United Nations

United Nations Water Conference
United Arab Emirates, 2026

HIGH-LEVEL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE 2026 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON WATER

DIAMNIADIO, DAKAR, SENEGAL | 26-27 JANUARY 2026

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

I. GENERAL

Name: High-Level Preparatory Meeting of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference
Date: 26-27 January 2026
Location: Diamniadio / Dakar, Republic of Senegal

Meeting venue: Abdou DIOUF International Conference Centre (CICAD) in Diamniadio/Dakar, located approximately 17 km from Blaise Diagne International Airport, 15 to 20 minutes by car, and 35 km from downtown Dakar, 35 to 40 minutes by car, depending on traffic.

With an imposing architectural complex covering 20,000 m², including more than 12,000 m² of built area on 58 hectares, the Diamniadio International Conference Centre has a 1,500-seat amphitheatre and numerous meeting rooms. This modern conference centre regularly hosts major international events. This was the case with the 9th World Water Forum, which was a resounding success in March 2022 with more than 8,000 participants.



Figure 1: Location of the Diamniadio Urban Pole.

Priorities: The Dakar Meeting will initiate discussions and facilitate alignment among stakeholders around the six themes of interactive dialogues (79/L.101, adopted on 9 July 2025):
1. Water for people;
2. Water for prosperity;
3. Water for the planet;
4. Water for cooperation;
5. Water in multilateral processes;
6. Investments in water.

Components of the Meeting: Key messages, recommendations and other reflections from the six roundtable discussions, incorporating different approaches to strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement, will be presented by the respective co-chairs during:
- Interactive Session 1: Strengthening multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral and intergenerational engagement;
- Interactive Session 2: Creating a shared ambition for the 2026 UN Water Conference;
- The High-Level Session "On the Road from Senegal to the United Arab Emirates".

II. PRESENTATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN DAKAR

"A unique platform to ensure the success of the United Nations Water Conference"

The 2026 United Nations Water Conference, mandated by Resolution 77/334 adopted in September 2023 by the UN General Assembly, will be the first UN conference to focus primarily on SDG 6. Senegal will co-host this major event with the United Arab Emirates to help "Build a Blue Future for All" by driving stronger and more ambitious global action on water. The Conference will significantly accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and prepare the global water agenda beyond 2030 to ensure sustainable, equitable and resilient management of this vital resource.

To support the effective preparation of this Conference, the UN General Assembly welcomed Senegal's offer to host a high-level preparatory meeting in Dakar. The meeting will take place on 26 and 27 January 2026 and will be organised by the Government of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with the United Nations and with the support of various partners.

Organised nearly a year before the Conference, this major meeting is an important step in the implementation of the roadmap leading to the United Arab Emirates. It aims to:
- Contribute to the effectiveness of the Conference preparations,
- Consolidate preliminary commitments,
- Review progress and delays in achieving SDG 6,
- Explore ideas for accelerating the achievement of water-related goals and targets.

In particular, the meeting will initiate discussions and facilitate the alignment of stakeholders around the six themes of the Conference's interactive dialogues.
Furthermore, the Dakar High-Level Meeting is designed to be inclusive, collaborative and multi-stakeholder. To this end, it will be preceded by a one-day event on 25 January 2026, co-organised by UN DESA and the co-organisers, in order to strengthen multi-stakeholder participation. This preliminary meeting will provide a dedicated platform for different stakeholders, including civil society, local authorities, young people and indigenous peoples, to coordinate, consolidate and harmonise their contributions ahead of the Meeting. It also aims to foster the emergence of common positions, encourage interactive dialogue and ensure that the recommendations and priorities of all stakeholders are fully taken into account.

For more details on the Dakar Meeting, download the concept note:

https://backend.unwaterconf.sn/sites/default/files/2025-12/Note-Conceptuelle.pdf

Join more than 2,000 participants from over 190 countries for the Preparatory Meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference by REGISTERING: https://unwaterconf.sn/en/register

III. STAY IN SENEGAL

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation, organiser of this important event, in partnership with the United Nations and the United Arab Emirates, welcomes you to Senegal and assures you of the legendary hospitality of **"La Téranga sénégalaise"**, the warm welcome that is a way of life, a state of mind.
The following practical information will help facilitate the stay in Dakar of participants in the High-Level Meeting.

