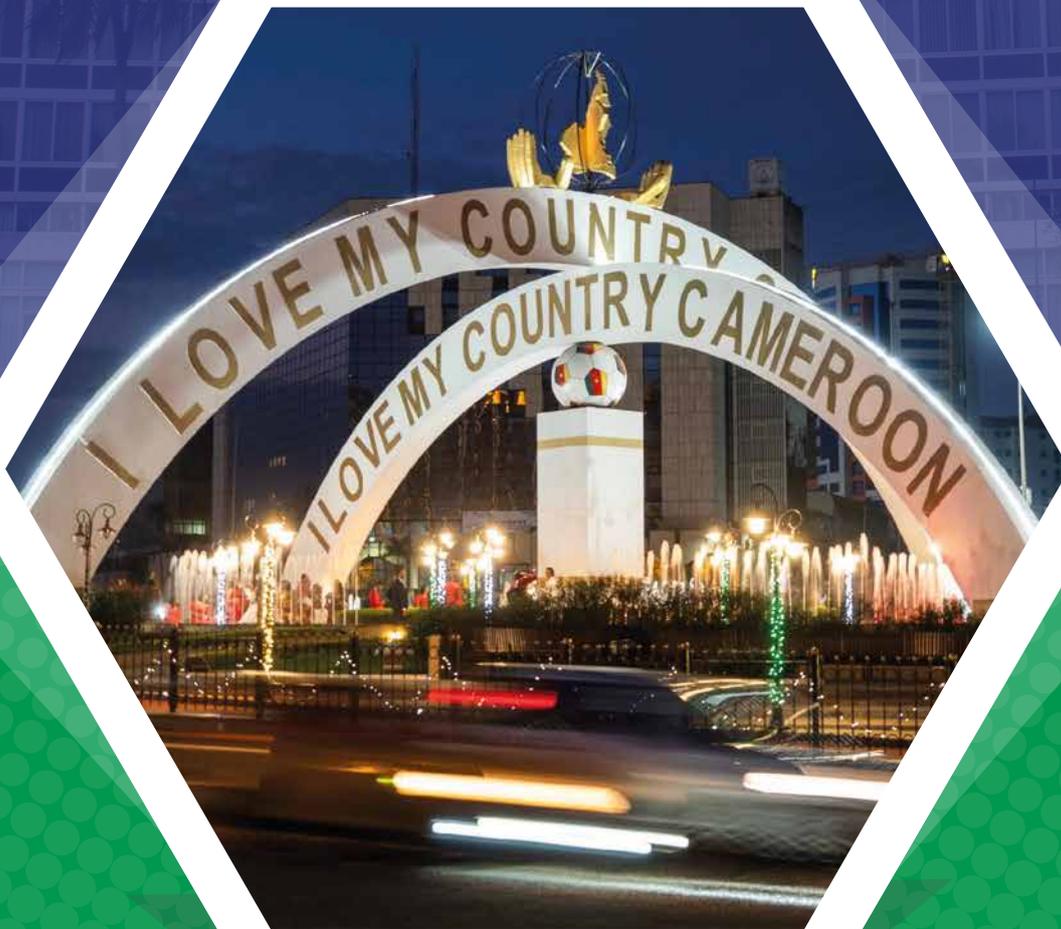


23rd African Water and Sanitation Association International Congress and Exhibition (ICE)

9-13 February 2026 | Yaounde, Cameroon

**Water and Sanitation for all:
Bold Actions for Africa**



CALL FOR PAPERS

PRESENTATION OF THE CONGRESS



Since its creation in 1980 under the name “African Union of Water Distributors (UADE)”, transformed in 2004 into the “African Water Association (AfWA)”, and later in 2023 into the “African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA)”, the organization has established itself as a key catalyst for regional cooperation in the fields of water, sanitation, and the environment.

In accordance with its statutes, the Association has instituted a biennial tradition of congresses, bringing together its members, international institutions, experts, policymakers, and development partners around a strategic dialogue on sectoral challenges in Africa.

