11th WORLD WATER FORUM
RIYADH 2027

11th WORLD WATER FORUM

Action for a Better Tomorrow

1st Announcement





11th WORLD WATER FORUM

RIYADH 2027

Contents

01 Welcome Addresses

02 Introduction

03 Forum Processess

04 Timeline

05 Highlights from 1st Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting (14th-15th April, 2025)

06 Other Details

07 Venue & Hosting



01 WELCOME ADDRESSES



It is with great honor and immense anticipation to announce a significant milestone for our global community—the 11th World Water Forum, themed "Action for a Better Tomorrow", which will take place in the vibrant city of Riyadh in March 2027. Co-hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the World Water Council. This forum is not just an event; it is a pivotal moment as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of this global movement.

As we stand at the crossroads of increasing water scarcity, climate change, and a growing global population, the theme of this forthcoming Forum resonates with urgency and necessity. Water is not merely a resource; it is the lifeblood of our communities, ecosystems, and economies. It is vital for sustainable development and a key component in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

As we look to the future, we must recognize that the action we take—or the inaction we allow—will profoundly shape the world for generations to come.

Co-hosting the 11th World Water Forum is both a privilege and a responsibility for our nation. It provides us with an unmatched opportunity to showcase the advances we have made in water management and resource sustainability, and to draw wisdom from all corners of the globe. Our goal is to create not just a forum for discussion, but a powerful platform for collaboration, innovation, and action. With over 20,000 expected participants from more than 150 countries, it will be the most inclusive Forum to date, firmly focused on delivering real-world impact and advancing collective efforts toward resilient and secure water systems.

Saudi Arabia recognizes the importance of water management and the challenges we face in securing this essential resource. As we prepare to co-host the 11th World Water Forum, we are committed to acting decisively and collaboratively. Our vision is clear: we aim to foster dialogue, share innovative solutions, and ignite action that will lead us toward a more sustainable future. In alignment with our Vision 2030 agenda, we are dedicated to transforming

the water sector in Saudi Arabia into a model of sustainability and resilience. This Forum is a monumental milestone in that journey, bringing together governments, civil society, academia, industry, and the private sector to jointly develop solutions that reflect our collective aspirations and tackle the pressing challenges we face.

Riyadh, as our host city, embodies both tradition and progress, standing as a symbol of what is achievable when we commit to sustainable practices and collaborative growth. We are excited to welcome the world to Saudi Arabia, a nation keenly aware of the significance of water in our lives and dedicated to finding solutions that benefit not only our own citizens but also the global community. The First Stakeholder Meeting, held in Riyadh on 14-15 April 2025, served as a powerful starting point for collaboration and consensus-building, paving the way for a successful Forum.

In Riyadh, we will convene not only to discuss our challenges but also to share solutions, best practices, and success stories from around the globe. We envision a forum that serves as a catalyst for change, harnessing the wisdom and experience of diverse stakeholders, and igniting a collaborative spirit to forge new pathways for water stewardship. Our commitment is to ensure that no one is left behind and that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and prioritized.

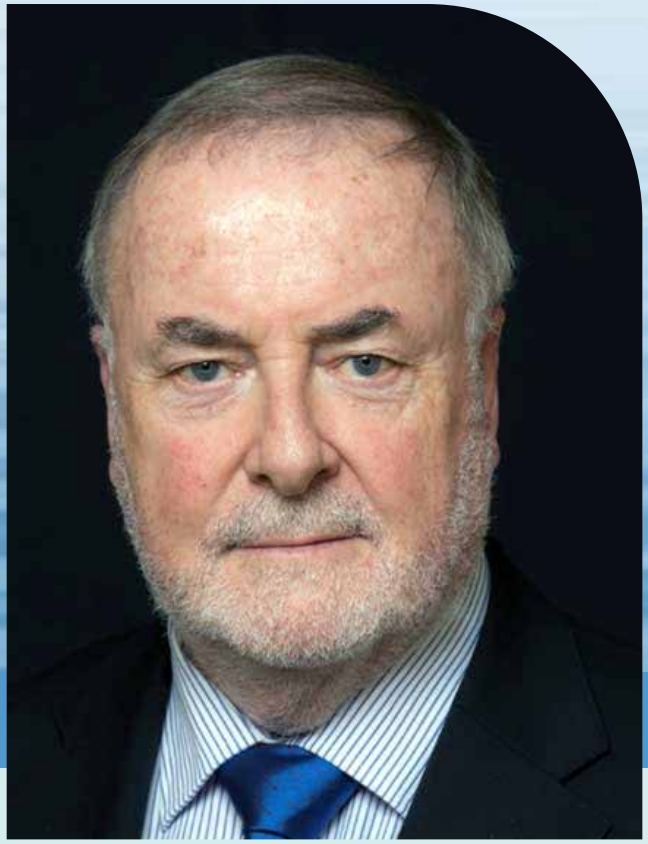
As we embark on this journey together at the 11th World Water Forum, let us begin this vital conversation and move forward with purpose, passion, and resolve. The challenges we face present a critical opportunity for transformative action. With determination, innovation, and cooperation, we can pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

Let us take bold actions today to secure water for generations to come.

Thank you.

Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley

Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



As we look ahead to March 2027, the world prepares to gather in Riyadh for a truly historic moment: the 11th World Water Forum. For the first time, this global platform—dedicated to shaping the future of water—will be hosted in Saudi Arabia. A nation deeply familiar with both the severity of water scarcity and the transformative power of innovation, it stands ready to lead with conviction.

Today, water is no longer a background concern. It has moved to the forefront of the global political stage. **Water is the driver of change**—the thread that binds human health, food security, environmental protection, economic resilience, and diplomatic relations. In an age marked by climate disruption, water-related catastrophes—from floods in Valencia and Pakistan to the droughts in Somalia and Senegal—are no longer isolated events. They are signs of systemic imbalance.

We now navigate a world of extremes—between excess and scarcity—and water lies at the heart of this equation. This is why the global community must act with urgency, coordination, and foresight.

Since 1996, the World Water Council has championed this cause. We have worked to ensure water is no longer overlooked but seen for what it is: a shared responsibility and a political priority. The World Water Forum is our call to action—where leadership, knowledge, and solutions converge.

Riyadh's Forum will be more than symbolic. It will mark the Forum's 30th anniversary and arrive at a critical time, when our planet demands a shift from discussion to implementation. The April 2025 1st stakeholder meeting set the tone: the 11th Forum must be **a platform for action—not just dialogue.**

In this spirit, we will center our efforts around three urgent themes:

- **Water for Health**
- **Water for Food**
- **Water for People and Nature**

And we will advance these through three foundational pillars:

- **Innovation**—from groundwater recharge to AI and satellite systems, we must scale solutions that work.

- **Governance**—policies must be accepted, not imposed; they must be inclusive, accountable, and locally rooted.
- **Financing**—because water needs money, but today, more than ever, **money also needs water.**

Let us also be clear: **water is political. It is diplomatic.** It requires nations to collaborate—not just in times of crisis, but proactively, with shared vision and mutual respect. We must claim this space—not only with responsibility but with urgency.

Saudi Arabia brings valuable leadership to this effort. Its expertise in desalination, efficient irrigation, and cross-sector governance, coupled with its commitment to sustainability, offers real-world models for global adaptation.

As President of the World Water Council, I reaffirm our full commitment to working hand-in-hand with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all international partners to deliver a Forum that is inclusive, strategic, and results-driven. Together, we will protect nature, guarantee access, and build early-warning systems for communities on the frontlines—like those once affected by the tsunami in Sumatra.