3.1 Conditions of entry into Senegal

3.1.1 Obtaining a visa

To be admitted to Senegalese territory, all foreign nationals must present: a passport valid for at least six months; a free entry visa, unless exempt; a return or circular ticket or transport ticket for a destination outside Senegal; international vaccination certificates required by health regulations. To

obtain a visa, participants must visit a Senegalese diplomatic or consular mission, where they will be issued with a visa. If participants require prior authorisation from the Senegalese authorities, the diplomatic or consular authorities will notify them of the conditions to be met for their visa application to be examined promptly.
If you are a national of one of the countries listed below, you do not need a visa for stays of less than 3 months. However, you must have a passport or a laissez-passer issued by that country (these documents must be valid for at least 6 months).

A - Nationalities exempt from visa requirements: Member countries of the Economic Community of West African States plus Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Djibouti and Rwanda.

B - Countries that have signed visa exemption agreements for official passports (diplomatic or service passports): South Africa – Angola – Algeria – Belgium – Brazil – Cuba – United Arab Emirates – Egypt – Spain – France - Mauritius – Iran – Italy – India – Kenya – Malaysia – Marco – Uganda - Netherlands – Portugal - People's Republic of China - Republic of Congo - Central African Republic – Gabon – Romania – Singapore - Tunisia - Turkey – Pakistan – Russia – Rwanda – Indonesia -Serbia.

European countries whose citizens are authorised to enter the territory with an ordinary passport: Germany – Austria – Belgium – Bulgaria – Cyprus – Croatia – Denmark – Spain – Estonia -Finland – France – Greece – Hungary – Ireland – Italy – Latvia – Lithuania – Luxembourg – Malta - Netherlands – Poland – Portugal - Czech Republic – Romania – United Kingdom -Slovakia – Slovenia-Sweden - Switzerland

Countries whose nationals must, before entering Senegal, be in possession of a free entry visa, the issuance of which is not subject to prior authorisation (visa issued by Senegalese embassies and consulates):
South Africa – Algeria – Andorra – Angola – Argentina – Armenia – Saudi Arabia – Australia – Bahamas – Bahrain – Barbados – Botswana – Brunei – Burundi – Cameroon – China – Comoros - Costa Rica – Egypt – El Salvador – Ethiopia – Fiji – Grenada – Guatemala – Equatorial Guinea - Haiti – Honduras – Marshall Islands – Solomon Islands – Iceland – Israel – Jamaica – Kenya – Kiribati – Kuwait – Lesotho – Liechtenstein – Madagascar – Malawi – Micronesia – Monaco – Namibia – Nepal – Norway – New Zealand – Oman – Uganda – Palau - Papua New Guinea - Philippines -Democratic Republic of Congo - Dominican Republic - Gabonese Republic - Democratic Republic of Congo - Russia - Saint Lucia - Saint Kitts and Nevis - Saint Marino - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Samoa - Seychelles - Suriname - Swaziland - Tanzania - Chad - Thailand - Trinidad and Tobago - Turkey - Tuvalu - Ukraine - Vanuatu - Holy See - Zambia - Zimbabwe.

Nationals of countries not listed above must obtain prior authorisation from the relevant Senegalese authorities before embarking in order to obtain a visa on arrival.
How to apply for a visa?

Go to the consulate with the following documents: Your passport (valid for at least six months) plus a copy of the first page (the one with your photo)
Nationals of countries that do not have a Senegalese diplomatic representation (embassy or consulate) and are listed in category B can obtain their visa on arrival at Blaise Diagne International Airport (AIBD) in Diass.
For any enquiries, please contact the Ministry of Water and Sanitation at the following addresses:**lamijuk@hotmail.fr** ; **gueyemica@yahoo.fr**

3.1.2 Airlines serving Dakar

Several daily flights connect Dakar with other capitals in the sub-region, and intercontinental flights allow passenger traffic between Europe, the Middle East and other continents, either direct or with connections.
Air Senegal International, Kenya Airways, ASKY, Mauritania Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, IBERIA, Turkish Airlines, Air Burkina, Delta Airlines, United Airlines, Air Côte d'Ivoire, ASKY, Air Algérie, Air France, Brussels Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, TAP Portugal, Vueling, Tunisair, Emirates, etc.

