



REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL  
Un Peuple -Un But -Une Foi



9<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER  
FORUM | DAKAR 2021

# Rules for "INITIATIVE DAKAR 2021"

"From commitment to concrete actions on the ground"

**Potential Technical Partners Logos**

## 1. The context of DAKAR INITIATIVE 2021

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Past eight World Water Forums have helped advance the cause for water at the highest political level. Among the different themes and resolutions adopted, it remains clear that the various dimensions of the solutions have been repeatedly proposed and revisited. However, significant challenges remain on the ground due to the scale of the water crisis and, above all, the lack of action to curb widespread and even endemic water scarcity.

The World Water Forum of "Dakar 2021" aims at correcting this gap by putting into perspective the preparatory process as the time to implement actions for the benefit of communities, which have so far questioned the social relevance of organising a World Water Forum.

Thus, it was agreed that the "Dakar 2021" Forum is a great opportunity and a turning point to give a new direction to the World Water Forum with a renewed and structured process around four priority themes, namely: (1) Water Security, (2) Cooperation, (3) Water for Rural Development and (4) the Tools and Means.

As such, the organization of such a Forum is therefore of paramount importance for the African continent and especially for Senegal, where the challenges of universal access to water and sanitation are acute. Hence the need for the Dakar 2021 Forum to take an approach that is more focused on implementing actions aimed at improving the conditions for access to water and sanitation services. This is an approach that also is promoting the development of urban and rural spaces and the peaceful coexistence of peoples across shared basins.

As a result, in order to give a specific, innovative and catalyzing touch to the commitment of the global water community, Senegal and the World Water Council have agreed to launch, as part of the Forum processes, the "DAKAR 2021 INITIATIVE" which aims to develop concrete projects whose results will be presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

Thus, during the preparatory phase, a selection of relevant, innovative, structuring and replicable national, regional and international projects and initiatives producing fast results with sustainable impact around the Forum's priority themes is considered. The idea is to expand the Forum on a dynamic of commitments through certified projects that provide concrete responses with strong socio-economic and political impact at the level of different countries and continents.

Since then, 21 years after the first edition of the Forum held in Marrakech in 1997, "Dakar 2021" aims to bring the Forum's commitments to coincide with the various concerns of the global agenda. This demonstrates a new desire for global solidarity through the mobilization of synergies essential to achieving the sustainable development goals.

As such, the 2030 agenda represents a great opportunity for the Dakar 2021 initiative as it can, through its results, boost and serve as a catalyst for the early attainment of universal access to water and sanitation.

This note therefore aims to shed more light on the Dakar 2021 initiative, its ambitions, its stakes, its scope of coverage, the modalities of certification; types of projects to be labelled, mechanisms for governance, monitoring and support of projects.

## 2. DAKAR 2021 INITIATIVE: goals

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One of the innovative features of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum is the implementation of responses to people's expectations. The "Dakar 2021" initiative is therefore an operation that generates commitments and actions to accelerate progress, in particular towards the achievement of the SDGs. Among other things, the initiative is aimed at building community projects that target access to potable water and decent sanitation.

These certified projects aim at achieving tangible results to be presented at the Forum in 2021.

### What's at stake in the Dakar 2021 initiative

As part of the preparation of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, this initiative aims to expand the Forum on a dynamic of practical commitments on certified projects with concrete responses with positive impacts.

The general principle would be to proceed with a call for projects leading to a certification. The criteria of certification are to meet the Forum's challenges and general criteria (transparency, operability, replicability, efficiency, multi-partner commitments depending on the type of project).

In each case, adaptation to climate change and gender issues are addressed.

## 3. The scope of coverage of projects

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If the African dimension is at the center, the intention is that the process will be largely open at the international level.

Thus, three types of projects could be distinguished according to their degree of maturation: it would be useful to retain three components: flagship projects, maturing projects and projects in incubation.

### The flagship projects

These projects are established projects, already funded, providing concrete answers with concrete achievements identified by 2021. Some are supported by funding partners, including IFIs, who sign an agreement with the Forum organizers. The certification procedure is light. Commitments for certification could be:

- Checking the presence of a project governance mechanism and compliance with transparency standards (presumably files supported by funders meet these criteria, and the agreement may delegate responsibility to the IFI);
- Commitment to present the results to the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum;
- Acceptance of general rules of communication related to certification, including availability in the preparation phase of the Forum so that the initiative can build on these cases to raise awareness of the initiative.

