



CAMBODIA



LAO PDR



THAILAND



VIETNAM



# MRC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES, MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MRC REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM*

*5-6 NOVEMBER 2019, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR*

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# Principles (1)

*The MRC recognizes that stakeholder contribution to decision-making is fundamental to achieving sustainable, equitable and lasting solutions.*

*The quality of decisions can be improved and made more transparent and accountable by the inclusion of a broad range of stakeholders who can bring important knowledge and perspectives to the process.*

**MRC Council, Joint Committee,  
Secretariat**

**NMC Secretariats**

**Line agencies**

**Dialogue Partners (China and  
Myanmar)**

**Development Partners**

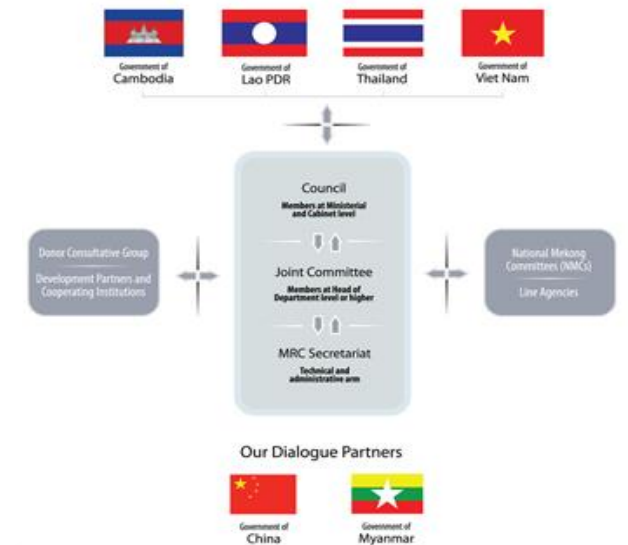
**Regional Organizations**

**Private Developers, consulting  
firms**

**Scientific and research  
institutes**

**NGOs, CSOs**

## Mekong River Commission Governance Structure



# Principles (2)

Stakeholder engagement is important in all MRC's key documents including the *1995 Mekong Agreement and its Procedures*, the *Rules of Procedure of the Council of the MRC*, the *Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee of the MRC*, *Basin Development Strategy* and *Strategic Plan*.

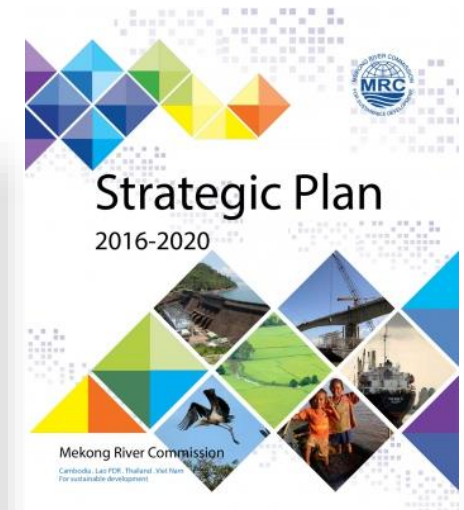
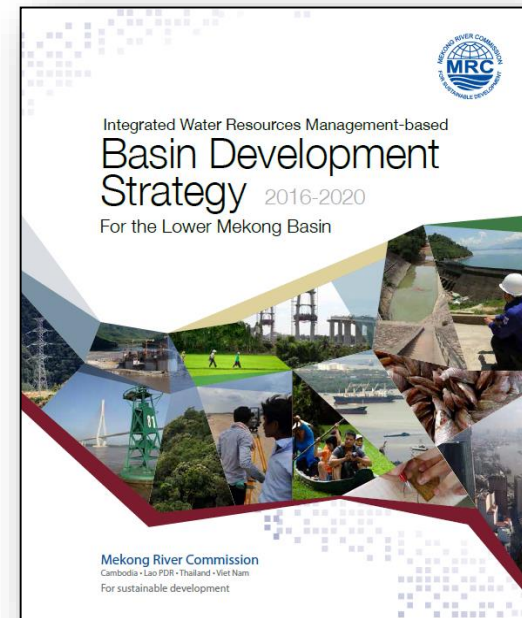


