REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF MANAGEMENT ON THE PROPOSED IsDB WATER SECTOR POLICY

I submit to the Board of Executive Directors for its consideration and decision the following Report and Recommendation on the new proposed Water Sector Policy (WSP) of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), which establishes the overall directions to guide IsDB's future water sector operations in Member Countries (MCs).

This is the IsDB's first sector policy for water. Through its five pillars and four guiding principles, the Policy seeks to align future water operations, with MCs' needs, and the global priorities as set by the Sustainable Development Goals framework, the Bank's 10 Year Strategy, the President's Five-year Program (P5P), and the OIC Water Vision. This Policy aims to strengthen the MCs' policies, strategies, actions plans, laws and regulations related to water.

The Policy was developed through a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive process involving IsDB Management, staff and MCs, and taking into account trends in the water sector support of other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), UN agencies, water research centers and academia.

Based on extensive fact-finding and technical analysis, a Policy Study was prepared to review the situation, needs and challenges in the sector, and to develop a set of policy proposals. Hence, this Policy Document was prepared, drawing upon the conclusions and recommendations of the Policy Study.

The Policy outlines non-discretionary principles and intentions to permit, guide and constrain the IsDB's water sector operations to achieve corporate goals. Further detailed instructions, including organizational and procedural aspects, will be provided in the form of an Operational Strategy, which will be submitted for approval by the IsDB Management.

In view of the above, I recommend to the Board of Executive Directors that IsDB considers the approval of this Water Sector Policy.

Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar
President, IsDB

IsDB
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank

WATER SECTOR POLICY (WSP)

Sustainable and Resilient Water and Sanitation Systems for All

Social Infrastructure Division
Economic and Social Infrastructure Department
September 2020

Disclaimer

Contents

Abbreviations v
Purpose, Objective and Background 1
Definitions 5
Scope 5
Guiding Principles 10
Roles and responsibilities 13
Related Policies 13
Version History 14

Abbreviations

10YS	Ten Year Strategy
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
MC	Member Country
P5P	President's Five-Year Program
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation Unit
WSP	Water Sector Policy

Purpose, Objective and Background

1. With the 10 Year Strategy (10YS), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has moved into a new direction, focusing equally on the delivery of development finance as well as on the delivery of knowledge products. Within the new orientation, this Water Sector Policy (WSP) of the IsDB establishes the overall direction and priorities for IsDB water operations in Member Countries (MCs), in line with the IsDB Articles of Agreement. The WSP is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular with SDG 6, as well as with the Water Vision of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. Informed by the analytical study "IsDB Water Sector Policy Study" (IsDB 2020), the WSP aims to guide IsDB's contribution to resolving the pressing challenges in water resources use and management and water and sanitation services delivery.

2. IsDB operations are spread over a large range of geographies and a wide array of conditions, encompassing nearly all risks and threats that occur in water resources use and management – drought and flooding, constant scarcity or persistent water logging, salinity and degraded wetlands, deteriorating water quality, failing public health, persistent unavailability of reliable water services, weak governance, and water conflicts - locally and regionally.

3. In absence of immediate actions, some MCs are heading towards a water disaster: faced with unceasingly depleting water resources and/or steadily growing demands, especially from rising urban populations. The bright side of this situation is that in many countries, there is a tremendous potential for gain from better water governance, improved agricultural water management and effective water services delivery. Successful experiences in several MCs can serve as examples in this respect. However, time is running out. Unless water management practices and processes are significantly improved within the next ten to fifteen years, more and more countries, cities, people and economies are likely to face serious and prolonged or irreversible water insecurity, the type, magnitude and extent of which no other earlier generation has witnessed or had to cope with. Climate change adds a high level of uncertainty that calls for a different order of adaptability and anticipation in problem solving.

