

Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate
Regional Development Policy Committee

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL ON WATER GOVERNANCE

This draft Recommendation was developed by the Regional Development Policy Committee in the context of its Water Governance Initiative. It would form the first building block for a consolidated Recommendation of the Council on Water covering a broader range of issues.

RDPC delegates are requested to provide written comments on the draft Recommendation by 1 April 2015. This draft is also shared with the Regulatory Policy Committee (and its Network of Economic Regulators), the Public Governance Committee (and its networks), the Environmental Policy Committee (and its Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems), the Committee on Agriculture, the joint Working party on Agriculture and the Environment, the Development Assistance Committee and the Investment Committee for written comments by 1 April 2015.

A revised draft will be shared for a final round of inter-Committee consultation on 9 April 2015. The objective is to have the revised draft Recommendation discussed for approval at the 33rd meeting of the RDPC on 29 April 2015, and subsequently adopted by the Council meeting at the Ministerial level on 3-4 June 2015. Please send your comments to Aziza.Akhmouch@oecd.org.

For more information please contact Aziza Akhmouch;
Email: aziza.akhmouch@oecd.org; Tel: +33 1 45 24 79 30.

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This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

1. This document presents the draft Recommendation of the Council on Water Governance (“Draft Recommendation”) aimed at providing guidance for decision-makers at all levels of government to enhance good governance in the water sector. It was developed by the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) through the Water Governance Initiative (WGI)¹, in cooperation with the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) and its Network of Economic Regulators (NER), the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC) and its Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems (WPBWE) and in consultation with the Public Governance Committee (PGC), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Committee on Investment and the Committee on Agriculture (CoAg). The aim is to have the draft Recommendation discussed for approval at RDPC’s 33rd meeting on 29 April 2015, and adopted by the Council meeting at the Ministerial level on 3-4 June 2015. The draft Recommendation is conceived as a first building block of a consolidated Recommendation of the Council on Water, which will cover a broader range of issues.

The rationale for developing the draft Recommendation on Water Governance

2. The global pressures on the water sector around the world call for action. Water is a limited and highly variable resource. OECD (2012a) shows that 40% of the world’s population currently lives in water-stressed river basins, and water demand will rise by 55% by 2050. Continued depletion of aquifers will pose significant challenges to food security and increase the risk of subsidence and flooding. In 2050, 240 million people are expected to remain without access to clean water, and 1.4 billion without access to basic sanitation. In addition, water infrastructure in the OECD area is ageing, the technology is outdated and governance systems are often ill-equipped to handle rising demand, environmental challenges, continued urbanisation and changing climate conditions. Important investment are required, estimated at USD 6.7 trillion by 2050 for water supply and sanitation, while including a wider range of water-related infrastructure could triple that bill by as early as 2030 (OECD, 2015a).

3. The water sector holds intrinsic characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to multi-level governance. Water connects across sectors, places and people, as well as geographic and temporal scales. It is both a global and local concern, which involves a plethora of public, private and non-profit stakeholders in the decision-making, policy and project cycles. Water is a highly capital-intensive and monopolistic sector, with important market failures where coordination is essential. Water policy is inherently complex and strongly linked to domains that are critical for development, including health, environment, agriculture, energy, regional development and poverty alleviation. To varying degrees, countries have allocated increasingly complex and resource-intensive responsibilities to sub-national governments, resulting in interdependencies across levels of government that require coordination to mitigate fragmentation. Coping with future water challenges raises not only the question of “what to do” but also “who does what”, “why”, “at which level of government” and “how”. Policy responses will only be viable if they are coherent, if stakeholders are properly engaged, if well-designed regulatory frameworks are in place, and if there is sufficient capacity, integrity and transparency. Institutions need to adapt to changing circumstances, and political will is key to transition towards more inclusive and sustainable practices.

4. Recent “water crises” have been essentially “governance crises”, and good governance has become a critical driver to manage the complexity of water policy design and implementation. Between 1971 and 1992, the EPOC has developed six Recommendations related to water.² But the context for

¹ The WGI is an “international multi-stakeholder network of around 100 delegates from public, private and non-for profit sectors gathering twice a year in a Policy Forum to share on-going reforms, projects, lessons and good practices in support of better water governance in the water sector” [GOV/TPDC/WGI(2014)1].

