



Dear Water Friends and Partners,

From 14 to 15 April 2025, more than five hundred of you—representatives of governments, parliaments, basin authorities, international organisations, research centres, civil-society movements and youth networks—gathered in Riyadh for the Kick-off, our first Stakeholders' Consultation for the 11th World Water Forum. Your passion transformed what might have been a routine preparatory session into a milestone, proving once again that *water is essential for human wellbeing and nature* and that only a community acting together can raise water to the highest tables of diplomacy.

Allow us first to express, on behalf of the World Water Council and the Saudi Arabian government, our profound gratitude to every participant whose insight enriched each moment of debate. We also salute the many institutions that, although unable to travel, sent ideas and words of support; their voices resonated through the halls in Riyadh and reminded us that our Forum is truly global.

The Kick-off matters because it sets a common compass. Six thematic tracks—Water Security, Water Finance, Water Diplomacy, Water for Humans and Nature, the Value of Water, and Innovation for Water—will now steer every technical and political workstream towards Riyadh 2027.

The discussions, particularly those held in the thematic breakout sessions during the Kick-off Meeting, are now open for additional input from all stakeholders of the water community who were unable to attend, and we warmly invite your active participation in this procedure.

Let us carry it forward with rigorous science, inclusive governance, daring finance, and the creative power of innovation, so that the 11th World Water Forum becomes a genuine **Action for Water** moment and a tribute to our vocation as Water Warriors for Action.

On behalf of the Forum co-organizers, we draw strength from your enthusiasm and pledge to keep serving as a voice, bridge and catalyst for collective action for water.

Thank you for your commitment. We look forward to your continued engagement on our shared journey to Riyadh 2027.

With appreciation and encouragement,

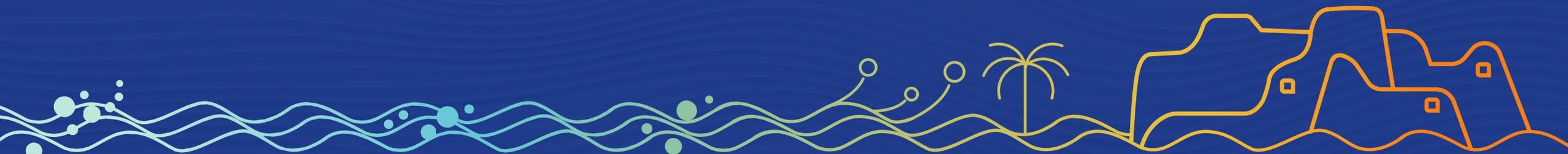
Loïc Fauchon
President, World Water Council

Abdulaziz Alshaibani
Deputy Minister for Water Affairs, Ministry of
Environment, Water and Agriculture
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Kick-off and 1st Stakeholders Consultation Meeting 11th World Water Forum

Summary and Key Results

May 2025



Content

1. Meeting Overview
2. Summary of the Three Forum Processes
3. Insights from Thematic Breakout Sessions
4. Lessons Learned and
5. Way Forward



Over 600 participants from 60 countries and organizations gathered in Riyadh for the 1st Stakeholder Meeting of the 11th World Water Forum

High-level Reflections

April 14th-15th,
2025



+600 participants
60 countries and organizations



1 Political Process Session



1 Regional Process Session



6 Thematic Process
Break-out Sessions

Co-hosts' Representatives



Eng. Abdulrahman AlFadley
Minister of Environment, Water & Agriculture

"Water is a national priority, and global cooperation is key to a sustainable future."



Dr. Abdulaziz AlShaibani
Deputy Minister of Water

"We must join forces at global water events, building on past experience to tackle shared challenges."



Mr. Loïc Fauchon
President, World Water Council

"Water is politics, water is diplomacy, nations must collaborate for change."



Dr. Eric Tardieu
Vice President, World Water Council

"Solutions exist, now is the time to engage, integrate, and act beyond silos to drive sustainable change."