4. Given their widespread geographic locations and distinct conditions, IsDB MCs are facing a number of challenges in relation to water. They include:

   - **Rising water scarcity and uncertainty coupled with increasing water demand.** Almost 40 percent of MCs (or 22 out of 57 MCs) fall within physical water scarcity (< 1000 m^3/capita/year) and 16 within economic water scarcity (< 3000 m^3/capita/year). There is regrettable legacy of depleting water resources, as a result of inadequate management in the past. When withdrawals are compared to resource availability, MCs in the MENA and Central Asia are the most water stressed with a negative water balance. These challenges are compounded with deteriorating quality of surface and ground water resources in many MCs. Pathogen contamination, salinity and chemical pollution are increasing in all world's major river systems, including the Ganges and Nile basins, North and West Africa, and the Middle East, as far as IsDB MCs are concerned. The management of water in many countries requires regional cooperation, as some of them are entirely dependent on imported water resources. Yet, transboundary water management on many shared resources leaves much to be desired and 63 percent of water conflict cases reported globally, are in MCs.
   - **High exposure to climate change impacts manifest in increasing migration, economic loss, and death due to poor flood and drought management.** Not only drought, but in some MCs overabundance of water in the shape of floods and water logging is a major risk to consider. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reported that the first half of 2019 saw 7 million new internal displacements due to disasters, among these more than 27 percent are in MCs (e.g. 1.6 million in Bangladesh, 213,000 in Afghanistan, or 106,000 in Somalia). Preparedness to climate uncertainty still varies much among MCs with institutional, governance, and financial constraints representing key factors in determining this level.
   - **Poorly performing water and sanitation services**. In 17 out of 57 MCs, less than 60 percent of the population has access to improved urban water services. In addition, rural water access in many MCs is inadequate, due to inexistent or non-functional infrastructure. Rural households, particularly, in Sub-Saharan MCs have the lowest access to drinking water services, and in some MCs, access to an improved water supply system covers less than half of the rural population. Not only has progress been slow, but, more alarming, many of the installed services have discontinued after their establishment. As for sanitation services,

they are marked by low wastewater treatment capacity leading to environmental degradation and poor public health. According to the WHO, in 2016, 14 MCs registered yearly mortality rates of over 4 million people due to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions. In addition, the proportion of domestic wastewater that is safely treated is low in MCs, and inadequate disposal and treatment of wastewater is a key factor for deteriorating water quality and ecosystems.

- **Low agricultural water efficiency and productivity.** Whilst being by far the largest water consumer globally, efficiency of agricultural water use is low in MCs, particularly in mega irrigation systems in Central Asia and South Asia, and the Sahel. Water productivity - both in terms of economic value and volume of produce per unit of water used – is also alarmingly low, and in some MCs, decreasing. This is a challenge but offers, at the same time, a tremendous development opportunity. There is in addition a huge unused potential of un-conventional water sources. For instance, there is scope to capture a much larger proportion of the rainfall and flood run-off, especially in arid and semi-arid areas, to sustain agriculture and domestic water uses. Similarly, desalination, treatment and reuse of domestic, industrial, and agricultural wastewater, and the use of produced water (from the oil industry), hold a significant potential for enhancing water supply in water stressed MCs.
- **Most of these challenges are man-made and the direct outcome of poor water governance**. This is manifested in weak regulation, in uncontrolled water extraction, neglect of natural water systems, unabated pollution and lack of planning in the allocation of water resources. Institutions are often the weakest link in service provision with below optimal asset management and customer relations. In many countries, water finance is problematic. It is not uncommon that unwanted water management practices in spite of limited public budgets are encouraged fiscally, for instance through energy subsidies for pumping scarce groundwater resources. Where enabling legal frameworks exist, they are often inadequately enforced.

5. Taking into account the wide range of challenges affecting the water sector in MCs, the overall goal of the proposed WSP is to achieve **'Sustainable and Resilient Water and Sanitation Systems for All'**. The world is constantly going through shocks and crises which became part of daily lives, and humanity has to continuously adjust to

these evolving stresses, whilst at the same time improving the performance of services and safeguarding long term resource availability. Water systems - the integrated complex of water resources and the uses and functions that are facilitated by them - are vital. Water systems need to be resilient in order to provide security in times of peace, in times of change and in those of turmoil and crisis. This situation also requires that surface and groundwater, humanity's precious common good, are managed effectively yielding tangible results. There is a collective responsibility to ensure the continued and reliable provision of services that are the heart of basic needs and well-being: domestic water supply, sanitation and water treatment. This will contribute to the creation of sustainable cities and vibrant rural areas. There is also a need to strive for sustainability in agricultural water management, making sure that food systems do not come at the cost of sustainable water resources use.

