

## 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 Assigning roles and responsibilities [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)
  - 1.3 Setting national water policy
  - 1.4 Establishing linkages among sub-sectors, levels, and national sub-regions
  - 1.5 Establishing linkages with neighboring riparian countries
  - 1.6 Building public and political awareness of water sector issues
  - 1.7 Securing and allocating funding for the sector
  - 1.8 Developing and utilizing well-trained water sector professionals
- 2. Planning strategically**
  - 2.1 Collecting, managing, storing and utilizing water-relevant data [4](#), [5](#)
  - 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 [6](#), [7](#)
- 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) [8](#)
  - 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.** 9, 10, 11
2. **Participation.**
3. **Accountability and Integrity.**
4. **Rule of law.** 12, 13
5. **Coherency and Integration.**
6. **Responsiveness.** 14

## **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. 2-97-178 of 21 Joumada II 1418 (24 October 1997)  
setting the declaration procedure for revising and updating  
the Water Resource Inventory  
Official State Gazette no. 4532 of 6 November 1997 4, 6, 9, 14**

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**Article 1:** The declaration provided for in article 92 of the previously mentioned Law no. 10-95 is sent by double registered mail or hand-delivered against receipt to the hydrological basin agency concerned. 12

The declaration must indicate: 5, 7

- 1) the declarant's identity and position;
- 2) the address or corporate headquarters;
- 3) the technical characteristics of the work and of the catchment facilities;
- 4) the average flow rate to be withdrawn and the withdrawal point;
- 5) the use of the water withdrawn.

The following documents must be attached to the declaration:

- a - an appropriate location drawing indicating the water points and public works existing within a radius set by the hydrological basin agency;
- b - the location on an appropriately scaled map of the construction work or of the water catchment facility and their coordinates;
- c - as appropriate, a diagram of the facilities.

The hydrological basin agency may prepare the documents listed above at the declarant's expense and on his request.

**Article 2:** The declaration cited in article 1 above must be presented within twelve (12) calendar months of the date of publication of this Decree in the Official State Gazette. When this time limit has expired, the basin agency may, if it judges such a procedure useful, prepare the documents indicated in paragraphs a, b and c in article 1 above, at the expense of the owner or operator who has not made this declaration. 8, 10

**Article 3:** The declarant must inform the hydrological basin agency of any and all modifications of any elements in his initial declaration within one month of the date of the change. 1

**Article 4:** Pursuant to the provisions of article 99 of the above-cited law n° 10-95, and until each hydrological basin agency is created, the responsibilities and roles assigned by this Decree to the said agencies are exercised by the Ministry of Infrastructures. 2, 13

**Article 5:** The Minister of Agriculture, Infrastructures and the Environment is responsible for the execution of this Decree, which shall be published in the Official state gazette. 3, 11