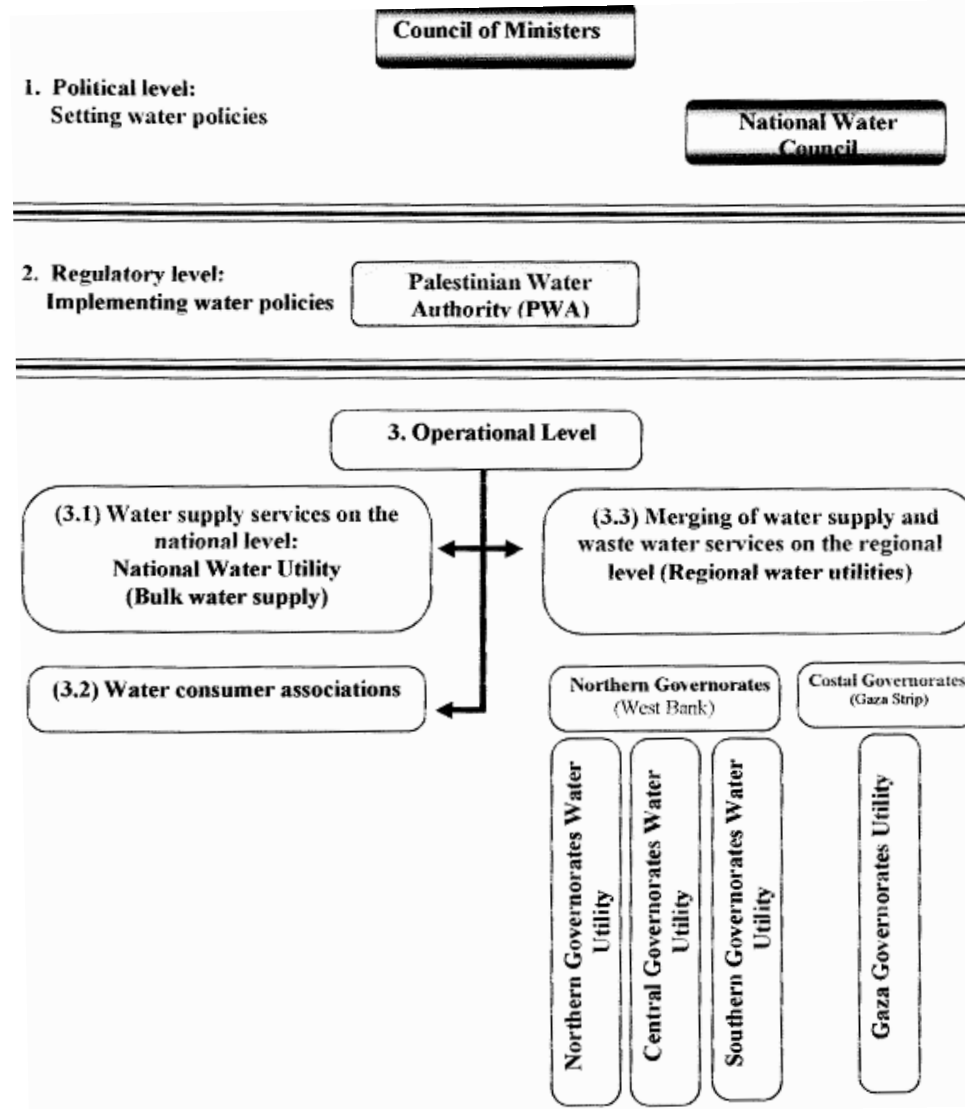


Institutional Framework of the Water Sector in Palestine

Water Sector Framework



Institutional Framework of the Water Sector in Palestine

National Water Council framework



Institutional Framework of the Water Sector in Palestine

Duties and prerogatives of the National Water Council:

- Sanction the general water policy;
- Sanction the policy for development and utilization of water resources and the different usage;
- Ratify plans and programs aimed at organizing the usage of water, the preventing wastage, and directing consumption;
- Ratify the tariff policy;
- Confirming the allocation of funds for investment in the water sector;
- Approving the periodic reports concerning the activities of the Authority and its work;



Institutional Framework of the Water Sector in Palestine

Duties and prerogatives of the National Water Council:

