy. Ms Akhmouch updated WGI members on the OECD Council Recommendation on Water, adopted in 2016, which transposed verbatim the OECD Principles on Water Governance. Three years after its adoption, the OECD Secretariat submitted the report on the Implementation of the Council Recommendation by OECD member countries to the Council of the OECD. She thanked members for providing comments on draft versions of the report, which will be launched in 2021. Ms Akhmouch recalled the communication campaign on the fifth anniversary of the OECD Principles on Water Governance, consisting of 15 testimonials from WGI members, and 28 featured posts between May and July. The campaign resulted in thousands of visits to the OECD Principles on Water Governance web page and reached tens of thousands of people via LinkedIn and Twitter. She thanked WGI members for their participation and introduced the incoming Deputy Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities at the OECD, Mr Nadim Ahmad.

Mr Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director of the CFE, introduced himself to the Chair and WGI members. He appreciated the multi-stakeholder dimension of the WGI. He acknowledged that this model was inspirational to many parts of the OECD and excelled in convening stakeholders to discuss issues of strategic importance. Before joining CFE, he was the Head of the Trade and Productivity Statistics Division in the Statistics and Data Directorate of the OECD, since 2012.

Ms Romano launched a Zoom poll question to all participants: *was water included in your national COVID-19 recovery packages?* A total of 67% of the participants responded "yes". Members were then encouraged to indicate the key word that came to mind when responding to the question "*how can water be used to build back better after the COVID-19 crisis?"* As a result, the word cloud indicated nature-based solutions, sustainability, resilience, health, circular economy, sanitation, competition and infrastructure as key words connecting water and its role in the post pandemic recovery (Figure 1).

The **Chair** introduced the next session to discuss the OECD policy paper on water governance in Asia, a contribution to the 2020 Asia Water Development Outlook by the ADB, scheduled to be launched on 18 December 2020. He then gave the floor to the speakers.

Figure 1. How can water help build back better after the COVID-19 crisis? A word cloud

Note: Mentimeter word cloud interactive question

Water Governance in Asia

Mr Thomas Panella, Chief, Water Sector Group, Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided an overview of the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO), the ADB's flagship publication for the water sector, currently on its fourth edition. The AWDO shows the results of the water security index based on five key dimensions: household water security, economic water security, urban water security, environmental water security and water-related disaster security. Each dimension is rated from one to five, to reflect progress from nascent, engaged, capable and effective to model. The objective is to provide policy recommendations for reforms and guide investments in the Asia-Pacific region. The 2020 AWDO is the result of a partnership with the OECD, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Korean Institute of Construction Technology, International Water Centre and the Asia Pacific Water Forum. The 4th edition, AWDO 2020, is one of the most ambitious editions so far. It counts on: an improved methodology (i.e. disaggregating across urban and rural dimensions to avoid double counting for the household water security indicators); dedicated cross-cutting sections on finance and governance, as a result of the partnership with the OECD; case studies at the national and subnational levels in India, PRC, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Mr Panella presented the results of the five Key Dimensions of water security analysed in the report:

- *Household water security*. According to the results, many countries have good policies but lack capital or resources to implement locally appropriate solutions, especially in rural areas, where half the households in Asia-Pacific is located. The following indicators are used: access to water supply, sanitation, health impacts and affordability.
- *Economic water security*. It is important to improve productivity and ensure adequate storage and distribution as well as to mitigate for climate change and implement reallocation mechanisms.
- *Urban water security*. The report highlights that despite substantial investment, urban water security has stayed constant due to the high rate of urbanisation in the Asia Pacific. More integrated solutions are needed in the urban context, using wastewater, stormwater and rainwater as resources. There could also be a focus on data and information, including systematic updating to improve monitoring and evaluation. Urban water security is measured through indicators, such as water supply, sanitation, affordability, drainage, floods and environment. It measures safely managed and affordable water sanitation services in urban and informal settlements to sustainably achieve desired and agreed outcomes. Future editions could focus more on informal settlements.
- *Environmental water security*. This consists of catchment and aquatic systems, as well as health and environmental governance. The main findings show that the health of aquatic ecosystems are under considerable pressure and more work is needed to protect them. Comparisons are difficult across countries and time, due to lack of data. There is a significant risk of traditional grey infrastructure being put in place to address water security concerns, such as urban or economic concerns that come at a trade-off for the environment.
- *Water-related disaster security*. This dimension examines droughts, floods and storms, and is based on assessments of the scale of the hazard, the level of exposure, the vulnerability and the nation's capacity for resilience. Since 2013, capacity across the Asia-Pacific has increased slightly while resilience and vulnerability have decreased. Results highlight that water-related disasters have severe effects on women and girls. As such, a proactive gender approach is needed to prepare for and respond to disaster. Further investments of at least 1-2% of GDP are needed, and in some countries, far more.

Mr Panella concluded with overviews of the governance and finance aspects for greater water security in the region. The report shows that most countries have an overarching water policy framework, in addition to coordination mechanisms. However, water policies are not fully implemented due to capacity constraints and funding gaps. More data and monitoring are necessary to evaluate water policies and regulatory

frameworks have limited scope and effectiveness. Recommendations include adopting water policy and economic instruments; addressing capacity and data gaps; developing further stakeholder engagement; mainstreaming integrity and transparency. Regarding finance, investment needs were most prominent to address water supply and sanitation infrastructural gaps, flood risk exposure, irrigation expansion and efficiency improvements. Sources of funding could include public taxes, water supply and sanitation tariffs and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Policy options include making the best use of available assets and financial resources, minimising future investment needs and securing additional finance sources. These policy recommendations are key to improving water policy and governance in the region. Mr Panella concluded his presentation by stating the 4th edition of the AWDO will be released on 18 December 2020.

Ms Maria Salvetti, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Water Governance Programme, provided an overview of the water governance aspects included in the AWDO from the Survey carried out across 46 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The OECD Principles on Water Governance were used to build the analytical grid of the survey. Results revealed that in most countries of the region an overarching water policy framework is in place, either in the form of an environmental law or a specific dedicated water law, mentioning the human right to water and sanitation. In 81% of the countries of the region, a water policy coordination mechanism is in place, especially in countries where a river basin organisation exists, either within the national boundaries of the country or across countries for transboundary basins. These coordination mechanisms help manage water risks and strengthen water security. In the majority of countries in Asia Pacific, while dedicated water policies clearly indicate goals and duties of water institutions, they do not clearly indicate the resources needed to achieve the goals. Often, the lack of financial resources is compounded by a lack of human resources and capacity, preventing the timely and efficient implementation of investment projects and dedicated water policies.

Ms Salvetti indicated that in addition to the limited adoption of water policy instruments, the survey showed other key issues in relation to water security in the region. 79% of the Asia Pacific countries surveyed has no policy instruments to allocate or monitor water extractions. In addition, there is a lack of conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources. Alongside insufficient cross-sectoral coordination between agriculture, energy and drinking water supply, this results in over-abstraction of groundwater resources. There is a limited adoption of economic instruments to manage water risks, such as abstraction and pollution charges, which are implemented by one-third of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The survey also showed limited uptake of integrity practises and tools, and insufficient data on water and sanitation services, as well as water resource management. Furthermore, in two-thirds of the Asia Pacific countries, there are no formal requirements for evaluation and monitoring of water policies. The absence of periodical review and scrutiny prevents assessment of the effectiveness of these policies on the ground and the implementation of potential remedial actions when the policies are not delivering.

Ms Salvetti concluded with key governance recommendations for the Asia-Pacific region. There is a need to strengthen the implementation of water-related policies by specifying roles and responsibilities across levels of governments and across water related institutions, especially with regard to financing and budgeting. Policy instruments, including water allocation, could manage trade-offs across users. However, proper data are needed. There is also a need to adopt water economic instruments, including water abstraction and pollution charges whose revenues can fund water policies. Improving water data and monitoring through promoting dedicated institutions for monitoring evaluation is achievable. The institutions must have sufficient capacity, as well as the appropriate degree of independence and resources. Further recommendations include: developing further stakeholder engagement in water decision-making; and, mainstreaming integrity and transparency practices across water policies, institutions and governance frameworks. She concluded by thanking the ADB for their support and collaboration.

Mr Tadashige Kawasaki, **IWRM Specialist, Water Resources Engineering, Japan Water Agency and Network of Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO)** acknowledged that the survey results accurately reflect the situation of water governance in the region. Specific items, such as the level and efficiency of implementation, gaps of human resources and funding, necessity of integrity practices and tools, and the

introduction of trade-offs and economic instruments should be considered. These items can help all players involved, including governments, international organisations, civil society, private sector organisation and NGOs to improve the progress of water governance in the region. He recommended to pay specific attention to the issue of floods and mentioned the OECD report, Applying the OECD Principles on Water Governance to Floods and the Yangon Declaration issued that the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in December 2017 on this regard. The Yangon Declaration led leaders of the Asia Pacific to double investment at the regional level in infrastructure and community-based efforts to address water-related disasters, which significantly increased water security. There are still gaps concerning the implementation of the recommendations. This can only happen if capacity is developed at all levels through a network to share common information and generate consensus on the needed actions. Networks like NARBO play an important role in capacity development at all levels.

The Chair thanked the presenters and then handed the floor to **Ms Akhmouch** to moderate the debate..

Ms Barabara Schreiner, Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member, thanked the speakers for an interesting report with some concerning challenges around the issues of integrity and transparency. The Water Integrity Network is interested to see how to improve integrity practices and transparency in the Asia-Pacific region. This issue is even more relevant during and then after the COVID-19 pandemic, which has revealed important issues in terms of transparency and accountability.

Mr Ian Barker, Expert commented that the message he took away was the high degree of concern for deteriorating systems, both natural systems (in terms of ecology and the environment and groundwater systems in particular) as well as capital, infrastructure, distribution networks and dams. Overall, this work shows a sobering picture that suggests the lack of resilience to shocks. He wondered if there is any indication of what the future might look like if the countries that were surveyed continue with their present weak policy and implementation, and deterioration of environment and natural systems.

