11th WORLD WATER FORUM
RIYADH 2027



Youth Program: Concept and Roadmap

11th World Water Forum – Riyadh 2027

وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia المملكة العربية السعودية

WORLD WATER COUNCIL

Foreword

From drying farmlands and depleting aquifers to rising seas and polluted waterways, the global water crisis is no longer a future concern, it is a present and intensifying reality. Water lies at the heart of food security, public health, resilience, peace, and economic stability. Yet billions still face water extremes such as scarcity and flood risk, contamination, and unequal access.

The 11th World Water Forum, under the overarching theme “Action for a Better Tomorrow”, marks a pivotal moment that promotes dialogue and drives concrete action. It calls on governments, innovators, youth, and communities to move from dialogue to action: scaling solutions, mobilizing financing, and forging inclusive partnerships. This is a global rally to break silos, localize action, and generate lasting impact across every region, river basin, and generation.

As the World Water Forum returns to an Arab country for the first time since 1997, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia offers a uniquely compelling setting: a nation shaped by extreme water scarcity due to its arid conditions, yet one that has emerged as a global leader, uniquely positioned to showcase its expertise in water policies, holistic governance, and efficient water management, including desalination, wastewater treatment, conservation technologies, and innovative water financing through Public-Private Partnerships.

This 11th World Water Forum is dedicated to fostering transformative discussions that move beyond theory to an action-oriented agenda, prioritizing policy implementation, cross-sector collaboration, regional problem-solving, and sustainable development.

As co-hosts, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the World Water Council will bring together the human and intellectual capital accumulated across the first ten editions of the World Water Forum and the expertise and experience of the host nation, to guide every track of the 11th World Water Forum toward the best possible outcomes.

The 11th World Water Forum calls on all stakeholders and custodians of water sustainability to unite in this mission, ensuring a water-secure future for generations to come.