Interrupted by the global health crisis in 2020, this structuring rhythm of convening resumes with renewed ambition through the 23rd AfWASA International Congress and Exhibition, scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 February 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

As a true hub of innovation, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing, the AfWASA Congress is now

recognized as the largest scientific, technical, and institutional gathering in the sector across Africa. It features a rich programme of high-level plenary sessions, specialized workshops, thematic panels, B-to-B and one-to-one meetings, and a major international exhibition showcasing innovative technologies, solutions, and services.

Over the years, the event has witnessed exponential growth, drawing more than 1,500 participants in Nairobi in 2016, 1,200 in Bamako in 2018, 2,500 in Kampala in 2020, and a record of 3,000 participants in Abidjan in 2023.

Held under the bold theme **"Water and Sanitation for All: Strong Actions for Africa"**, this 23rd edition will serve as a strategic platform for both assessment and commitment. It will offer stakeholders a unique opportunity to evaluate progress made towards Sustainable Development Goal 6, while laying the foundations for a collective and decisive mobilization towards the 2030 horizon.

MESSAGE FROM AfWASA PRESIDENT, HOST PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS



Dr. Blaise MOUSSA
AfWASA President
CAMWATER Managing Director

It is with great honour and deep emotion that I welcome you to the 23rd International Congress and Exhibition of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA), scheduled for 9 to 13 February 2026 in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon and a crossroads of Africa.

I express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, for granting his endorsement to the hosting of this major event in Yaoundé. My thanks also go to AfWASA for the trust placed in our country, and to the delegates, partners, and professionals whose participation will make this gathering a defining moment for our continent. Your commitment confirms that water is not merely a resource it is a catalyst for solidarity, innovation, and transformation.

Africa faces pressing challenges in water and sanitation: rapid population growth, climate change, urban expansion, and persistent underfunding. This congress offers a unique opportunity to tackle these issues with resolve, clarity, and ambition. The theme, **“Water and Sanitation for All: Bold Actions for Africa”**, reflects this desire for a step change. It urges

us to move beyond analysis to impactful action, forging robust partnerships for sustainable and inclusive solutions. A robust and ambitious framework has been put in place. Thanks to early mobilisation of authorities, public and private partners, and regional and international institutions, we are crafting a congress that is scientific, economic, cultural, and deeply human. The international exhibition, alongside dedicated forums for youth, start-ups, women, and local authorities, high-level plenaries, and technical workshops, will establish Yaoundé 2026 as a leading pan-African platform for innovation and cooperation.

I call upon AfWASA members, governments, sector operators, research institutions, NGOs, investors, and media to fully engage in this dynamic initiative. Africa needs your talents, courage, and vision. Together, let us make Yaoundé 2026 a milestone in achieving universal access to water and sanitation, elevating this shared ambition to the forefront of Africa's priorities.

INVITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STRATEGIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COUNCIL (STC)



Ing. Mahmood LUTAAYA
STC President

Africa is the continent with one of the highest population growth rates, with a doubling of the urban population and urbanized areas every 10 to 15 years, significantly increasing water stress in these growing areas. And yet, despite the disruptions, some of which are linked to climate change, there is no shortage of water on this continent where reserves are estimated at more than 660,000 cubic kilometres. Paradoxically, Africa remains the continent where a third of the population, or 330 million people, does not have access to safe drinking water and where health problems due to the lack of drinking water are persistent.

These situations require water companies to be even more efficient, and the entire community of the water/sanitation sector, to mobilize so that our continent meets the Sustainable Development Goals which "guarantees access to water and sanitation for all" by 2030.

The current approach would therefore be to identify and implement actions that could accelerate access to water and basic sanitation services on the continent. To do this, it is necessary to innovate and above all to seek and move towards sustainable solutions, while taking into account the current context strongly marked by the phenomenon of climate change, which spares no continent. Also, the sharing of successful experiences, the continuous exchanges on common challenges and the joint search for solutions are articulations that the community of actors wants to maintain permanently.

