The concept of governance
Origins and key elements

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World Bank and the concept of “good” governance
Focus on economic dimension, 5 key principles:

- public sector management;
- organizational accountability;
- the rule of law;
- transparency; and
- access to information.
Broadening and ‘democratisation’ of “good governance”

Academia, civil society
Focus on social dimension

- active and meaningful participation
Broadening and ‘democratisation’ of “good governance”

UNDP, EU, OECD...
Focus on political dimension, other principles added:

- government legitimacy;
- downward accountability;
- the rule of law;
- Protection of human rights;
- responsiveness;
- equality and fairness, etc.
Key components of governance

- Governance refers to the *activity or process* of decision-making and implementation;

- It is broader than “government”;

- It articulates how interests are accommodated and power is exercised in a society;

- It includes formal and informal rules;

- Quality dimensions or principles: accountability, participation, transparency and the rule of law;

- It is contextual.
Where do we stand at FAO?

- Global governance (within CFS)
- Sector level governance – land, forestry, fisheries
Current initiatives for assessing the quality of governance

World Bank Institute’s Worldwide Governance Indicators
UN University’s World Governance Assessment (ODI)
UNDP Global Programme on Democratic Governance Assessments

Transparency International (corruption)
Freedom House (protection of human rights and freedoms)
Governance at sector level
Natural resources

- REDD+ Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance;

- Draft Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance in Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

- Technical guides focused on gender, capture fisheries, water, indigenous peoples and agricultural investments;

- Draft Guidelines on Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries
Agriculture and consumer protection

- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- International Plant Protection Convention
- Rotterdam Treaty on hazardous chemicals and pesticides trade
- The Codex Alimentarius
"If we could first know where we are and where we are heading to, we could better judge what to do and how to do it"

(Abraham Lincoln)
Thank you!