So, to the international community, I offer a heartfelt invitation:

Join us on the road to Riyadh. Bring your solutions, your ambition, your partnerships, and your political will. Let us shape a turning point for the planet—where the world chose cooperation over complacency, and action over aspiration.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their unwavering commitment and leadership. We look forward to welcoming the global community to Riyadh—to forge a more inclusive, resilient, and water-secure future under the banner of **Action for a Better Tomorrow.**

Loïc Fauchon

President of the World Water Council

Co-Chair of the International Steering Committee

02 INTRODUCTION

2.1 THE WORLD WATER FORUM AND ITS HISTORY

Since its inception in 1997, the World Water Forum has evolved into the largest international platform devoted to addressing the world's most pressing water challenges. Held every three years, this event brings together policymakers, experts, academia, civil society organizations, private sector leaders, entrepreneurs, economists, innovators, community leaders, investors, civil society actors, and youth to drive collaboration and community-driven action, unlike other forums that limited stakeholders to only governments and policy makers.

Serving as a catalyst for international water policy, the Forum tackles today's critical challenges head-on—from chronic water scarcity and destructive floods to safeguarding water quality, strengthening transboundary cooperation, and mobilizing innovative financing. Through high-level political engagement, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and dynamic knowledge-sharing initiatives, it has become a cornerstone of global efforts to sustain water resources and build resilience.

At the heart of the World Water Forum stands the **World Water Council (WWC)** - an independent, non-governmental organization (NGO) officially established in 1996 and headquartered in Marseille, France. Comprising over 260 member organizations from 52 countries across five continents, the WWC was established with a singular **goal:** to promote sustainable water management at all levels and ensure water remains a central priority on the global development agenda. Since its founding in 1996, the World Water Council has played a crucial role in shaping the global water agenda, promoting global collaboration and knowledge sharing on water challenges, mobilizing political will, advancing sustainable water management strategies, leading innovation in water conservation, empowering water financing and bolstering water governance through the World Water Forum.

Over last three decades, each edition of the Forum—hosted in diverse countries around the world—has infused unique **regional perspectives** while **addressing universal water challenges.** With structured engagement through **thematic, regional, and political processes,** the Forum has consistently delivered impactful outcomes, including ministerial declarations, stakeholder commitments, and breakthrough strategies on key issues such as water financing, and cutting-edge innovations, closely aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** particularly **SDG 6,** which aims for universal access to clean water and sanitation. These outcomes have influenced policy reforms and accelerated the adoption of sustainable water management practices worldwide. The Forum's overarching themes have evolved from "Vision for Water,

Life and the Environment" (Marrakesh 1997) to pivotal slogans such as "Bridging Divides for Water" (Istanbul 2009), "Time for Solutions" (Marseille, 2012), and "Water for Shared Prosperity" (Bali 2024), mirroring the shift from awareness-raising to action-oriented, inclusive water governance.

Beyond policy, the Forum celebrates and rewards excellence in leadership and innovation in water. In 2003, it was the birthplace of the prestigious **King Hassan II Great World Water Prize,** honoring individuals, institutions, and organizations that have made groundbreaking contributions in water management and cooperation at a global scale. In 2006, it launched the **Kyoto World Water Grand Prize,** recognizing grassroots initiatives that pioneer innovative water solutions. These awards mobilize high-level international partnerships and reinforce the Forum's commitment to leadership, innovation, and inclusive solutions, scaling best practices across the world.

In March 2027, the WWC and Riyadh will host the 11th World Water Forum, marking its 30th anniversary with the most ambitious edition yet—welcoming **over 20,000 contributors and 150,000 visitors** from **more than 150 countries** under the overarching theme "**Action for a Better Tomorrow**", the Forum will address water and development for broader global challenges of innovation, financing, cooperation, and inclusive development with greater emphasis on ground level action. As one of the most water-scarce nations, the Kingdom has pioneered advanced desalination technologies, smart governance models, and sustainable financing frameworks, proving that transformational progress is possible even under extreme conditions. The 11th World Water Forum will be a platform to scale these lessons, amplify diverse voices, and usher in a new era of global cooperation—one that bridges geographies, sectors, and generations to drive sustainable actionable solutions for the future.

From Vision to Action

Presented the "Water Vision" for the 21st century

2000
The Hague, Netherlands

Water for Our Future

Launch of the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment (DGIC)

2015
Daegu-Gyeongbuk, South Korea

Local Actions for a Global Challenge

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

2006
Mexico City, Mexico

The Time for Solutions

Marseille Ministerial Declaration

2012
Marseille, France

Bridging Divides for Water

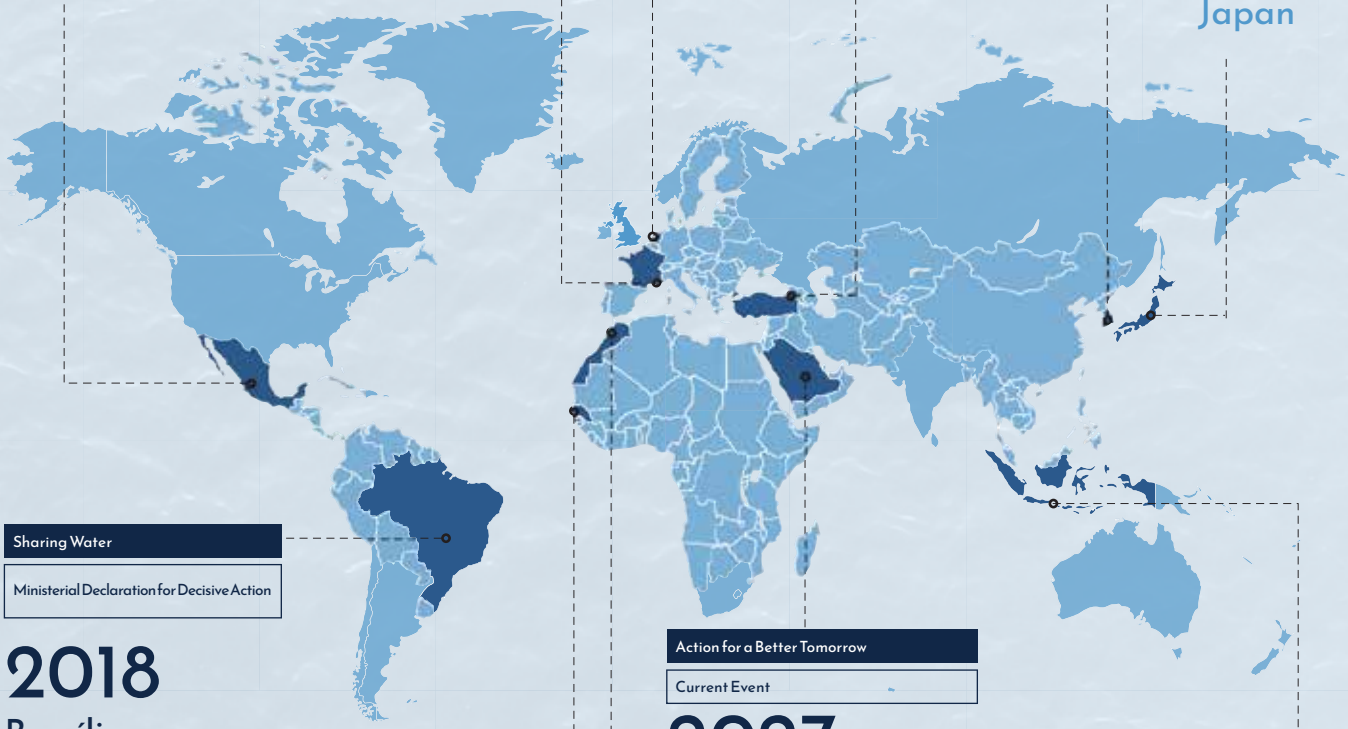
Istanbul Ministerial Statement

2009
Istanbul, Türkiye

A Forum with a Difference

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

2003
Kyoto, Shiga, & Osaka, Japan



Sharing Water

Ministerial Declaration for Decisive Action

2018
Brasília, Brazil

Action for a Better Tomorrow

Current Event

2027
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Water Security for Peace and Development

Adoption of "Blue Deal"

2022
Dakar, Senegal

Vision for Water, Life, and Environment

Established the Forum as a global platform for water dialogue.

