

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](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)
 - 1.3 Setting national water policy [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)
 - 1.4 Establishing linkages among sub-sectors, levels, and national sub-regions [10](#), [11](#)
 - 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
 - 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 [12](#), [13](#)
- 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.** 14, 15, 16, 17
2. **Participation.**
3. **Accountability and Integrity.**
4. **Rule of law.** 18, 19, 20
5. **Coherency and Integration.**
6. **Responsiveness.** 21, 22

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. 2-97-223 of 21 Jomada II 1418 (24 October 1997) regarding the procedure for drafting and revising integrated general water resources development plans and the National Water Plan 7, 12, 21

The Prime Minister,

In view of Law no. 10-95 regarding water promulgated by Dahir (Royal Decree) no. 1-95-154 of 18 Rabii I 1416 (16 August 1995), and in particular its articles 15, 16, 17 and 18; 18

After examination by the Council of Ministers meeting on 13 Jomada II 1418 (16 October 1997),

Decrees:

Chapter 1: Delimitation of hydrological basins

Article 1: The hydrological basin boundaries cited in article 15 of the above-mentioned Law no. 10-95 are set by order of the Minister of Infrastructures. This Decree is published in the Official state gazette. 14, 19

Chapter II: The integrated general water resources development plan 13

Article 2. – The draft of the integrated general water resources development plan is prepared by the hydrological basin agency concerned, which conveys it to the Minister of Infrastructures. The Minister of Infrastructures submits the draft of the integrated general water resources development plan to the opinion of the Ministers of the Interior, Finance, Agriculture, Public Health, Energy and Mines, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, the Minister of the Environment and the minister responsible for population. 1, 10

Once these formalities have been completed, the draft of the plan is submitted to examination by the High Council for Water and Climate by the Minister of Infrastructures.

The integrated general plan is approved by a decree issued on the proposal of the Minister of Infrastructures. This Decree is published in the Official state gazette. 2, 15

Pursuant to the provisions of article 99 of the above-cited law no. 10-95, and while awaiting the creation of the hydrological basin agencies, the responsibilities and roles assigned by this chapter to the said agencies are exercised by the Ministry of Infrastructures. 3, 20

Chapter III: The National Water Plan 8

Article 3: The draft of the National Water Plan is prepared by the Ministry of Infrastructures, which submits it to the opinion of the Ministers of the Interior, Finance, Agriculture, Public Health, Energy and Mines, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, the Minister of the Environment and the minister responsible for population. 4, 9, 11

Once these formalities have been completed, the draft of the plan is submitted to examination by the

High Council for Water and Climate by the Minister of Infrastructures.

Article 4: The National Water Plan is approved by a decree issued on the proposal of the Minister of Infrastructures and countersigned by the ministers who have given their opinion on its content. This decree is published in the Official state gazette. 5, 16

Chapter IV: Common provisions

Article 5. – The National Water Plan and the integrated general water resources development plans are revised according to the same terms and procedures as those stipulated for their drafting and approval. 22

Article 6. – 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. 6, 17