

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

WATER IN ALL ITS FORMS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD



Saint-Louis, Senegal

24 – 26
NOVEMBER 2026

CONCEPT NOTE

Second International Conference

“Water in All Its Forms in a Globalized World”

November 24-26, 2026 – Saint-Louis, Senegal

National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal (ANSTS)

Institute for Advanced Studies (IEA) in Saint Louis

French Water Academy

University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières (UTRQ), Canada

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme – UNESCO (IHP/UNESCO)

Directorate of Water Resources Management and Planning (MHA)

Senegalese Physical Society (SPS)

Global Water Partnership – West Africa

1. Context and Rationale

Water is currently one of the key structural challenges of sustainable development, at the intersection of climatic, environmental, economic, social, and geopolitical dynamics. The scarcity of water resources, the degradation of aquatic ecosystems, persistent inequalities in access to drinking water and sanitation, and the intensification of water-related risks linked to climate change necessitate a profound transformation of governance and intervention methods. In this context, the international mobilization around the 2026 United Nations Water Conference represents a strategic opportunity to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). Under the patronage of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Senegal, and within this framework, the **Second International Conference “Water in All Its Forms in a Globalized World”** is being held. It is designed as an independent scientific, strategic, and operational platform, complementary to UN processes.

Specific Positioning: The conference aims to position itself as a **leading African platform for the development of scientific, technical, and policy solutions adapted to the contexts of the Global South**, with the capacity to influence international agendas.

2. Purpose

To contribute to sustainable, inclusive, and resilient water governance by strengthening the interfaces between:

- science,
- public decision-making,
- innovation,
- investments,
- territories.

3. General Objective

To promote integrated and sustainable water resource management by supporting better coordination between scientific output, public policies, and operational actions.

4. Specific Objectives

- Analyze contemporary water challenges in all their dimensions;
- Strengthen the science-policy-action interface;
- Contribute to international debates on accelerating SDG 6;

- Identify and promote innovative and transferable solutions;
- Position Africa as a **hub of expertise and innovation** in water management;
- Strengthen scientific and institutional cooperation.

5. Thematic Areas

The work will be structured around six major themes:

5.1. Water, Societies, Health, and Equity

- Access to water and sanitation
- Vulnerabilities and human rights
- Gender and social inclusion

5.2. Water and Economic Development

- Irrigated Agriculture
- Energy and the Water-Energy Nexus
- Industry and Jobs

5.3. Water, Climate, and the Environment

- Adaptation and Resilience
- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Water Risk Management

5.4. Governance and Cooperation

- Multi-Level Governance
- Transboundary Basins
- Decentralization and Territories

5.5. Water and Technological Innovation

- Hydrological Data and Digitalization
- Artificial Intelligence and Remote Sensing
- Early Warning Systems

5.6. Financing and Investments

- Public and private financing
- Public-private partnerships
- Innovative financing mechanisms

6. Methodological Approach

The conference will adopt a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach:

- High-level plenary sessions
- Thematic scientific panels
- Policy roundtables
- Co-creation workshops for solutions
- Hackathon on water-related innovations.

7. Expected Products and Deliverables

The conference will produce concrete results:

- Saint-Louis Declaration on Water
- Thematic policy briefs
- African roadmap for SDG 6
- Platform for innovative solutions

8. Expected Results

- Strengthening of the science-policy decision dialogue;
- Production of operational recommendations;
- Substantial contribution to international debates;
- Increased visibility of African solutions;
- Development of sustainable partnerships;
- Positioning Senegal as a regional hub for strategic thinking on water.

9. Conference Governance

Governance will be based on:

- An International Scientific Committee
- An Organizing Committee
- A Committee of Technical and Financial Partners

10. Dissemination and Impact Strategy

- Dissemination to national and international decision-makers
- Contribution to United Nations processes
- Scientific publications

- International media coverage
- Capitalization and post-conference follow-up.

11. Institutional Partnerships

The conference is supported by a strategic partnership involving government agencies, universities, learned societies, international institutions, and water, sanitation, and development companies:

- Integrated Water Resources Management Program (IWRM) and the Directorates of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MHA)
- National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal
- Institute for Advanced Studies in Saint-Louis
- University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières (UTRQ), Canada
- Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis, Senegal
- Cheikh Hamidou Kane Digital University
- UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP/UNESCO)
- Global Water Partnership, West Africa
- French Water Academy
- Senegalese Physical Society
- National companies (SONES, SEN'EAU, ONAS, OLAC, SAED, etc.)