1997
Marrakesh, Morocco

Water for Shared Prosperity

Bali Youth Prize, World Water Warriors' Guide

2024
Bali, Indonesia

■ Overarching Theme ☐ Notable Highlights

2.2 OVERVIEW OF THE 11th WORLD WATER FORUM

The 11th **World Water Forum,** set to take place in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, from **in March 2027** under the overarching theme "**Action for a Better Tomorrow**", marks a critical milestone in advancing global discussions on global water challenges. As the World Water Forum returns to an Arab country for the first time since 1997 , Saudi Arabia offers a uniquely compelling setting—a nation shaped by extreme water scarcity due to its arid climate, 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. Saudi Arabia's experience in the water sector will provide valuable insights—not only for nations facing similar challenges but also for the world, as **climate change intensifies water-related risks**. This 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**—ensuring a Forum of memorable outcomes that delivers **regional breakthroughs with global learning.** As co-host and the world's longstanding platform for water dialogue, the World Water Council will leverage the human and intellectual capital accumulated across the first ten editions of the World Water Forum, together with the expertise and experience of host nation Saudi Arabia, to guide every track of the 11th Forum toward the best possible outcomes.



Aligned with the goals of the World Water Council, the Forum seeks to drive impactful solutions for global water sustainability. It aims to:

Knowledge Sharing Platform	Facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange to address regional challenges and scale local innovations with global applicability
Enhancing Collective Action	Serve as a platform that aligns with global discourse and accelerates action including achieving SDG 6
Thought Leadership	Convene leading experts from diverse water-related sectors to driven discussions on key areas of water security, water finance, water diplomacy, water for humans and nature, value of water, and , innovation for water
Deliver Tangible Actions	Move beyond policy discourse to develop pragmatic, impactful solutions for lasting global change

To achieve these objectives, the Forum will undergo a two-year preparatory phase, marked by key milestone events leading up to 2027:

First Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting (14th - 15th April 2025)	**Successfully held in Riyadh,** this foundational gathering brought together a diverse group of global water experts, policymakers, private sector leaders, and civil society representatives to define the Forum's strategic direction, key priorities, and action-oriented outcomes. The meeting set a strong collaborative tone for the journey ahead
Second Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting (April 2026)	This inclusive international meeting will serve as a critical checkpoint to assess progress, ensure alignment across all pillars of the Forum, and refine the program in preparation for implementation
11th World Water Forum (March 2027)	The culmination of this global effort, convening stakeholders from over 150 countries to engage in transformative, solution-driven dialogue

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

WORLD WATER COUNCIL

TOGETHER WE MAKE WATER A GLOBAL PRIORITY

The **World Water Council (WWC)** is a leading international non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing sustainable water management and governance. Established in 1996, the WWC plays a pivotal role in fostering political commitment, uniting governments, experts, and stakeholders to address critical global water challenges. With a mission to ensure equitable and sustainable water access for all, WWC advocates for policies and initiatives that strengthen water security, promote conservation, and enhance resource management. Through strategic advocacy, research, and high-level dialogue, the WWC continues to influence global water governance, positioning water as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

www.worldwatercouncil.org

THE 11th WORLD WATER FORUM

From drying farmlands and depleting aquifers to rising seas and polluted waterways, the global water crisis is no longer a future concern—it's a present and intensifying reality. Water lies at the heart of food security, public health, climate resilience, peace, and economic stability. Yet billions still face water extremes (scarcity, floods risks, etc.), contamination, and unequal access.

The 11th **World Water Forum**, under the overarching theme "**Action for a Better Tomorrow**", marks a pivotal moment—not just to discuss, but to act. It calls on governments, innovators, youth, and communities to move from dialogue to delivery—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.

FORUM OVERVIEW

Co-Hosted By
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
World Water Council

Date
21st - 25th March, 2027

Overarching Theme
Action for a Better Tomorrow

Venue
Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center (RFECC)

Target Audience
Policymakers, experts, civil society organizations, private sector leaders, academia, international institutions and everyone who is interested in water related action

Objective
To drive global collaboration on water challenges, mobilize political will, advance sustainable water management strategies, lead innovation in water conservation, empower water financing and bolster water governance to ensure tangible actions for a better future

Processes
Thematic: Structured discussions around water related topics of water security, water finance, water diplomacy, water for humans and nature, the value of water, and innovation for water

Political: Engagement of ministers, parliamentarians, and local authorities to develop policy frameworks

Regional: Dialogues focused on tackling region-specific challenges while contributing diverse perspectives and locally rooted solutions to global water issues

Additional Highlights
Fair & Expo: A showcase of innovative solutions, exemplary water-management models, and cutting-edge global advancements in water technology

Water Prizes: Rewards to motivate water management at global governance and grassroot innovation level.

Networking Opportunity: Opportunities for policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators to collaborate, share best practices, and form partnerships