6. Under this overall goal, the objectives of the WSP are to assist MCs in achieving the SDG targets for access to safe water and sanitation, and for the IsDB to be at the forefront in supporting MCs to ensure effective water resources management and efficient water use, harnessing new approaches, funding mechanisms and enabling frameworks in the face of a changing global environment. The WSP also aims at strengthening the contribution of water management as a lever for better health and food security, enhanced resilience, sustainable economic development, balanced energy consumption and lasting peace and stability.

7. The analysis of water challenges suggests that traditional infrastructure financing approaches will be insufficient in the majority of cases. This is very much in line with the President's Five-Year Program (P5P), that operationalizes the 10YS and positions the IsDB as a "bank for development and developers". Investment in better approaches, human capacity and creativity, improved governance and smarter planning, and effective management is highly needed and will give a dividend of its own.

Definitions

Affordable access	Consumers able to use water services that meet recognized quality criteria and that are within purchasing power
Effective water resources management	Management of water resources that translates into action on the ground that improve the long-term availability and quality of water resources
Functionality	Ability of water infrastructure to deliver the service they were created for, at or above minimum acceptable performance levels
Inclusiveness	Ensuring that all groups, and in particular marginal groups, have access to services
Resilience	Ability of existing and planned physical, social, economic and administrative systems to provide services and withstand shocks and stresses
Universal access	Having entire population benefitting from improved water and sanitation services, without constraints of affordability, location, social group or otherwise
Water governance	The set of rules, practices, and processes (formal and informal) through which decisions for the management of water resources and services are taken and implemented, stakeholders articulate their interest and decision-makers are held accountable
Water systems	The integrated complex of water resources and the uses and functions that are facilitated by them
Water use efficiency	The ratio between effective water use and actual water withdrawal; proportion of water in the system that is used to actually deliver the services
Water productivity	Volume of economic output, crop, biomass or jobs that are produced per unit quantity of water used

Scope

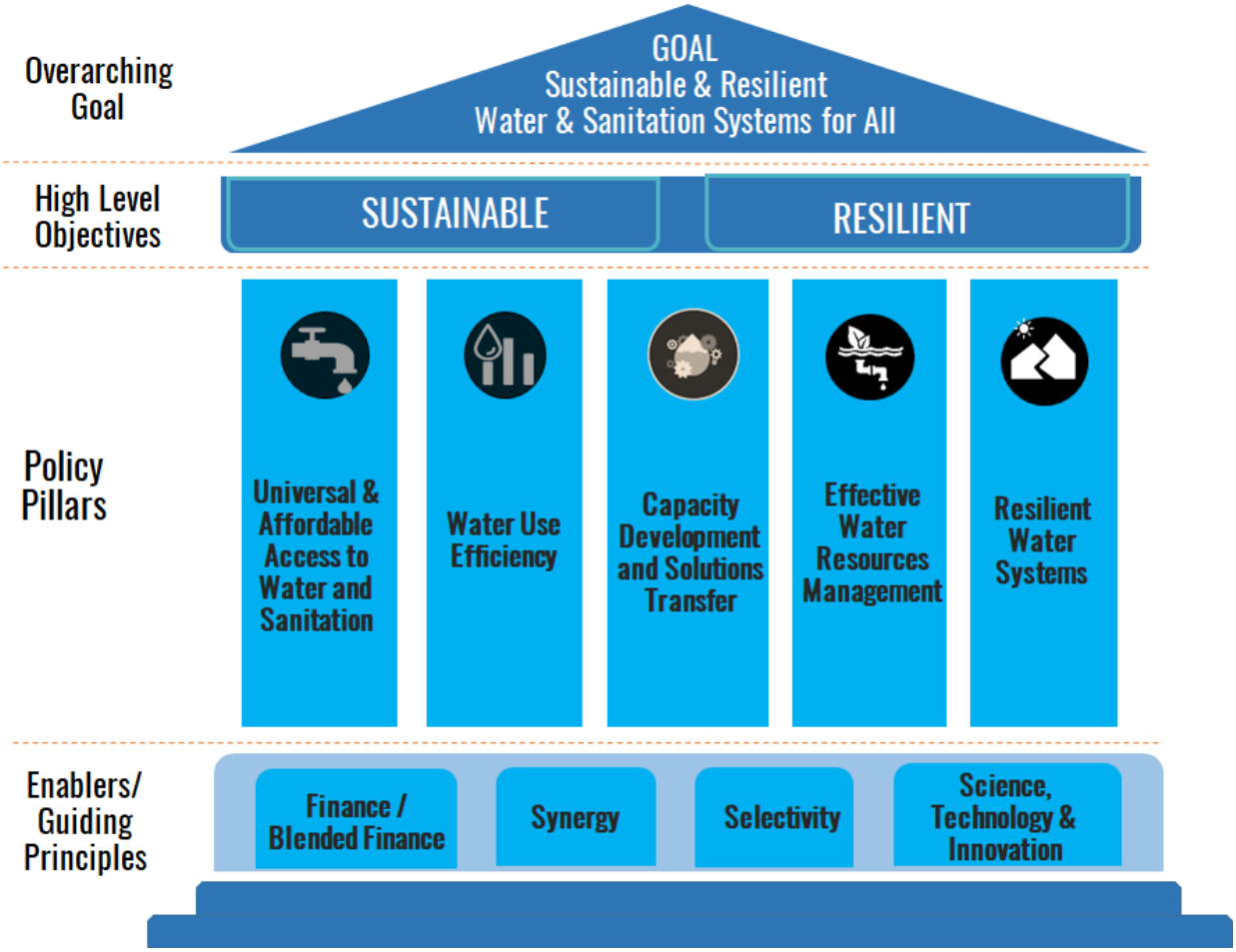
8. The WSP provides a common framework for water operations within the IsDB, in water resources management and use, and in water and sanitation. It establishes the basis for policy engagement and co-development of projects and programs with