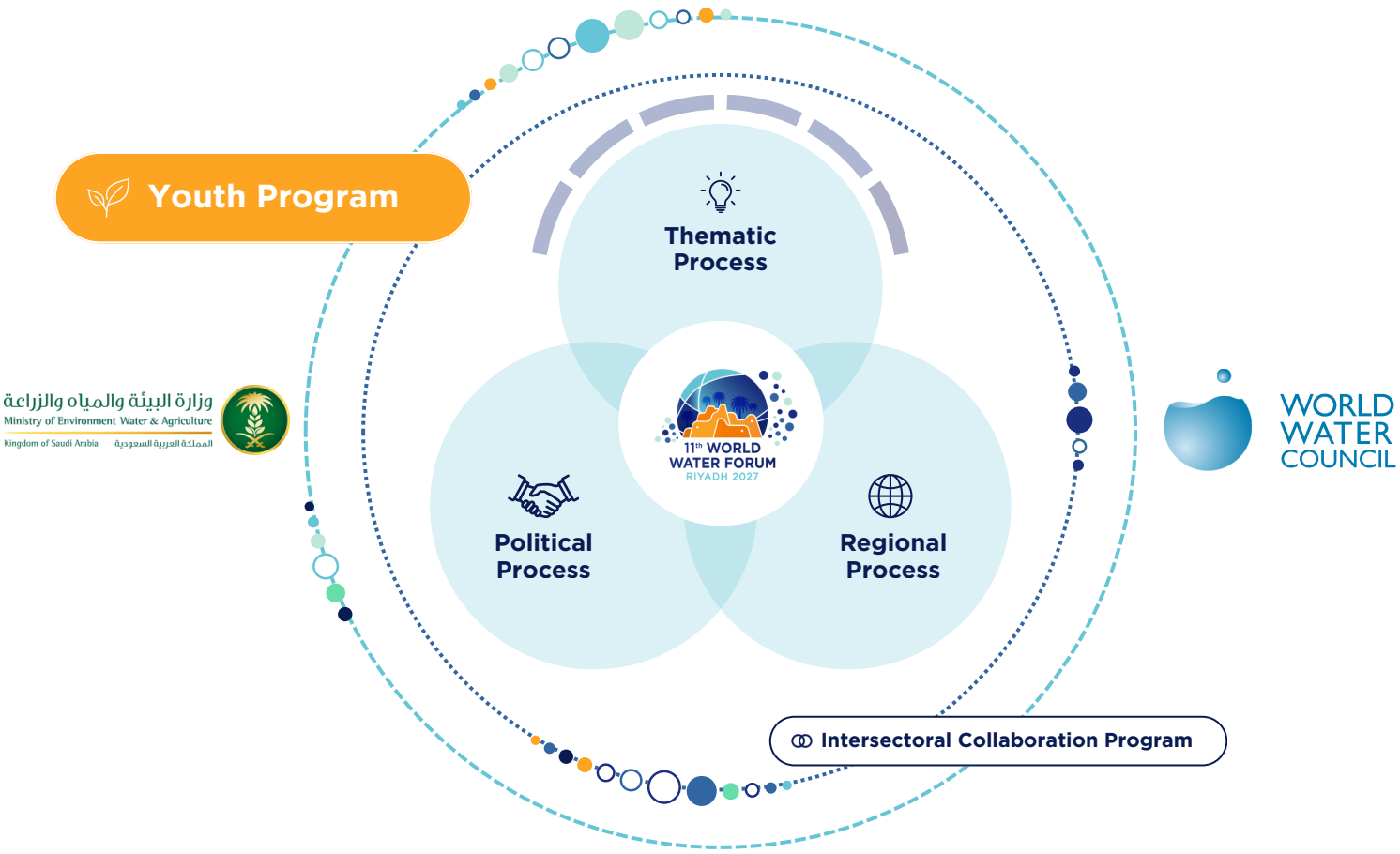
How the Forum Works

One Forum · Three Processes · Two Programs

Held every three years since 1997, the World Water Forum is the largest gathering of the global water community. Its 11th edition takes place in Riyadh from 21 to 25 March 2027 under the theme “Action for a Better Tomorrow”. It is the first Forum hosted in the Gulf, in the year the Forum process turns thirty. It is co-hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, and the World Water Council, which launched the Forum and carries its process from one edition to the next.

Three interlinked processes structure the 11th World Water Forum. The Political Process sets policy direction with four segments: Ministerial, Parliamentarian, Local & Regional Authorities, Basin & Watershed Authorities. The Thematic Process, divided into six themes and thirty topics, five per theme, turns technical knowledge into evidence for political commitment. The Regional Process brings regional priorities and solutions into the global agenda. Two programs run across all three: the Youth Program and the Intersectoral Collaboration Program. Each concept note sets out the foundations of one part of this architecture.

This concept note presents the objectives of the Youth Program and the contribution young people will bring to the 11th World Water Forum through the Riyadh Water Youth Committee (RWYC)



“Our goal is to create not just a forum for discussion, but a powerful platform for collaboration, innovation, and action.”

Abdulrahman Al Fadley
Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture

“The 11th World Water Forum must be a platform for action—not just dialogue.”