03
FORUM PROCESSES

3.1 FORUM FRAMEWORK & THEME

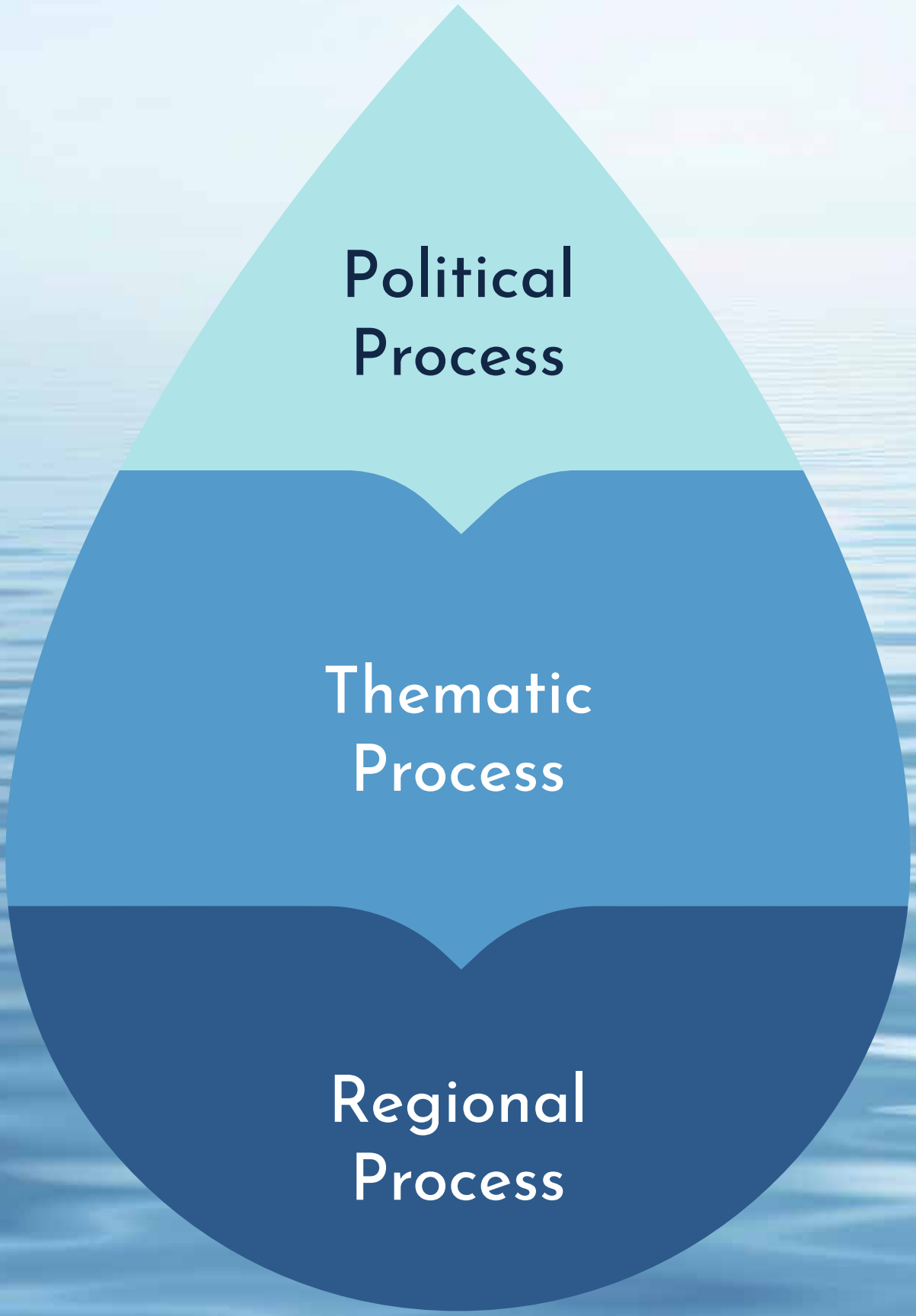


Overarching Theme

ACTION FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Water is the foundation of life, yet its future hangs in the balance. Climate change, pollution, and mismanagement are pushing global water systems to the brink, endangering communities, economies, and ecosystems. The 11th World Water Forum rises to this challenge with its action-driven overarching theme: **"Action for a Better Tomorrow".**

Building on past efforts, the Forum **moves beyond commitments to drive real solutions**—championing innovation, policy reform, and cross-sector collaboration. With a strong emphasis on global cooperation and lessons from regional challenges, it focuses on **six key areas: water security, water finance, water diplomacy, water for humans and nature, value of water, and innovation for water.** By uniting experts, leaders, and communities, the Forum aims to accelerate progress toward a sustainable water future, turning ambition into action and ensuring lasting impact worldwide.


Political
Process
Thematic
Process
Regional
Process

3.2

POLITICAL PROCESS

The **Political Process** of the World Water Forum serves as a platform for engagement among governments, parliamentarians, ministers, local authorities, and basin authorities to shape policies and drive political action on water-related challenges. It ensures that decision-makers prioritize sustainable water governance and commit to concrete solutions.

Importance

Water governance is inherently political, requiring strong leadership, cross-border cooperation, and policy alignment. The Political Process highlights the critical role of political decision-making in securing water resources, taking into account both human and environmental needs. It aims to **strengthen global collaboration, integrate water into political agendas,** and **foster partnerships** that lead to long-term, effective water solutions.

11th Forum's Contribution

The **Political Process of the 11th World Water Forum** is designed to engage leaders at all levels, ensuring that water-related challenges are met with **strong political will, cross-border cooperation, and policy-driven action.**

Heads of State

The Forum provides a global stage for **heads of state to set the political tone for water governance,** influencing international commitments and integrating water security into national development agendas. Their participation drives momentum toward **policy commitments, funding strategies, and climate-resilient water solutions.**

Ministers

Through ministerial discussions, the Forum **aligns national water policies with international best practices,** fostering collaboration on regulatory reforms, investment in water infrastructure, and cross-sector synergies. Ministers take the lead in **advocating for water financing mechanisms and implementing innovative governance models** that ensure long-term sustainability.

Parliamentarians

The Forum empowers lawmakers to **craft national policies that address water-related challenges in order of priority** by facilitating **knowledge exchange on governance, water rights, and legal frameworks.** The Forum strengthens the role of policymakers in **driving impactful legislative changes** at both national and international levels.

Local Authorities

Recognizing that many water challenges require **localized solutions**, the Forum amplifies the voices of municipalities and local leaders. It **supports policy development tailored to urban and rural water needs, promotes sustainable water management at the community level, and facilitates public-private partnerships** that improve service delivery and infrastructure.

Basin Authorities

As water issues often transcend national borders, the Forum provides a dedicated space for **basin authorities to engage in transboundary dialogue, share best practices, and collaborate on sustainable water management.** It promotes **innovative approaches to managing shared water resources, ensuring equitable distribution, and mitigating conflicts through cooperative frameworks.**

By uniting bold political leadership with actionable commitments, the 11th World Water Forum will be a landmark moment—**strengthening governance, advancing policy innovation, and mobilizing decision-makers** to turn ambition into lasting impact. **11th Forum** will set a **new standard** for translating **political will into real-world water solutions.**

Expected Outcomes

The 11th World Water Forum aims to achieve:

Stronger political commitment to integrating water security into national and global development agendas, ensuring high-level leadership drives long-term water sustainability

Enhanced international cooperation through policy alignment, regulatory reforms, and investment in sustainable water infrastructure, fostering cross-border collaboration on shared water challenges

Development of robust policy frameworks and regulations that address national and regional water governance needs, promoting legislative action for long-term water security

Capacity building and knowledge-sharing to empower municipalities with tailored solutions for water conservation, supply management, and climate adaptation at the local level

Strengthened transboundary water management through cooperative frameworks, equitable resource distribution, and conflict resolution strategies for shared water bodies



3.3

THEMATIC PROCESS

The **Thematic Process** of the **11th World Water Forum** is designed to drive knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and innovation in water governance. By focusing on **key global and regional challenges,** this process enables stakeholders to develop targeted, actionable solutions that address both local and international water issues.

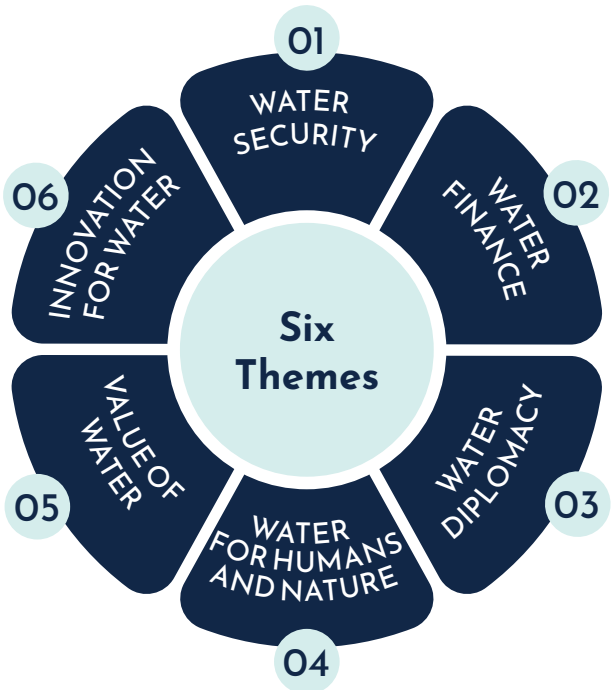
Importance

The Thematic Process is essential in **shaping policies and strategies** that address the most pressing water-related challenges worldwide. It facilitates the **exchange of best practices,** fosters cooperation among stakeholders, and influences policy decisions. It creates a **structured approach** where **knowledge is translated into real-world solutions,** ensuring sustainable water management.

11th Forum's Contribution

The **11th World Water Forum** strengthens the **Thematic Process** by addressing **six key areas** critical to global water security, ensuring that discussions translate into p**ractical solutions, policy innovation, and strategic investments.** Some topics, such as resilience and water quality, may naturally intersect between Themes but will be treated through their primary focus lenses.

