

WATER IN A CHANGING WORLD: INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION



CONGRESS PRESENTATION

Organised by the Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco and the International Water Resources Association

Visit the official website for updates

www.worldwatercongress.com





dom of Morocco

02 Royal speeches Introduction)4 Past Editions of the World Water Congress 05 Overarching Theme of the XIX World Water Congress 06 Thematic Areas of the XIX World Water Congress 1() Target Audience of the XIX World Water Congress 10 Format and Size of the XIX World Water Congress 11 The Impact and Outputs of the XIX World Water Congress 12 The International Scientific Committee 13 Call For Abstracts / Call For Side Events 14 Registration fees 15 Sponsorship Packages 16

Congress Venue - PICKALBATROS Hôtel Du Golf



"Morocco is not the only country facing the problem of drought and water scarcity. This issue has become a global phenomenon, one that is further compounded by climate change.

The current water resource situation challenges us all: government, institutions and citizens. It requires us to be frank and responsible in dealing with the issue and in addressing whatever inadequacies there may be.

Morocco is now in a situation of chronic water stress, and not all problems can be solved by simply building the water facilities planned, notwithstanding their great importance and of the need for them.

I therefore call for all aspects of the water issue to be addressed seriously, putting, in particular, an end to all forms of squandering and of irrational, irresponsible use of this vital resource." Nevertheless, the challenges our country is facing require further efforts and vigilance, as well as more creative solutions and good governance.

And one of the greatest challenges we are facing today is that of water - a challenge which is becoming increasingly serious due to drought, the impact of climate change, a naturally growing demand and the delay in completing some of the projects planned as part of our water policy.

•••

And since water production from desalination plants requires supplying these facilities with clean energy, it is necessary to expedite the completion of the electrical connectivity project to transfer renewable energy from the southern provinces to the country's central and northern areas as soon as possible.

Extract from the Royal Speech on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Sovereign's accession to the Throne, July 29, 2024

Extract from the Royal Speech at the opening of the 1st session of the 2nd legislative year of the 11th legislature, October 14, 2022

Introduction:

The XIX IWRA World Water Congress will take place in Marrakech, Morocco, December 1-5, 2025. Under the theme of Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation, this Congress will explore innovative solutions and adaptive strategies and approaches for water resources in an increasingly changing world. The Congress will provide a platform for experts, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, civil society, and the private sector to exchange knowledge, showcase groundbreaking research, build partnerships, and co-develop actionable solutions that aim to address the complex challenges of global water governance, security, and sustainability.

The global water system is complex and both impacts and is impacted by several interacting systems, including land, energy, food, health, and ecosystems among many others. The water community, including the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), has been a leader in supporting a "system approach" for addressing how these interrelated and interdependent schemes interact with resources management. Climate change has shown that many water challenges are societal and that innovative and adaptive solutions cut across many systems and actors, both inside and outside the water community.

Both IWRA and the Ministry of Equipment and Water of Morocco, are committed to exploring and expanding knowledge about system level approaches through education and mobilization of knowledge products that are targeted to the science community, public sector, private sector, and civil society.

To build on and further enhance the system approach, as well as existing efforts focused on global water access, sustainability, and security, the Congress will connect with broader international water and Sustainable Development Goals initiatives and objectives, as well as upcoming major global events, such as:

- United Nations 2026 Water Conference, addressing global water issues with a focus on achieving SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation;
- IWRA's 2nd Islands Water Congress in 2026, addressing water resource challenges in island contexts;
- World Water Forum in 2027, providing a platform for political and technical discussions on water resources and climate action;
- Upcoming COPs for climate change, biodiversity, and other relevant global efforts in terms of adaptation and sustainability in the water sector.

These connections ensure that the Congress acts as a key contributor to the ongoing and critical global dialogue on water, particularly in relation to climate change, water access, water security, and sustainable development.

In addition, the Congress builds on previous critical global water events, including the UN 1977 Water Conference, UN 2023 Water Conference, ten World Water Forums, 29 UN Climate Change Conferences of the Parties, 16 Biological Diversity Conferences of the Parties, and 18 IWRA World Water Congresses. Most notably, the Congress expands on the work done at the VII World Water Congress, which was held in Rabat, Morocco, in 1991 under the theme of "Water for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century." That event marked a significant early discussion about growing water demands and the need to manage water resources sustainably, and serves as a critical foundation upon which the forthcoming Congress will be developed.



