First Arabophone Academic Water Summit

CULTURE, CIVILIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Marrakech Kingdom of Morocco

2, 3 and 4 November 2026

Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

English version dated 27 October 2026

Monday 2 November 2026	Tuesday 3 November 2026	Wednesday 4 November 2026
Youth Pre-Summit UMJAE in action	**Opening sessions and proceedings**	**Closing and future directions**

An international initiative led and coordinated by

AMBASSADE DE L'EAU (AdE)
WATER EMBASSY

CO-ORGANISED WITH

AMAN Museum • Cadi Ayyad University • Ambassade de l'Eau Afrique

Under the patronage of UNESCO

Technical partner

Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests
Directorate General of Hydraulics

The Summit at a glance

An initiative of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE – Water Embassy), an internationally oriented non-governmental organisation and member of the World Water Council, co-organised with the Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN, Cadi Ayyad University and Ambassade de l'Eau Afrique, the First Arabophone Academic Water Summit brings together institutions, universities, experts and young people from the Arabic-speaking world at the Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN in Marrakech. They share a common ambition: to make the Arabic language and their shared hydraulic heritage a means of advancing scientific cooperation and sustainable water governance.

Three days, one progression: on 2 November, the Youth Pre-Summit of the World Union of Young Water Ambassadors (UMJAE) presents the UMJAE pilot project conducted in Morocco with the Sebou and Tensift basin agencies and drafts the Marrakech Appeal of the Young Water Ambassadors; on 3 November, the official opening and scientific sessions address heritage, governance and practical solutions; on 4 November, participants structure Arabophonie de l'Eau around a permanent academic network and a roadmap for 2027, then adopt the Marrakech Declaration.

Registration is individual. Academics, researchers, institutional representatives and young water ambassadors take part on the basis of their experience, their institution or their work, in a spirit of academic dialogue and cooperation.

The First Arabophone Academic Water Summit aims to provide a forum for dialogue, cooperation and collective action in support of sustainable water governance, bringing together institutions, universities, experts and young researchers from the Arabic-speaking world.

Associated activities

Activity	Indicative timing	Description
Institutional meetings	Mornings	Meetings between public authorities and universities
Scientific workshops	Afternoons	Presentation of the UMJAE pilot project, culture and water
Academic networking	Evenings	Cocktail receptions and brief meetings
Showcasing student projects	Integrated into the programme	UMJAE exhibition, awards
Museum visits and cultural activities	During the Summit (to be specified)	Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN

Partners

Monday 2 November 2026

Youth Pre-Summit UMJAE in action

A focus on young people, with more than 100 Arabic-speaking students.