International Guests



Dr. Hani Sewilam
Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation,
Egypt

"Water scarcity is now, we must invest smartly & adopt economically efficient solutions for lasting impact"



Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye
Minister of Water & Sanitation, Senegal

"Global collaboration and political will can unlock transformative solutions in water governance"



Mr. Mohammad Zainal Fatah
Secretary General, Ministry of Public Works,
Indonesia

"Water is a shared challenge. We must lead with diplomacy, standards & incentives to drive progress"



Mr. Wu Wenqing
Chief planner Ministry of Water Resources,
China

"Sustainable planning and innovation are key to securing water in face of growing climate disruption"



For each Forum process, a dedicated session was conducted, setting the foundation for the content development of the next two years

World Water Forum Processes



Political

During a closed discussion, **political representatives** emphasized the importance of advancing the **political process** for global water management and shared key priorities:

- **Strengthening** coordination across all political levels
- **Ensuring** the inclusion of end users in decision-making
- **Bridging** key procedures and results with the key water events in 2026 and 2027
- **Stressing** collaboration, investment, resilience, and the elevation of water as a political and societal priority



Thematic

The thematic **process underpins the Forum's content.**

During two days, all participants actively participated in the **breakout sessions** on the following **six themes**, where they held their initial exchange of ideas and devised the key potential **topics for each theme** of the 11th World Water Forum:

- Water Security, Water Finance, Water Diplomacy, Water for Humans and Nature, Value of Water, Innovation for Water



Detailed next



Regional

During a plenary discussion, all regions called out for deeper **collaboration** and shared their **priorities to**:

- **Specify** regional priorities and local action plans to share and implement solutions under Forum themes
- **Facilitate** regional dialogues & cooperation by identifying water challenges and solutions
- **Catalyze** exchange of ideas, and potential solutions across regions on common water issues
- **Strengthen** regional stakeholders to raise water's political profile in the respective region



Six themes had been proposed for the thematic process, which were discussed in thematic break-out sessions open to all participants

Themes for the Thematic Process

- 
Water Security 1
- 
Water Finance 2
- 
Water Diplomacy 3
- 
Water for Humans & Nature 4
- 
Value of Water 5
- 
Innovation for Water 6

Thematic breakout sessions



Moderation by experts: International and KSA water specialists guided the discussions



Inclusive participation: All attendees were encouraged to actively contribute



Collaborative brainstorming: Participants explored the proposed themes to capture a range of perspectives

Key Outcomes



Relevant Keywords: Identification of the most relevant keywords for each theme



Tentative Topics: Tentative topics proposed under each thematic focus



Breakout session on water security: The participants emphasized the need for integrated solutions that strengthen resilience, improve access, and ensure sustainable governance

Relevant Keywords

WATER
DISASTERS

WATER SUPPLY AND
DEMAND MANAGEMENT

WATER GOVERNANCE

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

ACCESS TO WATER

NON-CONVENTIONAL WATER RESOURCES

COMPETITION OVER WATER **WATER
RESOURCES**

CIRCULAR ECONOMY
TRANSBOUNDARY

**AND FOOD
SECURITY**

**CLIMATE CHANGE
RESILIENCE**

FOOD INSECURITY

Tentative Topics



Improve Water Resilience
(Groundwater, Energy, Circular Economy)



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



Scaling Water Management
(Integrated Water Resource Management)



Protecting Water Quality
(Ecosystem, Protection, Wastewater Treatment)



Improving food security
(Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems Nexus, non-conventional Energy Resources)



Breakout session on water finance: The discussion centered on unlocking diverse funding streams, reducing investment risk, and scaling collaborative approaches

Relevant Keywords

TECHNOLOGY FOOTPRINT
 DECENTRALIZED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
 COOPERATION BLENDED FINANCE
 REGIONAL & LOCAL FUNDING
T R A N S B O U N D A R Y
 INNOVATIVE MECHANISM SMART SUBSIDIES FINANCING
 FOR ACCELERATING CLIMATE FINANCE SUSTAINABLE SERVICES
 SUBSIDIES FOR WATER AND SANITATION
 UNCERTAINTY FOSTERING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT
RISK MANAGEMENT TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS
 SMART WATER MANAGEMENT
 LIFECYCLE COSTING
 LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK

