

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI



International  
Water Resources  
Association



Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of  
Equipment and Water

## XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)  
Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025

# Marrakech Declaration



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The XIX World Water Congress, co-hosted by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the Ministry of Equipment and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, took place in Marrakech, Morocco, from 1 to 5 December 2025, under the theme of “Water in a Changing World: Adaptation and Innovation”.

After five days of rich exchanges and productive debates held among and across high-level panels, thematic sessions, and the Ministerial Roundtable, **We**, experts, scholars, and participants in the XIX World Water Congress practitioners from all over the world, express our deep concern over the growing global water challenges in an era of profound environmental, social, and economic change.

Building on the outcomes of previous IWRA World Water Congresses, we reaffirm that water is essential to human life, ecosystems, and sustainable development. Acknowledging the growing pressures on water systems arising from global challenges such as climate change, population growth, rapid urbanisation, land degradation, pollution, and increasing demand, we stress the urgent need for innovation and adaptation in water management

Recognizing the need for urgent action, **We** acknowledge that:

- Water security is under threat worldwide, affecting human health, agriculture, energy, ecosystems, and economies, and undermining the foundations of peace, societal stability, and shared prosperity.
- Climate change is altering the global hydrological cycle, intensifying droughts, floods, water scarcity, and water quality degradation, accelerating glacier melt, rising sea levels, and salinization of freshwater resources, and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, particularly in vulnerable regions around the world.
- Access to safe and sufficient water remains unequal, and millions of people still lack basic water and sanitation services, despite global commitments to a human right to water.
- Current governance and infrastructure development models must evolve to face these complex, interconnected challenges
- Humanitarian emergencies, either as a result of natural catastrophes or armed conflicts, affect systems, societies and the environment with long lasting impacts.

In response, and in order to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and contribute to all water-related SDGs by promoting inclusive, integrated, and climate-resilient water policies, We call for the following actions:

**Promote ethical and responsible innovation in water management**, drawing on digital technologies, artificial intelligence, nature-based solutions, and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, and creating enabling environments for startups, research institutions, and public-private partnerships to scale effective solutions and improve the efficiency, equity, and sustainability of water use.

**Invest in climate adaptation and mitigation** by prioritizing resilient water infrastructure and low carbon solutions such as desalination using renewable energies, wastewater reuse, and rainwater harvesting, improved risk and water-related disaster management, and increased financing for robust early warning systems and for reinforcement of civil protection and community preparedness capacities.

**Encourage expansion of bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international and multilateral cooperation to achieve water goals** by sharing data, technology, expertise, and financing, particularly in support of developing countries and water-scarce regions, in order to enhance natural resources governance, resilience and sustainability.

**Adapt to changing flood patterns** through flood mitigation, conversion of flood water to usable water resources, and better flood prediction to achieve water security and support ecological protection and restoration.

**Support further action in water pollution prevention and control**, including pollution related to plastic and chemical substances.

**Enhance effective, efficient and inclusive water governance** through the application of cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary systems approaches, integrating water policies with food, energy, biodiversity, and health strategies, while promoting policy coherence and coordinated governance.

**Recognize and respect alternative understandings and traditional governance systems of water**, such as those with a foundation of reciprocity and respect for water.

**Ensure participatory water governance**, engaging all stakeholders, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, and local communities, in the design and implementation of water solutions.

**Enhance education, awareness, and scientific research**, to foster a culture of water responsibility, stewardship, and knowledge-sharing from local to global levels.

**Share success stories, tools, and solutions**, and strengthen platforms for cooperation and innovation to collectively overcome present and future water challenges.

# Marrakech Call for Water Action

We call upon governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, and all actors to:

- **Shape the future of global water governance beyond 2030**, building on existing mechanisms while addressing remaining gaps in finance, institutional capacity, monitoring, and inclusion.
- **Elevate water as a global priority in all international platforms**, including at COP 31, the UN 2026 Water Conference, and the 11th World Water Forum in 2027, recognizing the essential role of water in climate adaptation, poverty reduction, and sustainable development.
- **Mobilise and integrate greater financial resources to ensure all public and private projects and investments**, in all sectors including the water sector, **are resilient, and innovative**, consider impacts on water resources, and contribute actively to water security.
- **Support water security and resilience, especially in fragile regions** through public private partnership, climate finance, green bonds, and innovative financing structures.
- **Improve monitoring and accountability in the water sector**, using digitalization, robust data, and inclusive approaches to track progress toward water-related goals and ensure transparent, adaptive policymaking.
- **Recognise the interconnected nature of water with other sectors**, implement system-wide water management, promote multisector coherence by aligning water, energy, food, health, and other sectors in planning for future water security, and embed economic, social, and environmental aspects into all planning processes without bias or imbalance.
- **Recognise the fragility of water systems in times of crisis**—whether arising from conflicts, climate change, or natural disaster—and treat such crises as humanitarian and environmental emergencies that warrant investment in diplomacy and cooperative approaches, safeguarding critical water infrastructure and sources, and leveraging the expertise and knowledge of sector specialists to protect societies and the environment.
- **Support the right to water** through policies, practices, and international cooperation.



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