

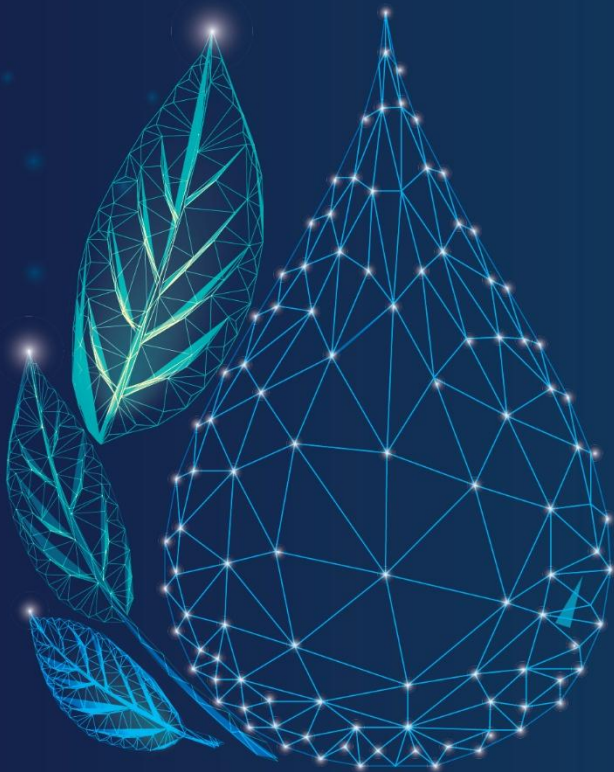


Final Report

Cairo Water Week 2025

**“Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience
and Water Sustainability”**

Triumph Luxury Hotel, Cairo - Egypt



ORGANIZED BY



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Introduction

Cairo Water Week (CWW) 2025 served as the Middle East and Africa's leading platform for advancing cooperation, knowledge exchange, and innovation in the water sector. Held from 12 to 16 October 2025 at the Triumph Luxury Hotel in Cairo under the patronage of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the eighth edition revolved around the theme ***“Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience and Water Sustainability.”*** The event showcased practical approaches to strengthening climate adaptation and promoting sustainable water management. Guided by five interconnected themes: ***Cooperation for Sustainable Water Management; Climate Change Vulnerability, Mitigation and Adaptation; Innovations for Resilient Water Resources Management; Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Water Systems; and Infrastructure Asset Management for Sustainability.*** CWW2025 brought together global leaders, experts, and stakeholders to translate ideas into tangible progress. Through its sessions, technical meetings, and collaborative dialogues, the event reaffirmed Egypt's leadership as a regional hub for water diplomacy and innovation, shaping a more resilient and sustainable water future for all.

CWW 2025 in Numbers

- 2450 participants
- 420 Speakers
- 97 Regional and International Organizations
- 5 Plenary Sessions
- 133 Technical and Side Events
- 24 Exhibitors
- 5 Competitions

Opening Ceremony

Under the patronage of **H.E. Mr. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**, the eighth edition CWW 2025 was inaugurated under the theme “Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience and Water Sustainability.” In his recorded message, President El-Sisi affirmed that CWW had grown into an intellectual hub and a global platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange, uniting diverse perspectives around the urgent mission of protecting water resources. Building on this vision, **H.E. Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation**, outlined innovation and integration as the guiding pillars of the week, stressing that the mounting pressures on water systems require collaborative action that delivers measurable outcomes for people and ecosystems alike. From Africa’s leadership, **H.E. Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Dieye, President of AMCOW and Senegal’s Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation**, called for collective responsibility and cooperation to safeguard communities and resources across the continent. At the European level, **Ms. Jessika Roswall, European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy**, emphasized Cairo Water Week’s role as a unifying platform that keeps water high on policy agendas and connects partners around shared priorities. **H.E. Eng. Mansour bin Hilal Al-Mushaiti, Vice Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, highlighted the need for integrated water management, transparent institutions, cleaner production, and large-scale reuse to address scarcity and climate impacts. **Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council**, reinforced these messages by urging proactive policies to confront droughts, floods, and pollution. At the multilateral level, **Dr. Retno Marsudi, UN Special Envoy on Water**, reminded participants that water underpins food, health, peace, and security, requiring coordinated action across sectors and borders. Bringing Egypt’s diplomatic perspective, **H.E. Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates**, underscored trust-building and practical partnerships as foundations for effective cooperation, reaffirming Egypt’s commitment to equitable and sustainable arrangements. Concluding the opening session, **Dr. AbdulHakim Elwaer, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa**, summed up the spirit of the gathering, transforming pressures on water and food systems into research-driven, scalable solutions and lasting partnerships for a sustainable future.