## Maturing projects

These technically ready projects have passed a first phase of experimentation and are in the process of being developed. They then require a change of scale, which usually requires support from funding partners. The size of the project and its ambition would be major selection criteria. The results already achieved are essential.

In these cases, the certification means that the organizers invite project owners to contact the financing partners and accompany them in their efforts, in particular by organizing meetings in a suitable format. The project, once completed, can then join the previous category. The stated objective of the initiative is to show the Forum the number of projects thus accompanied and to have them testify. This activity can be linked to the reflections of the Forum on the means to accelerate the processes of mobilization of actors.

## Incubating projects

These projects are still in the incubation stage but would be identified because they are innovative and promising.

This component is now quite classic and very rewarding. It does not provide as immediate a tangible response as the two precedent ones.

### 4. The criteria for certification

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To be certified, activities must be directly operational and response-oriented, in the general spirit of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. In other words, the project must align itself with the main theme of the Forum and focus on one of the priority themes (water security, cooperation, rural development, means and tools), including meeting certain criteria:

- The project must be relevant: it must be perfectly suited to the forum theme, and fit into the water and sanitation sector;
- The project must be innovative: it must lead to the implementation of a new practice, a new activity, a new concept in relation to the priority themes of the Forum, to create a new offer, a new structure;
- The results of the project must be sustainable and positively structure the territory: the impacts of the projects must benefit the target area in the most sustainable and broad way possible;
- The project must be subject to capitalization, with a view to moving to other scales (national, continental, global);
- Promoting the priority themes defined by the Forum;
- The project must bring more value to the territory and the water sector: the results must be in productivity, efficiency and inclusiveness;

- The initiative must be achievable: the project must be able to find funding and present its first results by 2021.
- The project must have a component that takes into account the mitigation of climate change and/or adapts to its effects;
- Respect for the environment: environmental conditions must be taken into account;
- The project must support the gender aspect;
- The project must provide for the social and/or economic and/or political inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

## 5. The benefits of project labeling

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The "Dakar 2021 initiative" offers an opportunity to promote projects, develop partnerships, finance, network and share best practices.

Project owners will have the opportunity to make their achievements visible at the Forum and thus benefit from a platform for communicating on certified projects. Labeling is also an instrument of facilitation and support in the promotion and funding search.

In addition, the best labeled projects will be presented in the sessions to serve in the framework for the global water community. Others will be presented in the space dedicated to the exhibition of innovative, reproducible and sustainable projects, called "Response Path.

## 6. The Governance Mechanisms of the Initiative

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The World Water Forum is an opportunity, certainly for Africa, but also in a broader way for the entire global community, to develop effective synergies to accelerate the implementation of sustainable solutions to achieve the water-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular SDG6.

Therefore, the Dakar 2021 Initiative (i2021) will have to be seen as an inclusive platform to unite all actions and levers to define concrete and innovative responses to meet the challenge of universal access to water and sanitation services and promote integrated water resource management.

The projects received through the call process will be studied and evaluated by a global selection jury. The selection jury will be composed of individuals designated jointly by Senegal and by the World Water Council.

The jury will be able to associate any other person whose competencies are deemed useful to achieve the desired objective, in particular independent experts that will be recruited to accompany the management and evaluation of the candidatures.

The selection process will be closely coordinated by the International Steering Committee of the 9th World Water Forum and will involve a pool of donors, specialized institutions of the United Nations, international civil society, etc.

## 7. The terms of submission

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Any submission must come from a physical or moral person (with legal status), any public, Para public or private body operating in relation to the priority themes of the forum and must respect the terms of reference established for the call for applications.

The application file must include:

- A filled application form for the purpose of certification;
- A brief presentation of the structure;
- A technical note about the project.

The application file, in French and English, is available to download at [www.worldwaterforum9.sn](http://www.worldwaterforum9.sn)

The filled application file can be sent by email to: [dakar2021@worldwaterforum9.sn](mailto:dakar2021@worldwaterforum9.sn)

The processing of the files is a two-stage procedure:

- An examination of their admissibility and opportunity;
- A scientific assessment.

The selection and certification will be made by the members of the International Steering Committee of the 9th World Water Forum.