Time	Monday 2 November 2026 • Sessions and contributions
08:30 – 09:30	**Welcome of participants**
09:30 – 10:15	**Opening of the Youth Pre-Summit** Host: Prof. **Fatima-Zahra Tabyaoui** • Ms **Jeannette PRETOT**, Founding President of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE) • Prof. **Blaïd Bougadir**, President of Cadi Ayyad University • Prof. **Abdennabi El Mandour**, Director General of the Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN • Prof. **Naïm Ouaini**, Chair of the Summit's International Scientific Committee, Adviser to Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE) – Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Lebanon • Prof. **Fatima-Zahra Tabyaoui**, President of Ambassade de l'Eau Afrique, Academic and Scientific Coordinator of UMJAE • Dr. Eng. **Khalid El Ghomari**, Director of the Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency – Morocco • Dr. Eng. **Mohamed Chtioui**, Director of the Tensift Hydraulic Basin Agency – Morocco • Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation – Morocco • Representative of the Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests – Morocco
10:15 – 10:30	**Coffee break**
10:30 – 11:30	**Session 1 — Round table on young people and decision-making** Moderators: Prof. **Laila Mandi** and Dr. Eng. **Mohamed Chtioui** *Guiding questions: "How can young people be involved in local water decisions?";* *"What role should the work of the Young Water Ambassadors play in basin planning?"* • Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation – Morocco • Representative of the Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests – Morocco • Representatives of partner universities (Cadi Ayyad University, Mohammed V University) and ENSI • Prof. **Hinde Cherkaoui Dekkaki**, Vice-President for Scientific Research, Cooperation and Partnerships, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco • Representatives of Cerema • Prof. **Abdennabi El Mandour**, Director General of the Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN • Ms **Jeannette PRETOT**, Founding President of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE) • Representative of the Young Water Ambassadors
11:30 – 13:00	**Session 2 — Young Water Ambassadors – Exchanges and scientific presentations** Moderators: Prof. **Naïm Ouaini** and Prof. **Fatima-Zahra Tabyaoui** UMJAE project pitches (STRATEAU modelling, ancestral heritage and modern techniques, sustainable management, local innovations) by universities from the Arabic-speaking world. • Presentation of the work of the Cadi Ayyad University UMJAE team with the Tensift Hydraulic Basin Agency, Prof. **Laila Mandi**, Prof. **Naaila Ouazzani**, lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Sciences Semlalia of Cadi Ayyad University, and the Young Water Ambassadors of UCA • Presentation of the work of the Mohammed V University UMJAE team with the Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency, Prof. **Rachida Daghmoumi**, UMJAE-Morocco Supervisor, Prof. **Amal Aboulhassane**, UMJAE-Morocco Supervisor, Eng. **Meryem Bennouna** and the Young Water Ambassadors of UM5

Continuation of presentations and afternoon activities

Time	Monday 2 November 2026 • Sessions and contributions
Continued	**Session 2 — Young Water Ambassadors — Presentations continued** • Presentation of the work of the future Ibn Zohr University UMJAE team, Dr. **Aicha Saad** and the Young Water Ambassadors of UIZ • Presentation of the work of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik UMJAE team, Lebanon, Prof. **Samar Azzi**, UMJAE-Lebanon National Coordinator, and the Young Water Ambassadors of USEK • Presentation of the work of the UMJAE team in Egypt, Prof. **Hossam El Nazer**, UMJAE-Egypt National Coordinator, National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt • Presentation of the Youth Water Parliament (Artois-Picardie basin, France), Ms **Emma Cossart**, Sciences Po Lille
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 16:00	**Session 3 — Collaborative workshop on the pilot project in Morocco** Moderators: Prof. **Arnaud Courtecuisse** and Prof. **Naaila Ouazzani** Collaborative workshop – Mixed groups: progress and future directions of the pilot projects in Morocco (Sebou and Tensift basins), with UMJAE coordinators, supervisors and young participants • Dr. **Pascal Maugis**, Vice-President of AdE, STRATEAU expert, presentation of the pilot project • Prof. **Fatima-Zahra Tabyaoui**, Academic and Scientific Coordinator of UMJAE, President of Ambassade de l'Eau Afrique, group facilitation • Prof. **Samar Azzi**, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, UMJAE-Lebanon National Coordinator, group facilitation • Prof. **Hossam El Nazer**, National Research Centre (NRC), UMJAE-Egypt National Coordinator, group facilitation • Prof. **Mohamed Hafidi**, Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, group facilitation • Prof. **Rachida Daghmoumi**, Faculty of Sciences in Rabat, Mohammed V University, UMJAE-Morocco Supervisor, group facilitation • Prof. **Amal Aboulhassane**, Mohammadia School of Engineers, Mohammed V University, UMJAE-Morocco Supervisor, group facilitation • Prof. **Hinde Cherkaoui Dekkaki**, Vice-President for Scientific Research, Cooperation and Partnerships, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco, UMJAE Coordinator, group facilitation • Dr. Eng. **Aicha Chorak**, Director of Research, Innovation and the R&D Division at the School of New Sciences and Engineering (ENSI), Morocco, group facilitation • Ms **Jihad Ouzidan**, STRATEAU Expert, Cerema, group facilitation • Supervisors from the Sebou and Tensift Hydraulic Basin Agencies, group facilitation • Representatives of the Young Water Ambassadors, group facilitation
16:00 – 17:00	**Drafting of the Marrakech Appeal of the Young Water Ambassadors** Young people's contribution to decision-making – Synthesis and recommendations for public governance. • Presentation by the Young Water Ambassadors, coordinated by Ms **Jeannette PRETOT**, Founding President of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE) • Prof. **Claude Daou**, Lebanese University, Lebanon • Discussion and finalisation of the text during the session
17:00	**Closing of the Pre-Summit – Adoption of the Marrakech Appeal of the Young Water Ambassadors**

