

REGIONAL PROCESS GUIDELINE

11th WORLD WATER FORUM, RIYADH, 2027

This document outlines the **general guidelines for the Regional Process coordination of the 11th World Water Forum**, identifying its **objectives, regional structure, coordination mechanisms, engagement principles, timeline, and expected outcomes**. It is intended to serve as a guiding framework as future working groups develop and implement their contributions to the Regional Process leading up to Riyadh 2027. A detailed framework concept note for the Regional Process and the Terms of Reference for the working groups will be separately prepared and disseminated.

1. PROCESS OBJECTIVES

The Regional Process translates the Forum's *(Throughout all preparatory activities, in the context of the World Water Forum Mechanism, the term "Forum" refers exclusively to the World Water Forum itself. It must not be used to describe or substitute any meetings, events, or gatherings held within or as part of the Forum's processes, and the Regional Process shall serve as one of the three core processes that constitute the World Water Forum.)* global water vision into each region's local realities, priorities, and knowledge, and vice versa. It will:

- **Facilitate regional dialogues and cooperation** on local and regional water-related challenges and synergetic efforts
- **Identify region-specific priorities** and develop tangible local action plans under the Forum's Regional process.
- **Catalyse peer regional learning through intra- and inter-regional dialogue on shared challenges, innovations, and governance models.**
- **Enable regional water stakeholders** to elevate water on the political and economic agenda and provide actionable input for policy-making and deploying concrete solutions.

2. TENTATIVE REGIONS

The world will be divided into distinct regions, reflecting climatic, demographic, hydrological, geopolitical, and socio-economic contexts. The proposed regional configuration has five regions as follows **(yet to be approved)**:

- **Africa**
- **Americas**
- **Asia and the Pacific**
- **Europe**
- **MENA (Middle East & North Africa)**

Note: The regions and countries included in each region are subject to change and approval of the co-hosts.

3. DELIVERABLES

- **Regional Roadmaps**
Detailed work plans that set out procedures, timelines, and milestone targets for every region and sub-region, ensuring on-schedule progress and input toward Riyadh 2027.

- **Regional Reports**
Synthesising regional assessment, policy recommendations, and solutions.
- **Regional Process Showcase**
A curated platform for presenting local water solutions, flagship projects, local solutions, and studies, facilitating knowledge exchange across regions.
- **Case-study library** (peer-reviewed) hosted on the Forum portal.
- **Voluntary Regional Commitments** (e.g., basin-scale resilience pacts, finance compacts).

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **Multi-stakeholder principle:** make sure all related stakeholders of each region are engaged in regional dialogues (governments (national and local), basin authorities, Indigenous peoples, NGOs/CSOs, private sector, academia, and international organizations)
- **Inclusivity safeguards:** hybrid participation, gender & youth consideration in all panels.

5. COORDINATION ACTORS (under the Forum ISC guidance)

Level	Body	Key Functions
Forum-wide	Regional Process Commission (RPC)	Sets common roadmap; arbitrates cross-region issues; liaises with Political & Thematic Commissions
Region	*Regional Coordinating Group (RCG)	Crafts regional concept note, supervises sub-regions, validates session programme, drafts Regional Report
Session	Session Organisers & Expert Panel	Design content, speakers, and outcome briefs

***Regional Process Coordination Group**

Regional process coordinators representing each region will be chosen through a worldwide open application. Eligible candidates must be institutions capable of representing their region and demonstrating a proven track record, expertise, and networks that align with the Forum's objectives. The Forum's two co-hosts will make the final appointment by mutual agreement.

Accordingly, each institution appointed as a Regional Coordinator shall mandate one Representative—well-versed in international water gatherings such as the World Water Forum, seasoned in multi-stakeholder coordination, and able to convene the region's key networks—who will personally sign and accept the Regional Process Guidelines on behalf of the Institution appointed as a regional coordinator.

**All Regional Process actors will be provided the Terms of Reference in detail through the Regional Process Concept Note.*

6. OPERATING PRINCIPLE

All individuals and institutions involved in the Regional Process, including Regional Coordinators, Sub-Regional Coordinators, Session Organizers, and Expert Panels, are required to **formally accept and adhere to the Regional Process Guidelines**. Participants must actively engage in scheduled virtual and in-person meetings that support planning, coordination, and implementation of the Regional Process.

As a **core operating principle**, any milestone activity, such as regional or international events organized under the Regional Process brand, must be submitted to the International Steering Committee (ISC) Bureau for prior approval at least three months prior to the planned date. This requirement ensures that all actions remain strategically aligned, well-coordinated, and transparent across all levels of the Regional Process.

Governance and Ethical Commitments Applicable to Regional Coordinators

The World Water Forum is a global platform that advances water priorities through collaborative engagement with local actors. All activities and deliverables of the Regional Process— from preparatory consultations to final outputs and follow-up—are subject to the Forum’s overarching governance, jointly stewarded by the two Co-hosts: the World Water Council and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the 11th Forum host country.