Day by Day Brief

Pre-Conference Events

Ahead of the official opening of CWW 2025, two key events set the stage for the week's high-level discussions. On 11 October 2025, the World Water Council convened its ***Board of Governors Meeting***, gathering elected representatives from governments, intergovernmental bodies, academia, civil society, and the private sector to deliberate on strategic orientations and long-term priorities for advancing global water governance. The meeting reinforced the Council's mission to place water at the center of political agendas, promote sustainable management, and strengthen collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Later that evening, also organized by the World Water Council, the session “***Financing Water Projects: Building a Sustainable Future***” was held, marking the official launch of the Council's landmark report of the same title. The event presented new perspectives on financing mechanisms that integrate sustainability, social equity, and climate resilience, emphasizing that true success in water projects extends beyond financial feasibility to include environmental and societal impact. The discussions brought together experts and decision-makers from across sectors to explore innovative pathways for investment and cooperation, concluding with a networking reception that fostered dialogue and partnership ahead of the week's proceedings.



Day One Highlights: 12 October 2025

The first day of CWW 2025 opened with a strong focus on cooperation, innovation, and resilience, setting the tone for the week's overarching theme *"Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience and Water Sustainability."* MWRI, together with the Nile Water Sector and the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, inaugurated the plenary session **"Cooperation for Sustainable Water Management,"** emphasizing collaborative frameworks for transboundary governance, climate resilience, and joint investment. The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)** continued this dialogue through a technical session on **"Improving the Resilience of Surface Water and Groundwater Basins in the Arab Region,"** showcasing pilot applications that integrate adaptation and mitigation within climate-resilient water planning. Parallel to these discussions, the **American University in Cairo's Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (AUC CARES)** and **Mangroves Ecosystem Restoration Solution (MERS)** hosted **"Green Frontiers: Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience through Mangrove Restoration and Saline Agriculture,"** presenting scalable innovations in coastal adaptation and green finance. The **IHE Delft Institute for Water Education** and **National Water Research Centre (NWRC)** led two major sessions **"Advancing Water-Wise Agriculture"** and **"From Partnership to Progress"** highlighting long-standing Egypt–Netherlands collaborations that strengthen agricultural water governance across Africa and the Arab world. The **European Union**, in coordination with the **Ministry of Planning**, the **Ministry of Housing**, and MWRI, convened the closed **EU–Egypt Water Investment Forum**, which reinforced the strategic partnership between Egypt and the EU under the Team Europe initiative, emphasizing investment, innovation, and circular-economy models. Knowledge exchange and capacity building were at the heart of the **Nile Academic Exchange Program Symposium**, organized by IHE Delft and the **Nile Basin Capacity Building Network**, celebrating achievements in academic mobility and cross-basin research. The **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, together with the **Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)** and **PRIMA**, addressed the growing challenge of **water and soil salinity** in Egypt, proposing institutional and market-based solutions for mitigation.

A special milestone was marked by **UNESCO's Regional Office in Cairo**, **NWRC**, and **MWRI**, which celebrated the **50th Anniversary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)** through a plenary session reflecting on five decades of scientific cooperation and policy impact. Complementing these, the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** presented its work under the **Regional Water Scarcity Initiative**, focusing on strengthening water governance, enhancing resilience, and bridging data gaps in agriculture, while the **African Development Bank**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Transport** and **VICMED Project**, explored future opportunities for sustainable inland water transport connecting Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean. Additional sessions by **Blue Peace Middle East** with **Mercy Corps** and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** highlighted regional-to-local water-climate resilience, and by **IWMI**, **MWRI**, and the **Arab Water Council (AWC)** showcased Egypt's efforts to institutionalize **Water Accounting Plus (WA+)** for evidence-based decision-making.