Tuesday 3 November 2026

Opening sessions and proceedings

Plenary day with public authorities and experts

Time	Tuesday 3 November 2026 • Sessions and contributions
08:00 – 09:00	**Welcome of participants**
09:00 – 10:15	**Official opening ceremony** Host: Prof. **Fatima-Zahra Tabyaoui** Welcome address by Ms **Jeannette PRETOT**, Founding President of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE), initiator of Arabophonie and Coordinator of the Summit, followed by official addresses. • Mr **Khatib El Hebil**, Wali of the Marrakech-Safi Region, Governor of the Marrakech Prefecture • Prof. **Blaïd Bougadir**, President of Cadi Ayyad University, a co-organising university • Prof. **Abdennabi El Mandour**, Director General of the Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN • Presidents of Universities and Grandes Écoles • Mr **Loïc Fauchon**, President of the World Water Council, video message • Dr. **Sanaa Zebakh**, Director of the PRIMA Foundation, remote contribution from Barcelona • Dr. **Pedro Arrojo-Agudo**, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (2020-2026), remote contribution from Geneva • Mr **Charaf Ahmimed**, Regional Director and UNESCO Representative for the Maghreb • His Excellency Mr **Nizar Baraka**, Minister of Equipment, Water and Forests • Representatives of Moroccan Ministers
10:15 – 10:45	**Screening of the film "Le Trait d'union" (Ambassade de l'Eau)** Reading of the Marrakech Appeal of the Young Water Ambassadors (JAE)
10:45 – 11:15	**Coffee break**
11:15 – 12:15	**Round table** Moderators: Dr. **Moulay Driss Hasnaoui** and Dr. Eng. **Laila Oualkacha** *Guiding questions: "How can national and international water institutions make better use of research and young people's contributions?"; "What practical cooperation between Arabic-speaking countries should be initiated ahead of the United Nations Water Conference in December 2026?"* • Mr **Pascal Berteaud**, President of the International Office for Water (OiEau) • Mr **Sébastien Dupray**, Director of the Technical Directorate for Risks, Water and the Sea (DTecREM), Cerema • Dr. **Elsa Sattout**, Programme Specialist, Sciences Sector, UNESCO Office for the Maghreb • Dr. Eng. **Khalid El Ghomari**, Director of the Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency, Morocco • Dr. Eng. **Mohamed Chtioui**, Director of the Tensift Hydraulic Basin Agency, Morocco
12:15 – 13:00	**Session 1 — Water, heritage and cultural mediation** Moderators: Dr. **Eriberto Eulisse** and Prof. **Abdelaziz Benlahcen** • "Water, the memory and foundation of civilisations: the history and cultures of water in Arab countries and the Mediterranean basin", by Prof. **Naïm Ouaini** • Morocco's hydraulic heritage, by Prof. **Abdennabi El Mandour** • The qanats of the Sultanate of Oman and Morocco's hydraulic heritage: cross-perspectives, by Prof. **Abdullah Alghafri**, UNESCO Chair in Aflaj Studies, University of Nizwa, Oman

