Short Session Report

Session Title: How OECD's Principles on Water Governance Promote Accountability, Sustainable Development and Social Justice Together
Date & Time: October 23, 8:30am - 10:00am
Report prepared by: Umrbek Allakulov, Research and Analytics Officer, Water Integrity Network

Experts:

Dr. Aziza Akhmouch, Acting Head of the Cities, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Joannie Leclerc, Dialogue and Societal Impact Director, SUEZ

Gari Villa-Landa, Head of International Affairs, Spanish Association of Water Supply and Sanitation (AEAS)

Samuel Kimeu, Executive Director/Member of the International Board, Transparency International Kenya/Transparency International

Moderated by: Christiaan Poortman, Senior Advisor/Chair, Transparency International/Construction Sector Transparency Initiative

Session coordinated by: Donal O'Leary, Senior Advisor, Transparency International

Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What’s the focus of the session?
The water sector is vulnerable to various risks including corruption because of its fragmented governance and high investment requirements. Also, the construction sector is heavily involved in implementing hydraulic infrastructure investments, which further exposes the water sector to corruption risks.

The session mainly focused on the implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance, which can serve as a tool to guide design and implementation of policies in the water sector. The application of the Principles can help effectively address the abovementioned risks and challenges. Special attention was given to Principle 9 and its application, which focuses on mainstreaming integrity and transparency practices in the water sector.

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

Three experiences in applying the OECD Principles on Water Governance were showcased. The first case focused on lessons learned from the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI) working group on stories and best practices. The second case elaborated on the experience of the Spanish Association of Water Supply and Sanitation in pilot testing the WGI indicators framework. Finally, the third presentation shared experiences from applying the Principles by Transparency International Kenya.

Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

The implementation of the Principles in different countries and contexts demonstrate that the move from water management to water governance requires a change of mindset. Especially, stakeholder engagement is pivotal to effective water governance, and this has emerged as a common thread across the three cases presented.
during the workshop.

What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

The OECD has been awarded the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize and is currently developing a programme on “The Governance and Economics of Water Security for Sustainable Development in Africa.” The OECD invites strategic partnerships with stakeholders at international, national, regional, and local levels focusing on governance, integrity, and procurement themes.

Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

The achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation is a prerequisite to achieve all other Goals. However, the challenge of water security is growing, which undermines the efforts toward achieving the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. Water crises are primarily governance crises. The OECD Principles on Water Governance is a tool that can guide national and subnational governments in designing and implementing better water policies and strategies.

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted
Umrbek Allakulov, 23 October 2018

This Short Report needs to be submitted within 2 hours after the session.