² Six water-related Recommendations have been issued by the Environmental Policy Committee between 1971 and 1992 on the Determination of the Biodegradability of Anionic Synthetic Surface Active Agents

freshwater management and the governance climate have radically changed in the last 25 years and an update of the OECD's Acquis on water in the light of these developments is opportune. Information flows more easily and potentially sheds greater light on malpractices. Decentralisation resulted in opportunities to customise policies to local realities, but also raised capacity and coordination challenges in the delivery of public services. There is now an enhanced recognition that bottom-up and inclusive decision-making is key to effective water policies. A number of legal frameworks have triggered major evolutions in water policy, however their implementation has faced governance bottlenecks, as is the case of the EU Water Framework Directive [2000/60/EC], the United Nations Millennium Development Goals [A/RES/55/2] and the United Nations Resolution on Human Rights and Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation [A/RES/64/292]. The concept of "Integrated Water Resources Management" has brought uneven results within and across countries, and requires operationalization frameworks that consider short, medium and long term in a consistent and sustainable way. In the light of such implementation challenges, the draft Recommendation seeks to assist governments at all levels to strengthen water governance to fit for current and future water challenges.

The process to develop the draft Recommendation

5. The draft Recommendation has been developed by the RDPC through a bottom-up approach within the WGI. It builds on RDPC's "Multi-level Governance Framework: Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps", which was used to review water governance in several OECD Members and non-Members, including through policy dialogues (OECD 2011, 2012b, 2013, 2014a, 2015b). It also relies on RDPC's evidence and knowledge on territorial development, decentralisation, and urban policy as well as RPC's work on regulatory policy and the governance of water regulators (2014b, 2015b), and PGC's work on integrity, transparency, public procurement, budgetary governance and risk management.

6. A preliminary step was to prepare an inventory of tools, guidelines and principles on water governance to take stock of what already exists.³ This mapping shed light on the value added of an OECD legal instrument that would provide a systemic approach to water governance to trigger policy change, building on international best practice. A preliminary scoping note was discussed at the 3rd meeting of the WGI (28-29 April 2014), followed by a discussion on the draft principles at the 4th meeting of WGI (24-25 November 2014) [[GOV/RDPC/WGI\(2015\)1](#)].

7. The first consultation of relevant OECD bodies on the draft principles took place between 22 January and 19 February 2015, including a discussion at the 7th meeting of the Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems on 20 February 2015. Two additional consultations across OECD bodies on the draft Recommendation are planned between 13 March and 1 April 2015, and between 9 April and 27 April 2015 including a high-level discussion at the 7th World Water Forum (13 April 2015, Daegu-Korea).

The content of the draft Recommendation

8. The purpose of the draft Recommendation, set out in annex, is to contribute to the design and implementation of clear, tangible and outcome-oriented public policies that can cope with current and future water challenges, based on three pillars of water governance. *Effectiveness* relates to the contribution of governance to define clear sustainable water policy goals and targets at different levels of government,

[C(71)83/FINAL]; Strategies for Specific Water Pollutants Control [C(74)221]; Control of Eutrophication of Waters [C(74)220]; Water Management Policies and Instruments [C(78)4], Water Resource Management Policies: Integration, Demand Management and Groundwater Protection [C(89)12] and Integrated Coastal Zone Management [[C\(92\)114](#)].

³ <http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/Inventory.pdf>

to implement those policy goals, and to meet expected objectives or targets. *Efficiency* relates to the contribution of governance to maximise the benefits of sustainable water management and welfare at the least cost for society. *Trust and Engagement* relates to the contribution of governance to build public confidence and ensure inclusiveness of stakeholders through democratic legitimacy, fairness and equity for society at large. The draft Recommendation calls upon governments to act in partnership with civil society, business and the broader range of stakeholders to reap the economic, social and environmental benefits of good water governance.