Ms Cecilia Tortajada, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore highlighted that the problems discussed are not new. In fact, it is worrisome is that these problems still exist. Therefore, she asked what the next steps are and how institutions can help countries achieve the expected change.

Mr Manfred Matz, Head of the Tunisia Water Programme, German Development Agency (GIZ) commented about the question of an information system, as, Tunisia is facing the same problem. He wondered why, after so many years of investing in the water sector, data and information are not fully present everywhere. There seems to be not enough attention from the decision makers on these issues. He suggested examining how to make the link between data, information and decision-making.

Mr Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Global Water Partnership (GWP), mentioned in the chat that GWP, with UNEP, UNEP-DHI, Cap-Net, and the Regional Economic Commissions in the region (South-East Asia and South Asia at least) is considering carrying out regional SDG 6.5.1 reports. He suggested that he would communicate offline about possible synergies between these efforts with **Mr Panella** and **Ms Salvetti**.

Mr Teun Bastemeijer, Expert, Minerva Wise Water, remarked on the issue of the lack of provisions for good governance and resilience to disasters. He highlighted the need to show the percentages of the total population of Asia Pacific, which are concerned by the gaps, in order to understand the magnitude of the challenge. He also commended Mr Kawasaki for his excelled suggestion to focus more on water-related disasters and community-based efforts.

Ms Joannie Leclerc, Dialogue and Societal Impact Director, SUEZ and WGI Steering Committee member, highlighted that political will, accountability and data availability are related, since the lack of data may be due to the reluctance to disclose data. The report showed that countries that performed the best since the last diagnosis were those that invested in water governance. As such, it is not only about money, but also about how you invest them and where.

Ms Susana Neto, Senior Researcher, University of Lisbon, commented in the chat that the UNESCO office in Jakarta has also carried out interesting work in Asia-Pacific on the SDG 6 and 4, and published several reports.

Mr Munhak Park, Water Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Korea welcomed the AWDO and the survey on water governance in Asia-Pacific. Korea highly appreciated the work related to the water in such a big region and urged the Secretariat to continue and develop this kind of work. Since the Asia-Pacific region is geographically vast, each country has its own challenges. He urged the OECD Secretariat to focus future work on specific countries. The Asia Water Council (AWC) is willing to co-operate with the OECD and ADB. His team highlighted in the chat the need for a systemic approach for water solutions instead of specifically focusing on one part of the issues.

Ms Maria Salvetti responded to some comments. She mentioned that only 20% of the countries of the region had implemented international convention and integrity tools. Data from the World Bank has shown that 20-40% of water sector finances funds projects that are not cost-efficient, due to a lack of integrity and accountability. Mr Salvetti specified that the chapter on financing of the AWDO does not suggest more investments, but allocating funding towards cost-efficient projects. Data is often missing or not available. She made a last point that the countries with the highest score in terms of urban water security, according to the key dimension, are the countries that have predominantly adopted performance indicators for their water and sanitation utilities. This is to show that using data and information to monitor water systems allows countries to improve urban water security.

Mr Panella highlighted that the SDGs are included throughout the report, as well as in the available related data. Regarding assets and maintenance, the ADB emphasises full lifecycle costing and asset management in the AWDO. Regarding the lack of data, the issue does not only concern governance, but the water sector in general. It is very difficult to get the information of who is using how much water, where, and when, especially in developing countries. This information would provide a basis for much better policy decisions. For the finance chapter, getting data on how much is spent by various governments at different levels is also challenging. This edition of AWDO 2020 puts the ADB in a better position for the next AWDO.

Ms Akhmouch thanked **Mr Panella** and took the opportunity to address questions and comments in the chat. She highlighted that the partnership between the OECD and ADB was a unique opportunity to ensure that policy recommendations from the report would feed into very concrete reforms. For instance, they could guide future technical assistance in countries of the Asia-Pacific region. She concluded by saying that two standalone policy papers on water governance and finance, respectively, in the Asia-Pacific Region will be published in 2021.

Water Governance in African Cities

The Chair reminded delegates that this session is a follow up on the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize awarded to the Secretary General of the OECD, Mr Angel Gurria, at the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia (March 2018). The prize recognised the OECD's work to raise the profile of water in national policy agendas and support countries around the world on the issue. The Chair introduced the session, focusing on key findings from a joint OECD/United Cities and Local Government-Africa (UCLG-Africa) Survey on Water Governance in 36 African Cities. He thanked the speakers, Mr Mohamed Nbou, Climate Change Director from UCLG Africa, a very valuable and trusted partner to the OECD in this project, and Mr Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen (Morocco), who participated in the survey and who will give some insight from the point of view of the subject of this survey. He then gave the floor to **Ms Salvetti** to present the first findings of the survey.

Ms Maria Salvetti, **Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Water Governance Programme**, acknowledged the collaboration with UCLG Africa, a key partner of the project. With their help and support, the OECD has

gathered information from 36 cities, of which 43% are capital cities (15 cities). There is quite a balanced sample between the cities in terms of sizes. However, there is a bias towards French speaking cities (77%). Regarding megatrends and water risks, the Survey results stressed that urbanisation (44%), climate change (43%) and demography changes (40%) are affecting cities' water and sanitation services, as well as water resource management. The risks most affecting cities, according to the Survey, include too much water (39%), insufficient access to water and sanitation (37%) and lacking, ageing, obsolete infrastructure (36%). National laws, regulations and initiatives are drivers for water reforms. The 2030 Agenda is also an important driver for water-related action at city level. Water policies at the city level clearly indicate the goals for water supply and sanitation, as well as the duties of the institutions in charge of achieving them.

Ms Salvetti highlighted that almost three-quarters of the surveyed cities, water and sanitation responsibilities are embedded at the national level. Tariffs and subsidies are the main funding sources for water and sanitation services in the cities that have responded to the survey. Regarding transparency and budget, half of the cities have separated accounting for water and sanitation services. The Survey asked about social measures put in place by cities targeted towards vulnerable populations of water and sanitation users. Nearly 60% of cities responded that they have social measures in place for poor populations, while less than 15% responded that they had social measures for women or female-headed households. Most of the cities (78%) have not implemented institutional mapping. However, several formal stakeholder engagement mechanisms are already in place at city level. She mentioned monitoring needs to be improved, especially with regard to water-dedicated policies. The main factors that hinder cities from progress are the lack of funding, the lack of staff knowledge and competence, and the low level of investment. She concluded with following questions for discussion to participants: Beyond technical solutions and infrastructure, how can African cities guarantee better access to services and enhance water security?;Do you have any experience or research lessons to share with us that could inspire overcoming the mentioned water governance challenges? She then passed the floor to **Mr Mohamed Nbou**.

Mr Mohamed Nbou, **Climate Change Director, UCLG-Africa** mentioned the importance of context when discussing governance and the security of water in Africa, including that the urban population is expected to grow by a factor of three by 2050 and that African cities contribute heavily to the continent's GDP. Decentralisation is necessary in order to develop more efficient and secure water systems and institutions In terms of health, one million people die each year from waterborne diseases in Africa, and millions of people lack access to safe drinking water. Data from the Survey also provided further avenues for research: sustainability of water in relation to urbanisation, population and economic growth; resilience of water management; and service delivery. He highlighted local governments should be at the core of water governance; thus, it is important to consider a bottom-up approach, as well as a top-down approach, indicating a necessary paradigm shift. It is important to ensure that local governments are effective, with clear sustainable water policy goals and targets at all levels of governments, but this remains a challenge. Challenges within efficiency (maximising the benefits of sustainable water management and welfare at the least cost to society) and within trust and engagement (building public confidence and ensuring inclusiveness) will be trials in the new locally focussed approach. UCLG-Africa will organise a roundtable regarding the integration of local authorities and local governments, to focus on topics such as financing, capacity, inclusion, sustainability and resilience linked to water-related risks.

Mr Mohamed Sefiani, **Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco** addressed his intervention in French, which was translated into English in the chat by the OECD Secretariat. Chefchaouen is a "blue city" of 50 000 inhabitants, in a province of 450 000 inhabitants in the northwest of Morocco. The city was founded 550 years ago, located on an important water source. It is a water-rich city, while Morocco is semi-arid country and experiences droughts often. These droughts are related to climate change, which is why there is a lot of emphasis on water throughout the country. There is a national strategy and programme in this field, which is also part of the sustainable development strategy of the country to implement all of the SDGs. In terms of Morocco's water governance, there is a National Water Agency for water production. Service delivery is the responsibility of cities, but most of them have delegated service provision to public (National

Office for Water and Electricity) or regional/local service providers. In some cities such as Rabat and Casablanca, there are private operators through companies such as Suez or Veolia. In Chefchaouen, the National Office of Water and Electricity have handled the service provision for the past 23 years.

Mr Sefiani continued that, globally, connection rates are high in the city—at almost 93% thanks to proactive social programmes for peripheral neighbourhoods and poor families. The main challenge is that the main water source (providing 1200 litres per second for 50,000 inhabitants) is becoming insufficient for the need of the city. Therefore, the city also faces scarcity, which is why national governance just put in place an important water security programme for the city with hydraulic infrastructure to cope with droughts when they become prominent. In terms of sanitation, they set up a wastewater treatment plant five years ago, to which about 70% of people in the city are connected. This is part of a 5 million EUR program financed by the national government, and the connection rate is underway to reach 95% in 2 years. The city also has awareness campaigns on water and sanitation. The tariff system in Morocco uses increasing block tariffs. They also have social tariffs when affordability becomes an issue. At the local level, there is no room for manoeuver on tariff setting and regulations, done at the national level, varying by region and provider. Finally, the city is not implementing water reuse, but just treating wastewater. However, in the urban development programme, the city tries to increase water use efficiency in public spaces. He concluded by thanking everyone for their time and attention.

WGI members commented through the chat during the presentations:

Mr Rob Uijterlinde, Dutch Water Authorities, asked how the results (a highly aggregated picture) would be materialised in ongoing/new activities in the region.

Mr Teun Bastemeijer, Expert, Minerva Wise Water, asked for clarifications on the use of percentage of the countries and their related absolute values.