All **Regional and Sub-Regional Coordinators** are formally mandated to uphold the following governance and ethical commitments:

a) Adhere and report to Forum Governance

Operate within the procedural framework and decision-making protocols established by the Forum Co-hosts, including any updates issued by the ISC during the road to Riyadh 2027.

b) Implement Forum Guidelines

Align all regional and sub-regional work plans, milestones, and working groups with the official Regional Process guidelines, ensuring full consistency with the Forum’s vision, objectives, and timeline.

c) Uphold Ethical Standards

- **Integrity & Transparency:** Conduct all activities openly, maintain accurate records, disclose funding sources, agreements, and partnerships.
- **Inclusivity & Equity:** Facilitate meaningful participation of diverse stakeholders— governments, civil society, academia, private sector, international organizations, youth, and Indigenous groups—without discrimination.
- **Respect for Local Contexts:** Safeguard cultural heritage and environmental integrity in every regional initiative.

d) Promote Coherence Across Processes

Ensure that regional findings and recommendations feed coherently into the Forum’s Political, Thematic Processes, thereby strengthening the Forum’s collective outcomes.

e) Commit to Result-oriented Collaboration

Engage constructively with other Regional Coordinators to identify cross-regional synergies, share best practices, and avoid duplication, while remaining responsive to emerging global water challenges.

By accepting the role, each Regional Coordinator formally commits to these governance and ethical obligations, recognising that compliance is a prerequisite for continued participation in, and endorsement by, the World Water Council

7. THEMATIC & REGIONAL PRIORITIES

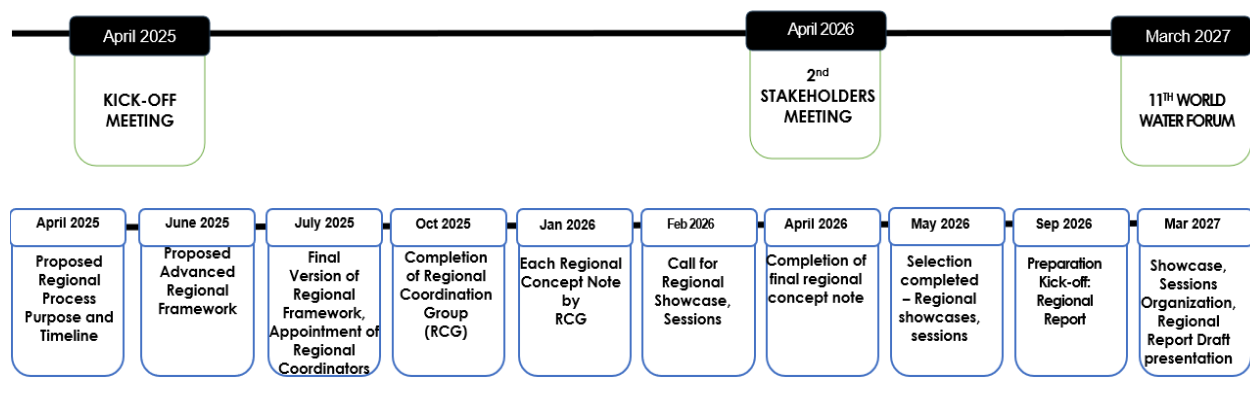
Each region focuses **at least three** of the Forum's six themes – Water Security, Water Finance, Water Diplomacy, Water for Humans & Nature, Value of Water, and Innovation for Water

To maximise coherence:

1. Map regional priorities against the Forum themes in a "selection matrix."
2. Highlight overlaps to foster inter-regional dialogue
3. Feed priority gaps to the Thematic Process so they can be addressed globally.

8. TIMELINE (Tentative)

Phase	Milestone	Indicative Date	Outputs
Kick-off	1st Stakeholder Consultation	April 2025	Purpose and general timeline of the Regional Process shared
Framing	Regional Framework	July 2025	
Mobilisation	Call for Regional Coordinators	July 2025	Coordinator list
Design	Detailed Concept Notes finalised	November 2025	Regional concept notes
Preparation	Identification of showcase, sessions	May 2026	Completion session fiches
Dialogue	Preparatory meetings	continuous	Preparation of sessions
Synthesis	Draft Regional Reports	Sep 2026	Pre-Forum synthesis
Forum Week	Regional Showcase, sessions	Forum Mar 2027	Final Regional Report & commitments
Follow-up	Post-Forum action review	Oct 2027	Implementation tracker



*Timeline is subject to change upon the process decision making and preparation progress.

9. LINKAGES WITH OTHER FORUM PROCESSES (to be developed)

- **Upstream integration:** Regional coordinators sit ex officio on Political/Thematic task teams to inject local evidence into draft ministerial and thematic statements.
- **Downstream feedback:** Political and Thematic conclusions are translated back into **region-branded action commitments** and local finance pipelines.
- **Joint milestones:** At least one **Tri-Process Coordination Retreat** (T–8 months) and a Synthesis Dialogue during Forum week, ensuring cross-fertilisation of messages.