The 11th Forum aims to foster collaborative solutions and actionable strategies across six key water priorities. The discussions and initiatives will focus on:



Water Security

Strengthening climate resilience, enhancing equitable access through rights-based approaches, and improving water quality via ecosystem protection and integrated water resource management (IWRM), all while supporting food and energy security within a circular economy framework

Water Finance

Advancing innovative financing models such as blended finance, fintech, and adaptive tariffs; catalyzing private sector engagement and smart subsidies; and ensuring sustainable water and sanitation services through risk-informed

investment strategies and lifecycle costing—especially for vulnerable and remote communities

Water Diplomacy

Fostering transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation, supporting legal frameworks for shared governance, and promoting inclusivity and human rights through science-to-policy dialogue, advocacy, and robust data sharing mechanisms

Water for Humans & Nature

Promoting resilient, inclusive, and community-based approaches through One Health alliances, Nature Based Solutions, protection of Biodiversity and enabling smart, tailored solutions grounded in knowledge exchange and robust stakeholder governance

Value of Water

Embedding water's multifaceted value—social, cultural, economic, and ecological—into national and subnational policies. This includes contextualized pricing, multi-stakeholder collaboration, circular economy principles, water footprint assessment, and capacity building through public awareness and education

Innovation for Water

Accelerating the uptake of smart digital technologies and AI-driven solutions, fostering knowledge sharing and capacity building, promoting smart community practices, and aligning regulatory frameworks to scale nature-based and advanced technological innovations



Expected Outcomes

The 11th World Water Forum aims to achieve:

Improved Water Security through climate resilience, equitable access, and quality protection

Boosted Investment via innovative finance, smart subsidies, and public-private partnerships

Wider Tech Adoption including AI, digital tools, and community-based innovations

Stronger Governance with inclusive laws, cross-border cooperation, and data-driven decisions

Balanced Water Use across human, ecological, and agricultural needs using smart and nature-based solutions

Greater Water Valuation through fair pricing, rights-based policies, and public awareness

3.4

REGIONAL PROCESS

The **Regional Process** of the World Water Forum ensures that water solutions are not just global but also deeply rooted in local realities. By addressing water challenges from a regional perspective, this process tailors policies, innovations, and best practices to the unique needs of different parts of the world.

Importance

Water challenges vary widely across regions, requiring localized strategies that account for geography, climate, and socio-economic conditions. The Regional Process provides a platform for **governments, stakeholders, and communities** to collaborate on **context-specific solutions, knowledge-sharing, and policy alignment.** Strengthening regional dialogues ensures that global commitments translate into context-specific customized actions, fostering sustainable water management practices that reflect local priorities and promotes global learning from grassroot level innovation.

11th Forum's Contribution

The 11th World Water Forum aims to strengthen the Regional Process by amplifying diverse regional voices and fostering transboundary collaboration on shared water priorities. It seeks to promote water equity through inclusive governance while showcasing region-specific innovations and traditional knowledge. By encouraging the exchange of local and regional best practices, the Forum aspires to enable scalable solutions and inform global water policy, ensuring that future strategies are rooted in practical, on-the-ground experience and can drive meaningful impact worldwide.



By bridging regional perspectives with global expertise, the 11th forum will strengthen water governance, drive investment in sustainable infrastructure, and enhance transboundary cooperation—paving the way for a more water-secure future for all!

Expected Outcomes

The 11th World Water Forum aims to achieve:

Tailored regional water strategies that effectively address local challenges

Stronger partnerships and collaborations between governments, the private sector, and communities to foster **collective commitments** and **secure funding** with tailored solutions for tackling local and regional water issues

Policy advancements and knowledge exchange to enhance water security and resilience at both local and global levels

Integration of technology and innovation to drive sustainable and long-term water solutions

04 TIMELINE

The journey to 2027 consists of several key milestones...



2025

April

1st Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting

Conducted Successfully

September

Finalization of Forum Processes Framework

2025

January - March

Activation of working groups for thematic, regional process and political process

2026



2026

April

2nd Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting

December - January

Finalization and approval of all content

2027

March

11th World Water Forum

2027

05

(14st-15st APRIL, 2025)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1ST STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION MEETING

Riyadh successfully hosted the 1st Stakeholder Meeting of the 11st World Water Forum on 14th and 15th April 2025, uniting over 600 participants from 60 countries and organizations—including ministers, experts, researchers, and senior professionals—in a pivotal alignment around shared global water challenges.

Marking the first official milestone of the Forum's overarching theme, "Action for a Better Tomorrow," the meeting served as a strategic platform to forge consensus around global water priorities. Discussions focused on advancing solutions that strengthen water security, mobilize sustainable financing, foster diplomatic cooperation, and drive innovation—while ensuring equity, safeguarding ecosystems, and recognizing water's fundamental value to people and the planet.

Engaging discussions across regional and political processes, alongside six parallel thematic breakout sessions, helped shape a shared vision and actionable agenda, laying the groundwork for joint solutions that reflect both urgency and unity in addressing the world's most pressing water issues.

Building on this momentum, the 2nd stakeholder meeting is scheduled for April 2026, as the journey continues towards the 11th Forum in Riyadh in 2027.



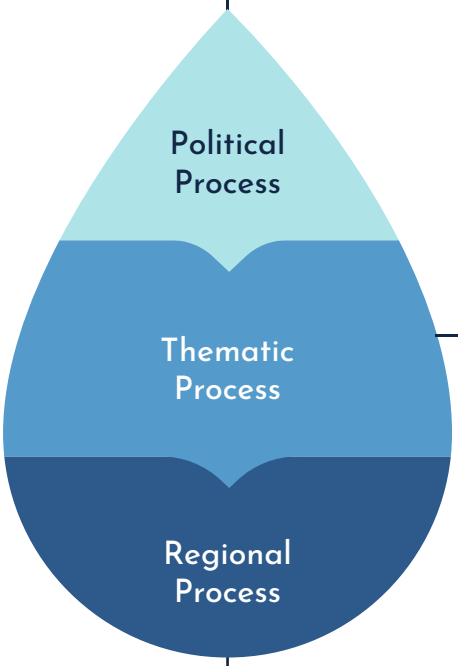
OVERVIEW OF KEY OUTCOMES FROM DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORLD WATER FORUM'S PROCESSES

Political Process

Political leaders emphasized the need to elevate water as a political and societal priority, fostering stronger coordination and inclusive decision-making

Key Takeaways

- Strengthen coordination across all political levels
- Ensure end-user inclusion in water-related decisions
- Link with other key water events in 2026 and 2027
- Promote collaboration, resilience, and targeted investment



Thematic Process

The thematic track aimed to build on past efforts while fostering innovation and shaping impactful future outcomes

Key Takeaways

- Prioritize action based work to bring practical solutions as future outcomes
- Ensure alignment with earlier themes and commitments
- Encourage disruptive ideas and fresh thinking through **6 parallel thematic breakout sessions**

Regional Process

Regional representatives called for enhanced collaboration, addressing unique regional challenges through shared priorities and strategic engagement

Key Takeaways

- Specify regional priorities and local action plans to guide the implementation of solutions aligned with the Forum's Thematic Frameworks
- Facilitate regional dialogues & cooperation by identifying shared water challenges and co-developing actionable solutions
- Catalyze exchange of ideas, and potential solutions across regions to address common water-related issues through shared learning
- Strengthen regional stakeholders to enhance advocacy efforts and raise the political profile of water within their regions