Afternoon

Time	Tuesday 3 November 2026 • Sessions and contributions
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 16:00	**Session 2 — Good water governance in the service of peace – Panel** Moderators: Ms **Jeannette PRETOT** and Dr. **Souad Seghir** *Guiding questions: "How can water governance prevent tensions and serve peace?";* *"What mechanisms for dialogue between basins, states, universities and young people should be strengthened?"* • Mr **Pascal Berteaud**, International Office for Water (OiEau) – International Network of Basin Organizations (RIOB) – "Demand-side water resource management" • Mr **Jukka Ilomäki**, Senior Water Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, remote contribution • Prof. **Fouad Amraoui**, Professor of Hydrogeology at Hassan II University of Casablanca, Morocco, "Water sovereignty in Morocco: challenges and solutions" • Dr. Eng. **Khalid El Ghomari**, Director of the Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency – Morocco • Dr. Eng. **Mohamed Chtioui**, Director of the Tensift Hydraulic Basin Agency – Morocco • Representatives of water institutions in Arabic-speaking countries • Mr **Sébastien Dupray**, Cerema • Dr. **Pascal Maugis**, Vice-President of AdE • Prof. **Fatima-Zahra Tabyaoui**, President of Ambassade de l'Eau Afrique • Prof. **Claude Daou**, Lebanese University, Lebanon, "Lebanon's rivers: reclaiming a lost water heritage for a new vision of water security" • Prof. **Hossam El Nazer**, National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, "From Water Scarcity to Water Security: Desalination, Renewable Energy and Innovation" • Testimony from a former Young Water Ambassador from Palestine • Representative of the Young Water Ambassadors – Morocco
16:00 – 18:00	**Session 3 — Arabophonie de l'Eau – Experience sharing and case studies – Panel** Moderators: Prof. **Hinde Cherkaoui Dekkaki** and Prof. **Abdullah Alghafri** • Lebanon: Prof. **Samar Azzi**, "Water governance in universities in the Arabic-speaking world: the case of USEK" • Egypt: Dr. **Abou al-Hagag Nasraldin Ahmed Mahmoud**, "Plan for the management and beneficial use of rainwater and floodwaters in the Eastern Desert (Egypt)" • Morocco: Dr. Eng. **Khalid El Ghomari**, "Lessons learned from flood management in the Gharb plain" • Palestine: Prof. **Rashed Al-Sa'ed**, Birzeit University, "Bridging Science, Policy, and Practice: Decentralized Sanitation and Water Reuse as Cornerstones of Sustainable Water Security in the Arabophone World", remote contribution • Morocco: Prof. **Abdelaziz Benlahcen**, "Water resources in North African countries: between scarcity and governance" • Kuwait: Ms **Houda Chaia**, "Water resources in Kuwait and their treatment methods" • United Arab Emirates: Eng. **Imad Saad**, President of the Abu Dhabi Environmental Network, remote contribution • Morocco: Dr. Eng. **Mohamed Chtioui**, "Integrating AI into water resource management"

Wednesday 4 November 2026

Closing and future directions

Building Arabophonie de l'Eau – Synthesis and commitments.

