

Water Governance Benchmarking Criteria

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A. GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS

- 1. Organizing and building capacity in the water sector**
 - 1.1 Creating and modifying an organizational structure [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)
 - 1.2 Assigning roles and responsibilities [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#)
 - 1.3 Setting national water policy
 - 1.4 Establishing linkages among sub-sectors, levels, and national sub-regions [8](#)
 - 1.5 Establishing linkages with neighboring riparian countries
 - 1.6 Building public and political awareness of water sector issues [9](#)
 - 1.7 Securing and allocating funding for the sector
 - 1.8 Developing and utilizing well-trained water sector professionals [10](#), [11](#)
- 2. Planning strategically**
 - 2.1 Collecting, managing, storing and utilizing water-relevant data
 - 2.2 Projecting future supply and demand for water
 - 2.3 Designing strategies for matching expected long-term water supply an demand and dealing with shortfalls (including drought mitigation strategies)
 - 2.4 Developing planning and management tools to support decision making
- 3. Allocating water**
 - 3.1 Awarding and recording water rights and corollary responsibilities
 - 3.2 Establishing water and water rights transfer mechanisms
 - 3.3 Adjudicating disputes
 - 3.4 Assessing and managing third party impacts of water and water rights transactions
- 4. Developing and managing water resources**
 - 4.1 Constructing public infrastructure and authorizing private infrastructure development
 - 4.2 Forecasting seasonal supply and demand and matching the two
 - 4.3 Operating and maintaining public infrastructure according to established plans and strategic priorities
 - 4.4 Applying incentives and sanctions to achieve long and short term supply/demand matching (including water pricing)
 - 4.5 Forecasting and managing floods and flood impacts
- 5. Regulating water resources and services**
 - 5.1 Issuing and monitoring operating concessions to water service providers
 - 5.2 Enforcing withdrawal limits associated with water rights
 - 5.3 Regulating water quality in waterways, water bodies, and aquifers (including enforcement)
 - 5.4 Protecting aquatic ecosystems
 - 5.5 Monitoring and enforcing water service standards

B. GOVERNANCE PROCESS CHARACTERISTICS

1. **Transparency.** 12, 13
2. **Participation.** 14, 15
3. **Accountability and Integrity.**
4. **Rule of law.** 16, 17
5. **Coherency and Integration.**
6. **Responsiveness.** 18

C. CROSS CUTTING CATEGORIES

1. **Water Sources**
 - 1.1 Surface water
 - 1.2 Groundwater
 - 1.3 Derivative water (reclaimed, reused, desalinated)
2. **Water Uses**
 - 2.1 Irrigation
 - 2.2 Municipal
 - 2.3 Industrial
 - 2.4 Environmental
 - 2.5 Hydropower
 - 2.6 Fisheries, navigation, recreation
 - 2.7 Other uses (including social, esthetic, and religious uses)

**Decree no. 2-96-158 of 8 Rejeb 1417 (20 November 1996) regarding the membership
and functioning of the High Council for Water and Climate
Official State Gazette no. 4436 of 5 December 1996 1, 12**

Article 1: The High Council for Water and Climate, created by article 13 of the previously mentioned Law no. 10-95, includes, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, the following members: 8, 14, 16

- the minister responsible for the interior;
- the minister responsible for finance;
- the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Minister of Marine Fisheries and the Merchant Marine;
- the Minister of Public Works;
- the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Crafts;
- the Minister of Energy and Mines;
- the Minister of Public Health;
- the Minister of Habitation;
- the Minister of the Environment;
- the minister responsible for stimulating the economy;
- the minister responsible for population;
- the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior;
- the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Public Works;
- the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Environment;
- the Secretaries-General of the regional assemblies established by Dahir (Royal Decree) no. 1-71-77 of 22 Rabii II 1391 (16 June 1971), which created the regions; 17
- the Director-General of Hydrology of the Ministry of Public Works;
- the Director of Water Research and Planning of the Ministry of Public Works;
- the Director of Water Resources Development Projects of the Ministry of Public Works;
- the Director of Programs and Studies of the Ministry of Public Works;
- the Director of National Meteorology of the Ministry of Public Works;
- the Administrative Director of Agricultural Engineering of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Director of Irrigation Development and Management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Director of Land Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Director of Irrigation Schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Director of Plant Production of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Administrative Director of Waters, Forests and Soil Conservation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the Director-General of Local Communities of the Ministry of the Interior;
- the Director of Public Corporations and Managed Services of the Ministry of the Interior;
- the Director of Rural Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior;
- the Director of Water and Wastewater Treatment of the Ministry of the Interior;
- the Director of Urban Development and Land Use Planning of the Ministry of the Interior;
- The Budget Director of the Ministry of Finance and Foreign Investments;
- the Director of Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Marine Fisheries and the Merchant Marine;
- the Director of Monitoring, Studies and Coordination of the Ministry of the Environment;
- the Director of Consciousness Raising and Communication of the Ministry of the Environment; 9
- the Director of Industry of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Crafts;