Day Two Highlights: 13 October 2025

The second day of **CWW 2025** deepened the focus on "*Climate Change Vulnerability, Mitigation, and Adaptation*," led by **MWRI**, supported by **ICARDA** and the **World Water Policy Journal**, by examining how climate pressures on water systems can be addressed through science, governance, and finance. The session on the **Water Resilience Tracker (WRT)**, convened by **WRT** and **IWMI** with **Deltares**, the **Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)**, and **Arup**, presented practical applications from Morocco and Egypt in integrating resilience into national planning, while **UNICEF** highlighted actions under the **Water Scarcity Initiative (WSI)** to strengthen service delivery in schools and health facilities.

Regional cooperation and policy commitments were advanced through several high-level and technical events. The **Thirty-Seventh General Assembly of the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM)**, co-convened with **IUCN** and the **Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)**, brought together OIC member states to discuss the Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems Nexus.

The session on **Arab Region Commitments to the 2026 United Nations Water Conference**, convened by **ESCWA**, **MWRI**, and the Government of Sweden with partners including **GCF**, **LAS**, **IsDB**, and **FAO**, called for greater investment in water and climate adaptation. The **Sixth Annual Conference on Water Finance and Investment**, organized by **EU** and the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, focused on new recommendations for water finance and the role of public and private banks in funding **WASH** and **WEFE** projects.

Finance and recovery were also central to the session **“Empowering Resilience through Strategic Water Investments for Palestine”** convened by the **Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)**, the investment promotion event **“Unlocking Investment for Water and Sanitation in Africa”** organized by the **African Water Facility (AWF)** and the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, and the closed meeting on **Water Development and Research Opportunities in Egypt** co-convened by **IWMI** and **MWRI**. Capacity development and innovation took center stage in sessions by **IHE Delft**, **Nile University (NU)**, and the **Royal Scientific Society (RSS)** on **safe reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture**, the **Water Sustainability Hackathon** launched by the **Regional Center for Training and Water Studies (RCTWS)**, and sessions by **TH Köln**, **Ain Shams University (ASU)**, **Mansoura University (MU)**, and **GIZ** on **Integrated Water Resources Management (iWater)** and **science-based collaboration in the Nile Basin**. **IWMI** also led discussions on shaping a **Transformative Water Capacity Program for the MENA region**.

Day Three Highlights: 14 October 2025

The third day of **CWW 2025** emphasized innovation as a driver for climate resilience and sustainable water management. The plenary session, **“Innovating for Resilience: NWRC’s Legacy and Future in Water Resources Management,”** organized by **MWRI** and sponsored by **NWRC**, showcased how innovation, technological, institutional, financial, and social is shaping modern water governance. Participants discussed data-driven systems, predictive analytics, circular water solutions, and community-based management models that are transforming the way nations plan and adapt.

Technical sessions further highlighted applied science and cooperation. The **International Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas (IPDC)**, together with **Deltares**, explored how deltas and small islands are addressing sea-level rise and extreme weather through scalable adaptation models. The **National Drainage Programme (Phase III)** under the **Joint Integrated Sector Approach (JISA)** presented achievements in drainage modernization and sustainable investment planning, supported by **KfW** and the **EU**. The **League of Arab States (LAS)** convened the **7th Meeting of the High-Level Joint Water and Agriculture Technical Committee**, joined by **FAO**, **ESCWA**, **AOAD**, and **ACSAD**, to review progress on the Cairo Declaration 2024 and promote integration between water and agriculture across the Arab region.

Strategic collaboration and forward planning were reflected in the session **“Bridging Visions: Introducing the 11th World Water Forum Process,”** hosted by the **World Water Council (WWC)** and the **Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia**, marking a milestone toward the 2027 Forum in Riyadh. Meanwhile, **IWMI** organized **“Modern Irrigation for a Changing World”** to showcase climate-smart irrigation solutions, and **NWRC**, in partnership with **PRIMA**, **ELGO-DIMITRA**, and **CIHEAM Bari**, presented joint initiatives on sustainable agriculture and capacity building.