3.1.3 Blaise Diagne International Airport

- **IATA code: DSS**
- **ICAO code: GOBD**

Blaise Diagne International Airport, or Dakar Airport, located in the capital city of Senegal, is situated in Diass, 47 kilometres south-east of Dakar, near the Petite-Côte. Inaugurated on 7 December 2017, it replaces the former Léopold-Sédar-Senghor International Airport.
Accessibility: parking for private vehicles, buses, taxis, VIP access, pedestrian access, access reserved for services.

3.1.4 Health formalities

- Compulsory vaccination: yellow fever
- Recommended vaccinations: Typhoid, polio, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningitis, rabies, influenza and anti-malarial treatment.

No other vaccinations are required to enter Senegal.

Customs clearance, entry and exit formalities for goods

Upon arrival at the airport from a foreign country, travellers are required to:
- declare in detail the goods they are carrying;
- pay the duties and taxes due on the goods being transported;
- comply with foreign exchange control formalities.

3.1.5 Payment control

Upon entering Senegal, non-residents are required to declare in writing any foreign currency they are carrying, when the amount exceeds the equivalent of one million (1,000,000) CFA francs.

Residents travelling abroad may carry foreign currency up to the equivalent of **two million (2,000,000) CFA francs**. However, they are required to declare this in writing when leaving Senegalese customs territory.
Above this amount, only other means of payment may be physically transported: these include traveller's cheques, certified cheques, credit cards, etc. In this case, these other means of payment must also be declared in writing, regardless of their equivalent value.

For more details, see: https://www.douanes.sn/fr/node/724

NB: Euro: 655.957 CFA francs

3.1.6 Facilities and transport options at the airport

- **At the airport:** https://www.dakaraeroport.com

- **Health:**

-At Blaise Diagne Airport: the airport receives thousands of passengers every day and is home to numerous businesses (restaurants, banks, etc.) and public services (police, customs, gendarmerie, etc.). Such a concentration of people inevitably leads to incidents and medical emergencies that often require rapid response (emergency treatment, transfers, assessment of fitness to travel, etc.).
-1 Medical centre, comprising 1 emergency management unit (in the terminal) and 2 medical ambulances, is on site

• **Taxis:**
The fare for a taxi from AIBD to Dakar generally varies between **20,000 CFA francs (daytime**) and **30,000 CFA francs (night-time)** for a standard taxi, with more expensive private taxi options (Aerocab, VTC) costing around **28,000-35,000 CFA francs or more**. Some private hire services advertise a fare of 35,000 CFA francs (one way).

Tips: Always negotiate the price before getting into a standard taxi. Night-time fares (after 8/9 p.m.) are higher.

NB: Use of the motorway is optional and the toll is payable by the customer.

• **Shuttles/Buses (Dakar Dem Dikk, Aerobus):**
Shuttles (Dakar Dem Dikk, Aerobus) are the most economical option for reaching key locations such as HLM Grand Yoff Dakar, costing 6,000 CFA francs, with departures every 1.5 hours, 24 hours a day.

3.2 Facilities available to participants at the meeting

3.2.1 Transport arrangements by the Organiser

Shuttle buses will be organised to provide transport between the airport and hotels, between hotels and Regional Express Train (TER) stations, and between the TER stations and the Réunion reception site in Diamniadio. Participants are invited to provide the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation with their flight details and hotel name in order to benefit from this service. A link to this service will be provided on the Réunion website.

3.2.2 Accommodation arrangements

A link facilitating hotel reservations is posted on the Réunion website: https://unwater-conf.sn/fr/hotels.
The main accommodation sites selected in Dakar and Mbour are located 30 and 46 km respectively, or between 20 and 30 minutes by car from the Réunion activities venue in Diamniadio.

3.2.3 Catering facilities

A system will be put in place to provide meals for all participants using meal vouchers. Those eligible are participants who are officially registered for the meeting, staff and guests.