9. The draft Recommendation is built on the premise that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to water challenges worldwide, but a menu of options building on the diversity of administrative and organisational systems within and across countries. It recognises that governance is highly contextual, that water policies need to be tailored to different water resources and places, and that governance responses have to adapt to changing circumstances. The draft Recommendation is rooted in broader principles of good governance that are legitimacy, transparency, accountability, human rights, rule of law, inclusiveness, and equity. As such, it considers water governance as a means to an end.

10. The draft Recommendation aims to enhance water governance systems that ultimately help manage “too much”, “too little” and “too polluted” water in a sustainable, integrated and inclusive way, at an acceptable cost, and in a reasonable time frame. It considers that governance is *good* if it can help to solve key water challenges, using a combination of bottom-up and top-down processes. It is *bad* if it generates undue transaction costs and does not respond to place-based needs. The draft Recommendation considers that water governance systems (more or less formal, complex, and costly) should be designed according to the challenges they are required to address. This problem-solving approach means that “forms” of water governance should follow “functions” of water governance. Structuring, institutionalising, and/or formalising institutions should not detract from the ultimate objective of delivering sufficient water of good quality while maintaining or improving the ecological integrity of water bodies. Therefore the draft Recommendation does not make distinctions across water management functions (e.g. drinking water supply, sanitation, flood protection, water quality, water quantity, rainwater, stormwater) as it applies to the overarching water policy cycle.

11. This draft Recommendation should be implemented in a systemic and inclusive manner. It provides a framework to understand whether water governance systems are performing adequately and to adjust where necessary. It can catalyse efforts for making good practices more visible, learning from international experience, and setting reform processes into motion at all levels of government to facilitate change where and when needed.

12. It is proposed that the implementation of the draft Recommendation be monitored every three years to support Members and non-Members having adhered to it (the “Adherents”) in reaching these standards. To support this monitoring, an “Implementation Guidance” would be developed in 2015-2016 to trigger concrete action and shed light on the vast array of solutions. It will provide for i) tentative *indicators*, ii) a compendium of *good practices* and iii) concrete *case studies* to operationalise the Recommendation at local, basin, regional, national and global levels. It could likely be a web-based instrument accessible to all Adherents with generic guidance, specific tools and methodologies for mapping challenges and pitfalls, and a menu of options with concrete solutions to overcome them. This follow-up mechanism would generate strong incentives for peer-review and multi-stakeholder dialogue.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL ON WATER GOVERNANCE

THE COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD to Article 5 b) of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation of the Council on Strategies for Specific Water Pollutants Control [C(74)221]; the Recommendation of the Council on the Control of Eutrophication of Waters [C(74)220]; the Recommendation of the Council on Water Management Policies and Instruments [C(78)4], the Recommendation of the Council on Water Resource Management Policies: Integration, Demand Management and Groundwater Protection [C(89)12] the Recommendation of the Council on Integrated Coastal Zone Management [[C\(92\)114](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service [[C\(2003\)107](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying [[C\(2010\)16](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance [[C\(2012\)37](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on the Public Governance of Public-Private Partnerships [[C\(2012\)86](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on the Governance of Critical Risks [[C/MIN\(2014\)8/FINAL](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government [[C\(2014\)32](#)]; the Recommendation of the Council on Budgetary Governance [[C\(2015\)1](#)]; and the Recommendation of the Council on Public Procurement [[C\(2015\)2](#)];

RECOGNISING that water challenges require robust public policies, targeting measurable objectives in pre-determined time-schedules at the appropriate scale, relying on a clear assignment of duties across responsible authorities and subject to regular monitoring and evaluation;

RECOGNISING the contribution of effective, efficient and inclusive water governance to the design and implementation of such policies as a shared responsibility across levels of government and in cooperation with the broader range of stakeholders who have an important role to play alongside policy-makers to meet current and future water challenges;

RECOGNISING that there is not a single, uniform policy response to the water challenges worldwide given the diversity of situations within and across countries in terms of legal, institutional and cultural frameworks and practices, and that it is appropriate for Members and non-Members having adhered to this Recommendation (hereafter the “Adherents”) to design and implement their national policies in light of these country-specific circumstances;