INSIGHTS FROM THE THEMATIC BREAKOUT SESSIONS

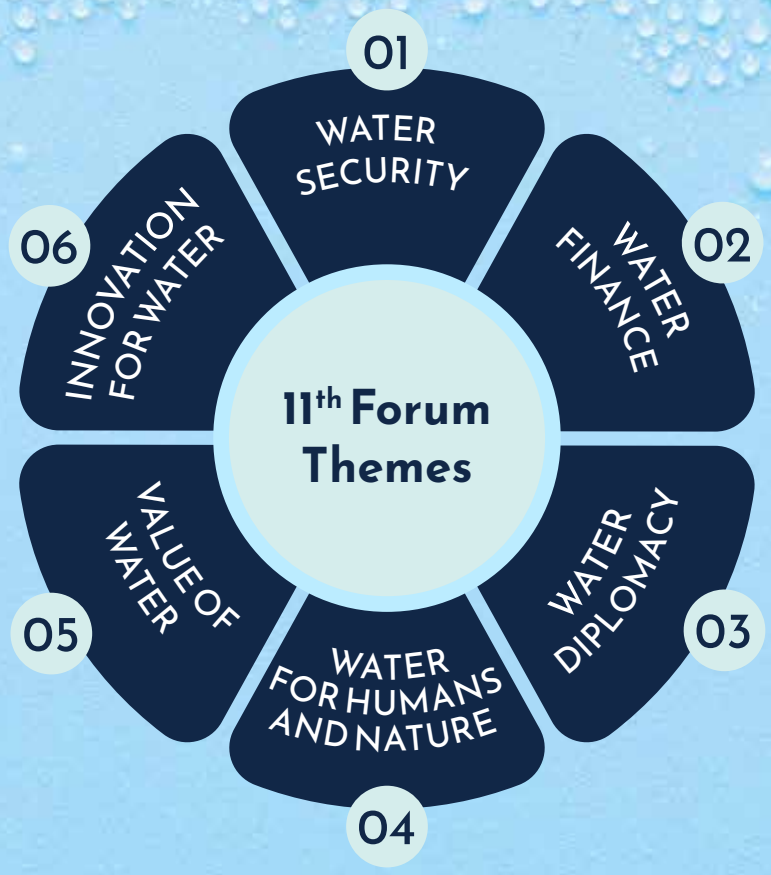


As part of the 1st Stakeholder Meeting for the 11th World Water Forum, **six parallel thematic breakout sessions** were convened by the World Water Council, the KSA Secretariat, and a broad network of local and international partners. These sessions focused on shaping the Forum's core thematic priorities: **Water Security, Water Finance, Water Diplomacy, Water for Humans and Nature, the Value of Water, and Innovation for Water.**

Each session was moderated by leading water specialists from Saudi Arabia and the international community, fostering inclusive participation and open dialogue. Stakeholders collaborated in a dynamic environment to exchange knowledge, share regional perspectives, and surface forward-looking ideas.

The discussions led to the identification of **key thematic keywords** and emerging priorities—ranging from climate resilience and equitable access to innovative financing, transboundary cooperation, community-led solutions, and the role of digital technologies. Tentative topics were also proposed under each thematic area to guide content development moving forward.

These insights lay a strong foundation for the development of targeted solutions for collective action at the 11th World Water Forum.



01

TENTATIVE TOPICS

Improve Water Resilience (Groundwater, Energy, Circular Economy)

Reduce Water Vulnerability (Human Right, Infrastructure Integrity, Equitable Access)

Scaling Water Management (Focus area: Integrated Water Resource Management)

Protecting Water Quality (Ecosystem Protection, Wastewater Treatment)

Improving Food Security (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus, Non-Conventional Energy Resources)

KEY WORDS

Access to Water
Climate Change
Resilience
Water Governance
Water Quality Protection
Water and Food Security
Non-Conventional Water Resources
Water Supply and Demand Management
Water Disasters
Competition Over Water Resources
Circular Economy
Transboundary Cooperation
Food Insecurity

02

TENTATIVE TOPICS

Call for Novel Financing Approaches and New Partners (Blended Finance, Fintech, Adaptive Tariffs)

Enhance the Engagement of Private and Public Sectors (Private Sector Incentives, Role of Public Funds, Government Smart Subsidies)

Adapt Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services (Ongoing Operations Funding, Risk Assessment, Non-commercial Solutions for Remote or Vulnerable Populations)

Support Agriculture and Irrigation Financing (Irrigation Solutions, Agricultural Support, Climate-Resilient Projects)

Promote Funding of Nature-Based and Circular Economy Solutions (Nature-Based Solutions, Circular Economy Financing, RDI Support)

KEY WORDS

Finance
Lifecycle Costing
Financing
Transboundary
Regional & Local Funding
Sustainable Services
Cooperation
Risk Management to Increase Investments
Blended Finance
Innovative Mechanism for Accelerating Climate
Smart Subsidies
Fostering Private Sector Investment
Decentralized Financial Institutions
Legislation Framework
Subsidies for Water and Sanitation
Technology Footprint
Smart Water Management
Uncertainty

03

TENTATIVE TOPICS

Promote Cross-sectoral Cooperation and Encourage Partnerships

Develop Advocacy and Public Awareness Programs

Support the Development of Legal Frameworks and Agreements (within and outside the national boundary)

Foster Science-to-Policy Interface and Data Sharing

Promote Human Rights-Based Approach and Inclusivity

KEY WORDS

Mediation
Advocacy and Public Awareness
Inclusion / Inclusivity
Legal Framework and Agreements
Governance and Shared Management
Climate Resilience
Joint Programming
Science-to-Policy Interface and Data Sharing
Cross-Sectoral Cooperation and Partnerships
Human Rights-Based Approach
Transboundary Governance
Standardization

04

TENTATIVE TOPICS

Advancing Resilient and Inclusive Approaches to Water for Human Wellbeing

Enabling One Health through Innovative Water Approaches

Strengthening Water Governance Through Stakeholder Engagement, Affordability, and Robust Policy Frameworks

Improving Water Quality and Sanitation Through Community Solidarity and Global Commitments

Delivering Tailored Water Solutions through Smart Technologies and Knowledge Exchange

KEY WORDS

Inclusive
Climate Resilience
One Health Alliance
Nature-Based Solutions
Fiver Fingers Alliance
Water Quality
Resilience
Water Governance
Access to Data
Human Rights-Based Approach
Water Intelligence
Integrated Water Management
Catalyzing Political Action
Economy of WASH
WASH

05

TENTATIVE TOPICS

Analyze Economic Returns, Cost Recovery, Contextualize the Economic Value and Price of Water

Implement Circular Economy and Emphasize Optimization of Water Use

Protect Water "as" a Human Right

Promote Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Consider the Value of Water in National and Sub-national Policies, Regulations, and Rules

Address the Capacity Gap through Knowledge, Raising Public Awareness, and Integrating Water-related Topics in Education

Assess Water Footprints and Mitigate Water Risk

KEY WORDS

Cross Sectors
Awareness
Human and Water Rights
Water Resources Protection
Knowledge & Capacity Building
Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation
Collective Responsibility and Resilience
Value of Water Across Social, Cultural, Economic and Ecological
Social & Environmental Value of Water
Women
Youth
Cultural Significance
Cross Sectorial
Water Supply and Demand Management
Education
Investments/Pricing Principles
Supply Chain
Training

06

TENTATIVE TOPICS

Adapt Digital and AI-Driven Water Management

Enable Innovative Financing and Business Models

Emphasizing Inclusive and Community-Centric Solutions

Consider Nature-Based and Advanced Technological Solutions

Sharing Knowledge and Building Capacity

KEY WORDS

AI
Building
Investment and Scalability
Regulation
Innovative Finance
Digital Technologies and AI
Accessible Information Systems
Knowledge Sharing and Capacity
Community-Based Practice
Social Sustainability
Smart Water Management
Regulations and Legislation
Digital Technologies
Smart

KEY STATISTIC
1st Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting

1
session on the regional process

1
session on the political process

6
sessions on the thematic process

60
countries and organizations

600+
participants

06 OTHER INFORMATION

6.1 EXPO

SHOWCASING INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The **Expo at the 11th World Water Forum** will serve as a premier international exhibition highlighting **cutting-edge technologies, breakthrough innovations, and sustainable solutions** in water management, sanitation, and environmental conservation. It would provide a dynamic platform for **researchers, scientists, industry leaders, and policymakers** to connect, exchange knowledge, and explore the latest advancements shaping the future of water security. Participants at the Expo will gain exclusive access to a vast array of **institutional, technical, academic, and commercial insights** directly aligned with the Forum's theme. Dedicated zones will showcase **pioneering projects, interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, policy innovations, and emerging water technologies** that address global and regional water challenges.