3.2.4 Social programme

For this part of the programme, special shuttle buses will be organised to take participants on visits to cultural and tourist sites. A registration form is available on the Meeting website: https://unwaterconf.sn/fr/tours

3.2.5 Health, hygiene and cleanliness

The meeting will be organised in complete safety. In this context, the highest priority will be given to the public health of participants and visitors, public hygiene and the cleanliness of the venues hosting the activities.

To this end, the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation will put in place the following measures:
- hygiene control, with a mobile unit, to combat sources of contamination and reduce transmission routes;
- cleaning and maintenance of the sites hosting the activities in Réunion and the immediate vicinity;
- public health, through a medical centre connected to hospitals in the Dakar and Thiès regions, comprising a fully equipped facility and ambulances, with medicines, emergency doctors and an

emergency number for the SAMU (emergency medical service), to provide medical cover for participants and guests at the host site.

3.2.6 Security

For the public safety of the site hosting the activities and the immediate vicinity, as well as people and property, an Operational Command Post (PCO) will be set up on site to coordinate the security forces (police, gendarmerie, fire brigade and private security agencies).

IV. DISCOVER SENEGAL

Senegal is often referred to as the country of Teranga (hospitality in the Wolof language), which is based on the great attention paid to foreigners and the warm welcome they receive to ensure that their stay in the country is unforgettable. The population, which is deeply attached to this value, pays particular attention to the well-being of its guests. As a result, Senegal is a place of exchange where major international events are regularly organised. Senegal offers high-quality hospitality infrastructure to host large gatherings of participants from different continents.

Excursions and visits to sites in Dakar

Senegal is Africa in a nutshell. Dakar is its beating heart, offering visitors the chance to discover the many facets of African culture. An unforgettable experience with unique sites that participants at the Meeting will be able to visit.

1. Gorée, a World Heritage Site

Twenty minutes from downtown Dakar, in the middle of the ocean, Gorée Island offers a phenomenal contrast and an experience not to be missed. It takes only fifteen minutes by boat to reach Gorée from the mainland. Covering an area of 28 hectares, this island exerts an extraordinary charm and fascination on visitors, who feel a special emotion as they stroll through its narrow, peaceful streets.

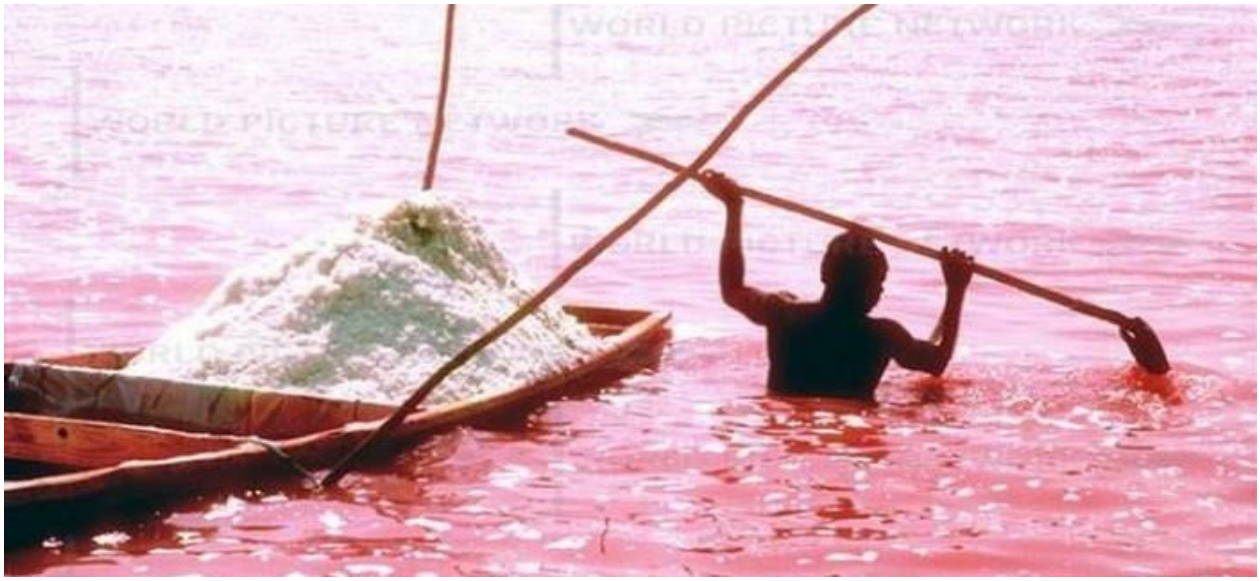
For three centuries, many Africans were shipped from Gorée Island to the American continent. The famous House of Slaves, one of the most visited museums in Senegal, still preserves the poignant reality of this chapter in world history.