RULES OF PROCEDURES  
OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

MEETING THE NEEDS



KEEPING THE BALANCE



# Objectives

**To share information** in a timely and regular manner to broader stakeholders for better understanding of the subject

**To engage in discussions** with broader stakeholders in different stages of MRC work

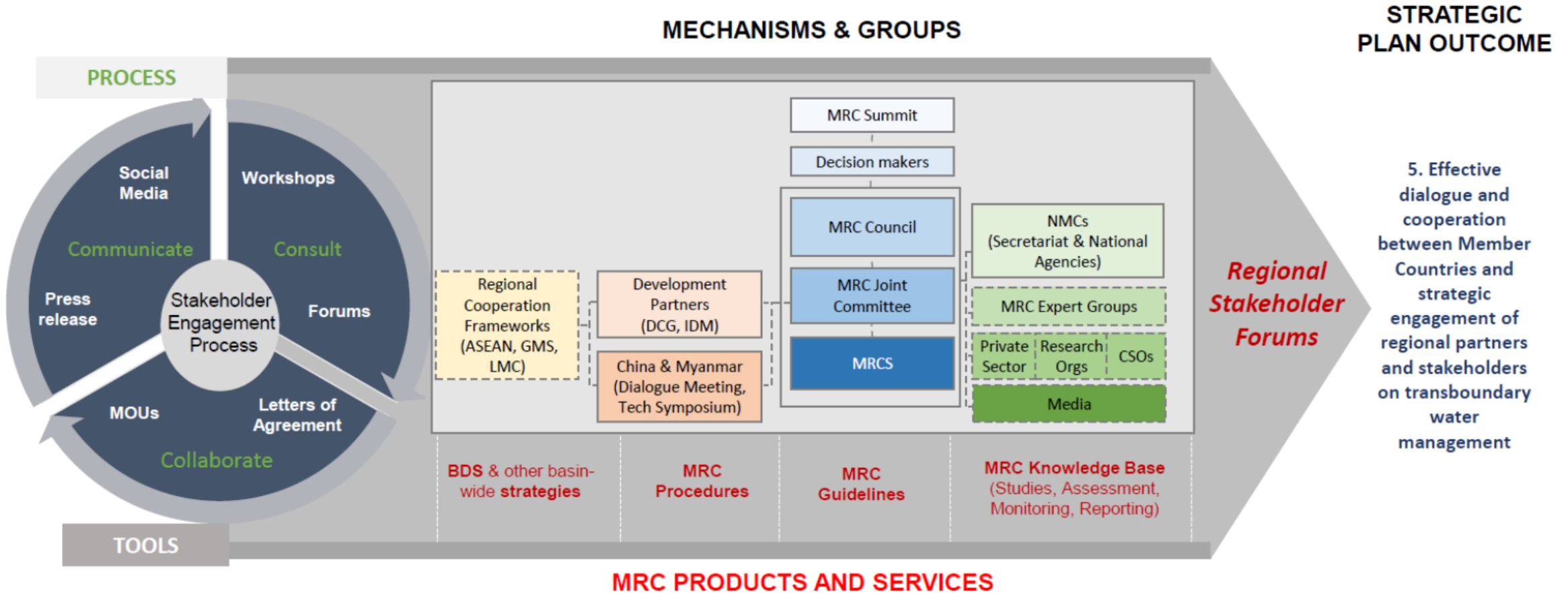
**To provide feedbacks** and recommendations from broader stakeholders for the consideration of MRC and/or others (in terms of planning and decision making)

**To provide feedbacks** on how comments and recommendations have been addressed by MRC and/or others

**Not to secure endorsements** or approvals of broader stakeholders on any MRC strategies, plans, guidelines, projects or activities. Ultimate decisions are the remit of the member countries through various governance mechanisms.

# Mechanism

## MRC Partners and Stakeholder Engagement Platform



# Public Participation

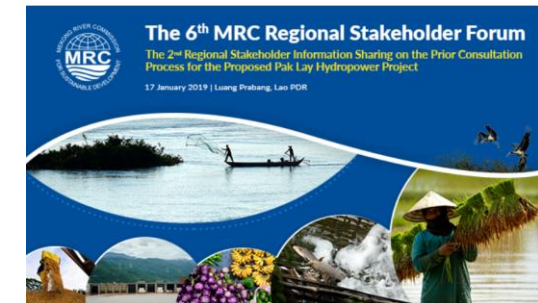
- The **Statement on Public Participation** was updated in 2017 to suit the current MRC core function context.
- The broader stakeholder engagement is categorized into national and regional level. At Regional level, 07 **Regional Stakeholder Forums** have been organized during the current MRC strategic plan period (since 2016). Numerous smaller and more targeted engagements had been held.
- For sectoral and technical inputs, **expert groups** are potential mechanism to engage broader stakeholders on technical discussions. There are four Expert Groups: (1) Expert Group on Data, Modelling and Forecasting, (2) Expert Group on Environmental Management, (3) Expert Group on Basin Planning, (4) Expert Group on Strategy and Partnership

# Regional Stakeholder Forums

- Forums serve as a platform for the MRC's MCs and other relevant stakeholders to **share information, discuss, provide, and exchange views and recommendations on reasonable and equitable use of water and related resources in the Mekong River system** in various key MRC activities.
- All the efforts aim to support achieving Mission of the Mekong River Commission *“To promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being”*.

## Official Announcement: Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Council Study and the Pak Beng Hydropower Project

22-23 February 2017 at Luang Prabang, 27 Jan 2017



## The Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Council Study and the Update of PDG and Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 15 Nov 2017



# Basin Development Strategy

The Basin Development Strategy underscores not only the need for stronger cooperation between **Member Countries** in implementing all strategic priorities but also with **Dialogue Partners** (China and Myanmar), **related regional cooperation frameworks** and programmes (primarily ASEAN, ADB and GMS), and **broader stakeholders** ranging from other international RBOs and research institutes to civil society, Development Partners, and the private sector.

*Gender, climate change and cooperation are cross-cutting aspects of Social – Economic – Environment Dimensions in the next BDS 2021-2030*



# Prior Consultation Process for Hydropower Project

*Stakeholder consultations to ensure a mechanism to raise awareness and to involve people who will be directly and indirectly affected, as well as local and national government agencies, private sector / developers, the regional donor and academic communities, media, and the wider public represented by CSOs.*

- Stakeholder engagement to **enhance mutual understanding and collectively contribute recommendations and suggestions for minimizing and mitigating possible harmful effects** on the environment and people at transboundary level
- Sharing accurate information
- Minimizing misunderstanding and misperceptions of powers and functions by any parties
- Enabling environment to deliver key messages to decision-making process



**THANK YOU**

*One Mekong. One Spirit.*