Past Editions of the World Water Congress



Overarching Theme of the XIX World Water Congress

Objectives of the World Water Congress

The objective of the World Water Congress is to provide a unique meeting place to share experiences, promote debates, encourage networking opportunities, and present pioneering knowledge, innovations, new technologies, research results, policy initiatives and developments in the field of water sciences and practice from around the world. In creating such an environment, Congress organizers hope to facilitate opportunities to develop new ideas and innovative thinking and solutions in the water sector, as well as identify major global themes concerning the water agenda.

Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation

The overarching theme of the XIX World Water Congress focuses on addressing the dynamic interconnections linking water, natural ecosystems, energy, agriculture and other human activities during a time of global challenges such as climate change, humanitarian and environmental crises, and political upheavals. By emphasizing the need for innovation in managing water resources, the ability to adapt to shifting environmental, societal and economic demands, and the importance of ensuring resilience in water usage, governance and infrastructure, this Congress will explore and highlight how these key elements can be integrated to create sustainable, long-term solutions for water management in an increasingly changing world. The following identifies the Thematic Areas and their respective goals that will be featured at the Congress. While submissions focusing on these themes and subthemes for oral, poster, special session, and side events are welcomed, interdisciplinary, cross-cutting, and cross-thematic proposals are also highly encouraged.



Thematic Areas of the XIX World Water Congress



Sub-themes of the XIX edition of the World Water Congress



• **Rural Development:** Strengthen rural water infrastructure by integrating local knowledge, improving rural water access, and promoting inclusive water governance in underserved areas; harmonize the rural-urban divide to curb migration.

• Financial Solutions for Water Projects: Explore innovative and sustainable financing models, such as water tariffs, public-private partnerships, climate financing, and green bonds, to attract investments in water infrastructure and resilience projects.

• **Resilience and Adaptation Strategies and Plans:** Develop adaptive and inclusive water planning and governance frameworks that can respond to climate uncertainties such as floods and droughts, induced water variability, and long-term socio-environmental changes.

• Water Governance at All Levels: Strengthen water governance at all political, geographic, social, and cultural levels, including trans boundary and river basin levels, through decentralized institutions and cooperative and participatory agreements and plans, that ensure equitable distribution of water resources among uses and users, avoid conflicts over vital water resource, mainstream gender equality, and ensure vital human needs.

• **Partnership and Cooperation:** Promote regional, cross-sectorial, and cross-border cooperation and water diplomacy to improve water management and availability, foster prosperity, and support sustainability around the world.

2

• Expanding Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): Advance IWRM frameworks by promoting synergies and harmony across water, agriculture, energy, and natural ecosystems sectors to improve resource efficiency and sustainability; develop legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure transparent and accountable public participation in IWRM at different tiers of governance.

• Governance Frameworks for the WEFE: Strengthen regulatory, policy, and institutional mechanisms for intersectoral coordination and societal decision-making that enable holistic management of water, energy, food, address challenges related to goals and procedures, actors and actor networks, scales, institutions and resources, and program implementation in WEFE environments.

• **Renewable Energy-Water Nexus:** Explore the interlinkages between renewable energy resources and the water sector through the deployment of renewable energy to provide sustainable water solutions, and the use of water in the production of renewable energy.

• Agriculture and Water: Ensure sustainable water use in agriculture through efficient irrigation systems, fewer water-intensive crops, and climate-smart agricultural choices and operations.

• Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Enhance resiliency in freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds through programs, investments, and collective action that protect and restore aquatic biodiversity.

• **Capacity Building:** Build capacity in all aspects of the WEFE Nexus among decision makers, academia, practitioners, and other stakeholders through training opportunities, leadership development, and investing in technology upgrades, including by enhancing data management and digitalization efforts that support the development and implementation of WEFE Nexus solutions.

Water Security and Water-related risks

• Water Disaster Management: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of the water sector to climate change and natural disasters; enhance integrated approaches to disaster prevention and reduction of water-related risks; develop disaster scenario analyses and preparedness plans.

• Adaptation to Droughts and Climate Risks: Develop best practices and drought management planning including drought impact mitigation; expand opportunities to provide consistent and reliable freshwater to people, agriculture, nature, and industries and enhance community resilience against climate change.

• **Desalination Development in Arid Regions:** Explore opportunities to expand development of desalination knowledge, technology, and investments to alleviate growing pressures on freshwater resources and increase freshwater availability for drinking water, agriculture, industry, and other uses.

• **Opportunities and Feasibility of Unconventional Water Resources:** Explore the potential, technologies, methodologies, cost, needs, and consequences related to unconventional water resources such as fog, towing, cloud seeding, and offshore groundwater extraction.

