

High-level Preparatory Meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference

Dakar, Senegal | 26-27 January 2026

FINAL PROGRAMME AGENDA

DAY 1 – 26 JANUARY 2026

High-level opening segment | Auditorium | 09.00-12.30

Details forthcoming...

DAY 1 – 26 JANUARY 2026

Round Table (a) – Water for People | Auditorium | 14.00-15.30

Time	Description
14.00 – 14.10	<p>Welcome remarks by the Co-Chairs of interactive dialogue (a) – Water for People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Kenneth Gilbert Adjei, Minister of Works, Housing and Water Resources, Ghana – H.E. Mr. Christian Frutiger, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Head of the Thematic Cooperation Division, Switzerland
14.10 – 14.20	<p>Scene-setting presentation by representatives of the Informal Preparatory Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Cecilia Scharp, Director, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH), UNICEF – Mr. Bruce Gordon, Unit Head of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and Health, WHO and Vice Chair of UN-Water
14.20 – 14.45	<p>Moderated panel discussion: <i>Moderator: Mr. Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy</i>, Executive Director, International Water Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Eng. Eric Muriithi Mugaa, Minister for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Kenya – Ms. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, Gambia and representative of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) – Mr. Gary White, Executive Director, Water.org – Mr. Thilo Panzerbieter, Executive Director, German WASH Network – Ms. Mina Guli, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Thirst Foundation
14.45 – 15.20	<p>Plenary discussion -Facilitated by co-chairs</p>
15.20 – 15.30	<p>Wrap-up: summary and next steps by the Co-Chairs <i>Summary of main discussion points by rapporteur</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Sunny Singh, WaterAid; Ms. Fiona Gore, WHO; Ms. Martina Rama, UNICEF <p>Next steps for the “Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Kenneth Gilbert Adjei, Minister of Works, Housing and Water Resources, Ghana – H.E. Mr. Christian Frutiger, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Head of the Thematic Cooperation Division, Switzerland

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Round Table (b) – Water for Prosperity | Salle Ovale (Oval Room) | 14.00-15.30

Time	Description
14.00 – 14.10	<p>Welcome remarks by the Co-Chairs of interactive dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Hugo Morán Fernández, Secretary of State for the Environment, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain – Ms. Xu Jing, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology of Ministry Water Resources, China
14.10 – 14.20	<p>Scene-setting presentation by the representatives of the Informal Preparatory Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Ciyong Zou, Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, UNIDO – Mr. Njoya Tikum, Director of the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa
14.20 – 14.45	<p>Moderated panel discussion: <i>Moderator: Ms. Rachael McDonnell</i>, Deputy Director General, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka, Minister of Equipment and Water, Morocco – Mr. Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General for Environment, European Commission – Ms. Ayesha Al Ateeqi, Executive Director, Mohamed Bin Zayed Water Initiative – Dr. Marco Arcieri, President, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage – Ms. Shannon McCarthy, Secretary General, International Desalination and Reuse Association
14.45 – 15.20	<p>Plenary discussion - Facilitated by co-chairs</p>
15.20 – 15.30	<p>Wrap-up: summary and next steps by the Co-Chairs Summary of main discussion points by rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Lifeng Li, Director, Land & Water Division, FAO <p>Next steps for the “Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Hugo Morán Fernández, Secretary of State for the Environment, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain – Ms. Xu Jing, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology of Ministry Water Resources, China

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Round Table (c) – Water for Planet | Salle Ovale | 16.00-17.30

Time	Description
16.00 – 16.10	<p>Welcome remarks by the Co-Chairs of interactive dialogue (c) – Water for Planet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt – Mr. Kojima Masaru, Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
16.10 – 16.20	<p>Scene-setting presentation by representatives of the Informal Preparatory Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Jodie Miller, Section Head, Isotope Hydrology Section, IAEA – Ms. Heidi Savelli-Soderberg, Head of the Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP – Ms. Hwirin Kim, Chief, Division of Hydrology and Cryosphere, Department of Earth System Data and Prediction; World Meteorological Organization
16.20 – 16.45	<p>Moderated panel discussion</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Musonda Mumba</i>, Executive Secretary, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Ms. Zulfiya Suleimenova, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan – Member State representative – Dr. Fred Boltz, Head of Programming Division, Global Environment Facility (GEF) – Ms. Ingrid Timboe, Representative of the Water for Climate Pavillion, Deputy Executive Director, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) – Ms. Paula Martinelli, Wetlands International, Freshwater Challenge
16.45 – 17.20	<p>Plenary discussion - Facilitated by co-chairs</p>
17.20 – 17.30	<p>Wrap-up: summary and next steps by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Summary of main discussion points by rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Jodie Miller, Section Head, Isotope Hydrology Section, IAEA <p>Next steps for the “Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Prof. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt – Mr. Kojima Masaru, Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

