



REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Regional Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 10th of March 2024.

**The Regional session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the Regional session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Regional Session Code and Title:

Water and Water Infrastructure for Development: Paving the Path for Water Security and Sustainable Development

Regional Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

(1) Session Coordinator:

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(2) Co-coordinator: A Member State - (to be proposed by AMCOW)

Regional Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

As the world faces growing water-related challenges as a result of varying reasons including the need for adequate water and sanitation services, industrialization and adverse climatic conditions, water infrastructure emerges as an anchor for progress towards addressing these challenges. This infrastructure includes but is not limited to multipurpose dams, integrated water resource management structures, water and sanitation abstraction, treatment and service networks and much more. Adequate and resilient water infrastructure facilitates social-economic development, ensures environmental sustainability improves public health, and drives towards equitable access of the resource for all. However, the path to the realization of successful water infrastructure projects is fraught with challenges, particularly in identifying and preparing them, making them resilient to the impacts of climate change and making them sustainable. Africa faces a substantial infrastructure gap of US\$108 billion per year across sectors, including water. Bridging this gap is crucial for sustainable development and improving lives across Africa. Effective project preparation and unlocking sector financing is vital to realizing the critical water infrastructure across the continent. Additionally, in Sub-Saharan Africa, water scarcity not only owes to limited infrastructure but its management thereof. The planning, designing, and managing of infrastructure must account for climate

change and variability to ensure resilience against climate extremes like floods, for safeguarding the infrastructure for sustained services. This requires appropriate data, capacity, and tools to integrate climate resilience into water infrastructure design. This session convenes water management professionals, planners, policymakers and academics to take stock of experiences, identify critical gaps, and explore options to address those gaps in climate-resilient water infrastructure development as well as explore strengthened approaches to project preparation, coordination, and capacity building. The session will further showcase case studies by spotlighting innovative solutions in the agricultural sector. Irrigation provides a pathway to increase agricultural yields, incomes, production, and wealth creation while promoting environmental sustainability in line with both the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, linking water for irrigation with community health outcomes builds resilience to climate change. The Maghreb region in particular suffers from water scarcity exacerbated by climate change. Development of biosaline agriculture and reuse of drainage water can help cope with drought risks and climate impacts in the region. In this way, irrigation and aligned production system changes provide integrated solutions to interlinked challenges around food security, economic prosperity, and climate resilience for African communities.

The expected outcomes of the session are;

- Foster collaboration among governments, MDBs, private sector, water professionals, planners, policymakers, and academics to unite collective expertise and determine opportunities for synergies towards overcoming challenges and scaling up solutions.
- Craft clear and compelling messages to influence policy decision-making at various levels represented at the forum.

This is a 90 minutes session that shall have a keynote speech, a presentation, panel discussions and case studies and detailed in the session plan.

Detailed Regional Session Plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 minutes	Keynote speech - Securing Tomorrow's Water: A Keynote on Prosperity and Strategic Infrastructure Development	TBD -	TBD
20 minutes	A presentation including Q&A on climate integration and proofing methodology in water infrastructure development	UNESCO	Alexandros Makagariko
30 minutes	Panel session and Q&A - Strengthening Project Preparation Capacities for Increased Water Infrastructure Development	AUDA-NEPAD	TDB (3 speakers)
25 minutes	A case studies - Innovative Sustainable Solutions for Agricultural Infrastructure Development	NARSDA, IWMI ??	TBD
5 minutes	Closing session - Summary of key messages	AUDA-NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence ??	TBD