Mr Kevin Collins Senior Lecturer Environment & Systems, The Open University (UK), asked why Principle 8 (innovation) is absent from the report and the tables. **Ms Salvetti** responded that information was not provided through the survey responses on this Principle. **Ms Akhmouch** added that most countries and stakeholders call for experimentations and innovative governance practices but, in practice, it is always hard to gather evidence on them.

Mr Erik Van Lith Strategic Advisor for Drinking Water, Water Chain and Water Systems, Royal HaskoningDHV commented that innovations and data-driven solutions could be items for a next session.

Mr Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Global Water Partnership (GWP) commented that often references are made to the "water sector", even when referring to an integrated approach across sectors. He is advocating stopping using the term "sector" when referring to what should be thought of as a crosscutting resource, touching upon various sectors.

Ms Lesha Witmer Steering Committee Member of the Butterfly Effect/Women for Water Partnership asked the OECD WGI to join the stakeholder engagement platform of The World Water Quality Alliance and contribute to local awareness.

Ms Uta When, Associate Professor of Water Innovation Studies and Acting Chair of the Knowledge & Capacity Development Group IHE Delft commented that arguably there is quite some overlap, unfortunately, between poor population and women/female-led households. She added, in addition to the World Water Quality Alliance proposed by Ms Witmer, the Water Action Platform to the list of organisations.

Ms Joannie Leclerc, Dialogue and Societal Impact Director, SUEZ and WGI Steering Committee member, commented about the uncommon practice to have mechanisms for stakeholder engagement without stakeholder mapping.

Ms Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member commented that WIN has been working with the Water Services Regulatory Board

(WASREB) in Kenya on the regulation of informal services providers. WIN also published a report on improving public finance management in the water sector in Kenya that might be relevant, *Ensuring COVD-19 relief funds are used with integrity in Nakuru and Makeuni counties*. WIN can share information on integrity management with utilities. She also would be interested to know more about how accountability mechanisms work in the cities surveyed, particularly for those cities where services appear to be provided by a national provider (70% of cases). Where this is the case, what is the role of the city and how do they hold the national provider accountable?

Mr Olivier Crespi Reghizzi, AFD, commented that on the road to the 9th World Water Forum, AFD is proposing to explore the role of land-value capture tools in partly financing urban water and sanitation infrastructure. AFD would happy to share more information. He also thanked **Mr Sefiani** for sharing his perspective and said that AFD could work with the National Office of Water and Electricity as a part of investments in sanitation in the city of Chefchaouen.

Ms Laura Tanco, Head, Technical Service, Spain (Júcar River Basin Authority) commented that while the focus of the Survey seems to be water supply and sanitation, it is also important to account for agricultural irrigation. She understood that this analysis of Africa is at the city level, which is important, but the basin-level approach, which is key to water management and governance, should also be examined. **Ms Akhmouch** responded that the report devoted a full section to Principle 2 of the OECD Principles on Water Governance (managing water at the appropriate scale within integrated basin systems).

Mr Donal O'Leary Senior Advisor, Transparency International and WGI Steering Committee member commented in the chat that it would be helpful to look at two additional points: (a) how to reach Anglophone countries, particularly in Southern and Eastern Africa. Potentially by extending the survey or further desk research?; and (b) Given the importance of finding finance for new or ungraded infrastructure, it may be worth including a statement on the legal/institutional status of procurement, which can reach up to 80% of GDP in some countries.

Ms Sophie Richard, Head, Water Management Section, AgroParisTech commented that regarding potential capacity building challenges on a local government level, AgroParisTech and Suez lead a chair for training managers of water and sanitation services in local authorities (Water for All), with the support of the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the Water Agency Rhône Méditerranée et Corse. Three training courses have been developed (in French and English).

Ms Aparna Sridhar, Policy Advisor for Water, The Nature Conservancy, commented that IWA and TNC captured some lessons learned from water utilities considering the role of nature in water resource management, in the book Nature for Water: A Series of Utility Spotlights. There are some important lessons learned on data and mechanisms that address the emerging challenge and opportunity for land use spatial planning at catchment scale and have an impact on both upstream and downstream communities.

Ms Uta When, Associate Professor of Water Innovation Studies and Acting Chair of the Knowledge & Capacity Development Group, IHE-Delft commented that AfriAlliance is a network of networks that has excellent reach to a range of stakeholders (municipalities, utilities, CSOs, scientists & researchers, solution providers etc.) to help reach Anglophone Africa**.** She also commented that under the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), there is a GEO Community Activity focused on Citizen Science & Earth Observation, which aims to help make Citizen Science data available (to the extent that this is appropriate on a case-by-case basis). Moreover, UNESCO is preparing a Recommendation on Open Science, which intersects considerably with Citizen Science, and major pillars of Open Science are Open Data and Open Access. These are highly relevant initiatives in terms of stakeholder engagement, transparency and integrity, and data and information, to avoid reinventing the wheel when it comes to 'access to Citizen Science data'. She advocated for a less data-focused approach (at least initially) when approaching and working with communities, to make sure their involvement is not primarily instrumental. Citizens often cannot easily point to data that is important to them, but rather to issues and problems that require analysis, which may involve data collection.

Ms Susana Neto, Senior Researcher, University of Lisbon, agreed with the point on data and commented that data by itself is not enough. Without clear goals that effectively involve the communities, data may even become a way to hide some real problems.

Mr Kevin Collins, Senior Lecturer Environment & Systems, The Open University (UK), agreed with the point on citizen data, as long as citizens are asked which data are important for them.

The **Chair** thanked the presenters for their presentations and gave the floor to **Ms Akhmouch** to moderate the debate.

Mr Erik Van Lith Strategic Advisor for Drinking Water, Water Chain and Water Systems, Royal HaskoningDHV, wondered if the survey missed opinions of the stakeholders themselves since the survey was taken from the perspectives of governments. He thought that if the work captured the information of the stakeholders, the outcomes might be different. He suggested a dialogue with stakeholders. **Mr Colin Herron Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Global Water Partnership (GWP**) seconded in the chat Mr Van Lith's suggestion about including other stakeholders. GWP has been carrying out SDG 6.5.1 consultations (mainly at the national level), and they have seen a significant difference between the government and other stakeholders. GWP has done national multi-stakeholder workshops (60 this year), which are useful to get more granularity and unite stakeholders to generate shared commitment, and use the SDG 6 IWRM Stage 1 Support Package for this purpose. **Ms Akhmouch** thanked Mr Van Lith for his comments. The OECD has been stressing that governance is not just about governments. A webinar actually took place in September to engage not only the respondents to the survey, but also some of the users and representatives across the different municipalities to contribute to the discussion. She stressed the difference between the synthesis report and the policy dialogue looking at the specificities of cities or countries.

Ms Carolina Latorre, Senior Officer, Water Policy & Regulation, IWA agreed with **Mr Van Lith's** comments through the chat and commented that IWA would be happy to contribute with and linking especially to IWA's governing members.

Mr Dirk Van der Stede, Flanders VLAKWA, commented on the chat that as discussed during the 2020 Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Community Conference (G-STIC), there is a need to accelerate the implementation of integrated water resources management and the deployment of smart solutions built on circular economy models. This requires strong partnerships, technology transfer, the exchange of innovative ideas and the demonstration of successful case studies.

Mr Bernard Barraqué, Research Director, CNRS added that part of the problem is due to the fact that poor populations are installed in areas that are already subject to flooding, which will become worse with climate change. For instance, this could be an issue in Lagos because it is on the seaside. This is the case in Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta and Manilla where urbanisation can worsen the effects of climate change. **Ms Caroline Figueres Strategic Advisor, Water, Figueres consultancy, Peer-reviewer** commented in the chat that this is not only an issue for coastal cities, but also for cities with rivers, for example, the floods in Niamey, Niger last October.

Ms Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee Member of the Butterfly Effect/Women for Water Partnership, expressed her concern about the remarks on stakeholder involvement. The Water Quality Alliance's main feature is to set up a stakeholder engagement platform involving five municipalities across the globe. This is still a developing concept. The Alliance is trying to identify local communities in urban areas that could contribute to how to best work with local governments to involve stakeholders and how they could connect to different stakeholders in their municipality to talk about these issues. There are some resources available to involve local communities, which might be helpful. The second remark was about citizens' data. She wondered who is being asked for data in the report. Potentially, there are unused data if not publicly available, as in the case of citizens or businesses doing their own assessments.

Ms Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member commented in the chat that it would be interesting to know more about where there are informal services providers in the surveyed cities. Many of the cities reported a single service provider, but this could only account for formal arrangements, which does not reflect that services in informal settlements are often provided by a range of informal service providers. In terms of integrity and transparency, WIN has experience of running the integrity management toolbox process with, for example, water utilities, which improves integrity, transparency and accountability and reduces the risk of corruption.

Mr Christophe Brachet, Deputy General Manager, OIEau (Office International de l'Eau) commented in the chat that the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) is preparing a new Handbook: "City-basin dialogue: methodological guide on river basin connected cities" with the International Water Association (IWA). It will include case studies in Africa that could be useful for this work.

Mr Rob Uijterlind, Project Leader, Dutch Water Authorities added that the cities are not the only players, as they have partners in this field. He emphasised the importance of co-operation between municipalities and, for instance, catchment agencies, river basin organisations, etc. These partnerships should be part of the discussion in the final report as they apply to the areas of pollution, wastewater treatment and the consequences of urban wastewater in the catchment.

Mr Kevin Collins, Senior Lecturer Environment & Systems, The Open University (UK), commented in the chat that according to research carried out in drought contexts or crisis situations, government top-down responses can undermine long-term local governance arrangements. Successful water governance requires investment in the local long-term so that in crises, governments and regions act from an informed mandate. He also commented that he was surprised to see that drought was not a key issue and wondered if infrastructure is expected to solve droughts.