The Expo will also serve as a hub for **commercial engagement,** allowing participants with an opportunity to **connect with leading corporates and industries** which are looking to sell their services and solution that tackle various water challenges.

As a key component of the Forum, the Expo will play a crucial role in **bridging industries, fostering partnerships, and inspiring actionable change** in the water sector.

6.1 FAIR

AN OPEN HUB FOR COLLABORATION

The Fair at the 11th World Water Forum will be a **free, open-access platform** where companies, governments, universities, and communities will come together to **showcase products, services, and solutions for water sustainability.** Designed to engage a broad audience, the Fair will offer an **inclusive space** for knowledge-sharing, public engagement, and collaboration. It will serve as an interactive venue where stakeholders **present practical solutions and real-world initiatives** that promote water quality, conservation, and sustainable use.

By **fostering dialogue and showcasing impactful innovations,** the Fair will strengthen global efforts toward a more water-secure and resilient future.



Why Showcase at the 11th World Water Forum Expo?

GLOBAL VISIBILITY & MARKET EXPANSION

Get your brand in front of decision-makers, investors, and industry leaders looking for solutions. Tap into new markets and expand your reach globally. Position yourself as a leader in water sustainability!

BUSINESS GROWTH & COMMERCIAL DEALS

Connect with buyers, partners, and governments ready to invest. Unlock high-value contracts and B2B collaborations. Showcase your solutions and turn innovation into impact!

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & INDUSTRY INFLUENCE

Take the stage in expert panels and discussions. Showcase cutting-edge innovations that shape the future of water. Stay ahead by engaging with policymakers and industry pioneers!

NETWORKING & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Meet governments, NGOs, and global industry leaders. Build powerful collaborations across water, energy, and agriculture. Join forces to drive sustainability and real-world change!

INNOVATION & INVESTMENT ACCESS

Pitch your ideas to investors, venture capitalists, and funding agencies. Secure grants, subsidies, and impact investments. Partner with researchers and startups to create the next big water solution!

"BE SEEN. BE HEARD. BE A CHANGEMAKER."

Join the 11th World Water Forum Expo and make waves in the water industry!
Stay tuned for the details to be released at the 2nd Stakeholder Meeting

6.2 WATER PRIZES & AWARDS

The World Water Forum is a premier platform where innovation, leadership, and excellence in water management are recognized and rewarded through prestigious international Water Prizes. The 11th Forum looks forward to continuing this legacy, celebrating transformative contributions that advance global water governance and sustainability.

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

Established in **2002** by the **Kingdom of Morocco** and the **World Water Council, the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize** honors the legacy of **King Hassan II** and his visionary approach to **water security and sustainable management.** Awarded every three years at the **World Water Forum,** it recognizes individuals and organizations excelling in **conservation, wastewater reuse, and public awareness.** First presented in 2003, the prize includes a **US$500,000 grant**, a trophy, and global recognition.

Over the years, the prize has become a **catalyst for international water cooperation,** recognizing institutions like the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and the **Senegal River Basin Organization (OMVS).** In **2022,** OMVS was awarded for its transboundary water management, and in **2024**, the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** was honored for integrating **water security into global food systems.** By highlighting innovative efforts, the prize drives awareness and action in **sustainable water management worldwide.**

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

Launched in **2003** by the **City of Kyoto** and the **World Water Council**, the **Kyoto World Water Grand Prize** recognizes **grassroots organizations** tackling **water and sanitation challenges** in developing countries. Awarded every three years at the **World Water Forum,** it highlights **community-led initiatives** in clean water access, sanitation, irrigation, and conservation.

The prize has spotlighted impactful projects across **Asia and Africa,** supporting **local solutions with global relevance.** Past winners include initiatives from **India, Uganda, Nepal, and Togo.** In **2024**, the award went to **Youth Sanitation Concern in Indonesia** for advancing water and sanitation access. By showcasing these efforts, the prize promotes **knowledge-sharing and strengthens community resilience** in addressing **water security challenges.**

Bali Youth Prize

Launched in 2024 by the Republic of Indonesia in partnership with the World Water Council (WWC), the Bali Youth Prize is the first youth-focused award introduced at the World Water Forum. It honors young individuals and initiatives driving innovation and leadership in water sustainability. Rooted in the principles of inclusive governance and community engagement, the prize reflects the WWC's commitment to empowering youth as vital actors in solving global water challenges.

Presented during the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, the inaugural prize highlighted impactful youth efforts in conservation, sanitation, climate resilience, and policy advocacy, including the Bali Youth Plan's call for greater youth participation in water governance. By elevating youth-driven solutions, the prize reinforces the essential role of young people in advancing sustainable water management worldwide.


500,000.00$
KING HASSAN II GREAT
WORLD WATER PRIZE


Daegu & Gyeongbuk Water Prize
₩ 30,000,000 KRW
Daegu Metropolitan City
Daegu & Gyeongbuk Water Prize
₩ 30,000,000 KRW
Gyeongsangbuk-do Province


Water Forum 2015
The 4th Kyoto World Water Grand Prize
¥ 2,000,000 JPY


Grand Prize
Kyoto World Water Grand Prize
Presented by
Kyoto City and Soroptimist International of Kyoto
¥3,000,000


5th Kyoto World Water Grand Prize
¥ 2,000,000 JPY
JDEC
JICE
WEC




京都市
Kyoto World Water Grand Prize
2024

07 VENUE & HOSTING

7.1 VENUE LOGISTICS & FACILITIES

About the Venue

The **Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center (RFECC)** will serve as the home of the **11th World Water Forum,** welcoming over **20,000 delegates and 150,000 visitors from more than 150 countries.** Strategically located just **20 minutes from King Khalid International Airport,** RFECC ensures seamless access to major transport hubs, luxury hotels, and Riyadh's key attractions. With **39,000m² of exhibition space** and **state-of-the-art audiovisual technology, high-speed internet, and configurable meeting spaces,** the venue is fully equipped to accommodate large-scale summits, high-level ministerial sessions, technical discussions, and interactive forums. Having hosted prestigious global events such as **LEAP, BIBAN, and Riyadh Season,** RFECC is renowned for its world-class facilities and logistical efficiency. Its **proximity to Riyadh's metro network and dedicated shuttle services** further enhances accessibility, making it an ideal location to convene global leaders and experts to shape the future of water sustainability.

20 minutes
from King Khalid International Airport

39,000m²
of exhibition space

7,500
parking spaces

33,000
visitor capacity

Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center









How to reach the Venue?

From Airport

Located just **20 minutes from King Khalid International Airport,** offering direct access to international and regional flights

Taxi & Car Rental

Easily **accessible via road** by using ride-hailing apps, taxis, and rental services from King Khalid International Airport (Terminals 5 & 2) or citywide agencies. **7,500 parking spaces** at the venue ensure smooth access for private vehicles.

King Khalid International Airport ▶ Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center



Metro

Conveniently positioned near **Riyadh's metro network,** ensuring efficient and reliable public transportation options.

Shuttle Services

Dedicated shuttle services will connect the venue with major hotels and key city landmarks for seamless delegate mobility.