RECOGNISING that water governance is an important pillar of the overall framework of water policies, that broader principles of good governance apply to the water sector, and that water governance outcomes can also be contingent on progress in other domains of the water policy framework;

RECOGNISING that this Recommendation is conceived as the first building block of a consolidated Recommendation of the Council on Water, which will cover a broader range of issues;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the extensive work conducted by the Organisation on water governance;

On the proposal of the Regional Development Policy Committee:

AGREES that, for the purpose of the present draft Recommendation, the following definitions are used:

- “**Water governance**” encompasses the range of political, institutional and administrative rules, practices, and processes (formal and informal) through which decisions are taken and implemented, stakeholders articulate their interests and have their concerns considered, and decision-makers are held accountable in the management of water resources and the delivery of water services;
- “**Stakeholder engagement in water governance**” is the process by which any person or group who has an interest or stake in a water-related topic, may be directly or indirectly affected by water policy, and/or have the ability to influence the outcome positively or negatively, is involved in the decision-making and implementation processes;
- “**Multi-level governance of water**” refers to the explicit or implicit sharing of water policymaking authority, responsibility, and implementation i) across ministries and/or public agencies at central government level, ii) across basin, local, regional, provincial/state, national and supranational spatial scales and iii) across different actors at the sub-national levels of government; and
- “**Integrated water resources management**” is a process promoting the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without comprising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

Enhancing the effectiveness of water governance

I. RECOMMENDS that Adherents clearly allocate and distinguish roles and responsibilities for water policymaking, operational management and regulation, and foster coordination across these responsible authorities.

To that effect, Adherents should set up legal and institutional frameworks which:

- a) Specify the allocation of roles and responsibilities, across levels of government and spatial scales, in regard to water:
 - Policy-making, especially priority setting and strategic planning;
 - Implementation and operational management, especially financing and budgeting, service delivery, infrastructure operation and investment, data and information, stakeholder engagement, capacity development and evaluation);
 - Regulation and enforcement, especially tariff setting, standards, licensing, monitoring and supervision, control and audit, conflict resolution.
- b) Identify and address gaps, overlaps and conflicts of interest through effective coordination at and across all levels of government.

II. RECOMMENDS that Adherents manage water at the appropriate spatial scale(s) within integrated basin governance systems to reflect local conditions, and foster coordination among the different scales.

To that effect, Adherents should encourage institutions in charge of managing water at the basin level to develop water management tools that:

- a) Respond to long-term environmental, economic and social objectives with a view to make the best use of water resources, through risk prevention and integrated management of surface water, aquifers and related freshwater ecosystems, including estuaries;
- b) Ensure a sound water cycle from capture and distribution of freshwater to the release of wastewater and return flows;

- c) Promote adaptive strategies, action programs and measures based on clear and coherent mandates, through result-oriented and realistic surface water and aquifer basin and sub-basin management plans, consistent with national policies and local conditions;
- d) Promote multi-level cooperation for the management of water resources between upstream and downstream categories of users; between urban and non-urban areas within and outside the catchment area; and from local to transboundary level, where appropriate; and
- e) Enhance riparian cooperation for equitable, reasonable and sustainable use of transboundary freshwater water resources;

III. RECOMMENDS that Adherents encourage policy coherence through effective *cross-sectoral co-ordination*, especially between policies for water and the environment, health, energy, agriculture, industry and land use.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Adopt co-ordination mechanisms to facilitate coherent policies across ministries, public agencies and levels of government, including cross-sectoral plans;
- b) Foster co-ordinated management of use, protection and clean-up of water resources, taking into account policies that affect water availability and demand (e.g. agriculture, forestry, mining, energy) as well as risk prevention;
- c) Assess and address the barriers to policy coherence from practices, policies and regulations within and beyond the water sector, using monitoring, reporting and reviews ; and
- d) Provide incentives and regulations to mitigate conflicts among sectoral strategies and find solutions that fit with local governance and norms.