Ms Maria Salvetti stated that while English-speaking African cities have been contacted, no responses have yet been received to balance the number of French-speaking African cities. She acknowledged the possible overlap between poor population and the women and single households that will be addressed in the report. Regarding the accountability in cities where the water and sanitation responsibilities are embedded at national level, the Secretariat will try to address the issue through quantitative research and examples. Some cities have also mentioned that they sometimes have dozens, if not more, informal providers. The Secretariat will try to address that situation through qualitative inputs, such as dedicated on specific cities for floods and droughts. Too much water was in the top ranking water risks, accounting for 20 respondents. She also clarified that stakeholder engagement does indeed take place, as the webinar in September was with the cities, NGOs, and other acting groups. This was a dedicated platform to engage with the stakeholders themselves, even though the cities filled out the questionnaires. She thanked everyone for their inputs that will be taken into account in the revised version of the report.

Ms Caroline Figueres, **Strategic Advisor, Water, Figueres consultancy, Peer-reviewer** commented in the chat that she does not think that floods are said to be a key issue, just that floods have very immediate effects and can result in the loss of lives within hours. However, this is not the case for droughts. There is loss of life, but not directly connected to droughts, more indirectly through the loss of food and nutrition.

Mr Nbou added that the process of decentralisation process in Africa is very long. He added the fact that UCLG-Africa integrated the local government and more local stakeholders in the decentralisation process.

Mr Sefiani commented that it is important to recall this point on decentralisation. The report shows that there are shared responsibilities across levels of government and that the governance and decision-making processes can take time if the local community is not engaged. It is also important to strengthen regionalisation and then further decentralisation at the local level, which is the case in Morocco now. Mayors must also give more importance and weight to strategic planning at the local level, encompassing issues on climate, energy, water and environment. Water reuse is also becoming more essential, but it

requires massive investments. It would be good to finance at a local level and receive more access to credits from international organisations.

The Chair commented that the decentralisation process underlines the basic principle that governance is multi-stakeholder and multilevel. He concluded and allowed 15 minutes for a short break.

Water Governance and Security in Cape Town, South Africa

The **Chair** introduced the session on water governance and security in Cape Town, South Africa. The draft OECD report is the result of a collaboration between the City of Cape Town, South Africa and the OECD during the past year, with the assistance and contribution of peer reviewers. He then gave the floor to the speakers.

Mr Mike Killick, **Director, Bulk Services, Water and Sanitation, City of Cape Town, South Africa** thanked everyone for this opportunity to present the history of the drought for the city of Cape Town and the subsequent water strategy. The city of Cape Town drew international attention in early 2018 as Day Zero drew close. The drought from 2015 to 2017 was a one in 590-year event, as revealed through hydrological analysis. The city of Cape Town achieved a 55% percent reduction in water demand between 2015 and 2017 without resorting to intermittent supply, an achievement for which the city won an international award from IWRA. **Mr Killick** highlighted that it took three years to shift from a full dam to a Day Zero. The city climate change modelling indicated the yield of its dams were going to decrease by about 23% by 2050. It also showed that droughts would be more frequent, more severe and of longer duration. Looking at the city of Cape Town's demand since the 1970s, there have been three distinct phases from 1970 to about 2000. The first was a growth phase, when the city built infrastructure to meet the demand, which was growing at about 4.5% per annum. Then, between 2001 and 2004, water use was restricted. The national department ensured Cape Town's focus on water conservation and demand management before approving the next dam. For the next 15 years, the city managed to keep demand flat and became more efficient in terms of water use. However, unfortunately, this caused the city to lose ability to restrict demand, because economic and population growth were occurring during this 15-year period. Then, after the drought in 2017, the city focussed on becoming more resilient and diversifying its water resources to avoid future issues on not being able to restrict demand.

Mr Killick stated that in response to the drought, the city of Cape Town, South Africa developed a water strategy, containing five commitments. The first is safe access to water and sanitation for all, focussing on inclusion and commitment to wise water use. This encompasses pricing regulation, active citizenship and network management. The second is wise water use, achieved through pricing, regulation, active citizenship and network management. The third commitment is sufficient, reliable water from diverse resources. The city has committed to diversifying water resources and by 2040, 20-25% will be from groundwater, water reuse and desalination. The city aims to build up or increase supply by 300 mega litres per day over the next 10 years to avoid periods of water restrictions, which occurred during the last drought. The city commits to have water restrictions of up to 30% only. In case of another drought, the city intends to build infrastructure as an insurance policy to ensure no restrictions greater than 30%. The fourth commitment is shared benefits and managed risks from a regional water resource system, which entails engagement with partners, neighbouring local municipalities, agriculture and the National Department of Water and Sanitation. Under this commitment, the city initiated a hydro-economic study, funded by the World Bank to see how water is allocated best in terms of economic benefit for the whole region. The city will then take recommendations from this from this dialogue with OECD and see how to implement them within the context of the city's water strategy. The last commitment, which is more around sustainability and is a longer-term goal, is to become a water sensitive city by 2040. The policy and governance dialogue will also help inform that commitment. He thanked everyone for their time and attention.

Ms Maria Salvetti, **Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Water Governance Programme**, thanked **Mr Killick** and the **Chair**. She mentioned she would share the floor with **Ms Elliott Alonso**, who has been helping draft the report. She acknowledged that the virtual fact-finding missions held in July and August 2020 were very successful thanks to the local team, the Water Department of the city of Cape Town and the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership. A total of 80+ stakeholders participated (including from NGOs, civil society organisations—the Berg Water Management Agency, The Water Research Centre, the National Department of Water and Sanitation, Drakenstein Municipal water service, Swartland Municipal water service, Saldana Municipal water service—academic researchers, the Regional Department of Water and Sanitation, International donors, financial institutions, the Western Cape Province, the City of Cape Town Water and Sanitation branches, the business community, international and local experts and peer-reviewers). The local team consisted of members from the Water Department of the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership.

Ms Elliott Alonso focused on the challenges and risks affected by different megatrends in Cape Town and their evolution. South Africa and Cape Town, in particular, have been experiencing relative economic progress since the transition to democracy in the 1990s. As in most African countries, the economic landscape of South Africa is highly dependent on the effects of climate change. Economic growth is expected to be mitigated by concurrent issues with water scarcity, which is explored in the reports. This is especially important in the context of the COVID-19 world, where finding a balance between protecting the general interests and ensuring economic activity will be a challenge. Two other complex trends occurring in Cape Town include urbanisation and demographic change, which have implications for social inclusion and equality, as well as for water quality and universal coverage. Cape Town, South Africa is experiencing a large number of migration from other parts of the country and other parts of the same province, which has effects on the safety of housing and the provision of basic services. The city of Cape Town, South Africa has an estimated population of just over four million people, and about one-fifth of households live in informal housing. Many of these are found on floodplains and are thus exposed much greater risks of water-related disasters. From 2011 to 2016, Cape Town had the fourth highest annual population growth of all the metropolitan cities in South Africa. A significant number of the growth included immigrants to the city, who found residence in one of the city's many informal settlements. These informal settlements play a role in the contamination of the city's freshwater systems and contribute to already existing inequalities. After the overview of how megatrends are affecting water security in Cape Town, South Africa, Ms Elliott Alonso gave the floor to **Ms Salvetti** to cover governance challenges and policy recommendations.

Ms Salvetti started by specifying that the water supply system, Western Cape, which supplies the city, is a multilevel and multi-stakeholder water system. As such, there are some coordination mechanisms, including the Strategic Operating Forum, as well as catchment management agencies. However, during the crisis there were some issues with the effective use of those coordination mechanisms. For instance, the Strategic Steering Committee did not gather for two years in a row from 2016 to 2017, whereas the standard is that it meets twice a year. Another issue was that the Reconciliation Strategy, the key document for the Western Cape water supply system, was not updated between 2016 and 2019. There were also some capacity gaps in terms of turnover and vacancies, particularly at the national level. These gaps included ageing staff with no replacement plan in place to prepare the transition, an insufficient number of specialised staff, and difficulty to attract and retain specialised staff due to financing issues. This capacity gap created an adverse effect on water policy design and implementation. It also created issues with regard to starting and implementing investment projects, which concerned proper maintenance of the water assets. The report examined trust and engagement in terms of procurement challenges and budget constraints that have triggered delays along with wasteful expenditure (the term used by the Auditor-General). This has caused underinvestment and low maintenance of assets, which led to a decrease in the yield of the entire Western Cape water supply system.

Ms Salvetti discussed important turning points in terms of communication during the drought. At a local level, communication was modified from a command and control approach to a collaborative one. The city

shared information through the water dashboard and water outlook. There were also some financing issues with abstraction and pollution charges being below cost recovery. These charges are too low to fund programmes sustainably over time, such as alien species clearance. Overall, there are funding gaps both at national and local levels with regard to investments in the water resource management area.

Ms Salvetti concluded with the policy recommendations, which encourage completing the decentralisation process and resuming the instalment of the catchment management agencies; there is currently one catchment agency throughout the entire territory of the Western Cape as opposed to three different agencies. There is also an ongoing review of the water allocation regime through the update of the Reconciliation Strategy to improve financial sustainability by setting up an independent water regulator at national level. The city is aiming to set cost-reflective tariffs. Another recommendation is to strengthen capacity through ensuring more clarity in recruitment processes. The report recommends putting appeal processes in place to improve transparency, integrity and accountability. Ms Salvetti concluded by posing questions for discussion: Do you have any experience or research lessons in a context similar to the one of Cape Town to share on: Economic regulation reforms that managed to improve water utilities financial sustainability while ensuring affordability? Decentralisation reforms overcoming political resistance and avoiding unfunded mandates? Efficient processes to strengthen transparency and integrity?

Ms Caroline Figueres, **Strategic Advisor, Water, Figueres consultancy, Peer-reviewer** focussed on two relevant topics that prominently featured during the virtual mission to Cape Town, South Africa—data and communication—which are often underestimated by policy makers and water managers. To start with data, it is important to understand which data are under discussion and what kind of analytics were needed in Cape Town during the crisis. It is key to understand what happened and how it could be avoided in the future. Information and data sharing helped the city of Cape Town to grow successfully through this crisis. In 2017, the city of Cape Town had already developed a data strategy, which not many other cities have done. Cities should plan and act based on data, facts and information, not just on good feelings, especially in the period of climate change. Feelings and experience from the past cannot be used because the system must change. Data was vailable and shared to inform the population with success, showing that politics plays a big role in the timing of the release of this information, which is something to keep in mind.