King Khalid International Airport ▶ Pnu 1 ▶ Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center

RIYADH MAP

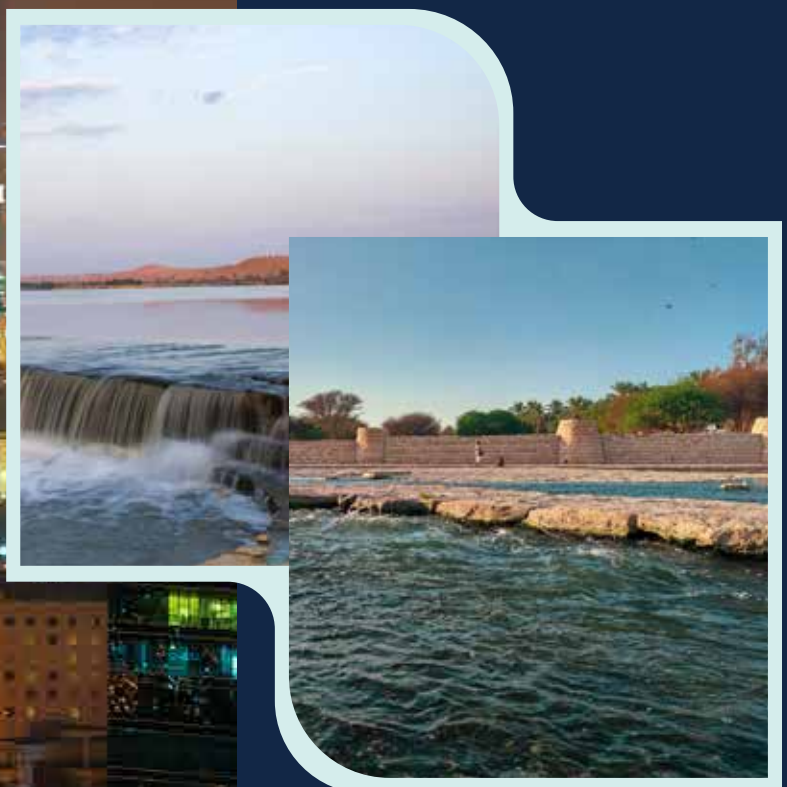


7.2 RIYADH A CITY TO EXPLORE

Riyadh

At the heart of the Arabian Peninsula lies **Riyadh**, a city that doesn't just welcome you—it embraces you. Here, the past whispers through ancient palaces and timeless souks, while the future rises in gleaming towers and visionary skylines. Riyadh is more than a capital; it is the **living soul of Saudi Arabia,** where **deep-rooted traditions, heartfelt hospitality, and a proud Najdi spirit** shape every experience. The warmth of its people is felt in every smile, in every cup of fragrant Arabic coffee offered with sweet dates, in every open door. The city's rich gastronomy tells its own story—of family, of heritage, of a love for flavor passed down through generations—from the delicate spice of **Kabsa** to the comforting depth of **Jareesh**. Whether wandering through the glow of lantern-lit markets, sharing a meal under desert stars, or witnessing the vibrant pulse of a city in transformation, **Riyadh invites every delegate of the 11th World Water Forum** not just to visit—but to feel at home, embraced by its culture, inspired by its spirit, and welcomed as part of its story.





A City of Culture and Heritage Sites

Riyadh's rich history is woven into its ancient architecture, traditional markets, and restored palaces. Once a desert stronghold, it has evolved into a modern metropolis while preserving the spirit of Najdi culture and Saudi heritage.

DIRIYAH



The Birthplace of a Kingdom

20 km from central Riyadh

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, **Diriyah** is where the Saudi state was founded. Strolling through the **At-Turaif District,** visitors are transported back in time, walking amid **mudbrick palaces, traditional courtyards, and ancient mosques** that once housed Saudi Arabia's first rulers.

Explore the **Salwa Palace,** the grand seat of the ruling family.

Enjoy authentic **Najdi cuisine** in traditional courtyard restaura

Witness immersive **cultural performances** and heritage exhibitions.

AL MASMAK FORTRESS



The Stronghold of Unity

Riyadh city center

A symbol of Riyadh's unification, this **19th-century fortress** played a pivotal role in the Kingdom's history. Its **thick clay walls and massive wooden gate** still bear the marks of past battles, standing as a testament to resilience.

Walk through its **museum of historical artifacts** and weaponry.

Learn about the legendary **battle that shaped Riyadh's destiny.**

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM



A Journey Through Time

Al Murabba District, Riyadh

One of the finest **cultural landmarks,** this world-class museum takes visitors on a captivating journey through **Arabian history, Islamic civilization, and the natural wonders of the desert.**

Wander through **eight interactive galleries,** featuring **ancient manuscripts, fossils, and archeological discoveries.**

Explore the **origins of the Arabian Peninsula** through immersive exhibits.







A Skyline of Innovation

Riyadh is a city that never stops evolving. Sleek skyscrapers, luxury districts, and vibrant entertainment hubs redefine the urban experience, making it a global destination for business, leisure, and culture.

KINGDOM CENTRE & SKY BRIDGE

Riyadh's Iconic Tower

Al Olaya District



With its striking **arched design,** the **Kingdom Centre Tower** is one of Riyadh's most **recognizable landmarks.** The **Sky Bridge,** suspended **300 meters above the city,** offers a breathtaking **panoramic view of the skyline**—especially at sunset when the desert glows in golden hues.

KING ABDULLAH FINANCIAL DISTRICT (KAFD)

The Future of Finance



A bold statement of Riyadh's ambition, **KAFD** is a **cutting-edge business hub,** home to sleek high-rises, international corporate headquarters, and luxury living spaces. The district combines **futuristic architecture with sustainability,** setting the stage for Riyadh's economic transformation.

RIYADH BOULEVARD

The City's Entertainment Capital

King Salman Road



A world of **live performances, luxury shopping, and gourmet dining,** **Riyadh Boulevard** is the city's **beating heart** when it comes to entertainment. From **concerts and global festivals to dazzling light shows,** this district pulses with energy day and night.









A Natural Wonder

Despite its reputation as a desert city, Riyadh is surrounded by **breathtaking natural landscapes,** offering a diverse range of **outdoor experiences—from serene valleys to dramatic rock formations.**

EDGE OF THE WORLD

A Breathtaking Cliffside Escape

100 km from Riyadh City Centre



One of the most **iconic natural wonders** near Riyadh, the **Edge of the World** is a **towering desert escarpment** with panoramic views of the endless horizon.

Hike along the rugged **cliffside trails.**

Witness **unforgettable sunsets over the desert.**

Experience the tranquility of **ancient caravan routes** once used by traders.

WADI HANIFA

Riyadh's Green Sanctuary

17 km from Riyadh City Centre



Stretching **120 km through the city, Wadi Hanifa** is a lush **valley oasis,** offering **scenic walking paths, picnic spots, and serene waterways.** Once a historic trade route, it is now a peaceful retreat for **families, cyclists, and nature lovers.**

Al Kharrarah National Park

A Desert Oasis

70 km from Riyadh City Centre



A unique blend of **rolling sand dunes, seasonal lakes, and green landscapes, Al Kharrarah** is a haven for **desert adventure seekers.**

Sandboard down **golden dunes.**

Camp under the **star-lit desert sky.**

Spot **migratory birds** near the rain-fed **Lake Kharrarah.**









WELCOME TO RIYADH

(March 2027)

The **11th World Water Forum** is more than just a gathering– it's a **global call to action.** It is a moment to come together, not just to talk about the future of water, but to **shape it–boldly, collaboratively, and inclusively.** We invite you to **share your ideas, ask big questions, build partnerships, and seek new alliances** that transcend borders and sectors. This is your space to collaborate with **world leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists, youth, and water champions**–to co-create solutions that tackle the full spectrum of water challenges: from **scarcity, governance, and climate resilience to financing, technology, equity, and transboundary cooperation.** Join us in Riyadh to be part of a movement that turns ambition into action and ensures that water is not only protected and accessible, but also a driver of **peace, prosperity, and sustainability for all!**

Contact and Follow us for more Information

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RIYADH 2027

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