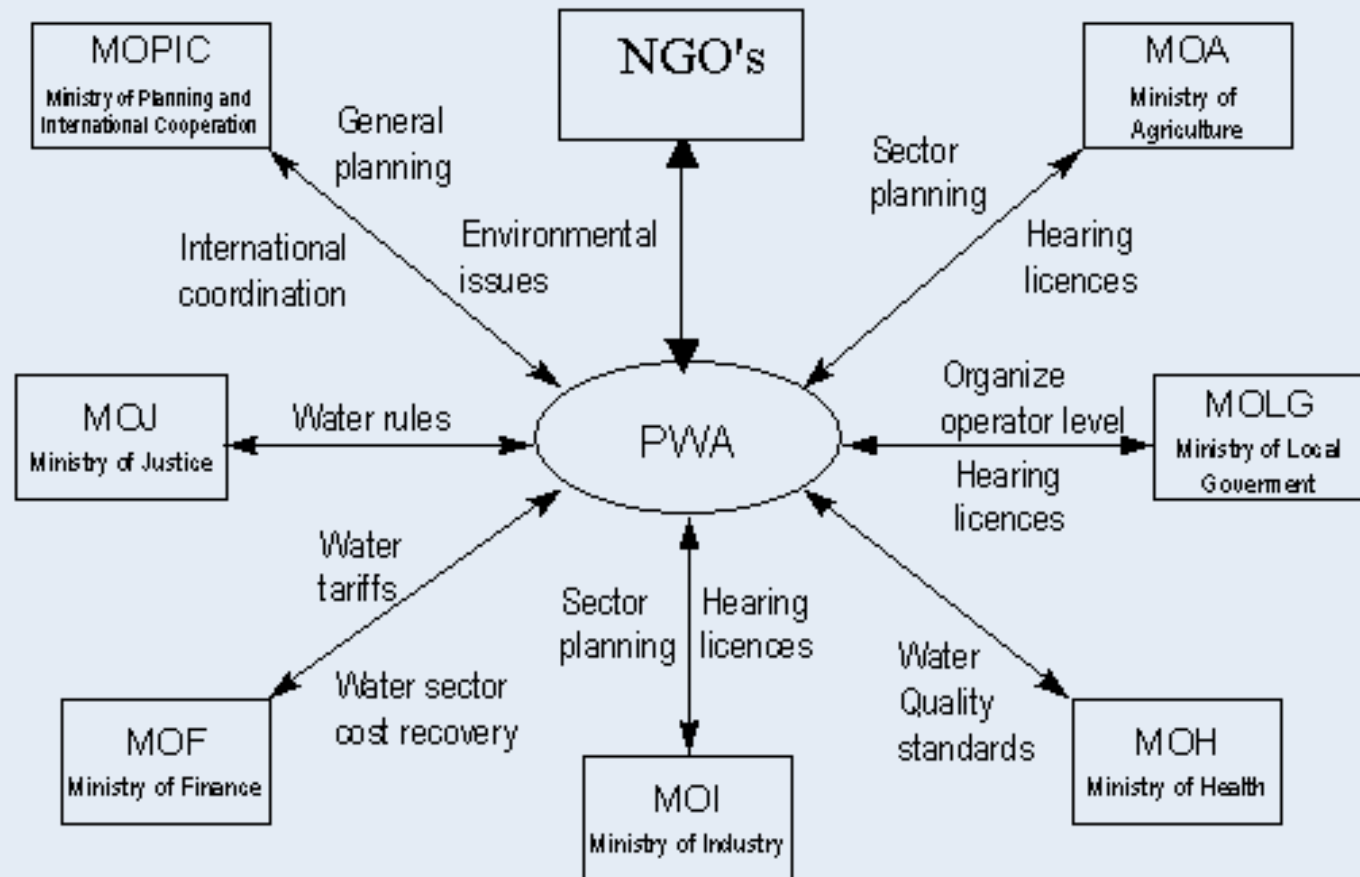
- Approving the Authority's guidelines and confirming the international regulations that govern its administrations and operations;
- Confirming the appointment of the Board of Directors of the regional utilities;
- Approving the annual budget of the Authority and presenting it to the Council of Ministers to confirm it;
- Implementing the financial regulations prevailing in the Palestinian National Authority;
- Any other tasks which are delegated to it according to the provisions of this law.



Institutional Framework of the Water Sector in Palestine

Main Stakeholders

Main interfaces with Ministries



Institutional Capacity

- The establishment of the National Water Council (NWC).
- The PWA reports through the Ministry of Agriculture in order to provide a direct access to the Cabinet of Ministers.
- Three regional utilities in the West Bank and a separate one in Gaza. These regional utilities will coordinate their activities with the local government network.
- A separate bulk utility is also planned which will take responsibility for the development, collection and transportation of bulk supplies to, from and between the various regional utilities.
- PWA will maintain the critical roles of strategic planning and coordination, policy and planning, integrated resource management, establishment of standards and regulation.



The challenge of political environment and regional co-operation

- The instability of the political environment in Palestine has caused delays in both private and donor investments in the water sector.
- The Oslo II agreement allowed the Palestinians to develop some 80 Mcm/yr during the period 1995 till 2000, five years later only one-third of this quantity is utilized.
- Although there exists about 700 Mcm/yr of groundwater resources in the Palestinian lands of the West Bank, only around 112 Mcm/yr (15%) is available for domestic and industrial use to Palestinians.
- The entire region suffers from water problems and without regional cooperation that includes as well Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, it will be difficult to optimize the use of available water and minimize the potential negative environmental impacts.
- Cooperation should take into consideration the protection of water resources from pollution.



The challenge of political environment and regional co-operation

- Cooperation with respect to water rights should be based on permanent sovereignty over Palestinian water resources, regional safety, reciprocal benefits, and good neighborhood.
- Cooperation must concentrate on immediate programs to supply water for un-served areas.
- The Palestinians should be as a core party in any existing or future projects such as the Dead-Red Seas Canal.
- The same is applied for the development of additional water resources such as importing water, desalination, ..etc.



The challenge of political environment and regional co-operation

- o Multi –Lateral cooperation should include the development of sustainable and integrated water resources plans:
 - (a) Water quality and quantity considerations.
 - (b) Evaluation of available surface and groundwater resources.
 - (c) Institutional framework including monitoring bodies.
 - (d) Development of suitable studies.