Scientific advancement remained at the core through sessions such as **“Rivers Under Pressure: Seasonal Variability, Flood Hazards, and Climate Change,”** highlighting joint research between **WRRI**, **NWS**, and Chinese partners under **STDF**, and **“Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Water Resources Management and Governance,”** led by **FAO**, emphasizing AI-driven monitoring and drought forecasting. The session **“Improving Water Productivity with WaPOR”**, jointly run by **FAO** and **Wageningen University (WU)**, demonstrated the role of remote sensing in optimizing agricultural water use. Creative and cross-sectoral initiatives added a distinctive dimension. **EU** hosted the interactive **“EU-Water Through Two Lenses: Reality vs AI Photo Exhibition and Debate,”** contrasting human and AI-generated storytelling on water. **DHI**, together with **MWRI** and the **Shore Protection Authority (SPA)**, conducted a workshop on **Best Practices for Sustainable Coastal Development**, while **MWRI**, **SPA**, **UNDP**, and the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** launched Egypt’s **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)** Plan under the **Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta Project (ECCADP)**.

Day Four Highlights: 15 October 2025

The fourth day of **CWW 2025** centered on scaling cooperation, nature-based innovation, and regional policy coordination to strengthen water and climate resilience. The plenary session, **“Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Water Systems,”** convened by **MWRI** and sponsored by **IWMI**, emphasized how ecosystem-based approaches such as wetland restoration, watershed protection, and green infrastructure can deliver cost-effective, climate-resilient, and inclusive solutions for water management. The discussions highlighted the need for stronger governance, financing mechanisms, and technical capacity to mainstream Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) into national planning.

Cross-sectoral collaboration was showcased through the session **“Scaling Up the WEFE Nexus: Regional Dialogue and Institutional Pathways,”** led by **Sida** and the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, which explored integrating the Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems Nexus into national strategies and establishing a Nexus Hub to strengthen institutional coordination in Egypt and Jordan. The session **“Coastal Protection – Egyptian–Netherlands Cooperation,”** co-convened by **SPA**, the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Egypt**, **RVO**, **NWRC**, and **ECCCADP**, presented successful models for coastal management and outlined next steps for joint projects.

High-level policymaking was at the forefront with the **Joint Ministerial Meeting of Arab Ministers of Water and Agriculture**, convened by **MWRI**, **FAO**, and **ESCWA**, under the auspices of the **League of Arab States (LAS)** and the **Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**. Ministers from 22 Arab countries discussed regional water and food security, cooperation mechanisms, and climate adaptation priorities. Parallel to this, the **Joint Cooperation in Applied Research Programme – Water (JCAR)** held its annual **JCAR Day**, marking 50 years of Egypt–Netherlands cooperation through sessions on future water challenges, integrated planning, and innovation. Youth empowerment and innovation continued with the **EU-Innovation Hackathon for Waterpreneurs**, where students and young professionals pitched AI-integrated water solutions, while the **Water Harvesting Policy Dialogue**, hosted by the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** with **INWRDAM**, advanced the 3R Approach Retention, Recharge, and Reuse as a key tool for climate adaptation and resilience.

Technical discussions expanded across multiple fronts. The **Desert Research Center (DRC)** showcased 75 years of achievements in desert water management, and **NWRC** led sessions on **Policy Frameworks for Water Management and Desalination, Consolidating Progress Toward Sustainable Water Management**, and **Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Water Governance**, in cooperation with **FAO**. **The British University in Egypt (BUE)** presented its research contributions to innovation and higher education in water management, reinforcing the role of academia in national sustainability agendas.

Regionally, African and Arab cooperation deepened through sessions such as “**Scaling Sustainable Irrigation Development Programs in Africa**”, co-convened by the **African Union Commission (AUC)**, **FAO**, and **SAFGRAD**, and “**How Does Africa Engage in the UN 2026 Water Conference? A Humanitarian WASH Perspective**,” organized by **Action Contre la Faim (ACF)** and the **French Water Partnership (FWP)** with African and global humanitarian partners. **UNDP**, **GCF**, and **MWRI** presented “**Climate Change Adaptation in Egypt: From Risks to Action**,” sharing integrated approaches to national adaptation planning.

The **SPA**, **MWRI**, and **DHI** co-led a workshop on **Best Practices for Sustainable Coastal Development**, and together with **UNDP** under **ECCADP**, launched Egypt’s first comprehensive **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan** for the North Coast. The **Gender Training Workshop**, organized under **NDP3/JISA**, promoted gender equality in water projects, while the **Poster Session**, sponsored by the **World Water Policy Journal**, showcased applied research on cooperation, resilience, innovation, and infrastructure management.