With only a few years to go before the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals, it is clear that Goal 6 is

lagging behind on universal access to drinking water and sustainable sanitation services. This is why our congress is structured around the theme:

" Water and Sanitation for All: Bold Actions for Africa".

The Strategic and Technological Council, the linchpin of our organization, brings together all the executives, directors, engineers and technicians of water companies, who meet regularly to identify the problems of the water sector in Africa with a view to proposing solutions. For almost two years, the various commissions that make up the committee have been working hard to identify all the contours of the different themes that will bring us together from February 9 to 13, 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and to ensure that all the conditions are met to advance the debate on the issues that concern the water and sanitation sector on the continent.

The 23rd Congress, to be held in Yaoundé, will bring together the entire water and sanitation community from Africa and the world, with researchers, academics, water company managers, policy-makers, young water professionals, and donors. All these actors and partners in the sector take part in the reflection by proposing communications or presentations, by organizing parallel sessions or by participating in the international exhibition which expects a little more than 3000 visitors.

We invite all of you to submit your proposals for papers, in accordance with our theme and the different sub-themes, as defined below.

INVITATION TO PROPOSE A PAPER

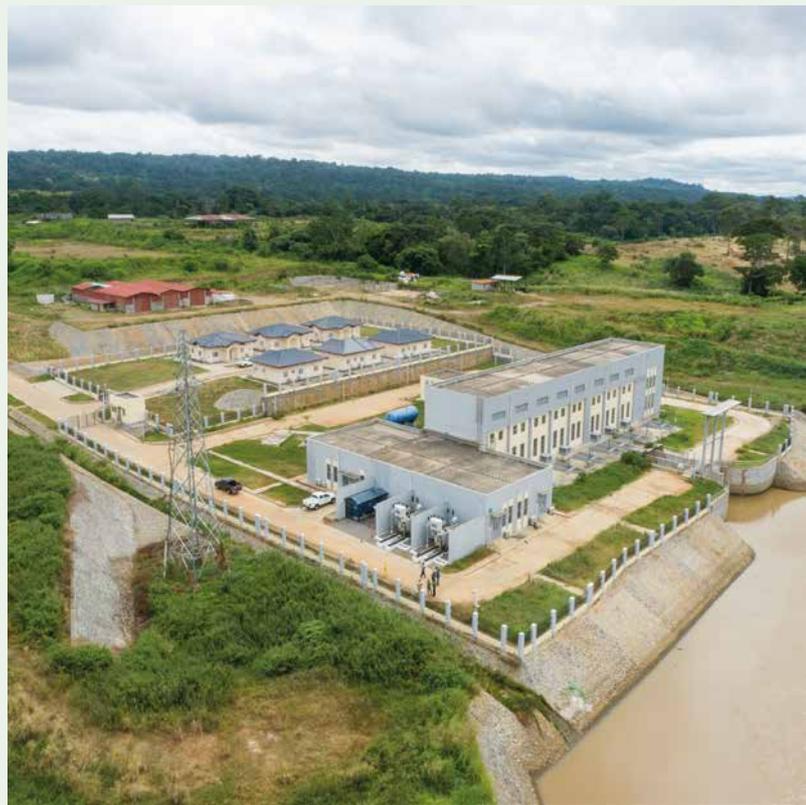
We invite the entire scientific community, professionals in the water and sanitation sector and all actors involved in the fight for access to water and sanitation for all to propose a paper to be presented at the 23rd congress of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA) in Yaoundé.

The papers should, through their relevance and interest, address issues related to the general theme and sub-themes of the congress.

At the same time, we invite our industry partners to propose thematic sessions that fit into one or more of the sub-themes we propose below.

A selection committee will examine the papers received on the basis of a reading grid determining the clarity, relevance and originality of the proposed approaches.