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, Public Funds' Role and Government Smart Subsidies)



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



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)



Breakout session on water diplomacy: The participants highlighted inclusive cooperation, legal frameworks, and science-policy alignment to support shared water governance

Relevant Keywords

CLIMATE
RESILIENCE

JOINT PROGRAMMING

**ADVOCACY AND
PUBLIC AWARENESS**

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED INCLUSION
APPROACH

INCLUSIVITY TRANSBOUNDARY
GOVERNANCE AND SHARED
MANAGEMENT

SCIENCE-TO-POLICY STANDARDIZATION
INTERFACE AND DATA SHARING

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND AGREEMENTS

**CROSS - SECTORAL
COOPERATION AND
PARTNERSHIPS**

MEDIATION

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



Breakout session on water for humans and nature: The discussion focused on the need for inclusive solutions that balance human wellbeing with ecosystem health

Relevant Keywords

CLIMATE
RESILIENCE

ECONOMY OF WASH

I N C L U S I V E
WATER GOVERNANCE

WATER QUALITY RESILIENCE

ONE HEALTH ALLIANCE

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

FIVE FINGERS ALLIANCE

ACCESS

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

TO DATA

APPROACH

CATALYZING
POLITICAL
ACTION

WATER INTELLIGENCE

I N T E G R A T E D W A T E R
M A N A G E M E N T

WASH

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



Breakout session on value of water: The focus was on recognizing its broader societal importance and integrating it into policy, education, and human rights-based approaches

Relevant Keywords

CROSS
SECTORIAL

WATER SUPPLY AND
DEMAND MANAGEMENT

INVESTMENTS/PRICING PRINCIPLES
/SUPPLY CHAIN

KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY BUILDING

HUMAN AND WATER RIGHTS

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE WOMEN **AWARENESS**

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND RESILIENCE

VALUE OF WATER ACROSS SOCIAL, YOUTH
CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND **EDUCATION**
ECOLOGICAL SECTORS

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE OF WATER

WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
COOPERATION**

TRAINING

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



Breakout session on innovation for water: The participants highlighted smart technologies, inclusive design, and scalable financing strategies as key drivers of sustainable water management

Relevant Keywords

AI
REGULATION

ACCESSIBLE
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

KNOWLEDGE
SHARING AND
CAPACITY BUILDING

SMART WATER MANAGEMENT

INNOVATIVE FINANCE

INVESTMENT AND SCALABILITY

DIGITAL REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION

TECHNOLOGIES SMART
AND AI SOCIAL COMMUNITY-BASED
SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICE

**REGULATIONS AND
LEGISLATION**

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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



An open call is being released for gathering inputs on the keywords and the tentative topics under each theme from 25th May to 25th June



Submissions open from 26th May to 25th
June

Thank you!



Help shape the thematic process

- As agreed by the co-hosts, **all participants are invited to share feedback** on the proposed keywords and topics under each of the six themes
- This is especially intended **for those who could not participate** in the Kick-off Thematic Breakout session



How to contribute?

- **Please send your input** to the secretariat email: secretariat@11thworldwaterforum.org
- **Submissions will remain open** for a period of **one month** from the release of this summary document (26th May – 25th June)



The first stakeholder consultation meeting demonstrated operational excellence and cultural richness of Saudi Arabia, while also highlighting opportunities for greater impact



Key Strengths and Distinctive Highlights

Excellence in Event Execution

- Delivered with high professionalism, the event showcased operational excellence and attention to detail
- Smooth logistical flow, from registration to session transitions, reflected strong planning and coordination

Showcasing Saudi Hospitality and Culture

- The event offered an exceptional platform for displaying the warmth of Saudi hospitality
- The gala dinner offered a rich cultural experience, reinforcing national identity and strengthening international connections