• **Circular Economy Approaches:** Drive the transition to a circular water economy by promoting water reuse, recycling, and wastewater treatment, especially in arid regions, to enhance availability of freshwater for agriculture, public gardens, industry, groundwater recharge, and other uses.

• Smart Water Management: Implement advanced technologies and digital solutions such as IoT and AI to improve water distribution efficiency, reduce waste, address aging infrastructure and secure water sustainability.

• Desalination, Wastewater Reuse and Recycling Technologies and Methodologies: Enhance technologies and methodologies for seawater desalination, treating, reusing, and recycling municipal, agricultural, industrial, and other forms of wastewater for different uses.

• Traditional Knowledge: Explore, respect, and value Indigenous, traditional, and community-based knowledge systems and integrate these practices into water management policies.

• Nature-Based Solutions (NBS): Scale up ecosystem-based approaches to water management by restoring natural ecosystems to enhance water availability, improve water quality, and strengthen resilience to water-related risks.

• **Innovative Water Concepts:** Enhance innovative water concepts in technology development and implementation.

Groundwater Challenges and Opportunities

• **Groundwater Assessment:** Innovate groundwater data collection methods, improve monitoring technologies, and develop policies to sustain groundwater as a key and strategic resource in water-scarce regions.

• **Groundwater Data:** Explore mechanisms for encouraging and facilitating open sharing of data on groundwater resources, including available storage, flow rates and directions, chemistry, aquifer characteristics, recharge and discharge values, uses and allocations, and other traits.

• **Participatory Groundwater Management:** Foster community and stakeholder involvement and inclusive governance in groundwater management, including in transboundary aquifer basins, to ensure equitable access and long-term sustainability.

• Integrated Surface Water and Groundwater Management: Explore the interconnectedness of surface water and groundwater systems and identify mechanisms for implementing integrated management approaches that optimize the use and sustainability of both resources within basins and across borders.

• Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR): Accelerate the adoption of MAR techniques to replenish overdrawn aquifers, develop water banking opportunities, and promote sustainable water resource management.

• Impacts of Climate Change on Groundwater Resilience: Examine the influence of climate change on groundwater recharge rates, storage capacity, and availability; identify strategies for enhancing the resilience of groundwater systems to climate variability and extreme weather events.

4

6

• **Right to Water and Sanitation:** Ensure access to water, sanitation and hygiene in rural areas, cities and urban areas, notably for marginalized people, such as including refugees and those most vulnerable to climate change, epidemics, etc.

• Water & SDGs: Implement actions related to the interconnections and interdependencies between water and the SDGs, particularly SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; and, SDG 15: Life on Land.

• Water & Economics: Expand research on and understanding of the intertwined nature of water as a vital resource for human life and the natural environment and the impact of economic activities as reflected in resource allocation, pricing, investment, environmental degradation, climate change, and global trade in order to support the development of policies that promote sustainable water management and economic growth.

• Water & Islands: Address the specific vulnerabilities of island nations, including water scarcity, climate change impacts, and rising sea levels, through tailored resilience strategies.

• Freshwater & Oceans: Link oceans, coastal areas, and freshwater policies for a thriving blue economy across the entire water cycle.

Water Quality and One Health Opportunities

• Monitoring, Preventing, Treating, and Decontaminating Established Pollutants: Enhance the capabilities of water quality monitoring, implement prevention programs and adopt innovative treatment and decontamination technologies to address known pollutants, such as agricultural runoff and industrial contaminants.

• Detecting and Mitigating Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs): Develop comprehensive strategies to detect and mitigate CECs, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, metabolites of pesticides and microplastics, which pose unique risks to water quality and ecosystem health.

• Health-Related Water Issues: Strengthen the integration of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programmes into public health strategies to address waterborne diseases and improve community health; use untreated wastewater to detect pathogens in support of the One-Health approach in Public and Environmental Health Monitoring.

• Climate Change and Water Quality Resilience: Explore the water quality impacts of climate change on freshwater resources, including rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events, and consider adaptive strategies to enhance the resilience of water systems and safeguard water quality under climate variability.

• Water Quality Impacts on Biodiversity: Explore the interconnection between water quality and the health of freshwater ecosystems, identify impacts of contaminants on aquatic flora and fauna, and develop strategies to protect biodiversity.