MCs. The Policy also offers the means to communicate and collaborate with other sectors within IsDB as well as with partners that have a similar remit, in particular other international financial institutions, multi-lateral organizations, service providers, and think-tanks.

9. The overall Goal of 'Sustainable and Resilient Water and Sanitation Systems for All' is supported by 5 Pillars, as shown in Figure 1:

- Pillar 1 - Universal and affordable access to water and sanitation
- Pillar 2 - Water use efficiency
- Pillar 3 - Capacity development and solutions transfer
- Pillar 4 - Effective water resources management
- Pillar 5 - Resilient water systems

Figure 1 Water Policy Framework



10. **Pillar – 1: Universal and Affordable Access to Water & Sanitation.** The first pillar of the Policy is very much in line with the acknowledgement in the 10YS that gaps are widening and that there is the risk of a world with several areas that are persistently 'left behind'. The 10YS emphasizes inclusiveness. In water services there are two main targets. First, are urban water services – water supply, sewerage, sanitation, water treatment. With rapid urbanization especially in Africa, keeping pace and removing backlog in urban water services delivery; and providing adequate access, are priority. The preference is that urban water services are provided in an integrated 'source to tap and back' manner – whereby water sources areas around cities are safeguarded and the urban areas do not put undue pressure on their surrounding areas. Where possible, the link should be made with urban planning to protect and enhance resources – so as to ensure long term affordable delivery. In delivering urban water services, it is not only infrastructure that matters, but very much the management and governance of the utilities – aiming at recovery of at least part of the costs, adequate pricing (also to give the right price signals), proper asset management, reliable delivery, safe water quality, conducive customer relations and expansion of services. IsDB support – from its different business units - should be extended to such activities. The second target are rural areas, particularly those where water supply and sanitation is a persistent huge challenge, the so-called 'last mile' areas. These may be areas that are remote or without access to good quality water resources, because of salinity, contamination or the non-availability of water. IsDB will endeavour to be practical yet innovative, as standard solutions may not be sufficient to provide affordable and adequate services. In strengthening rural water supply, special attention is needed to make technically and institutionally robust systems, so as to avoid the high non-functionality that bedevils water services in many rural areas.