Loïc Fauchon
President of the World Water Council

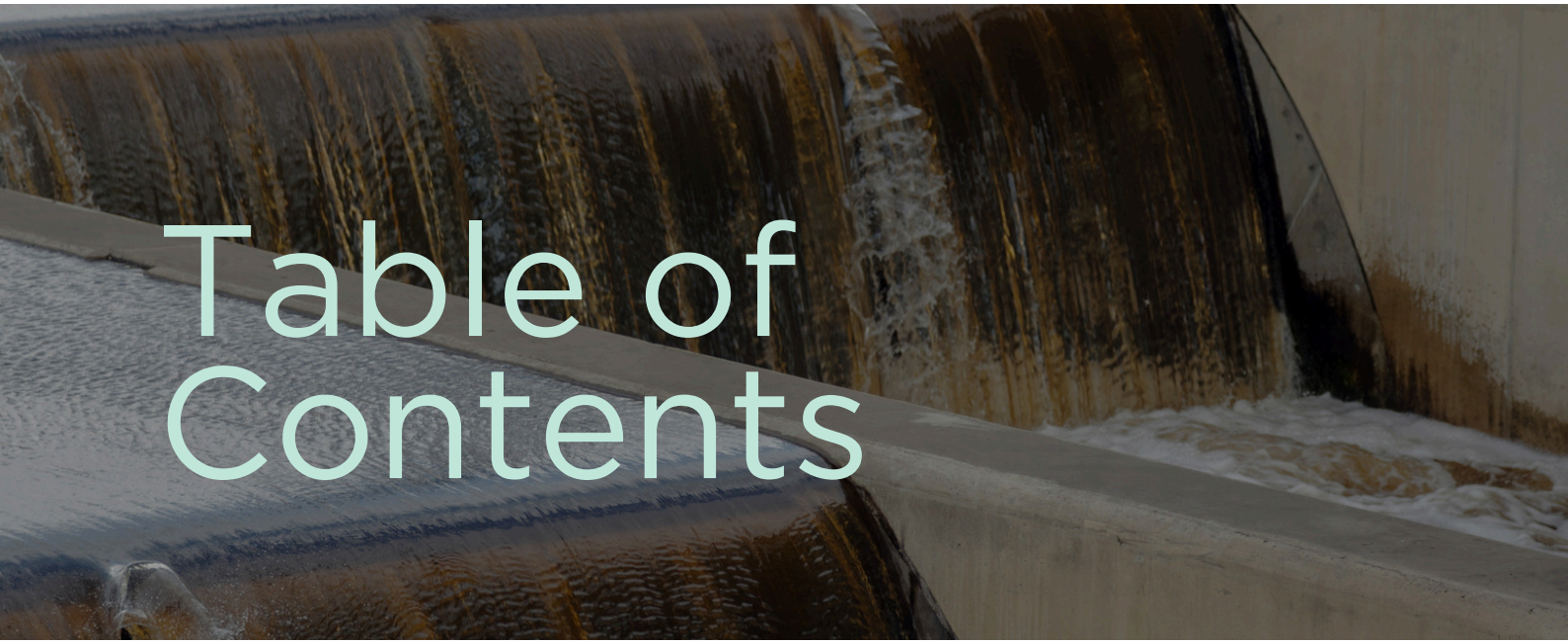


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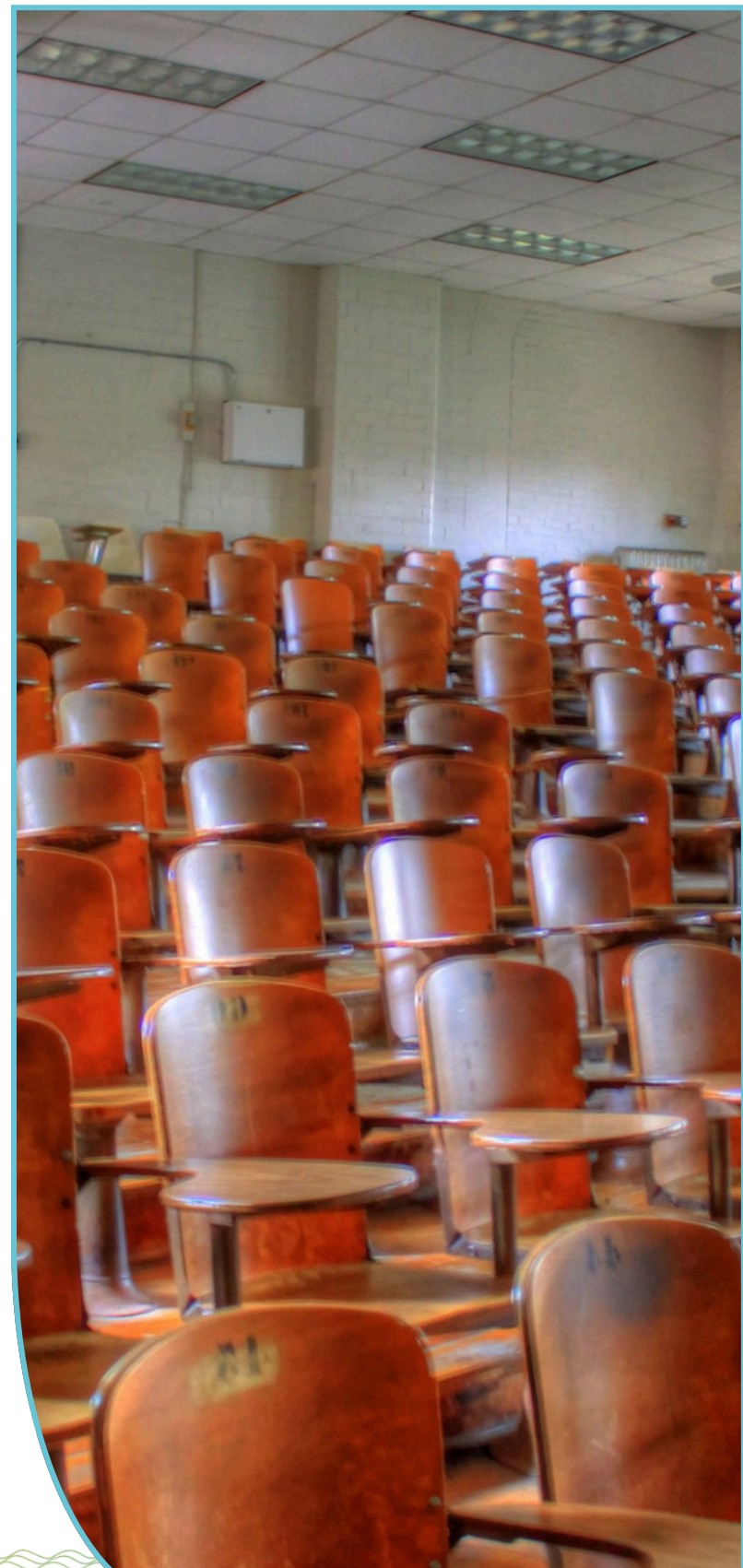
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Context and Strategic Alignment

Under the theme Action for a Better Tomorrow, the 11th World Water Forum aims to institutionalize youth participation through a dedicated Youth Program and to translate meaningful youth engagement into concrete action on the ground.

Building on the outcomes of the 10th World Water Forum's Bali Youth Action Plan, the Program will provide a structured platform for youth engagement throughout the preparation, implementation, and post-Forum legacy of the 11th Forum.

The Program will facilitate opportunities for young people to share their perspectives and expertise and, where appropriate, to engage with the thematic, regional, and political processes.



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Program Objectives

The youth program aims to translate this commitment into coordinated and impactful action by creating purposeful opportunities for young people to contribute throughout the 11th World Water Forum and beyond.

The program seeks to:

1. Establish an inclusive and structured mechanism for youth participation throughout the Forum.
2. Promote meaningful youth contributions to the thematic, regional, and political processes by presenting concrete youth-led actions and recommendations.
3. Foster intergenerational dialogue among governments, academia, civil society, the private sector, and youth.
4. Showcase youth-led innovation, entrepreneurship, research, and community action addressing water challenges.
5. Strengthen partnerships and networks that sustain youth engagement beyond the Forum.

Guiding Principles and Committee Coordination

Guided by the principle of inclusivity, the Forum integrates youth across its thematic and regional processes. The Riyadh Water Youth Committee (RWYC) serves as the primary platform for coordinating youth participation and advancing the Youth Program towards March 2027, with the Co-hosts Forum Secretariat coordinating its contributions in alignment with the overall program. RWYC members will propose youth-led initiatives aligned with the Forum theme and Youth Program, either as outcomes for the Youth Showcase or action-oriented recommendations to the thematic, regional or political processes.