Time	Wednesday 4 November 2026 • Sessions and contributions
09:00 – 09:45	**Conference session** Moderator: Prof. **Fouad Amraoui** • "Shared and peaceful management of the Senegal River basin", Eng. **Mohamed Fawzi Bedredine**, IAGF expert, Director of Regional Infrastructure (OMVS) • "Water Transition in Morocco: Shaping a New Development Path", Dr. Eng. **Laila Oualkacha**, Senior Advisor to the Director General of Hydraulics, Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests – Morocco
09:45 – 11:15	**Session 4 — Arabophonie de l'Eau – Strategic vision** Structuring Arabophone cooperation – Roadmap for establishing the permanent Arabophonie de l'Eau network. Moderators: Dr. Eng. **Laila Oualkacha** and Ms **Jeannette PRETOT** *Guiding questions: "What form should the permanent Arabophonie de l'Eau network take, and who should lead it?"; "What commitments can each university make to the 2027 roadmap?"* • Universities from the Arabic-speaking world (Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, etc.): • Jordan: Prof. **Alsharifa Hind Mohammad**, researcher at the Water, Energy and Environment Centre of the University of Jordan, "From water scarcity to water security: Jordan's experience and prospects for sharing solutions and innovation in the Arab world" • Lebanon: Prof. **Naïm Ouaini** • Egypt: Prof. **Hossam El Nazer** • Morocco: Prof. **Mohamed Hafidi**, Vice-President for Research and Innovation at Cadi Ayyad University; Prof. **Hinde Cherkaoui Dekkaki**, Vice-President for Scientific Research, Cooperation and Partnerships, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University • International Arabic-speaking scientific experts: Prof. **Abdennabi El Mandour**, Prof. **Fouad Amraoui**, Prof. **Laila Mandi**, Dr. **Abou al-Hagag Nasraldin Ahmed Mahmoud**, Eng. **Mohamed Fawzi Bedredine**, Dr. **Moulay Driss Hasnaoui**, Prof. **Claude Daou**, Prof. **Lahcen Ait Brahim**
11:15 – 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 – 12:30	**Session 5 — The WEFE PRIMA approach in the Arabic-speaking world** Research and innovation partnerships to address water challenges. Moderators: Dr. **Moulay Driss Hasnaoui** and Prof. **Laila Mandi** • Dr. **Jauad El Kharraz**, Vice-President of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE), "The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach and its strategic applications in the region" • Prof. **Rachid M'Rabet**, INRA Morocco, proposed PRIMA representative; Dr. **Evangelos Tziritis**, Coordinator of the PRIMA NBS360 project, Soil and Water Resources Institute (SWRI, ELGO-DIMITRA), Greece • Dr. **Zhor Abail**, INRA Morocco (Kénitra Regional Centre), Representative of the PRIMA NBS360 project
12:30 – 13:30	**Play and film screenings** Moderators: **Young Water Ambassadors** • Play by the Young Water Ambassadors and film thanking Moroccan institutions • Film presentation – Let's Talk About Water: **Fatima Zohra El Arousy** • Discussion with the audience

Afternoon

Time	Wednesday 4 November 2026 • Sessions and contributions
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30 – 15:30	**Session 6 — International cooperation and partnerships** Prospects for cooperation and partnerships; signing of finalised agreements. Moderators: Prof. **Hinde Cherkaoui Dekkaki** and Mr **Hicham Radi**, Director General of ENSI • Prof. **Rachid M'Rabet**, proposed Representative of the PRIMA Foundation • Dr. **Moulay Driss Hasnaoui**, Mission Officer at the Directorate General of Hydraulics, Vice-President of AMRE and COALMA • Representative of the UNESCO Office for the Maghreb • Dr. **Eriberto Eulisse**, Executive Director of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) "Landscape and Communities as a Living Museum: For an Eco-museum Network of the Oases in the Maghreb" • Representatives of Arab regional institutions Scientific synthesis presented by the Summit's International Scientific Committee
15:30 – 16:30	**Closing session — Adoption of the Marrakech Declaration** A text dedicated to water cooperation in the Arabic-speaking world. Announcement of follow-up activities, including a second Summit envisaged for 2028. • Adoption of the Marrakech Declaration • Launch of the Arabophonie de l'Eau initiative • Recognition of partner universities • Closing addresses: • His Excellency Mr **Nizar Baraka**, Minister of Equipment, Water and Forests • Representative of the UNESCO Office for the Maghreb • Prof. **Blaïd Bougadir**, President of Cadi Ayyad University • Prof. **Abdennabi El Mandour**, Director General of the Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN • Dr. Eng. **Khalid El Ghomari**, Director of the Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency • Dr. Eng. **Mohamed Chtioui**, Director of the Tensift Hydraulic Basin Agency • Representative of the Arabic-speaking country hosting the second Summit, envisaged for 2028 • Ms **Jeannette PRETOT**, Founding President of Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE) – final remarks

This provisional programme is subject to change.

Ambassade de l'Eau — an association governed by the French Law of 1 July 1901
RNA W771001963 • SIRET 494 503 709 00011