2. The Pink Lake, a wonder of nature

Lake Retba, better known as Lake Rose, owes its fame to its colour, which changes from pink to mauve depending on the intensity of the sun's rays, and also to the Paris-Dakar rally, for which it was the final stage. Located about 30 km northeast of the capital Dakar, it is one of the most visited sites on the Cape Verde peninsula. It is a large, shallow lagoon, located a few hundred metres from the ocean and surrounded by dunes and casuarina trees. It owes its colour to the presence of micro-organisms and a high concentration of minerals. Day and night, it is a hive of activity, with hundreds of people engaged in salt extraction.



3. Monument to the African Renaissance

The African Renaissance Monument is a monumental 52-metre bronze and copper structure in Ouakam, a district of Dakar, on one of the two conical volcanic hills overlooking the Senegalese capital, the Mamelles, the highest of which bears the Mamelles lighthouse. The monument depicts a couple and their child standing tall towards the sky. It was officially inaugurated on 3 April 2010 during the ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of Senegal's independence. The work symbolises the dignity of the continent by showing, through a family standing tall, the man carrying his child on his biceps and holding his wife by the waist, an Africa emerging from the bowels of the earth, leaving obscurantism behind and moving towards the light.



4. African Memorial Square

The African Memorial Square is a space created to immortalise the great figures and heroes of African science and culture. At the entrance, a water feature made of stacked canaries conveys a message of welcome and opens up access to the two pantheons. One of the pantheons, dedicated to resistance, honours the great figures who fought against slavery, colonisation and modern oppression, while the other, dedicated to culture, pays tribute to the great intellectuals, thinkers, writers and artists.



5. Museum of Black Civilisations

The Museum of Black Civilisations, located halfway between Dakar railway station and the Grand Théâtre National, is a circular building covering an area of 14,500 m² with 3,500 m² of exhibition space and an amphitheatre. The museum brings the different facets of black civilisations to life, while promoting dialogue between cultures to build bridges.



6. Museum of African Art

The Théodore-Monod Museum of African Art, long known as the Dakar Museum or IFAN Museum, is part of the Institut fondamental d'Afrique noire (IFAN) at Cheikh Anta Diop University. The museum is dedicated to the arts and traditions of West Africa and has around 9,000 objects, of which around 300 are on permanent display to the public.



V. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate and clothing

- Temperature in January: 20-28°C
- Dry season, little rain
- Light clothing recommended
- Sunscreen and hat essential
- Formal attire for the conference

Health and Vaccinations

- Yellow fever vaccination compulsory
- Malaria treatment recommended
- Travel insurance recommended
- Bottled water recommended
- Pharmacies available 24 hours a day

Transport

Orange taxis: fare negotiable before the journey
Apps: Yango, Heetch
Car hire possible with international driving licence

Currency and payments

Currency: CFA franc (XOF)
1 EUR ≈ 656 XOF
ATMs available in hotels and shopping centres
Bank cards accepted in major establishments
Currency exchange at the airport

Emergency numbers

Police: 17 or 800 00 20 20
- Fire brigade: 18
- Emergency medical services: 1515
- Embassies available 24 hours a day
-

Telephone and Internet

Country code: +221
- Local SIM cards available (Orange, Free, Expresso)
- Free WiFi in hotels and conference centres
- Excellent 4G coverage in Dakar
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Visas and formalities

Visa required for most nationalities
- Processing time: 48-72 hours
- Passport valid for 6 months after the date of return
- Proof of accommodation required
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Language and Communication

- Official language: French
- National languages: Wolof, Pulaar, Serer
- English spoken in hotels and tourist areas
- Simultaneous interpreting in French, English and Arabic in Réunion.

VI. TEAM AT YOUR SERVICE

Names	Position	Email	Telephone
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