Day Five Highlights: 16 October 2025

The final day of **CWW 2025** concluded with a strong focus on long-term resilience, innovation, and sustainability in water infrastructure and Mediterranean cooperation. The plenary session, “**Infrastructure Asset Management for Sustainability**,” organized by **MWRI**, addressed the critical importance of maintaining, upgrading, and managing water infrastructure systems strategically to meet future challenges. Discussions centered on how digital technologies, risk-based planning, and modern asset management frameworks can extend service life, optimize costs, and enhance climate adaptation.

Participants emphasized that sustainable asset management is essential to secure reliable water and sanitation services for future generations while ensuring economic and environmental efficiency.

Complementing this, the side event **“Shaping Mediterranean Water Futures: Research and Innovation Developmental Role in Advancing PRIMA, NEXTMED, and Horizon Europe Partnerships,”** organized by the **European Union (EU)** with **PRIMA, Horizon Europe, and Interreg NEXT MED**, brought together regional and international stakeholders to explore the future of research and innovation cooperation across the Mediterranean. The session highlighted how EU-supported initiatives are strengthening Egypt’s position as a regional hub for water cooperation and innovation, aligning national priorities with broader European research frameworks such as the *EU4Water Programme* and *Horizon Europe’s Cluster 6: Restore Our Ocean and Waters Mission*.

The discussions showcased synergies between scientific research, governance reforms, and infrastructure investments, including the National Drainage Programme, demonstrating how integrated planning, innovation, and financing can advance shared goals for resilience and sustainability.



Competitions

CWW 2025 featured a wide range of competitions celebrating innovation and creativity among farmers, youth, and researchers who developed practical solutions for sustainable water management.

The **8th National Water Conservation Competition (Farmers' Competition)**, organized by **MWRI** with the support of **FAO** and the **EU**, recognized five outstanding winners for their contributions to water-use efficiency: *Mina Sami Tawfik (Minya)*, *Mohamed Saleh (Sharqia)*, *Hesham Gouda (Fayoum)*, *Yehia Saad (Kafr El-Sheikh)*, and *Alaa Abdallah (Aswan)*.

In the **Best Graduation Projects Competition**, sponsored by **IWMI** and the **National Bank of Egypt (NBE)**, *Helwan University* secured first place for its project on seawater desalination for green hydrogen production. *Nile University* won second place for developing microbial techniques for industrial wastewater treatment, while *Mansoura University* came third with a smart irrigation robot designed for green spaces.

Encouraging innovation among school students, the **Young Water Inventors Competition** for STEM schools, sponsored by **EU** and **GIZ**, saw strong participation nationwide. *STEM 6th of October Boys School* won first place, while outstanding projects from *STEM Ismailia*, *STEM Dakahlia*, and *STEM Alexandria* were also recognized.

The **Save Our Water Campaign ('Ala El Add)** competition, sponsored by **EU**, attracted media students who produced creative awareness content on water conservation. In the *video category*, *Yara Amr and Ezz Eldin Ahmed* from the **BUE** won first place, *Samaa Mostafa* from *Cairo University* came second, and *Souhaila Mohamed* from *Cairo University* ranked third. In the *poster category*, *Hamsa Diao* from *Suez University* won first place, followed by *Farah Ashraf*, *Mohannad Mohy*, and *Arwa Ahmed* from *Galala University* in second, and *Jehad Atia*, *Amani Abdel-Moneim* from *Suez University* in third.

The **3MT Competition**, sponsored by **FAO**, provided researchers with a platform to present their work concisely before a judging panel and audience. The winners: *Eng. Mohamed Saber Desouki*, *Dr. Fayrouz Ahmed Hussein*, and *Dr. Basant Abu El-Saoud El-Sebaei*, were recognized for their ability to communicate complex research clearly and effectively after strong competition from participants within Egypt and abroad.

Technical Tours

As part of the official program of **CWW 2025**, a series of field visits were organized to provide participants with first-hand insights into Egypt's efforts in water management and heritage preservation. Participants visited the **NWRC** and the **Irrigation Museum** in El-Qanater El-Khairiya, where they learned about Egypt's leading scientific research activities and explored milestones in the nation's rich water history.

CWW also welcomed a high-level delegation from the **Republic of China**, which visited the **Suez Canal** on **11 October** to observe its strategic importance in supporting global trade and its role as a key pillar of the Egyptian economy. On **12 October**, the delegation continued its program with a visit to the **New Delta Water Treatment Plant**, one of the largest water treatment facilities in the world, where they were introduced to state-of-the-art technologies for water reuse that contribute to sustainable agricultural development.

