



# G20 Dialogue on Water Terms of Reference



## Objective

The G20 Dialogue on Water is a platform to share sustainable and resilient water management practices. Specifically, the Dialogue will compile the best practices submitted by G20 countries and work on Water Best Practices and Water Coordination and Integration Roadmaps, toward collaboration on sustainable and resilient water management. The Dialogue on Water and all its outcomes are voluntary and non-binding in nature, and within the mandate of the G20.

## Outcomes

The Dialogue on Water under the 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency aims to:

1. Propose, agree, and develop a roadmap for a digital platform of G20 countries' best practices and experiences related to sustainable and resilient water management, with a special focus on (1) innovative water financing and investment; (2) institutional and human capacity development for sustainable water management; and (3) technological advancements, including hydroinformatics.
2. Compile a report of country-submitted best practices on the topic of sustainable water management, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to combat water related diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19.
3. Propose, agree and develop a roadmap to coordinate water-related activities/actions taking place within the G20 framework to optimize their impacts.<sup>1</sup>

## Working Method

The Dialogue on Water is a voluntary effort to streamline ongoing G20 discussions on water, within the framework of the G20 mandate, chaired by the G20 Presidency and co-chaired by the G20 Troika. Its participants will be the Water Officials Contact Group, which can be updated, as needed, based on government nominations. The Dialogue on Water may invite participation from relevant international organizations, as necessary and appropriate.

The Dialogue on Water will work in the following manner in 2020 under the G20 Saudi Arabia Presidency:

- In **June** the G20 Presidency will:

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<sup>1</sup> The G20 Dialogue on Water focuses on the water-related activities and actions solely included within the G20 work streams and in conformity with the mandate of the G20. For example, in the 2020 Presidency, the Development Working Group is working on an action plan on emergency response to COVID-19, which touches on sanitation and health; the Infrastructure Working Group of the Finance Track is promoting technology adoption in infrastructure, including a detailed list of water-specific use cases provided in a Stock-Take Reference Note; and the Environment Working Group has a land degradation initiative which would by its nature be linked to water in terrestrial ecosystems. These examples illustrate the potential for additional coordination relating to water management. The concepts of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus and of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) also illustrate the relevance of water to many discussions within the G20 framework.

- Prepare and distribute a questionnaire<sup>2</sup> for collecting interested G20 countries' best practices on managing WASH-related diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19; responses will be provided by the Dialogue participants.
  - Draft a voluntary and non-binding Best Practices Roadmap for a digital platform of G20 countries' best practices and experiences related to sustainable and resilient water resources management.
  - Draft a voluntary and non-binding Water Coordination and Integration Roadmap to coordinate and integrate G20 water-related activities/actions to optimize their impacts. This roadmap will include a stocktaking of water-related activities already conducted within the G20 framework.
- **In July:**
    - Documents corresponding to the above-mentioned three outcomes will be disseminated to the Dialogue participants for feedback.
    - Include a session during the second Water Deputies Meeting to discuss the Dialogue outcomes.
  - **In August:**
    - One meeting of Dialogue participants will be held virtually on August 24<sup>th</sup> to give G20 countries the opportunity to present to each other their best practices, their experiences, and their views on the Dialogue roadmaps.
    - An updated draft of the two roadmap documents will be disseminated and then discussed with the Dialogue participants with the aim of finalizing them.
    - In September: The report compiling country-submitted best practices (on the topic of managing WASH to combat water-related diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19) will be disseminated to all Dialogue participants with the aim of finalizing the document.
  - On **September 10-11**, the G20 Presidency will present the best practices report and proposed roadmaps to the Agriculture and Water Deputies for review and adoption by their Ministers on **September 12**.
  - On **September 29-30**, the G20 Presidency will present the best practices report and proposed roadmaps at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sherpa meeting.
  - The Dialogue on Water's mandate is completed in 2020 with the option for upcoming G20 Presidencies to build on the abovementioned roadmaps and continue the dialogue.

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<sup>2</sup> This will be comprised of a simple questionnaire/form for countries to fill out that would include a concise description of each best practice and its impacts.