Ms Figueres stated in the Cape Town Water Strategy, “Clear communication is critical in building a water resilient city both within the municipality itself and externally with the public. Communication is as much about listening to and understanding the needs of others as it is about conveying information of key message to them.” She could not agree more; however, communication departments often only focus on the last point of sending messages and information. This, though, is not communication but is merely a one-way flow of information. There is a need to create an inclusive and participative dialogue. Cape Town prepared an updated version of the Water Outlook report in 2020 (not yet published) presenting data and information about technical solutions in the framework of the new water programme, a contribution to communication. Cape Town moved from command and control to a collaborative approach and to implement measures that may be unpopular, it is important to make sure that they are well understood and supported by all in some form. Sharing information, knowledge and communication, dialogue about sensitive issues, even if not easy, creates critical success factors for water security in Cape Town.

Mr John Dini, Research Manager of Water Governance, Water Research Commission (South Africa) offered his greetings from Johannesburg. He reflected on some of the important findings of the policy dialogue. He found the recommendations useful, especially on decentralisation. It is interesting that decentralisation was also discussed in the previous session on other African cities, as these are issues South Africa has been struggling with for over a decade. The fundamental pillars found in the recommendations provide the broad enabling environment for water service authorities like those in Cape Town to put water in the taps of the residents. He brought up the issue of intergovernmental relations. South Africa has a constitution dating back to 1996, which brought in a radical new system of intergovernmental relations from the old, more centralised system. It has been taking a long time to give effect to what the constitution calls co-operative government, which is playing out in the water sector. The

drought in Cape Town has shed light on the fault lines around confusion, conflicts, gaps, duplications, overlaps in the different roles and responsibilities. Other issues brought up during the policy dialogue were equity and redress. The city has inherited a system where there is a direct relationship between access to water and the colour of one's skin. Although water law and policy has prioritised equity and redress to overcome inequalities, and some progress has occurred, the reality remains that much work still lies ahead and South Africa still deals with substantial inequalities.

Mr Dini continued that around equity and mentioned the Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Her TED talk, "The danger of a single story" discusses how having just one story about a person or group of people can create stereotypes that may not only be untrue, but also that the story may not present the full picture, making the idea incomplete. The OECD report successfully brought in a range of narratives. He mentioned the importance of the narratives the report has brought to the fore and other narratives less prominently featured. For example, the phenomenon of state capture, a term frequently used to refer to the systemic problem of corruption, is present throughout the report. It is a strong narrative, whereas, other narratives around intergovernmental relations or political dynamics that were playing out in the city when the drought struck are not yet developed in the report. As a result, this might feed into the conception of the problem and the recommendations. This is relevant to things like water allocation reform, which has a big equity component, and economic regulation. He concluded by mentioning that, for the first time since 2014, Cape Town's dams are now overflowing. The problem is far from solved, as some of these issues are systemic, but for now at least Cape Town's dams are full again.

The **Chair** then thanked **Mr Dini** and gave the floor to **Ms Akhmouch** to moderate the group discussion.

Mr Bernard Barraqué thanked the speakers for their presentations. On page 29 of the report, there is a direct criticism on the tariff policy that had been adopted, which ended up being not what it was meant to be. He was glad this point was raised and the World Bank has also pointed it out. Inclining block tariffs are not always beneficial in developing countries because it can depend on who is running the metre to monitor use. This is an example showing how designing a tariff that is going to meet the three dimensions of sustainability, which are economic viability, social inclusiveness and environmental efficiency, is much harder in practice. The first thing needed in a city like Cape Town is to visit the people in the city to know what is taking place in the field to properly design policies. It is necessary to get into stakeholder involvement to help citizens understand what they can do to reduce their water consumption.

Mr Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, GWP (Global Water Partnership) asked **Mr Killick** in the chat if there is any effort towards not only managing demand for water but also reducing demand.

Ms Susana Neto, Senior Researcher, University of Lisbon commended Mr Killick for his presentation in the chat. The five commitments around the three key objectives reflect a good synthesis of the critical dimensions around water governance in the Cape Town context, but can be easily adapted elsewhere to address water scarcity and security.

Ms Barbara Schreiner Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member greeted her compatriots who just spoke as a fellow South African. She congratulated the report authors on writing on a hugely contested issue, on which every South African in the water sector has a different view. This issue is close to her heart and had a few points. It is important to define Day Zero correctly. One part of the report that says it was the day on which taps were to be turned off; however, this is incorrect. It was the day on which the middle class was going to have to go to public standpipe. She believed it necessary to give Cape Town its due credit in terms of how Day Zero was designed to be as sustainable as possible. She was concerned that the policy recommendations may be generic, not specific to the Cape Town and South African context; a re-examination of the recommendations may be necessary. For example, there is a box on the Australian water allocation system, which works, but in a context that does not apply in South Africa. It does not take into account the transformation points mentioned by **Mr Dini**. In terms of the tariff issue raised by **Mr Barraqué**, it might be interesting to look at Durban, South

Africa, which has an extremely sophisticated system to ensure understanding of how many people are behind the test and therefore an adjustment of the tariffs accordingly to make a rising block. Tariffs there are acutely appropriate.

Mr Rob Uijterlinde, Project Leader, Dutch Water Authorities congratulated the colleagues in Cape Town for addressing water demand management during severe conditions and for managing to reduce water demand under those circumstances. This case illustrates the challenges for a metropolitan or local government under national government regulations. He expressed his interest to hear the OECD analysis of the pricing system, on the free basic water issue and on the allocation of water and grants for local governments. The drought is a crisis from which everyone can learn; it is important to invent or reinvent for the future. In his view, the establishment of a regulatory body or a coordinating body as a CMA should take place as soon as possible. His last point addressed water pollution. In South Africa, water pollution is not often discussed, but is an underlying problem for all water resources management and water use. He proposed discussion points on licencing water pollution and the adjustment of the polluter pays principle.

Mr Donal O'Leary Senior Advisor, Transparency International and WGI Steering Committee member expressed his enthusiasm to see this report about the city of Cape Town. Another report, Money Down the Drain, was supported by the South African branch of Transparency International, which is called Corruption Watch. He pointed out that there is a standard called the Open Contracting for infrastructure data standard, which may be a useful approach for reviewing the project cycle and particularly procurement of large water projects. He mentioned that there is an interest in South Africa in applying that standard and encouraged people to account for that.

Ms Lesha Witmer, Steering Committee Member of the Butterfly Effect/Women for Water Partnership emphasised the importance of access to an investment in vocational training. She suggested including more content on building knowledge and education capacity to engage citizens to manage water, otherwise governance will not be effective. It is important to balance governance, authority, financing and education. She also suggested that an average household be better defined based on context, as well as income.

Ms Salvetti addressed comments, starting from the fact that OECD Secretariat is reviewing the narrative for more balance, which had already emerged from discussions with stakeholders in the policy dialogue. Regarding the generic characteristic of the policy recommendations, she will re-examine the report and better describe the situation of Cape Town for free basic water in terms of cost recovery and cross-subsidies. The idea behind the cross subsidy was not necessarily the same from a financial perspective as from a volume perspective, to be well reflected in the report. She thanked everyone for their comments.

Mr Killick thanked the OECD for undertaking the policy and governance dialogue with the city. It is quite challenging putting together a report with diverse views from all stakeholders, especially in the South African context. The city of Cape Town recognises that data and communication are very important. Only once a hydrological analysis was performed could they quantify the magnitude of the drought. The city of Cape Town is in the process of developing a decision support system, containing predictive models to help with future communication, especially concerning tariffs. The city needs to educate consumers on the importance of sustainability of water services, committing to producing a water outlook on a regular basis to keep all consumers informed on the development of the water strategy. He thanked the Secretariat and everyone for participating.

Day 1 Closing

The **Chair** thanked the speakers and **Ms Akhmouch** for moderating. He reminded WGI members to provide written comments by the deadline and invited members to join Day 2 of the meeting the following day (November 3).

Day 2: November 3, 2020

WGI Contribution to Global Agendas and the 9th World Water Forum

The **Chair** introduced the session on the WGI Contribution to global agendas and the 9th World Water Forum, and gave a warm welcome to **Mr Abdoulaye Sene**, Executive Director of the 9th World Water Forum **and Ms Teresa Liguori**, the World Water Forum Co-ordinator of the World Water Council. The speakers were invited to provide updates on the 9th World Water Forum.

Mr Abdoulaye Sene, **Executive Director of the 9th World Water Forum** reminded everyone of the theme of the 9th World Water Forum, water security for peace and development. The Government of Senegal and the World Water Council proposed a new vision for the forum with a strong focus on four priorities: water security and sanitation, cooperation, water for rural development, and tools and means of implementation, which includes the crucial issues of financing, governance, knowledge and innovation. The Forum will be structured around three main components:

- The Heads of State summit, to maintain water at the top of the political agenda and in order to give weight to the commitments, which will include the President of Senegal, His Excellency Macky Sall. The political outcome of the summit will be presented to the Statistics High level review meeting planned in September 2021 under the U.N. It will also feed into the 2023 mid-term review meeting for water and sanitation;
- The Dakar 2021 Initiative will be one of the major innovations of the Forum. It embodies the slogan “from commitment to concrete actions on the ground”. The aim is to build the dynamic of commitment, providing concrete responses with strong socio-economic impacts in different regions of the world. The Dakar 2021 Initiative offers a great opportunity to enhance the organisation of the Forum. The Platform for the Submission of Application has been online since January 2020, and he invited everyone to promote this initiative to their networks and to submit projects to build;
- The Forum also foresees the multi-stakeholder platform with all actors, ministers, parliamentarians, local authorities, citizens, scientists, private sector, civil society, youth, women, etc. The multi-stakeholder process will also take into account the political dimension of water and sanitation. In the roundtables, these political actors will participate in the content development process through the pilot and action groups dedicated to each of the four priorities. Anyone wishing to contribute to the process may apply to join the groups of their interests.