Target Audience of the XIX World Water Congress

The XIX World Water Congress on Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation is targeted at a variety of participants who can bring knowledge, experience, and interest in both exploring water challenges and achieving viable solutions from a variety of perspectives, including the public sector, private sector, academia, international and intergovernmental organisations, civil society, and youth. Thus, expected attendees will include water managers, stakeholders, academics, practitioners, policymakers, private sector innovators, students, and civil society. Events and sessions will be tailored and developed to accommodate the diversity of interests and perspectives as represented in presentation abstracts as well as proposals for plenary sessions, special sessions, side events, and other Congress activities.



Format and Size of the XIX World Water Congress

The Congress will take place over five days as an in-person event with an expected audience of approximately 1,500-2,000. Plenary sessions to open and close the Congress, a number of high-level panels, the Ven Te Chow Memorial Lecture, and other important sessions will be key components of the program. The event will also include 6 - 9 parallel sessions in the form of regular sessions organized thematically featuring individual presenters selected from a global call for abstracts, as well as special sessions selected from proposals submitted by partners, affiliates, and other organizations and individuals worldwide. In addition, the program will showcase posters selected from a global call for abstracts and will host side events relevant to the overall theme of the Congress that are proposed by various institutions and individuals. An exhibition will host booths of public institutions and private companies. Finally, the event will feature a number of social events, including a gala dinner and opportunities for attendees to participate in field and cultural excursions.

The Impact and Outputs of the XIX World Water Congress

The Congress will bring leading scientists, academics, policymakers, the private sector, youth and civil society members from all over the world with work experience and interest in water resources governance, management, policy and practice. They will share knowledge, experiences and vision of water system and their role in sustainable development, including on issues of food production, agriculture, energy, health, environment, and climate change. The Congress will be an opportunity to celebrate the wealth of experiences in Morocco regarding water resources, particularly with respect to arid environments, desalination and other unconventional water resources, and rural and industrial development. The Congress outcomes will be documented in scientific and policy venues and will be a legacy for the host to bring these knowledge products to the international science and policy communities.

















Water system

Food production A

Agriculture

Health

Environment

nent Climate change

The Congress will produce a Declaration of recommendations from the main outcomes, and knowledge products to showcase the depth of information presented at the event. The Congress Proceedings which, will include abstracts and PowerPoint slides from oral presentations, images of posters presented at the Congress, and other materials and information will be available online to all Congress participants and to IWRA members and affiliates (including those with free Bronze-level membership) in order to disseminate the information broadly to the water community and beyond.

Energy

Congress outputs will also include a Congress Report that will summarize all of the sessions, programs, and activities as recorded by Congress rapporteurs, as well as messages from key participants in the program. Other outputs will be explored by the International Scientific Committee for the Congress.

The International Scientific Committee

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) is responsible for overseeing the technical content of the XIX World Water Congress. Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco, and the International Water Resources Association, the ISC ensures a high-quality and well-balanced programme.





Call For Abstracts

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) welcomes papers for oral presentations and poster presentations at the XIX World Water Congress, which will be presented during the main Congress programme. Experts, academics, policymakers, water professionals, private sector practitioners, and civil society stakeholders from all disciplines and perspectives who wish to share their work and experiences during the Congress are invited to submit abstracts. Abstracts can only be submitted online through **Oxford Abstracts Platform.**

Deadline: April 15, 2025

Abstracts must be prepared in English and should clearly describe the research, analysis, project or investigation in no more than 400 words and cannot include graphs, charts, diagrams, images, abbreviations, references or citations. Abstracts must include the following descriptions:

- (a) The purpose or thesis of the work.
- (b) The key issue(s) or problem(s) addressed.
- (c) The methodology or approach used.
- (d) The results or conclusions derived from the project.
- (e) Relevance to the congress theme.

Call For Side Events

The organisers of the XIX World Water Congress invite proposals for side events to be held in conjunction with the Congress.

All relevant governmental, non-governmental, and intergovernmental organisations, as well as private sector entities, are encouraged to submit proposals to host a side event. Proposals should include a consultation of relevant logistical requirements and fees. Proposals should be submitted to *19wwc.side-events@water.gov.ma*

A side event is a conference, workshop, or meeting independently organised and funded by the applying organisation(s). It may be formally associated with the Congress to foster mutual interests and benefits. Side events should align with the Congress theme and take place immediately before, during, or after the main Congress programme.





Registration fees

The XIX World Water Congress offers a range of registration options to accommodate all participants. Below is a summary of the registration fees.