IV. RECOMMENDS that Adherents adapt the level of *capacity* of responsible authorities to the complexity of water challenges to be met, and to the set of competencies required to carry out their duties.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Identify and address capacity gaps to implement integrated water resources management (notably for planning, rule-making, project management, finance, budgeting, risk management and evaluation);
- b) Match the level of technical, financial and institutional capacity in water governance systems to the nature of problems and needs;
- c) Ensure that water governance arrangements reflect place-based needs and capacities and allow for an adaptive and evolving assignment of competences upon demonstration of capacity;
- d) Promote hiring of public officials and water professionals that is merit-based, transparent and independent from political cycles; and
- e) Ensure education and training of water professionals to strengthen the capacity of water institutions as well as stakeholders at large and to foster co-operation and knowledge-sharing.

Enhancing the efficiency of water governance

V. RECOMMENDS that Adherents produce, update, and share timely, consistent, comparable and policy-relevant water and water-related *data and information*, and use it to guide, assess and improve water policy.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Establish requirements for cost-effective and sustainable production and sharing of high quality data and information on the status of water resources (including water accounting systems), water financing, forecasts, environmental needs, socioeconomic features and institutional mappings.
- b) Foster effective coordination among organisations and agencies producing water-related data (at macro, sectoral, institutional and project levels), between data producers and users, and across levels of government;
- c) Engage with stakeholders in the design and implementation of water information systems, and provide guidance on how such information should be shared to foster transparency, trust and comparability (e.g. data banks, reports, maps, diagrams, observatories);
- d) Encourage the design of harmonised and consistent information systems at the basin scale, including in the case of transboundary water, to foster mutual confidence, reciprocity and comparability within the framework of agreements between riparian countries; and
- e) Review data collection, use and dissemination to identify overlaps and synergies and track unnecessary data overload.

VI. RECOMMENDS that Adherents ensure that governance arrangements help mobilise water finance and allocate *financial resources* in an efficient, transparent and timely manner.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Ensure that water institutions across levels of government have the necessary revenues to carry out the expenditures required to meet their responsibilities, including through carrying out sector reviews and strategic financial planning to assess and address funding gaps;
- b) Adopt sound and transparent practices for budgeting and accounting that provide a clear picture of water activities and any associated contingent liabilities including infrastructure investment, and align multi-annual strategic plans to annual budgets and medium-term priorities of governments;
- c) Adopt mechanisms that foster the efficient and transparent allocation of water-related public funds to cultivate public trust (e.g. through social contracts, scorecards, and audits); and
- d) Minimise unnecessary administrative burdens related to public expenditure while preserving fiduciary and fiscal safeguards.

VII. RECOMMENDS that Adherents ensure that sound water management *regulatory frameworks* are effectively implemented and enforced in pursuit of the public interest.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Establish a comprehensive, coherent and predictable legal and institutional frameworks setting rules, standards and guidelines for achieving water policy outcomes, and encouraging integrated long-term planning;
- b) Ensure that key regulatory functions are discharged across public agencies, dedicated institutions and levels of government and that regulatory authorities are endowed with necessary resources;
- c) Ensure that rules, institutions and processes are well-coordinated, transparent, non-discriminatory, participative and easy to understand and enforce;
- d) Encourage the use of regulatory tools (evaluation and consultation mechanisms) to foster the quality of regulatory processes and make the results accessible to the public;

- e) Set clear, transparent and proportionate enforcement rules, procedures and tools (including reward and penalties) to promote compliance and achieve regulatory objectives in a cost-effective way; and
- f) Ensure that effective remedies can be claimed through equitable access to justice, considering the range of options as appropriate.

VIII. RECOMMENDS that Adherents promote the adoption and implementation of *innovative water governance practices* across responsible authorities, levels of government and relevant stakeholders.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Encourage experimentation and pilot-testing on water governance, draw lessons from success and failures, and scale up replicable practices;
- b) Promote social learning to facilitate dialogue and consensus-building, through networking platforms, social media, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and user-friendly interface (e.g. digital maps, big data, smart data and open data);
- c) Promote innovative ways to co-operate, pool resources and capacity, build synergies across sectors and search for efficiency gains (metropolitan governance, inter-municipal collaboration, urban-rural partnerships, performance-based contracts); and
- d) Promote a strong science-policy interface to contribute to better water governance and bridge the divide between scientific findings and water governance practices;