International Engagement and Visibility

- The presence of global organizations emphasized the forum's relevance and credibility
- This engagement reflects the Kingdom's growing role in global water discourse



Strategic Opportunities for Strengthening Impact

Broader Sectoral Representation

- Engaging diverse governments, including KSA water sector, and positioning the Forum as a platform for integrating water into national agendas
- Expanding participation across public and private sectors, academia, and NGOs—will enrich dialogue and foster cross-sector collaboration

Strategic Synergy

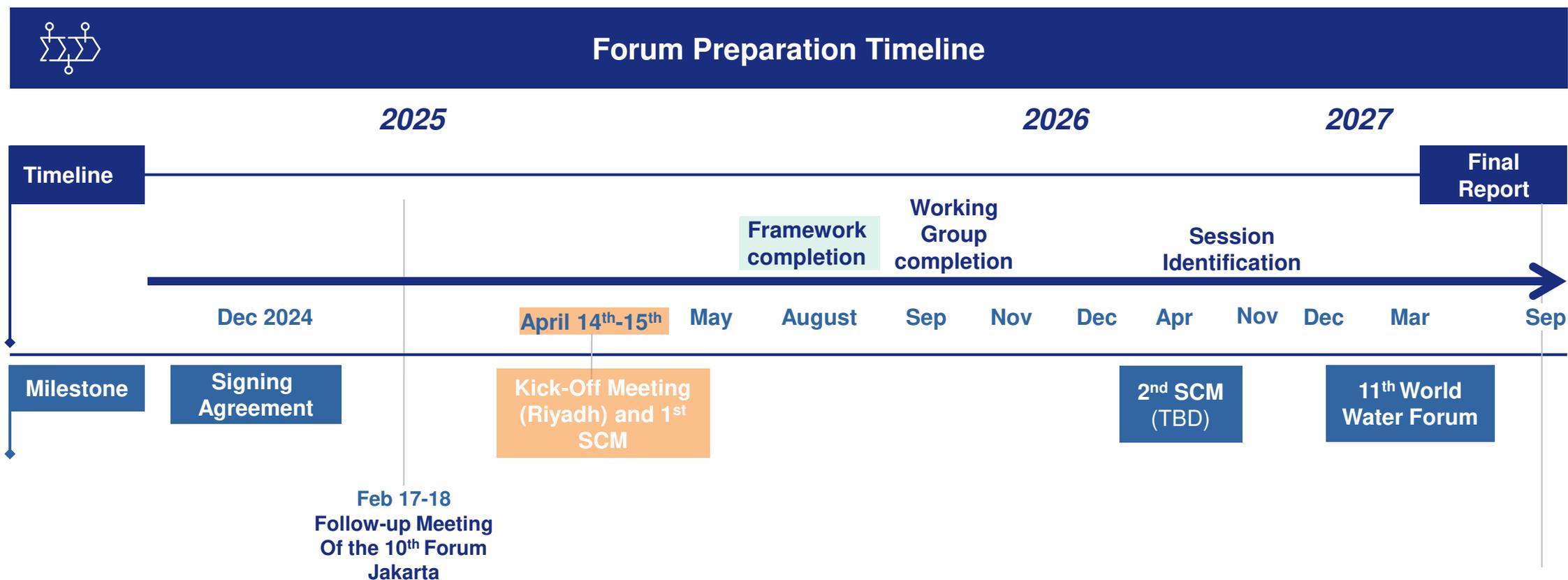
- By aligning with major global water events like the 2026 and 2028 UN Water Conferences, the Forum will broaden perspectives and amplify key messages and outcomes across all tracks

Building cross-process linkages

- By structuring mutually reinforcing preparatory steps across all tracks, we can catalyze focused, synergistic dialogue & establish finely coordinated mechanisms for delivering practical solutions to water challenges



After a successful 1st stakeholder meeting, the journey towards the 11th World Water Forum continues with the framework completion as an immediate next step



Timeline not to scale

Thank you