Interested persons should send an abstract of about 1000 words of their communication including their first and last names, their professional situation, their address, the title of their communication and following the proposed outline.



KEY DATES

Deadline for submission of abstracts

Abstracts should be submitted no later than **September 30, 2025** to the following link:
<https://abstractcongress.afwasa.org>

Deadline for submission of full papers

Authors whose abstracts have been selected will receive a notification to submit a more complete communication **by 30 October 2025** to the following link:
<https://abstractcongress.afwasa.org> .

The official languages of communications are English and French. The papers will be published in the proceedings of the congress and on the AfWASA website.

For all information please write to abstractcongress@afwasa.org and skenfack@afwasa.org



THEME AND SUB-THEMES OF THE CONGRESS

The overarching theme of the CIE AAEA 2025 is "**Water and Sanitation for All: Strong Actions for Africa**". With only five years left to achieve the SDGs, three out of five Africans, or 411 million people, still lack access to safely managed drinking water, and only 2 out of 54 countries are on track to achieve universal basic sanitation.

Access to clean water and sanitation is essential to shaping and securing Africa's future. The AfWASA 2026

ICE aims to highlight good practices and practical and proven experiences, new knowledge and innovations, collaborations and partnerships, as well as financing solutions that will be key to boosting access to safe drinking water and sanitation and closing the SDG gap, the only guarantee of a better future for Africa.

The congress will be solution and innovation focused and organized according to the following Six Tracks splatted in 30 topics (sub-themes).as follows:

Tracks	Topics
Track 1: Integrated water resource management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Source protection and catchment management 2. Modelling for water resource management 3. Climate change resilience and adaptation 4. Water, energy, and food nexus
Track 2: Water Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water supply systems 2. Water treatment technologies 3. Non-Revenue Water management 4. Pro-poor, rural and emergency water services 5. Water quality management 6. Smart water supply tools, systems and practices
Track 3: Sanitation Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sewered and non-sewered services 2. Solid waste management 3. Sanitation safety planning 4. Technologies for sustainable wastewater and Faecal management 5. Sanitation in circular economy 6. Innovative approaches and tools, systems and practices for sustainable sanitation management
Track 4: Capacity Development, Communication and Partnerships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Career building and competencies development 2. Performance benchmarking and networking 3. Water and sanitation operators' partnerships 4. Private sector participation 5. Communication tools and systems 6. Efficient utility management and operation
Track 5: Governance and Financing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies, reforms and institutional frameworks 2. Innovative finance 3. Pricing and cost recovery 4. Local market-financing mechanisms
Track 6: Research, Technology, and Innovation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data Analytics 2. Innovations and big data 3. Research and funding 4. Artificial intelligence in water and sanitation management

KEY DATES

Designation	Deadline
Launch of call for papers and partner sessions Identification and call for Keynote speakers, session chairs, moderators	01 August
Final deadline for submissions and start of evaluations	30 September 2025
Validation of list of Keynote speakers, session chairs, moderators	15 October 2025
Notification of acceptance or rejection	30 October 2025
Acceptance of Authors	15 November 2025
Draft of scientific and technical conference document	15 December 2025
Confirmation of all presenters	10 January 2026
Final printing of conference document	30 January 2026

MEMORY OF THE 21ST AfWASA CONGRESS, ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE



1. Official Photo of the 21st AfWASA ICE in Abidjan 2023



2. Official Photo of the 5th AfWASA Women Professional in WASH Forum



3. A View of Participants at the Opening of the 21st AfWASA ICE

MEMORY OF THE 22ND AfWASA CONGRESS, KAMPALA, UGANDA



1. Official photo of the 22nd AfWASA ICE ; Kampala 2025



2. Photo of the 6th Forum of Professional Women in the Water-Sanitation Sector in Africa



3. Young Water and Sanitation Professionals Forum



4. Mayors' Forum official photo



Headquarters: Riviera Palmeraie – Rond point, Place de la Renaissance
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