Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement

Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal
ANSTS

IEA
Institut d'Études Avancées de Saint-Louis du Sénégal

Université Gaston Berger
L'excellence au service du développement

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

unesco

Société de Physique du Sénégal

Global Water Partnership West Africa

UQTR Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Académie de l'Eau

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 (UQTR), 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 (UQTR), 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.)

Heinrich Böll Fundation, Senegal

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 CEA-MITIC[1] at

[1] African Center of Excellence in Mathematics, Computer Science, and ICT

Gaston Berger University 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

The conference invites researchers, practitioners, policymakers, local governments, service providers, civil society organizations, businesses, and technical and financial partners to submit scientific papers or case studies focusing on solutions to water challenges and the acceleration of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Experts are invited to submit their proposals for presentations or contributions, along with abstracts, in WORD or PDF format, in the conference's working languages: French or English. A brief CV must also be attached to each document.

Proposed formats: oral presentation, poster, case study, workshop, or roundtable discussion. The Scientific Committee may propose a format different from the one requested. Criteria: relevance, scientific or methodological quality, originality, clarity, applicability, contribution to public policy, and alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Publication and Ethics: Manuscripts must be original, adhere to the principles of scientific integrity, and disclose any conflicts of interest. Authors authorize the publication of the abstract in the conference proceedings, subject to final approval.

Submission: An abstract of 300 to 500 words, in French or English, including the title, authors and affiliations, the chosen theme, the context, the research question, the methodology, the results or findings, the practical implications, five keywords, and the desired format. Proposals must be sent by email to the following addresses:

conferences@iea-saintlouis.sn ; cheikhbecayegaye@gmail.com et dabarofall@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions is October 22, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. GMT.

The subject line of the email must include the following words: “Water Conference 2026.” English and French are the working languages that will be used during the conference.

Participants are responsible for covering their own travel and hotel expenses.

The Organizing Committee may provide support to certain participants.

A selection of the papers accepted for 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, Codou Mar Guèye Diop**, **Ibrahima Ly**, **Pape Salif Sow**, **Oumar Sock**, **Dogo Seck** & **Guélaye Sall** (ANSTS) ; **Madiagne Diallo** (ANSTS Fundation) ; **Abdoulaye Sène** (Global Water Partnership) ; **Jean-Louis Oliver** & **Monica Cardillo** (Water Academy, France) ; **Rokhaya Daba Fall** (Water Academy/IEA Saint-Louis) ; **Alexandre Roy** & **Pape Jean Fall** (University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières (UQTR) ; **Abou Amani** & **Maha Sall** (UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (HIP/UNESCO), **Mohamed Diatta** (Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Senegal) ; **Cheikh Siaka Ansou Sadio** (SONES) ; **Ibra Fall WADJI** (SEN’EAU), **Oumy Tall** (International Consultant) ; **Fallou Dieng** (SAED) ; **Isaie Dougnon** (Fordham University New York) ; **Adrien Coly** (Water Center, Gaston Berger University, Saint-Louis) ; **Sidy Mohamed D. Seck** (Gaston Berger University, Saint-Louis, Senegal) ; **Dah Dieng** (Gaston Berger University/IEA Saint-Louis) ; **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**, **Pape Touty Sow**, **Maty Sy Ndiaye**, **Ababacar Gaye Fall**, **Abou Mbow**, **Djibril Diallo**, **Abdoulaye Sène** & **Ibrahima Bob** (IEA Saint-Louis) ; **Alioune Sall** (Institute for African Futures) ; **Awa Fall Niang** & **Seynabou Cissé Faye** (EDEQUE-Cheikh Anta Diop University) ; **Hadiza Kiari Fougou** (University of Diffa, Niger) ; **Jean Cyrille BADO** & **Blaise Yao KOFFI** (UNESCO Chair on Water, Women, and Decision-Making, Ivory Coast) ; **Fadel Ndaw** (International Consultant).

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**, **Ababacar Gaye Fall**, **Abou Mbow**, **Mohamed Moustapha Fall**, **Aminata Sall Gassama** & **Djibril Diallo** (IEA Saint-Louis); **Dah Dieng** (Gaston Berger University/IEA Saint-Louis); **Fatma Sylla Touré** & **Angelina Uloma** (Heinrich Böll Fundation, Senegal).