The Exhibition

Held in parallel with the events of **CWW 2025**, the exhibition served as a key platform to showcase the latest advancements in water technologies and resource management. This year's exhibition featured **24 exhibitors** representing universities, the private sector, and international partners, creating a vibrant space where water experts, industry professionals, and leading companies came together to present innovative solutions addressing water challenges at national, regional, and global levels.

The exhibition provided participants with a valuable opportunity to display their products and services before a specialized audience, fostering stronger networks, collaboration, and knowledge exchange across the water sector.

Bilateral Meetings

On the sidelines of **CWW 2025**, **Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam**, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, led a series of intensive bilateral meetings that strengthened Egypt's international partnerships in the water sector. These engagements reflected Egypt's growing role as a regional and global hub for water diplomacy, innovation, and sustainable resource management.

Asian Partnerships

Discussions with Mr. Hiroshi Masayoshi, Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, focused on the New Dairout Barrages Project, which has reached approximately 90% completion, as well as the joint program to enhance agricultural water productivity implemented in partnership with Japan and the FAO. Both sides agreed to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding on water resources management and to integrate Japanese technologies within Egypt's Irrigation 2.0 System and low-cost desalination solutions supporting sustainable food production.

The meeting with Mr. Kantha Rao, Under-secretary at India's Ministry of Water Resources, explored new avenues for cooperation, including improving water-use efficiency, groundwater management, rainwater harvesting, and coastal protection.

During talks with H.E. Eng. Mansour bin Hilal Al-Mushaiti, Deputy Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, both parties reviewed the progress of their bilateral MoU and agreed on mutual technical visits, an Egyptian delegation to the Al-Ahsa desalination plant and a Saudi delegation to Egypt for experience exchange on flood protection. Egypt also reaffirmed its full support for Saudi Arabia's hosting of the 11th World Water Forum 2027.

Finally, discussions with H.E. Dr. Aoun Thiyab, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, centered on reactivating the bilateral MoU and expanding cooperation in desalination, reuse of agricultural drainage water, canal rehabilitation, and environmentally friendly technologies.

African Cooperation

During talks with **Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Dièye**, Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal, both sides underscored Senegal's role as a key African partner and agreed to renew their MoU while maintaining coordination in international forums. The discussions highlighted the success of the **Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)** and the **Pan-African Center for Water and Climate Adaptation (PACWA)** in strengthening African capacity building.

He also met **Mr. George Yarringo**, Chief Executive Officer of Liberia's **National Water and Sanitation Commission**, to expand cooperation in knowledge exchange and capacity-building through **PACWA**.

An MoU was also prepared with the **Somali Minister of Water** to enhance collaboration in training, early-warning systems, rainfall harvesting, and hydrological studies.

With **the Mauritanian Minister of Agriculture**, discussions focused on strengthening water governance, supporting water-user associations, and establishing a joint working group to advance sustainable agricultural water management.

European Engagements

In his meeting with **Mr. Tomas Taraba**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of Slovakia, the Minister finalized preparations for an MoU promoting technical and scientific cooperation under the *Irrigation 2.0 System*. The dialogue included rainfall harvesting, flood forecasting, and respect for international law governing shared rivers.

With **Prof. Dr. Stavros Malas**, President of **The Cyprus Institute (CyI)**, cooperation prospects were discussed in mathematical modelling, climate adaptation, solar-powered desalination, agricultural wastewater reuse, and the application of digitalization and artificial intelligence within the **Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE)** Nexus framework.

In his meeting with **Mr. Antti Rautavaara**, Finland's Special Envoy for Water, Prof. Dr. Sewilam coordinated participation in the **UN 2026 Water Conference** dialogues and expanded African training programs through **PACWA**. The meeting also reviewed Egypt's USD 100 million financing mechanism to support Southern Nile Basin countries.

Partnerships with International and Regional Organizations

With **Ms. Chitos Noguchi**, Resident Representative of the **UNDP**, both sides recognized the success of the North Coast Adaptation Project funded by the **GCF** and discussed launching a new phase, including applied research to reduce desalination costs.

Ms. Nouvelle Tilaiji, Regional Director of the **IFAD**, discussed long-term strategies for addressing challenges in Wadi El-Nokra and advancing modern irrigation systems under the **CROWN Project**.