Enhancing the trust and engagement of water governance

IX. RECOMMENDS that Adherents mainstream *integrity and transparency practices* across water policies, water institutions and water governance frameworks for greater accountability and trust in decision-making.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Establish codes of conduct or charters on integrity and transparency in national or local contexts and monitor their implementation;
- b) Ensure that the legal framework holds decision-makers and stakeholders accountable, and contains the right to information and provisions for the protection of whistle-blowers;
- c) Establish clear accountability and control mechanisms for transparent water policy to ensure funds are used as intended and to be effective at registering and addressing complaints;
- d) Diagnose and map on a regular basis existing or potential corruption drivers and risks in all water-related institutions at different levels, including for public procurement;
- e) Adopt multi-stakeholder approaches, dedicated tools and action plans to identify and address water integrity and transparency gaps (e.g. integrity scans/pacts, risk analysis, social witnesses); and
- f) Set institutional incentives to enhance transparency and integrity along the entire water value chain (e.g. by defining criminal offenses) or establish independent authorities to investigate infractions and enforce laws.

X. RECOMMENDS that Adherents *engage with stakeholders* for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy design and implementation.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Map all those who have a stake in the outcome or who are likely to be affected by water-related decisions, as well as their responsibilities, core motivations and interactions. Special attention should be devoted to under-represented categories (youth, the poor, women, indigenous people, the environment, domestic users), newcomers (property developers, institutional investors) and external influential players;
- b) Define the line of decision-making and the expected use of stakeholders' inputs, and mitigate power imbalances and risks of consultation capture from over-represented or overly vocal categories, as well as between expert and non-expert voices;
- c) Ensure relevant stakeholders are endowed with the needed (human resources and financial) capacity as well as accurate, timely and reliable information;
- d) Assess the process and outcomes of stakeholder engagement to learn, adjust and improve accordingly, including the evaluation of costs and benefits of engagement processes;
- e) Mainstream stakeholder engagement in legal and policy frameworks, organisational structures, and responsible authorities, taking account of local circumstances, needs and capacities; and
- f) Customise the type and level of stakeholder engagement to the needs and keep the process flexible to adapt to changing circumstances.

XI. RECOMMENDS that Adherents ensure that water governance frameworks foster *equity* across water users, rural and urban areas, and generations.

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Foster conducive legal and institutional frameworks that promote equitable participation in decision-making of all citizens and water users, especially vulnerable groups, remote areas and citizens deprived of water resources and services;
- b) Empower local authorities and users to identify and address barriers to access quality water services and resources in different regions and promote rural-urban cooperation;
- c) Ensure public debate on the sharing of the water resources management costs between current and future generations; and
- d) Encourage evidence-based assessment of the distributional consequences of water-related policies on citizens, water users and places to guide decision-making.

XII. RECOMMENDS that Adherents conduct regular *monitoring and evaluation* of water policy and governance, share the results with the public, and make adjustments when needed

To that effect, Adherents should:

- a) Set-up dedicated institutions for monitoring and evaluation and ensure they are endowed with sufficient capacity, independence and resources as well as the necessary instruments to carry out their duties;
- b) Develop reliable monitoring and reporting mechanisms to effectively guide decision-making, based on target-oriented indicators and methodologies built in a collaborative effort across levels of government, and with relevant stakeholders;
- c) Use ex-ante, mid-term and ex-post assessments to evaluate to what extent water policy fulfils the intended outcomes and water governance frameworks are fit for purpose; and
- d) Encourage timely and transparent sharing of the evaluation results and adapt strategies as new information becomes available.

XIII. **INVITES** the Secretary-General to disseminate this Recommendation

XIV. **INVITES** Adherents to disseminate this Recommendation at all levels of government.

XV. **INVITES** non-Adherents to take account of and adhere to this Recommendation.

XVII. **INSTRUCTS** the Regional Development Policy Committee to monitor the implementation of this Recommendation and to report thereon to the Council no later than three years following its adoption and regularly thereafter.

ANNEX 2

SELECTED REFERENCES

OECD (2015a), *Water and Cities: Ensuring Sustainable Futures*, OECD Publishing, Paris

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