This partnership guarantees the scientific excellence, local focus, and international scope of the conference.

12. Conclusion

The Second International Conference “Water in All Its Forms in a Globalized World” aims to be a **structuring initiative**, going beyond traditional approaches to propose concrete solutions, rooted in local realities and capable of having a lasting impact on public policy. It aspires to make Senegal and Africa a **major player in global water governance** through active scientific diplomacy, the production of strategic knowledge, and the inclusive mobilization of stakeholders.

13. Conference Format

The international conference will be held from November 24 to 26, 2026, at the Research and Documentation Center of Senegal (CRDS) in Saint-Louis, Senegal, in two formats:

presentations and dedicated sessions, and a summer institute for doctoral students and young researchers. The sessions will be organized in a hybrid format, allowing for the participation of those unable to travel to Saint-Louis, Senegal. Presentations will be given in thematic sessions. In addition to these thematic sessions, there will be dedicated sessions. An opening address will mark the start of the conference.

Additional sessions may be proposed to the scientific committee, which will decide on their suitability. Related activities will be proposed to the scientific committee (excursions, site visits, exhibitions, artistic and cultural activities, documentary screenings, etc.).

14. Protocol for Submitting

Abstracts Specialists are invited to submit their proposals for presentations or contributions, along with attached abstracts, as Word or PDF files, in the working languages of the conference, French or English. A brief CV must also be attached to each document.

All submissions must be sent by email to:

conferences@iea-saintlouis.sn, cheikhbecayegaye@gmail.com, dabarofall@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2026, with the subject line: Conference on Water in All Its Forms in a Globalized World 2026 The email subject line must contain the following words: “Water Conference 2026”

English and French are the working languages that will be used during the conference.

Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses. The Organizing Committee may provide support to some participants. A selection of the papers adopted at the conference will be published as Conference Proceedings and made available online by thematic session.

15. Scientific Committee

Chair : **Professeur Cheikh Becaye Gaye**

Members: **Dr Bakary Faty** (DGPRE), **Amadou Thierno Gaye** (ANSTS), **Abdoulaye Sène** (Global Water Partnership), **Codou Mar Guèye Diop** (ANSTS), **Ibrahima Ly** (ANSTS), **Pape Salif Sow** (ANSTS), **Oumar Sock** (ANSTS), **Dogo Seck** (ANSTS), **Madiagne Diallo** (ANSTS Foundation), **Jean-Louis Oliver** (Water Academy), **Rokhaya Daba Fall** (Water Academy / IEA Saint-Louis), **Monica Cardillo** (Water Academy), **Pape Jean Fall** (University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières)

(UTRQ), **Abou Amani & Maha Sall** (UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP/UNESCO)), **Mohamed Diatta** (Ministry of Water and Sanitation), **Cheikh Siaka Ansou Sadio** (SONES), **Ibra Fall Wadji** (SEN'EAU), **Oumy Tall** (Consultant), **Fallou Dieng** (SAED), **Isaie Dougnon** (Fordham University, New York), **Adrien Coly** (Water Department, Gaston Berger University, Saint-Louis), **Sidy Mohamed D. Seck** (Gaston Berger University, Saint-Louis, Senegal), **Salimata Niebe Conombo** (Properen, Burkina Faso and IEA Saint-Louis), **Sambo Armel** (University of Maroua, Cameroon), **Mactar Fall** (International Consultant), **Aladji Dieng** (International Consultant), **Yaya Dia** (International Consultant), **Samba Ka** (International Consultant), **Amadou Mamadou Camara** (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal), **Babacar Fall** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Pape Touty Sow** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Maty Sy Ndiaye** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Ababacar Gaye Fall** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Abou Mbow** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Alioune Sall** (Institute for African Futures), **Djibril Diallo** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Abdoulaye Sène** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Ibrahima Bob** (IEA Saint-Louis)

16. Partnership and Organizing Committee

Chair : **Babacar Fall** (IEA Saint-Louis, Sénégal)

Members: **Cheikh Becaye Gaye** (ANSTS), **Madiagne Diallo** (ANSTS Foundation), **Rokhaya Daba Fall** (Water Academy), **Maty Sy Ndiaye** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Ababacar Gaye Fall** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Abou Mbow** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Mohamed Moustapha Fall** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Aminata Sall Gassama** (IEA Saint-Louis), **Djibril Diallo** (IEA Saint-Louis).