

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY

ICID Congress

Marseille, France | October 12th 2026

TIME	PROGRAMME
9:00 – 9:30	Seating of participants in plenary hall & Arrival of dignitaries
9:30	Welcome addresses and opening remarks - Ms. Annie Genevard, Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food, and Food Sovereignty, France - Ms Bénédicte Martin, Vice-président of Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France - Mr. Bruno Grawitz, President, Eaux Agriculture et Territoires (EAT), France - Mr. Marco Arcieri, President of ICID, Italy - Mr. Loic Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, France
10:00	Strengthening the Strategic Role of Irrigated Agriculture in the Global Water Agenda - Introductory video : Ms. Yasmine Fouad, UNCCD Executive secretary, (to be confirmed) - Ms María Begoña García Bernal, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Food, Spain (UN - Water Conference) - H.E. Abdulaziz Muharib Al-Shaibani, Deputy Minister for Water at the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (to be confirmed - WWForum) Marseille Call presentation (link with the ministerial session) Mr Bruno Grawitz, President EAT & Mr Sami Bouarfa, Secretary general of EAT, France
10:30	Scientific questions addressed during ICID 26 - Congress Question 66 – Agroecology (Mr. Vinay Nangia, ICARDA) - Congress Question 67 – Innovative technology (Mr. Maher Salman, FAO) - Congress Question 68 – Non-conventional water (Mr. Juan Antonio Rodriguez Diaz, Univ. of Córdoba)

TIME	PROGRAMME
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	N. D. Gulhati Memorial Lecture and Award Presentation Mr. Marco Arcieri, President of ICID and Prof Michele Perniola
11:30	High-level round table : “Innovative financing for water and food security” Introductory Video: M. Saroj Kumar Jha – Global Director, Water, World Bank Group - Mr. Nicolas Murlon, director of Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse French Water Agency - Ms. Sandra Rulliere, deputy director of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity Division at AFD - Ms. Maria Angelica Sotomayor, Practice Manager for Water in Central Asia at the World Bank Group - Mr. Jean-Pierre Touzet, director of Agriculture and Agri-food division at Crédit Agricole S.A.
12:30	Local voices - Ms Korka Diaw, Agricultural leader, Senegal - Ms Astou Camara, FAO, Senegal
12:45	End of the high-level opening segment – Lunch break
14 :30 – 16 :30	High-level ministerial meeting (closed event) – Marseille Call

This closed ministerial meeting will bring together ministers and high-level representatives to discuss and refine the key messages and priorities of the Marseille Call, congress political statement. Building on the Congress contributions and preparatory consultations, the session will foster political dialogue on strengthening water and agricultural resilience in the face of climate change. The meeting aims to contribute to stronger international cooperation and coordinated action across water, agriculture and climate agendas.