Mr Sene thanked the stakeholders involved in the process of the Forum. More than eleven partnerships protocols were signed with countries and organisations. The Forum will mobilise young people from across the world who will benefit from capacity building and support; hence the Dakar 2021 Initiative in order to work on intergenerational dialogue to carry the legacy of the Forum by young ambassadors who will impact their communities of origin. A strategic communication plan was developed and implemented, and the Forum website provide useful information for all stakeholders with regular publication of the monthly newsletter. In terms of the logistics, with the support of the African Development Bank, the arrangements

will be put in place for accommodation, food, transportation, cultural activities and social programmes. The Executive Secretariat has undertaken an environmental and social impact study on the greening of the Forum. In addition, drawing lessons from the pandemic, a reflection is underway to give a greater digital dimension to the organisation of the Forum.

Mr Sene thanked **Ms Akhmouch**, and expressed appreciation of the OECD's expertise and the dynamism of its team in leading the action groups within the governance theme, and co-leading the Priority n°4 "Means and tools of implementation". He welcomed the relevance of the study on water governance across 40 African cities. The preliminary results of the OECD-led action groups on governance indicate the importance of involving local decision-making to improve water governance at multiple levels, developing good water governance to ensure people's wellbeing and water services management, and improving national regulation to promote integrated water resources management development. Discussions are being held to adjust the Forum's content to the impacts of COVID-19 and to take into account the emerging issues and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic is putting forward. The Forum will provide reflection on the role and place of water in the construction of more resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities. Mr Sene congratulated members of the working groups, particularly the co-chair of the pilot and action group members for their outstanding contributions. He invited stakeholders to participate in the working groups, in the sessions and in the exhibition of the forum to succeed in organising a historic World Water Forum. He thanked everyone for their attention.

Ms Teresa Liguori, **World Water Forum Coordinator, World Water Council** encouraged everyone to continue preparing for the Forum. There will be a consultation process on a digital platform, including a questionnaire prepared by the World Water Council Secretariat. Members of the consultative groups can participate in three ways: First, they can share comments on the actions; second, they can ask to contribute to projects; third, they can suggest other projects to integrate the actions through a specific template distributed right after the consultation process. Each consultative group is associated to an action group. Once the consultative process is over, the action group will analyse the contributions and will select those that they deem most relevant after validation from the pilot group. Then implementation of the project will then start and last several months. The next phase will consist of planning the sessions. At the end of her speech, she confirmed the postponement of the 9th World Water Forum form March 2021 to March 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An official email from the WWC reached the WGI members involved in the Forum's activities at the same time. Ms Liguori thanked the Secretariat for their patience and for the opportunity to speak and encouraged any questions to reach out to the WWC.

Ms Caroline Figueres Strategic Advisor, Water, Figueres consultancy, Peer-reviewer asked in the chat if the Dakar 2021 Initiative includes a water resources dimension. **Mr Edouard Boinet, INBO France** responded that yes, the Dakar 2021 Initiative includes water resources management and has an action group (4A) that addresses IWRM at all levels.

Ms Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member commented in the chat that there is one working group for each of the four priority actions. Under each working group, there are a number of action groups. WIN is leading Action Group 4D under the Working Group of Means and Tools. The pilot group is a small team that co-ordinates the work of the bigger working group and action groups. Action Group 4D focuses on integrity, transparency and efficient institutions. Current proposals are around local government, sanitation and accountability; parliamentarian engagement with CSOs on accountability, and mobilising youth around water responsibility. She invited anyone interested to join the consultative group.

Mr Teun Bastemeijer, Expert, Minerva Wise Water, commented that the connections between different types of groups are theoretically clear. However, not much is happening on the communication platform in practice. It is important to know if participation is encouraged due to the postponement of the Forum.

Measuring water governance impacts

Ms Oriana Romano, Head of Unit, OECD Water Governance Programme, thanked **Ms Colette Ashley** for holding the pen, the members who provided inputs and especially the Steering Committee members who accompanied the work towards the current draft. During the 13th WGI meeting (9-10 January 2020, OECD Headquarters, Paris), the OECD Secretariat presented an Inventory collecting a number of measurement frameworks to measure the impact of water governance. The inventory showed a lack of comprehensive framework to measure impacts of water governance and a variety of interpretations of what the impacts were and how they could be measured. This raised the need for further stocktaking from the literature. In addition, during the 13th WGI meeting, members voted on hypotheses linking the each of the 12 OECD Principles on Water Governance to identified impacts. This exercise provided food for thought for focusing the literature review on selected Principles.

Ms Romano explained that the paper focuses on Principle 2 on appropriate scales, Principal 3 on policy coherence, Principle 6 on financing, Principle 7 on regulatory frameworks, Principle 9 on Integrity and Principle 10 on stakeholder engagement. The paper aims to provide evidence of the impacts of water governance on water management and related measurement frameworks. The paper did not suggest new indicators, but identified gaps. There were caveats, such as the difficulty to distinguish between impacts and outcomes in the literature; the lack of a causal link between the governance practice and the impacts; and the lack of quantitative results, as most of the analysed frameworks are based on expert views and involved subjectivity.

Ms Romano explained that the paper examines how each of the mentioned Principles has an impact in terms of: i) better services; ii) environment, specifically focusing water quality; and iii) water safety, particularly in relation to floods. These three impacts were present in the OECD report on Implementing the OECD Principles on Water Governance published in 2018. Beyond the desk research, the team also conducted five in-depth interviews with WGI members. She thanked them for their time and dedication because it allowed a deeper dive into some of the issues through concrete examples, as in the cases of France and Spain. These insights will be part of the revised version of the paper.

Ms Romano specified that the paper is a work in progress and that further research would be needed to strengthen the results of the research in terms of gaps and ways forward. She invited the members of the working group to contribute with inputs and comments, as the ultimate goal is to provide a common good that could be useful for all the members and the water community in general. She asked participants how to better capture a causal link between water governance and impacts and how could lessons and examples collected be scaled up to identify which practices work, how and why.

Mr Pierre-Alain Roche, Honorary President, ASTEE (Scientific and Technical Association for Water and the Environment) and WGI Steering Committee member, acknowledged that the paper is a good first attempt to provide evidence on the impacts of water governance, especially taking into account three clear limitations. First, the context is quite complex and one must consider delays from inputs to outputs due to the interactions across many actors that can influence results. Cooperative approaches are out of reach in many situations. Identifying evidence of the role of government in achieving goals is not easy. The second limitation consists of looking at water governance as if it would be isolated from global governance in a city or a country. The third issue is that Principles and indicators, in reality, are very interlinked and have combined effects. Mr Roche expressed that with no doubts, a very prominent paper will be achieved and ready long before the 9th World Water Forum (March 2022).

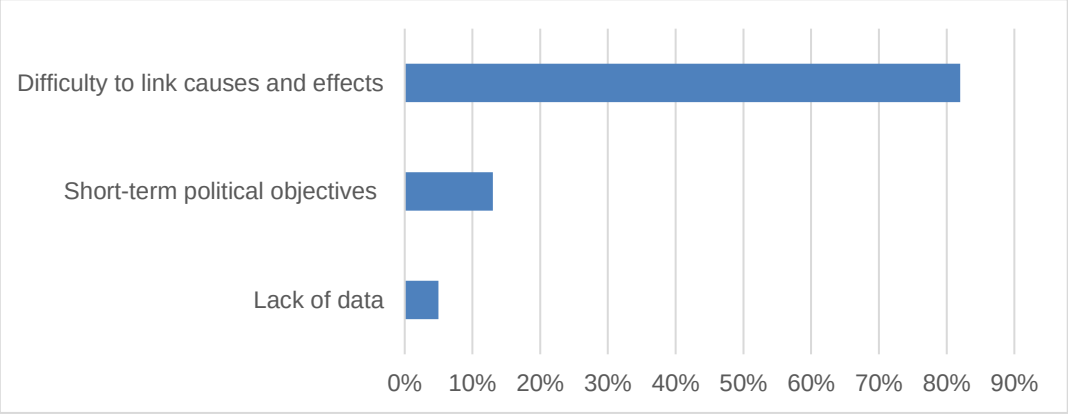
Mr Roche voiced his confidence in going further, reviewing existing material and carefully analysing it, even though the paper does not have a formal methodology and the evidence revealed is informal. He commented that a useful way to proceed would be to formalise the information with a more systematic approach. He suggested that the team consider that the question of assessing the results of given goals and targets is by itself only a first step; it is necessary to consider long-term goals as well. If there is

evidence that good governance contributes to inclusiveness and efficiency, and to the overall success of achievements of the goals, these governance dimensions provide a way forward. He invited members to share their views on how to improve the paper.