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Round Table (d) – Water for Cooperation | Auditorium | 16.00-17.30

Time	Description
16.00 – 16.10	Welcome remarks by the Co-Chairs of interactive dialogue (d) – Water for Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none">– H.E. Eng. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Zambia– Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water, Finland
16.10 – 16.20	Scene-setting presentation by representatives of the Informal Preparatory Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE– Mr. Abou Amani, Director, Division of Water Sciences; Secretary, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), UNESCO
16.20 – 16.45	Moderated panel discussion <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Helena Thybell</i>, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– H.E. Ms. Maša Kociper, State Secretary at the Prime Minister Office, Prime Minister Office, Slovenia– H.E. Eng. Hussein Abdulameer Baga, Deputy Minister of Water Resources, Iraq– H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdel Vetah, High Commissioner, Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)– Ms. Barbara Pompili, Chair of the Water Governance Initiative, OECD– Dr. Yolanda Lopez Maldonado, Founder and CEO, Indigenous Science– Mr. Jason Morrison, President and CEO, CEO Water Mandate, UN Global Compact
16.45 – 17.20	Plenary discussion - Facilitated by co-chairs
17.20 – 17.30	Wrap-up: summary and next steps by the Co-Chairs <p>Summary of main discussion points by the IPWG rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ms. Hadi Touré, IWA YWP Chapter, Co-founder, president AFR'EAU, Global Youth Movement for Water– Mr. Aminu Magaji Bala, Head of Division for the Natural Resources Management, Lake Chad basin commission LCBC <p>Next steps for the “Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– H.E. Eng. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Water Development and Sanitation, Zambia– Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water, Finland

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Interactive Session 1 | Auditorium | 17.30-18.30

Time:	Description
17.30 – 17.35	Welcome remarks by the Master of Ceremony – Mr. Bruce Gordon , Vice Chair of UN-Water, Unit Head of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and Health, WHO
17.35 – 17.40	Keynote Address – Ms. Aminata Maiga , United Nations Resident Coordinator in Senegal
	Interactive plenary discussion using SLIDO
17.40 – 17.48	Strengthening multistakeholder engagement – Mr. Mutwya Sitali , Acting CEO, Sanitation and Water for All partnership (SWA)
17.48 – 17.56	Strengthening cross-sectoral engagement – Ms. Aluki Kotierk , Chair, UN High-level Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues
17.56 – 18.02	Strengthening intergenerational engagement – Ms. Emira Seidenalieva , Central Asia Youth for Water (CAY4W)
18.02 – 18.12	Strengthening private sector engagement – Mr. Neil Dhot , Director, AquaFed
18.12 – 18.20	Strengthening regional and country-level preparations – Mr. Ziad Khayat , Senior Sustainable Development Officer (Water), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)
18.20 – 18.30	Wrap-up: summary – Summary of main discussion points by youth reporters

DAY 2 – 27 JANUARY 2026

Round Table (e) – Water in multilateral processes | Auditorium | 09.00-10.30

Time:	Description
09.00 – 09.10	<p>Welcome remarks by the Co-Chairs of interactive dialogue (e) – Water in multilateral processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Carsten Träger, Vice Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany – Mexico High-level Representative
09.00 – 09.20	<p>Scene-setting presentation by representatives of the Informal Preparatory Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Retno L. P. Marsudi, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water – Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) – Ms. Martina Müller, Programme Officer, NY Liaison Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
09.20 – 09.45	<p>Moderated panel discussion</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Kenzo Hiroki</i>, High level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E Mr. Moses Vilakati, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) – Ms. Meike van Ginneken, Water Envoy for the Kingdom of the Netherlands – 11th World Water Forum 2027 Representative – Mr. Hotam Qurbonbzoda, Deputy Permanent Representative, Tajikistan Mission to the United Nations, co-host of UN 2028 Water Conference – Mr. Tito Livio Pereira Queiroz e Silva, Deputy Executive Secretary, Ministry of Integration and Regional Development of Brazil – Ms. Sofie Sandstrom, Permanent Observer of IUCN to the United Nations, New York
09.45 – 10.20	<p>Plenary discussion -Facilitated by co-chairs</p>
10.20 – 10.30	<p>Wrap-up: summary and next steps by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Summary of main discussion points by rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, Chief, Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, DSDG, UN DESA <p>Next steps for the “Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Carsten Träger, Vice Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany – Mexico High-level Representative