11. Universal access cannot be achieved without inclusiveness. Hence, IsDB water and sanitation programs will have a special focus on specific target groups. Given the paramount role of women in water, sanitation and hygiene, such programs should have a strong gender focus. Another group requiring special attention while providing water and sanitation services are the ultra-vulnerable populations--particularly those living in fragile, conflict stricken and violent regions (FCV), and those displaced as a result of FCV. The focus on these vulnerable groups is all the more needed because many IsDB MCs are affected by FCV.

12. **Pillar – 2: Water Use Efficiency.** Improving water productivity is imperative for and may be achieved from all water uses but is particularly important for agricultural water and urban water uses, as the efficiency gains from these two areas are tremendous. Agriculture is the largest water user in IsDB MCs, but it is at the same time a poor performer in terms of water productivity. In several MCs, less crop per drop is produced or more drop per crop is used than ten years ago. Experts believe that improving water productivity in agriculture by an average of 25 percent, is feasible. Doing so will help ensure food security and at the same time free up water resources for other uses. This will reduce competition and conflicts and allow cities and industries to grow. But it is important, at the same time, that rules are in place to govern the allocation of water saved. In many irrigation systems, there is a tremendous scope for improvement, by enhancing water distribution rules, using appropriate water control structures, controlling leakages and promoting a wide array of smart measures that promote better water management at farmer field level. Such programs often yield immediate results – without a long gestation period. Moreover, improved efficiency in agricultural water use brings other benefits: less diseases, less back breaking labour, less salinity and waterlogging. There is also scope to improve water use efficiency in rain-fed and flood-dependent agricultural water systems. In this regard, there is a broad repertoire of measures that can help retain and store these more erratic water resources. The potential gains in increasing productivity in rain-fed and flood-based farming are high. Several predictions are that a large part of the increase in global food production will have to come from such rain-fed and flood-based systems.

13. A second important area to promote water use efficiency is in urban settings. Water losses in urban water systems are typically between 25-40 percent - part of these are real/technical water losses, another part are administrative losses. These losses undermine the sustainability of water utilities, put a large pressure on infrastructure and resources and may go hand in hand with deteriorating water quality of services. Reducing urban water losses is vital to secure long-term water resources availability for the growing cities.

14. **Pillar – 3: Capacity Development and Solutions Transfer**. Capacity development is a central tenet of the 10YS: “the empowerment of societal actors to effect positive and sustainable change in order to close capacity gaps and support the achievement of development goals”. There are many actions that can be conducted

differently: better urban water asset management, effective water resources use, the smart provision of basic water and health services, water savings in agriculture, control of pollution and degradation, and more. The obstacle to all these improvements is not lack of opportunities or shortage of interest, but the scarcity of skills and ability to act at the level of decision makers, institutions and individuals. A first priority under this pillar is effective water governance – making sure the basic prerequisites are in place for water to be managed fairly and for quality water services to be provided with integrity. A second priority relates to the practical capacity of those that do plan and implement programs, their direct managers and supervisors, and those who make it possible, i.e. the higher up leaders. Again, what matters is impact – and hence the emphasis in this pillar on solutions transfer and exchanging practical experiences and acting on these. As the IsDB's experience in Reverse Linkage shows, there is much power in the interaction between the MCs that all have their unique valuable experiences in solving developmental problems. Therefore, capacity development and solutions transfer shall be mainstreamed and integrated in the IsDB's interventions in the water sector. There is also a need to support a new generation of water practitioners and experts, closely linked to IsDB operations, through scholarships and other ways of engagement.

15. **Pillar – 4: Effective Water Resources Management.** The pillar on the effective management of water resources reverberates the IsDB's emphasis on impact and results. In the past two decades, there has been an upsurge in water policies and approaches. At the same time, water resources are still under relentless pressure and major water issues have not been resolved and in several cases not even tackled. They have often been more the topic of debate than of action. This pillar focuses on effective water resources management – putting into action the better use, integration of functions, regulation, protection and enhancement of water resources. The judicious management of water under an effective enabling integrated management framework often goes in hand with balanced multiple water uses, with harmonized and robust allocation between different users: better control of surface water, including flood management, basin management, regulation and recharge of groundwater, the safeguarding and use of wetlands for a range of functions including water treatment and other nature-based solutions. The transboundary cooperation between countries in water management will not only help de-escalate conflicts but also will give impetus for peace and cooperation.