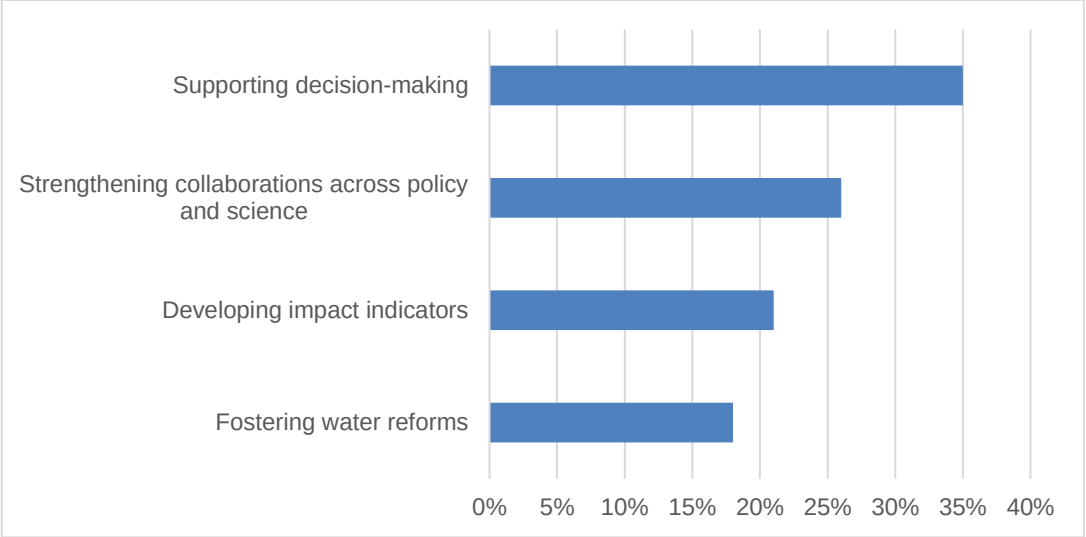
Mr Donal O'Leary, Senior Advisor, Transparency International and WGI Steering Committee member congratulated the authors on a well-written and stimulating paper. He congratulated the tremendous work under the challenging circumstances. This kind of paper stimulates everyone to do more work on this challenging topic; it will not solve everything, but could be a good output and move the debate forward. He commented that within the methodology, the selection of the three different clusters of impacts was a good way to present the paper. It enables the reader to follow the work in a very systematic way. He also suggested thinking about physical infrastructure in the water sector, for example, dams in terms of water supply, hydropower development, agricultural development or flood control, as they are currently not part of the clusters. For the section on water-related disasters, he suggested to add examples for Principle 9, to highlight the importance of transparency in dealing with water-related disasters, also in terms of insurance schemes. Regarding the conclusions of the paper, Mr O'Leary recommended to mention the GLAAS report pointing out that transparency and integrity are issues that are not widely measured in many countries.

Ms Romano launched the Zoom polls and read the first question: why is it so hard to measure water governance impacts? She gave three options as responses: difficulty to link causes and effects (82%), lack of data (5%) or short-term political objectives (13%) (Figure 2). The second question was: results of this research could be most beneficial to: developing impact indicators (21%), supporting decision making (35%), fostering water reforms (18%) and strengthening collaborations across policy and science (26%) (Figure 3). **Ms Romano** then gave the floor to **Mr Van Lith** for comments.

Figure 2. Why is it so hard to measure water governance impacts?



Note: Zoom Poll with 62 total responses. Each response received 51, 8 and 3 votes, respectively. This represents a response rate of approximately 73% out of an estimated 85 total active participants.Figure 3. Ultimate objectives of the research



Note: Zoom Poll with 62 total responses. Each response received 22, 16, 13 and 11 votes, respectively. This represents a response rate of approximately 73% out of an estimated 85 total active participants.

Mr Erik Van Lith, Strategic Advisor for Drinking Water, Water Chain and Water Systems, Royal HaskoningDHV thanked the Secretariat for this interesting document, which provides an extensive view on the indicators. He enquired about the next steps and suggested including more research based on individual water bodies as well as some way to measure impacts of cross-sectoral partnerships. This would illustrate how impacts are the results of collaborative rather than individual approaches.

Mr Peter Gammeltoft, Expert, expressed admiration for taking on such a difficult and challenging subject. The paper could be important to support decision making, whether it is about governance frameworks or individual water management issues. The paper could also be important for allocating money to research. Those who have been following the European programmes have seen the difficulties of getting water onto the research agenda for the forthcoming research programme of the European Commission. He agreed with the suggestion to refine the difference between outcomes and impacts. He emphasised the importance of understanding this difference and explaining to politicians why certain governance solutions are proposed. In his view, the story has to show that in the right setting good water governance works. He commented that the paper has a certain asymmetry towards water services, which is not surprising because this is where the economic power is. A rebalancing would be beneficial. He also pointed out that when the paper mentions floods, it is mainly about flood mitigation, distribution of costs, insurance schemes, etc. He sees a need in the text for discussing flood prevention and nature-based solutions used for prevention, particularly for river floods. This is an important subject linked to biodiversity, which is increasingly triggering political attention.

Mr Teun Bastemeijer, Expert, Minerva Wise Water, added that the paper needs a much longer-term outlook, to be relevant in 2050. There will be huge problems with food in Africa, linked to water shortages and droughts. Longer-term solutions are important; otherwise, investment will not generate expected results. He supported goal setting that might be useful and that relates to the longer-term element. It is important not only to focus on the politically correct emphasis on drinking water and sanitation, but also to look at the picture more broadly, including conditions for all water users in different contexts and other sectors. In his view, the most important knowledge is at the local level within communities. Attention should focus on the local level, also on strengthening resilience against the upcoming changes. **Mr Kevin Collins, Senior Lecturer Environment & Systems, The Open University (UK),** agreed with Mr Bastemeijer in the chat. He noted that there is no surprise that impacts are experienced subjectively.

Mr Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), shared information on the UfM Water Policy framework of actions partners meeting to take place in 2021. He could not intervene in Day 1 of the OECD WGI meeting. He took the opportunity to call on the OECD to produce a similar outlook for the Mediterranean, as the one produced within the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Manfred Metz, Head of the Tunisia Water Programme, German Development Agency (GIZ) commented that the paper focuses too much on subjects that are a means to an end, but not an end in itself as an impact. He posited that it is important to clearly define the impacts first by looking at the indicators, then adjusting the Principles to see whether they fit each impact. Additionally the paper needs to define good water resource management, good sanitation, and good water supply.

Ms Gari Villa-Landa Sokolova, Head of International Affairs, Spanish Association of Water Supply and Sanitation (AEAS) and WGI Steering Committee member, commented that the paper should make an additional effort to distinguish between outcomes and impacts. For example, the impact of better provision of water services is protection of human health, the protection of the environment and the fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation. The same could be the impact of better water quality. She agreed with the comment on the chat from Andrew Allan that establishing a causal link between water governance and impacts will be too difficult, but elaborating on the associative relationship should be possible[1]. She suggested that the paper focus more on how the Principles will contribute to the ultimate impacts. For example, if we consider that in water services, there is a problem with the lack of investment and the ageing of the assets, a better financing system can serve to update all those assets, leading to a better provision of the water services, which will lead in the end to better health and other beneficial impacts.

Ms Romano thanked all the delegates for the comments. She agreed that improving services, better water quality or reducing the risk would ultimately improve the environment or social well-being and health. However, the problem is how this is measured, and the availability of this evidence in the literature, especially when it comes to associating the ultimate goal with governance dimensions. She encouraged delegates to reach out with any further comments. She thanked the delegates and gave the floor back to the Chair.

Mr Colin Herron, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, GWP (Global Water Partnership) commented in the chat that equating the environment just to water quality is a strange limitation to impose on the scope of the study. He also flagged the point that it would be good to learn from what does not work well in terms of water governance dimension, since the water community often does not discuss or learn from failures. He also pointed out that the focus on water use in different sectors could be strengthened, both in terms of water-related actions taken in the appropriate sectors and the measurement of impacts of those decisions in other sectors. He commented that the scope of the work is too focussed on "water for water" and not enough on "water for sustainable development."

Ms Caroline Figueres, Strategic Advisor, Water, Figueres consultancy, Peer-reviewer commented in the chat that it may be worth to look at a recent interesting paper "Measuring economic water scarcity in agriculture." The paper indicates that IWRM indicators are valuable tool for measuring economic water scarcity in agriculture with straightforward policy implicated in favour of investments in water management as a lever for enhancing food security and development.

Mr Edouard Boinet, INBO commented that it would be good to highlight some clear missteps to show what works and what does not, without pointing fingers. He also asked if markets selling water volumes for water users with quotas have failed where they were applied.

[1] Sophie Richard (AgroParisTech), François Touchais (independent Environmental and Water Law Consultant) and Carolina Latorre (IWA) also agreed with this statement in the chat.

Mr Gerald Jan Ellen, Researcher Governance and Spatial Planning, Deltares commented in the chat that he recognized the challenges of this work, especially showing the causal links. When looking at impact on a methodological level, perhaps it would be possible to address impact from the perspective as presented by Belcher et. al or the concept of impact pathways.

Mr Dirk Van der Stede, CEO of Flanders Knowledge Water Centre (Belgium) commented in the chat that water system thinking and indicators that feed into the models behind it are important to consider.

Ms Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member asked in the chat how to measure the impacts on different populations, such as women and other marginalised groups.

The Chair thanked **Ms Romano** and **Ms Ashley**, who already thanked everybody also in the chat. The Chair noted that in light of the postponement of the 9th World Water Forum, this working paper will also be on the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting. Indeed, this paper was a bold first attempt and he extended an invitation to further work on it. He then announced a short break before the next session.

OECD toolkit for self-assessing water governance systems at national, basin, and local level

The **Chair** introduced the session on the capacity toolkit for self-assessing water governance systems at basin, local and national levels. The tool can be a precursor to a full-fledged policy dialogue down the line. During the 13th OECD WGI Meeting, members discussed an inventory listing capacity building initiatives around the world; since then, the OECD Secretariat produced a toolkit based on the pilot case studies and the 10-step methodology for self-assessment related to the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework. He then invited **Ms Romano** for her presentation on this work area.

Ms Oriana Romano, Head of Unit, OECD Water Governance Programme, recalled that the OECD Water Governance Indicator Framework, amongst others, was the result of 11 pilot tests, carried out in OECD and non-OECD countries at different scales (local, regional, basin and national level). Based on the experiences of the pilots, a 10-step methodology was developed. One of the questions was how to carry out a self-assessment and how to implement the methodology. At the 13th OECD WGI meeting, it was determined that one way forward could be to develop a toolkit for those who wanted to embark in the self-assessment, as a training of the trainers, in a way.