In addition, RWYC members will play a key role in promoting, disseminating, and mobilising youth participation for the 11th World Water Forum through international water events, regional platforms, and other relevant engagement opportunities leading up to Riyadh 2027.





Working and Coordination Structure

Overall oversight and strategic direction will be provided by the co-hosts' Forum Secretariat, including facilitating youth integration across the thematic, regional, and political processes and ensuring alignment with Forum direction decided by the International Steering Committee. The Co-hosts Forum Secretariat will lead program planning, coordination, reporting, and stakeholder engagement, while providing guidance to the Riyadh Water Youth Committee (RWYC). The RWYC will serve as the primary youth consultation mechanism, consolidating youth inputs, and supporting the delivery of youth-related outputs and engagement activities.

The Youth Program will be developed through regular consultations between the co-hosts' Forum Secretariat and the RWYC. The co-hosts' Forum Secretariat will gather and refine the views of the RWYC and translate them into detailed plans and activities aligned with the guidance and overall framework established by the Forum governance.

The same approach will apply to youth contributions to the thematic, regional, and political processes. The Forum Secretariat will consolidate and refine discussion results with the RWYC and submit them to the relevant Forum governance bodies for guidance or decision.

Once activities and plans are approved by the Forum governance, dedicated working arrangements will be established for promotion, campaigns, and communications. Under these arrangements, the Forum Secretariat and the RWYC will carry out defined roles to communicate youth engagement systematically and mobilize a broader range of young people capable of contributing innovative ideas and actions to the Forum.

The Youth Program will Facilitate the integration of youth recommendations, innovations, and policy messages into the Forum's thematic, regional, and political processes through the following:

1

Youth Consultations and Forum Integration:

Organize consultations, workshops, and stakeholder dialogues to identify priorities, gather recommendations, and strengthen youth engagement throughout the Forum process.

2

Youth Innovation and Action

Showcase youth-led solutions, research, entrepreneurship, technology, and community initiatives advancing water security and climate resilience.

3

Intergenerational Dialogue

Promote exchanges between youth leaders and decision-makers to strengthen collaboration and shared ownership of water solutions.



Timeline

The Youth Program will follow a phased preparatory approach leading to the Forum in March 2027 and extending into post-Forum legacy activities.

Phase	Timeline	Key Actions	Coordination	Expected Outputs
Phase 1: Initial Setup	Completed	Confirm governance & coordination	Weekly & biweekly syncs	Governance framework
Phase 2: Program Scoping	Completed	Develop concept notes & key pillars	Weekly reviews	Program roadmap
Phase 3: RWYC Plan Development	Completed	Request EOI to join RWYC; review, select members	Biweekly check-ins	Members selected & partnership mapping
Phase 4: Program Plan & Priorities		Finalize plan & priorities; assign roles & responsibilities	Weekly alignment	Final youth plan; assigned roles aligned with Forum processes

Phase	Timeline	Key Actions	Coordination	Expected Outputs
Phase 5: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting	Completed	Program launch; introduction of RWYC		RWYC formally launched, intergenerational dialogue session
Phase 6: Active Engagement and Forum Process Linkage	Current phase	Planning activities on the road to 2027		Active initiative pipeline; process linkages; content calendar
Phase 7: Implementation Prep	December 2026 - March 2027	Logistics and communications	Weekly coordination	Operational readiness
Phase 8: Forum Delivery	March 2027	Deliver youth activities	Daily coordination	Youth sessions & activities
Phase 9: Post-Forum Outputs	Post-Forum	Reporting and legacy	Final review	Legacy outputs

The Program should involve youth engagement at significant milestone water-related events and forums on the road to Riyadh 2027.

2nd Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting
Youth Program Session



Held on 29 June 2026 in Jeddah, the Youth Program session featured the official introduction of the Riyadh Water Youth Committee (RWYC), followed by an intergenerational dialogue between national and international water experts and young professionals. The session brought together over 90 participants from government, academia, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening mentorship and knowledge transfer, fostering youth-led innovation, and creating more meaningful opportunities for young professionals to contribute to technical discussions and decision-making processes.



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