Raising awareness and fostering knowledge, supporting strong institutions and local ownership, investing in relations, institutional coordination, aligning financial incentives, strengthening of regulatory frameworks – very much the gist of improved water governance - are all part of effective water resources management.

16. **Pillar – 5: Resilient Water Systems.** The COVID19 pandemic and its aftermath have been an enormous test of our systems to sustain basic needs, to keep vital services being provided and economies active. It is expected that there will be more crises in the future that will challenge the world severely: other disease outbreaks, climate change impacts, conflicts and water catastrophes, including depletion and degradation. Therefore, existing and new water systems need to be resilient to physically and institutionally withstand these constantly emerging pressures. Strengthening resilience will increase the ability of the systems to deal with shocks and to make them perform better. It requires working with the existing and designing new planned systems and making them better and climate adapted. It is important that the measures and actions taken contribute to the resilience of the entire system and not simply protect a part of it – for a water facility to provide many services that enhance resilience, not just protect the facility against threats. Moreover, resilience is not limited to physical infrastructure, but also covers operational and managerial aspects. Some institutions are much more able to function under duress than others. Such stress-resistance will be built into the water portfolio as part of the overall strengthening of the responsible institutions. This pillar may also cover activities that help MCs to better deal with droughts and floods and to use unconventional water sources including desalinated waters. In the case of droughts, there is a large number of drought proofing measures that go hand in hand with higher dividend overall, for instance in landscape restoration. As for floods, they may be seen not just as a threat, but rather as an opportunity, with potential beneficial use for water storage or flood water spreading.

Guiding Principles

17. In order to formulate the specific programs and operations in the water sector, a number of Guiding Principles (or enablers) will be used in close cooperation with the MCs, to help achieve the overarching objectives of the WSP.

18. **Finance/Strategic blending of finance** is the first guiding principle. The IsDB is a pioneer in Islamic finance and has developed several specialized Islamic financial products. The guiding principle is that, where possible, these financial services are used to lever more resources from private and public funders for the activities at hand. Almost all water investments should qualify for green or climate *Sukuk*. The IsDB on behalf of its MCs may, whenever possible, raise funds for water and climate relevant projects – with the efforts of the IsDB and MCs in developing excellent programs being rewarded with larger financial resources.

19. Developing blended finance packages serves the funding of the water programs and also plays a catalytic role by establishing financial linkages around the concerned programs, with local and international funders, public and private. This may further contribute to the programs' developmental impacts. Supplementary resources can be raised from within the country: well-functioning water or irrigation utilities may be a safe investment for national pension or welfare funds for instance. Public-private partnerships and the use of new financial arrangements such as performance-based contracts may be encouraged to make use of private sector financial capacity and its ability to deliver services. This helps build up a stable local economy based on the sustainable and efficient provision of essential services. In seeking blended finance, the role of IsDB may be that of initiator, first resort funder or guarantor.

20. **Synergy** is the second guiding principle. This is also closely related to the strategic blending of finance – forging alliances with external partners (International Financial Institutions, bilateral donors, philanthropies, NGOs, etc) around the essential water programs and services. Synergy could go further: water does not only serve water. Water is an essential ingredient in other sectors and a means to achieve agendas in public health, security or job creation for instance. Water is also unique and irreplaceable in the production of food, and the integrity of the environment.

21. This synergy in water investment will be optimized– so as to maximize the spin-off of the water operations. Also, it would be important to integrate water components in the programs of other themes – such as agriculture, health, education, transport, urban development, youth employment and peace and security. The synergy with the energy sector is of special importance, mainly because of the water-energy nexus: energy is driving the economic base for many water services – from

groundwater use to salinization, and water services are responsible for a large part of energy consumption in a country. Similarly, the synergy between water and agriculture is of high importance and merits a special attention within the IsDB interventions, as better agricultural water management can increase yields, and at same time free up water for other uses. Equally important is the synergy with gender and youth. Actually, the whole management process of water and sanitation, from decision-making, technology choices, implementation, benefits and risks are all gendered, and the situations, priorities, and needs of men, women – young and old – are different when it comes to water and sanitation. Promotion of women and youth participation will, therefore, be encouraged.