To learn more about what each fee includes, please visit: www.worldwatercongress.com/registration/

CATEGORY OF PARTICIPANTS		EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION (April 2025-31/08/2025)	STANDARD REGISTRATION (01/09/2025-28/11/2025)	ON-SITE REGISTRATION (01/12/2025-05/12/2025)		
	IWRA Gold Members	5000 MAD (* 513 USD – * 475 Euro)	5500 MAD (* 564 USD – *523 Euro)	6000 MAD (* 615 USD – * 570 Euro)		
Developing countries	Standard	6000 MAD (* 615 USD – * 570 Euro)	6500 MAD (* 667 USD – * 618 Euro)	7000 MAD (* 718 USD - * 665 Euro)		
	Students	1000 MAD (* 103 USD - * 95 Euro)	1500 MAD (* 154 USD – 143 Euro)	2000 MAD (* 205 USD – * 199 Euro)		
	IWRA Gold Members	6000 MAD (* 615 USD – * 570 Euro)	7000 MAD (* 718 USD – * 665 Euro)	8000 MAD (* 820 USD – * 760 Euro)		
Developed countries	Standard	7000 MAD (* 718 USD – * 665 Euro)	8000 MAD (* 820 USD – * 760 Euro)	9000 MAD (* 923 USD – * 856 Euro)		
	Students	2000 MAD (* 205 USD – * 199 Euro)	2500 MAD (* 257 USD – * 238 Euro)	3000 MAD (* 308 USD - * 285 Euro)		
One-Day pass		1500 MAD (* 154 USD – 143 Euro)	2000 MAD (* 205 USD – * 199 Euro)	2500 MAD (* 257 USD – * 238 Euro)		
Technical and cultural trips	Congress participants and accompanying persons of registered participants. (Stay tuned for more details)					
Exhibition space	Free acces (access during the whole j	ss for congress registrants period for full registration and	s, depending on the pass access during the registration	chosen day for One-Day pass)		

Fees shown in US Dollars and Euros are approximate. The actual fees will depend on the exchange rate applied on the day of the transaction.

- Stay tuned for the Early-Bird Registration launch in the coming weeks!
- Registrations received without payment details will not be processed or confirmed until payment has been received in full.

Sponsorship Packages

Become a sponsor of the XIX World Water Congress, taking place from December 1-5, 2025, in Marrakech, Morocco. This prestigious global event will gather over 2,000 participants, including industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, private sector, and civil society representatives, to explore innovative solutions to global water challenges under the theme "Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation."

Sponsorship offers opportunities to increase your brand visibility, showcase your commitment to sustainability, and connect with a diverse audience of influential stakeholders.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Explore tailored packages below and ensure your company or organisation's prominent presence at the Congress.

	PLATINUM 500 000 MAD 50 000 USD	GOLD 300 000 MAD 30 000 USD	SILVER 150 000 MAD 15 000 USD	BRONZE 40 000 MAD 4000 USD		
	SPONSORSHIP CATEGORY					
Title	Official Sponsor of the event	Gold Sponsor of the event	Event Partner	Event Partner		
Logo size	Very large	Large	Medium	Small		
	PARTICIPATION					
Invitation to the Gala dinner	4	2	-	-		
Invitation to the VIP reception	2	1	-	-		
Free congress registration	4	2	1	-		
Invitation to technical/cultural visits	3	2	1	-		
	EXHIBITION					
Exhibition space free of charge	36 m ²	18m ²	9m ²	-		
		ADVERTISING AN	ND PROMOTION	-		
Insertion in sponsor catalogue (Logo and/or presentation)	Logo on cover page + 1 page in catalogue	Logo on cover page + half page in catalogue	Logo on sponsor page	Logo on sponsor page		
Logo on website (sponsor page)	Very large	Large	Medium	Small		
Logo displayed at the entrance to the event venue	Very large	Large	Medium	-		
Logo on program presentation document	Very large	Large	Medium	Small		
Logo on various event promotional documents	Very large	Large	Medium	-		
Logo in final conference report	Very large	Large	Medium	Small		
Social media feature on IWRA's social media accounts (audience of over 50 000 followers across	Yes	Yes	-	-		

PICKALBATROS Hôtel Du Golf

XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS VENUE - PICKALBATROS HOTEL DU GOLF, MARRAKECH.

The XIX World Water Congress will take place at PICKALBATROS Hôtel Du Golf, located in the heart of the palm grove of Marrakech. Just 15 minutes from the city center and 20 minutes from Jemaa El Fna, this design-led property combines modern Moroccan architecture with art deco style, offering a warm and inviting atmosphere.

With spacious, modern rooms and suites, as well as excellent facilities for business and networking, the venue provides the perfect setting for discussions, sessions, and events throughout the Congress.



PICKALBATROS HOTELS & RESORTS