- the Director of Epidemiology and the Fight Against Diseases of the Ministry of Public Health;
- The Director of Energy of the Ministry of Energy and Mines;
- the Director of Geology of the Ministry of Energy and Mines;
- The Director of Programming of the ministry responsible for population;
- the Basin Agency directors;
- the Director of the National Office of Drinking Water;
- the Director of the National Office of Electricity;
- the directors of the Regional Agricultural Development Offices;
- two representatives, by region created by the previously mentioned Dahir (Royal Decree) no. 1-71-77, of the associations of agricultural water users governed by Law no. 2-84 regarding associations of agricultural water users promulgated by Dahir (Royal Decree) no.1-87-12 of 3 Joumada II 1411 (21 December 1990), elected for a term of four years by and from among the presidents of these associations;
- three representatives of the prefectorial and provincial legislatures, elected for a term of four years, by and from among the presidents of these prefectorial and provincial legislatures included in the jurisdiction of each of the regions created by the previously cited Dahir (Royal Decree) no. 1-71-77;
- the Director of the Hassania school of public works;
- the Director of the Hassan II agronomic and veterinary institute;
- the Director of the Mohammadia school of engineers;
- the Director of the National mineral industry school;
- the Director of the National institute of agronomic research;
- five professors of higher education representing the universities whose research work involves water resources and their mobilization, management or protection, appointed by the minister responsible for higher education and scientific research;
- nine representatives of the scientific associations interested in climate and water resources, and particularly their mobilization, use and protection, of whom six are appointed by the Minister of Public Works and three by the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the President of the Moroccan association of consulting engineers;
- the President of the National building and public works federation;
- five presidents of the agricultural professional associations appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Development;
- the President of the General confederation of Moroccan enterprises;
- the president of the Federation of agricultural councils;
- the President of the Federation of chambers of commerce, industry and services;
- the President of the Federation of crafts councils;
- the Director of the Public testing and studies laboratory;
- four important persons known for their skills and knowledge in the areas of climate, water resources and their management and protection, appointed by the President of the National environment council.

The High Council for Water and Climate may add to this list, in an advisory capacity, any persons who are competent in the area of water resources and climate. ¹⁰

The Chairman of the High Council for Water and Climate may, in addition, invite walis (local governors) or governors as well as presidents of prefectorial or provincial legislatures to participate, in an advisory capacity, in the work of the Council when their areas of action are affected by the works listed on the Council's agenda. ^{15, 18}

Article 2: The High Council for Water and Climate meets at least once a year when convened by its chairman.

Article 3: A standing committee of the High Council for Water and the Climate, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Public Works, is hereby created, and shall be responsible for: 2, 4

- preparing the agenda for the meetings and the work of the Council sessions;
- monitoring and ensuring the application of the Council's recommendations;
- examining the matters submitted to the opinion of the High Council for Water and Climate;
- making, on the basis of the above-cited examination, any and all proposals likely to aid the High Council for Water and Climate in the formulation of its opinions;
- maintaining contacts that are useful in the execution of the mission of the High Council for Water and Climate;
- examining all matters connected with water and climate policy that are conveyed to it by the secretary of the standing committee.

The standing committee is comprised of the following members: 3

- the representatives of the government authorities who are members of the High Council for Water and Climate;
- one representative of the basin agencies, appointed by the Minister of Public Works;
- one representative of the National Office of Drinking Water, appointed by the Minister of Public Works;
- one representative of the National Office of Electricity, appointed by the Minister of Energy and Mines;
- one representative of the Regional Agricultural Development Offices, appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Development.

The committee may add to this list, in an advisory capacity, any persons who are competent in the areas of water resources and climate. 11

In the event of absence or unforeseen difficulties preventing the Minister of Public Works from attending, the duties of the chairman of the committee shall be performed by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Public Works. 5

Article 4: The standing committee meets, when convened by its chairman, as often as necessary and at least twice a year.

Article 5: All studies to be submitted to examination by the High Council for Water and Climate, by any government authority that is a Council member, must be sent to the Secretariat of the said Council at least six months before the meeting during which they must be examined.

Article 6: The Secretariat of the High Council for Water and Climate and of the standing committee is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works. 6

Article 7: The Minister of Public Works is responsible for the execution of this Decree, which will be published in the Official State Gazette. 7, 13