With **Mr. Berik Aryn**, Director General of the **IOFS**, discussions focused on expanding the implementation of the **WEFE Nexus** approach and utilizing IOFS's regional training center for knowledge transfer.

The series concluded with **Dr. Ali Abousabaa**, Director General of the **ICARDA**, where both parties discussed activating the existing MoU, accelerating water-saving innovations, and linking productivity-enhancement projects in Kafr El-Sheikh with decentralized desalination and renewable-energy systems.



Memorandums of Understanding

H.E. Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, and Ms. Mika van Ginneken, the Dutch Water Envoy, witnessed the signing of a cooperation protocol between the **NWRC** and the **IHE Delft**. The agreement supports joint training, knowledge exchange, and applied research serving water-related challenges under the umbrella of Egypt's *Irrigation 2.0 System*.

MoU was also signed between **MWRI** and the **WWC** to enhance collaboration on sustainable water management through capacity-building programs and knowledge dissemination.

In the environmental field, another MoU was concluded between the **Ministry of Environment of Egypt** and the **Ministry of Environment of Slovakia** to strengthen cooperation on environmental protection, climate adaptation, and sustainable development.

These milestones concluded in the **Egypt–European Union High-Level Dialogue on Water**, marking a new chapter in the strategic partnership between Egypt and the **European Union (EU)**. The dialogue aims to advance integrated water resources management and promote green financing initiatives that enhance resilience to climate challenges.



Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of **CWW 2025** was held in the distinguished presence of **H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Egypt**, marking the conclusion of an exceptional week dedicated to dialogue, innovation, and global cooperation on water and climate issues. The event gathered ministers, ambassadors, heads of international and regional organizations, development partners, researchers, and youth representatives from around the world, reflecting Egypt's growing role as a regional and global hub for water diplomacy and sustainable development.

In his address, **H.E. Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam**, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, expressed his sincere appreciation to all co-organizers, partners, and participants for their commitment and collaboration. He emphasized that **CWW** has become a leading international platform that bridges policy, science, and practice to deliver real, actionable solutions for water and climate resilience.

Throughout the week, sessions covered key topics including solar-powered desalination for food production, the water–energy–food–ecosystem (WEFE) nexus, water reuse, groundwater management, climate change adaptation, eco-materials for coastal protection, rehabilitation of water infrastructure, transboundary water cooperation, and investments in water and sanitation across Africa.

Looking ahead, Dr. Sewilam announced that the **Ninth Cairo Water Week (CWW 2026)** will take place from **25 to 29 October 2026** under the theme ***“Water as a Catalyst for: Peace, Shared Prosperity, and a Sustainable Planet.”***

The ceremony concluded with a unified call for stronger partnerships, continuous innovation, and collective action to ensure a secure and sustainable water future for generations to come.

Conclusion and Way Forward

CWW 2025 reaffirmed the global commitment to advancing **sustainable and inclusive water governance**. Discussions highlighted the urgent need to **strengthen transboundary water governance** by empowering and adapting basin institutions to ensure effectiveness and inclusivity, enabling data sharing, coordinated investment, and equitable participation that generate shared benefits across riparian states. Participants emphasized the importance of a **science-based and cooperative approach** to water management at global, regional, and basin levels to foster resilience, sustainability, and the empowerment of future water leaders.

The outcomes further called for **enhanced bilateral and regional cooperation within the Nile Basin**, driven by capacity-building initiatives, joint technical programs, and inclusive partnerships. Delegates also stressed the need to **accelerate investment in Africa's water and sanitation sector** through stronger collaboration between governments, development banks, and the private sector.

In addition, participants **called for the establishment of a Regional Arab Fund for Water and Agriculture** to finance integrated initiatives in desalination, renewable energy, water reuse, and climate-smart agriculture. They reaffirmed the **commitment to support least developed and conflict-affected Arab countries**, particularly Palestine, through technical and financial assistance aimed at enhancing water and food security.

The discussions also **endorsed the expansion of applied research and pilot projects on desalination for agricultural purposes** across the Red Sea region, with the participation of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries. Finally, participants emphasized the need to **ensure sound management of water infrastructure assets** to enhance operational efficiency, maximize the return on investments, maintain reliability, and secure the long-term sustainability of water services.