



**STATEMENT FOR NOMINATION OF Dr. Mohamed AIT KADI FOR
2009 KING HASSAN II GREAT WORLD WATER PRIZE**

During the past thirty two years, Dr Mohamed AIT KADI has made outstanding scientific and professional contributions in the fields of irrigation and water resources development and management both in Morocco and at the international level. He is admired and respected by his peers for his professional integrity of highest calibre, his pioneering vision, his innovative skills, his propensity to act as a catalyst for change and his uninterrupted dedication for the universal water cause.

Dr. AIT KADI has completed his academic education with distinctions and earned the most prestigious engineering and doctorate degrees of "Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II" (IAV Hassan II), Rabat, Morocco, "Ecole Nationale du Génie rural des Eaux et Forêts", Paris, France and Utah State University, USA. He joined the Department of Agricultural Engineering of IAV Hassan II as faculty member then he became head of this department for more than a decade. Most Moroccan professionals and experts in irrigation are his former students. He has developed meaningful scientific research that led to novel optimization/simulation tools for designing and operating large scale irrigation systems and complex water systems. During his years as a university professor he created the International Irrigation Centre which was recognized as the centre of excellence for graduate engineering training for francophone African countries (CRESA). He continued his academic involvement to date by remaining active in teaching, lecturing and supervising research works at universities in Morocco, France and Italy. His outstanding academic and scientific career was capped by his nomination by His Majesty King Mohammed VI as a resident member of King Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology the most prestigious scientific institution in the country. He delivered an inaugural speech on "Knowledge and Water Challenges" He was elected Director of Sessions of the Academy, member of its scientific commission and he is appointed chief editor of its bulletin.

This rare combination of theory and practice resulted on a professional that, in the early 90s had the necessary skills to lead the process of achieving the target of putting under irrigation one million hectares before the year 2000 set to the Nation by King Hassan II back in the sixties. He has assumed the responsibilities of Director of Irrigation Development and Management and then Director General of the Agricultural Engineering Administration. In these positions he has developed and implemented the Moroccan National Irrigation Programme, a US\$ three billions programme for the expansion of irrigation to 250 000 ha and the improvement of the management of Morocco's large and medium scale irrigation projects. This programme benefited from the largest irrigation loan ever contracted by the World Bank at that time. During this period he has been a key player in the reform of the Moroccan water sector as a whole and contributed to the drafting of a new water law promulgated in 1995. His dedicated services, beyond the call of duty, qualified him to serve at higher positions as Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries then as President of the General Council of Agricultural Development. He was also appointed Chief Agricultural negotiator of Morocco-United States Free Trade Agreement.

Dr. AIT KADI's professional achievements and expertise have been well recognized internationally. He has served in many high level international assignments such as -citing only the most recent ones- serving as the water and irrigation expert in the International External

Evaluation Team of FAO and member of the recently established advisory panel in the World Bank for the evaluation work of its water projects.

He has generously devoted a great amount of time and energy in initiating, building, supporting and strengthening global and regional water institutions. He was among many other world leaders who have contributed to the birth of the World Water Council. He was member of the Founding Committee and then became the Founding Member of the legally incorporated Council; he was elected for two successive terms as Governor, member of the Financial Committee and Chairman of the King Hassan II Great Water Prize Task Force. He initiated the process of hosting the first World Water Forum by Morocco in Marrakech and was the President of its organizing Committee. He was actively engaged in subsequent fora. His dedication in serving the world community is also witnessed by his engagement in the Global Water Partnership. He was among the first members of its Technical Advisory Committee who shaped the IWRM international agenda. He made a major contribution in understanding and conceptualizing the Water-Food Security- International Trade nexus. His involvement in the founding of the Africa Water Task Force is one of his salient achievements at the regional level. At the occasion of the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg he co-authored an African water position paper and contributed to the organization of the Water Dome. He has strongly advocated the establishment of an African Water Facility now hosted by the African Development Bank.

Dr. AIT KADI joined the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) from early in his career. He participated fully in many of the ICID working groups and committees. He was elected to be vice President and vice Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee. He has continued to serve as an Office Bearer of ICID to date. He is vice-President of Moroccan National Committee of ICID and continues to play a key role in facilitating access of Morocco to the international debate and reciprocally in making his country's voice heard in the international arena.

Our nomination of Dr. Mohamed AIT KADI for the King Hassan II Great Water Prize is the recognition of his remarkable work as a thinker and doer serving the universal water cause with profound abnegation and great modesty.