Ms Romano stated that other activities foreseen to build capacities on the use and implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance are dissemination and communication activities, including a video animation on the Principles in order to explain their content and context. Ms Romano thanked **Ms Elliott Alonso** for her work on both the toolkit and the video animation. The toolkit serves as a guide to implement the ten-step methodology. This guidance provides indications on what to do, how and with whom. Systematically, each phase of the methodology--the preparation, diagnosis and action phases—is taken into account. The toolkit contains key definitions for stakeholders to be more acquainted with concepts used either in the Principles or in the Indicator Framework. It contains dedicated sections on *how* to carry out the assessment, providing a priority checklist for success and examples of good practises. The toolkit also indicates pitfalls to avoid. This includes including stakeholders that usually remain unheard, avoiding unrealistic plans that have no viable objectives, ensuring that the timing, the budget and the resources correspond to the actions and to the expectation to be fulfilled in a specific timeline. It is significant to consider how the toolkit can be scaled up in the future, working towards the 9th World Water Forum, and to highlight what additional materials should be included beyond what is already set up. She welcomed any suggestions and thanked everyone for their attention. She posed the following questions for discussion: how can the use of the toolkit be scaled up in the future; which additional material would allow

for capacity development on the Principles and the indicators framework; whether or not testing of the toolkit outside of the working group is needed.

Mr Alejandro Jiménez, Head, Water and Sanitation Department, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and WGI Steering Committee member, highlighted that from the perspective of SIWI, which has a robust experience on dialogues and assessments, the step-to-step approach is useful as a methodology. He emphasised that the pitfalls to avoid are relevant beyond the actual content of what is analysed. He believes the toolkit can be very useful to those that want to apply the Principles and to do the self-assessment.

Ms Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, WIN (Water Integrity Network) and WGI Steering Committee member, commented that the work was well developed and could be useful, but there are some areas for improvement. It would be useful to use hyperlinks in the text to link to other resources to add depth. More work is needed on how to develop and prioritise the action plan. In her opinion, this is more than a self-assessment because it comes up with an action plan, as a process of action and change. She recommended testing it with someone from outside this group, because after working on something for so long, it is possible to lose perspective. The results of the testing, in terms of good case studies, could help in the dissemination and communication of the toolkit.

Ms Gari Villa-Landa Sokolova Head of International Affairs, Spanish Association of Water Supply and Sanitation (AEAS) and WGI Steering Committee member, stated that the toolkit can be a good guidance for the self-assessment exercise. She wondered what additional instrument or toolkits would be needed to compliment this work. It would be necessary to enhance the understanding of the Principles and the indicators framework, not only amongst the organisers who are leading the self-assessment process, but also amongst the stakeholders who are part of that self-assessment exercise. She encouraged the team to look into how to work on this knowledge and capacity development for stakeholders, even for the facilitators, as this is the starting point for the success of the whole process

Ms Joannie Leclerc, Dialogue and Societal Impact Director, SUEZ and WGI Steering Committee member, thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for the interesting piece of work. It captured the pilot testing experiences well, even though she did not participate in such a self-assessment assessment. She agreed with **Ms Villa-Landa Sokolova** that the toolkit needs to be useful for participants. It would be important to cover the question of how to incentivise a responsible institution to use the toolkit. Including photos or testimonies of the people who have used or tested the toolkit would incentivise others to use it. She asked about the real figures of the budget and suggested that new technologies and the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic be integrated in the toolkit and link with further resources. It is important to establish buy-in. It appears that the toolkit is mainly intended for governments, but she asked for more clarification on the intended audience. She also asked what the role of the WGI is within the toolkit, while suggesting that members play a more visible role, perhaps as agents for those who want to carry the self-assessment, to convince other institutions or maybe as a sort of training facility to enforce future assessments. She reiterated the need to test the toolkit. In doing so, additional resources could be developed, like a PowerPoint presentation to deliver to a webinar that might be recorded and then put online.

Mr Tadashige Kawasaki, IWRM Specialist, Water Resources Engineering, Japan Water Agency and NARBO (Network of Asian River Basin Organisations) commented in the chat that once the OECD has developed the toolkit, not only dissemination but also widely utilisation and application would be desirable. To be more effective, it may need regional support organisation to use the proposed toolkit and assist user with the monitoring. He suggested organising a consultation team at regional level in addition to facilitators. NARBO would like to use the proposed toolkit and link it to NARBO's experience on monitoring RBOs performance indicator.

Ms Aslihan Kerc, Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs, SUEN (Turkish Water Institute), Vice-president of WAREG commented that recommendations on how to use the toolkit on online platforms could be added to the document.

Mr Peter Gammeltoft reflected that the work is excellent and well presented. It is important to consider that those who are going to use it (organising institutions) would have to invest significant resources, which will be competing with all sorts of other priorities. He agreed with **Ms Villa-Landa Sokolova** on the need to get stakeholders involved. This means that when the document goes out, it needs to be accompanied by another document, perhaps like the indicators stocktaking document that discussed this morning, to explain the benefits of good water management. If benefits of the self-assessment are not clearly showed, then it may be difficult for institutions to take the initiative. Once tested, hopefully some concrete success stories would also be included in this accompanying document with the Toolkit.

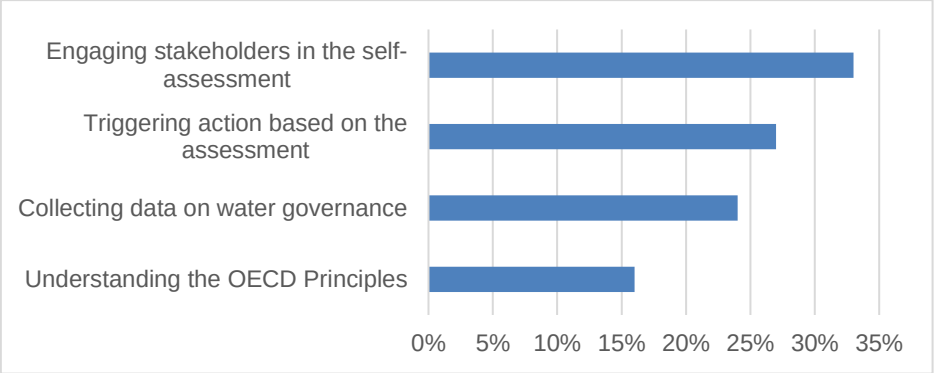
Ms Lesha Witmer, **Steering Committee Member of the Butterfly Effect/Women for Water Partnership** agreed with Ms Leclerc on ensuring the real participation of all stakeholders, which was not clear to her from the document. She also agreed with Mr Gammeltoft's comments.

Mr Kevin Collins, Senior Lecturer Environment & Systems, The Open University (UK), congratulated everyone involved in writing the document. He commented that two words were missing from the document: "why" and "learn." The document does not yet provide the "why" as to why people would use and read the toolkit. He also encouraged an explanation of what people would learn about their water governance. There should be a preface to the document to address this. He agreed with earlier comments that the notion of self-assessment does not quite sell what is in the document, as the self-assessment only represents a part. Practically speaking, the ten-step methodology does not give possibility for feedback on how to improve water governance. He suggested that each phase be explained in terms of how they inform each other. This is very linear, though water governance is not necessarily so. He expressed concern about the diagnosis phase since it can imply that people would know what the problem is before they have actually understood the nature of what they are doing.

Ms Romano thanked the delegates for their comments; they were very useful in terms of how incentivise the leading institution to take this self-assessment and further engage stakeholders. She noted the suggestion to conduct tests with institutions to gauge interest. WGI members are encouraged to express their interest in testing, act as facilitators or help disseminate the toolkit. She invited delegates to share any written comments they may have and reach out the Secretariat in case of questions.

The Chair thanked **Ms Romano** and suggested that the Secretariat get some outside knowledge and experience to promote this or to incentivise the use of this product. He then gave the floor back to **Ms Romano** for a Zoom poll. **Ms Romano** posed a poll question: in which area would you first seek to build capacity? The choices of responses were: understanding the Principles (16%), collecting data (24%), engaging stakeholders (33%) or triggering actions based on the assessment (27%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. In which area would you first seek to build capacity?



Note: Zoom Poll with 55 total responses. Each response received 18, 15, 13 and 9 votes, respectively. This represents a response rate of approximately 65% out of an estimated 85 total active participants.

Closing of the 14th WGI meeting

The **Chair** recapped that on Day 1 the meeting covered the Asia Pacific region, the African cities, the water governance policy dialogue in Cape Town, South Africa. Day 2 focused on the Principles through the indicators and self-assessment toolkit. He expressed that he was pleased with the good turnout of up to 90 participants each day. He thanked everyone for their contributions. With the news just received about the postponement of the 9th World Water Forum to March 2022, everyone will need to redefine the road to Dakar and determine the implications on the Programme of Work, especially for the Working Groups. He mentioned that the 15th OECD WGI Meeting will likely take place virtually in April 2021. He thanked the Secretariat for their efforts and gave a special thanks to **Ms Elliott Alonso**, ending her position within the OECD Water Governance Programme for future endeavours. The **Chair** then gave the floor to **Mr Joachim Oliveira Martins**, **Deputy Director of CFE, OECD**, who in December will start his retirement.

Mr Joaquim Oliveira Martins, **Deputy Director of CFE, OECD** congratulated the Chair for the achievements of the OECD Water Governance Initiative. In his view, this group has been extremely innovative, as it was the first comprehensive multi-stakeholder group formed at the OECD to support technical debates and shape policy standards. He shared that this experience has been inspiring and that the group continues to be extremely energetic. He mentioned that one of his fondest memories was the development of the *OECD Principles on Water Governance*, including the interaction with the Regional Development Policy Committee, as reaching the consensus was not obvious. He congratulated the **Chair** on his leadership, experience and knowledge and warmly thanked him, as well as his country of the Netherlands.

Mr Oliveira Martins also expressed his satisfaction for the progress on agenda on measurement frameworks. Data makes the points stronger and easier to communicate with other constituencies. In his view, the COVID-19 crisis emphasised the importance of water governance, especially in terms of water security related to health risks. He also highlighted the importance of linking circular economy and water. He mentioned his hope that the next Secretary General will keep raising the profile of water in national and global agendas as it was done by the Secretary General, Angel Gurria, over the past 15 years. He again thanked everyone for their commitment and dedication.

The **Chair** then closed the meeting inviting all to join the 15th OECD Water Governance Initiative Meeting to take place virtually in April/ May 2021 (tbc) and wished everyone to stay safe and healthy.