22. **Selectivity** is the third guiding principle. While the range of water challenges in IsDB's MCs is beyond its resources (or even the resources of all donors combined), IsDB can still make a meaningful indent. The problems are numerous – so the choice where to intervene within the entire system is important. There is a number of selection criteria and these should be systematically considered in the dialogue with MCs and other partners. To be included in the IsDB country strategies, programs may be prioritized based on their capacity to innovate or to offer easy and quick wins; their ability to generate the largest impacts and address inequity; and their scalability and replicability whilst not losing sight of their ability to be successfully implemented in the MCs.

23. The fourth guiding principle is **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**. The operations of the Bank provide a unique real-life habitat for innovation to take root. For this, there is a need to develop linkages with the most excellent practical innovators and ideas' holders. There is also a need to support MCs to mobilize and mainstream science and technology to accelerate access to water supply and sanitation, and to harness innovations in managing water resources.

24. There are several of such promising breakthrough innovations: for example, the use of remote sensing in water management, smart metering in groundwater use, machine learning in performance monitoring, digitization in water management, the multifunctional use of infrastructure, integrated urban water city management, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, district metered area systems, low cost desalination and many more.

25. In general, STI will be an integral part of the IsDB dialogue and interventions in the MCs and streamlined with the support of the various STI programs within IsDB in order to meet the national priorities and regional and global needs.

Roles and responsibilities

26. The IsDB **will lead** the implementation of this WSP and will seek, for this purpose, collaboration with other business units and affiliates within the IsDB Group.

27. The new direction taken with the 10YS offers a huge opportunity for the IsDB to help its MCs to improve water management practices and processes and avoid that countries and economies will be faced with unprecedented water insecurity. In order to strengthen dialogue with MCs around the water sector, and make the Policy operational, IsDB will have to translate the policy pillars, into strategic plans. These operational strategies will have to be monitored and adapted from time to time, as circumstances in MCs may change. Also, in preparing new operations, linkages may be established with organizations that developed such proofs of concept and can take project from ideas stage to development stage.

28. This Policy also requires IsDB to constantly monitor its own performance in support of the water sector using pre-set indicators and to be vigilant with respect to new challenges. The Policy needs to gauge how well the investments in the sector are contributing to progress in its MCs and the achievement of the SDGs. IsDB will facilitate the formal evaluation of the performance of its investments under this Policy.

29. To support the role of IsDB in contributing to a better water sector in and between the MCs, that can contribute to resolving the numerous challenges, systematic learning through the development of a community of practice should be organized with the concerned sectors within IsDB.

Related Policies

30. Water cuts across almost all aspects of human life and economic activities. As such, effective water management supported by this WSP contributes to the

implementation of several other IsDB sectoral policies and in turn, other policies play a role in attaining the objectives of the WSP. Aligning policies and plans potentiates benefits and resource efficiency of policy implementation. Specific synergies exist with the Climate Change Policy, the Environmental and Safeguards Policy, the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Policy, the Urban Sector Policy, the Energy Sector Policy, the Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Policy, the Fragility and Resilience Policy, the Health Policy, the STI Policy, and the Reverse Linkage Policy. Additional important linkages exist with the Women's Empowerment Policy and the Education Sector Policy.

31. The P5P for IsDB transformation emphasizes the urge for IsDB to add value, deliver results and act as a catalyst for change. All these actions could be achieved in the water sector. The IsDB is, in many ways, well positioned, counting on special trust with MCs and working with a group of MCs that have solidarity. There is definitely a need for a catalysing force in the water sector, and a need for practical breakthroughs linked to programs that are implemented on the ground and can serve as learning.

Version History

32. This WSP is the first of its kind to be prepared since the establishment of IsDB. It is based on a Policy Study, analysing the challenges and opportunities in the three working regions of the IsDB, underpinned by quantitative indicators for MCs. The development of the Policy benefitted to a large extent from the feedback of the technical committee formed for this purpose within the IsDB Group, from the rich input of MCs, and from extensive comments received from many regional and international organizations, during various consultations, held in June 2020.

33. This Policy shall be effective from the date of its approval by the Board of Executive Directors and reviewed periodically (as per the operational guidelines) to assess implementation experience and overall impact in achieving the SDGs.