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Round Table (f) – Investments for water | Auditorium | 11.00-12.30

Time:	Description
11.00 – 11.10	<p>Welcome remarks by the Co-Chairs of interactive dialogue (f) – Investments for water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Ms. Pemmy Majodina, Minister Department of Water and Sanitation, South Africa – H.E. Ms. Eleonore Caroit, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, responsible for Francophonie, International Partnerships, and French Citizens Abroad, France
11.10 – 11.20	<p>Scene-setting presentation by representatives of the Informal Preparatory Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Alvaro Lario, President of International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) and UN-Water Chair – Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Executive Director, UNITAR – Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank Group
11.20 – 11.45	<p>Moderated panel discussion</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Cecila Akintomide</i>, Chair of the Board, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Paul Deverill, Senior WASH Adviser, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom – Mr. Alex Simalabwi, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership Organisation – Mr. Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Director for Water Development and Sanitation, African Development Bank – Ms. Josien Slujis, Managing Director, Aqua for All – Mr. Edouard Perard, Head of Water Division, European Investment Bank
11.45 – 12.20	<p>Plenary discussion - Facilitated by co-chairs</p>
12.20 – 12.30	<p>Wrap-up: summary and next steps by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Summary of main discussion points by rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr. Ebru Canan Sokullu, Director, Global Water Academy, UNITAR <p>Next steps for the “Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Ms. Pemmy Majodina, Minister Department of Water and Sanitation, South Africa – H.E. Ms. Eleonore Caroit, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, responsible for Francophonie, International Partnerships, and French Citizens Abroad, France

DAY 2 – 27 JANUARY 2026

Interactive Session 2 – Shaping our Collective Ambition | Auditorium | 14.00-16.00

Time:	Description
14.00 – 14.10	<p>Welcome remarks by the Co-hosts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – H.E. Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Senegal – H.E. Mr. Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, United Arab Emirates <p><i>Master of Ceremony: Mr. Henk Ovink</i>, Global Commission on the Economics of Water and Chair of the Board of International Water Management Institute</p>
14.10 – 14.40	<p>Panel 1. Ambition for the Interactive Dialogues</p> <p>Representatives of the co-chairs of the Interactive Dialogues</p> <p>Segment 1:</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Shaima Gargash</i>, Director of Energy and Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (a) Water for People: Ghana and Switzerland – (b) Water for Prosperity: China and Spain – (c) Water for Planet: Egypt and Japan <p>Segment 2:</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Mohamed C.B.C. Diatta</i>, Senegal Sherpa for 2026 UN Water Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (d) Water for Cooperation: Finland and Zambia – (e) Water in Multilateral processes: Germany and Mexico – (f) Investments for Water: France and South Africa
14.40 – 15.10	<p>Panel 2. Ambition for strengthening engagement</p> <p><i>Moderator: Stephanie Rambler</i>, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Multistakeholder: Mr. Mutwya Sitali, Acting CEO, Sanitation and Water for All partnership (SWA) – Cross-sectoral: Ms. Aluki Kotierk, Chair, UN High-level Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues – Intergenerational: Ms. Emira Seidenalieva - Central Asia Youth for Water (CAY4W) – Private Sector: Mr. Neil Dhot, Director, AquaFed – Regional and country-level preparations: Mr. Ziad Khayat, Senior Sustainable Development Officer (Water), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) <p>Senegal and United Arab Emirates Country Perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Amadou Diallo, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senegal – Ms. Shaima Gargash, Director of Energy and Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates
15.10 – 15.45	<p>Panel 3. Towards shaping a collective ambition</p> <p>Setting the trajectory of the Roadmap from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates (More details forthcoming)</p>

15.45 – 16.00	Musical Interlude
On the road from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates	
16.00 – 16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) – Mr. Alvaro Lario, President of International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) and UN-Water Chair – Ms. Retno L. P. Marsudi, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water – H.E. Mr. Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, United Arab Emirates – H.E. Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Senegal
16:30 – 18:00	Celebratory Reception