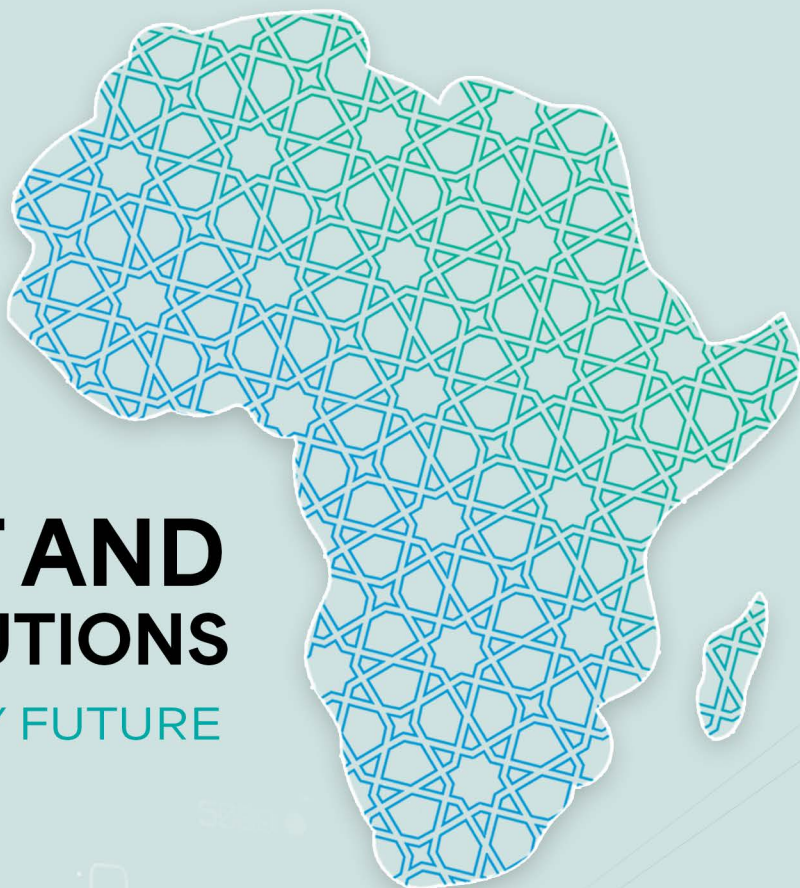




INVESTMENT AND FINANCING SOLUTIONS

FOR AFRICA'S RAILWAY FUTURE

14-15 October 2026
RABAT, MOROCCO





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FOREWORD FROM MOHAMED RABIE KHLIE

ONCF Director General

Chair of the UIC Africa Region

**Dear congress participants,
Dear partners,**

The Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF) is honoured, in partnership with the International Union of Railways (UIC), to host the Forum on Financing Railway Projects in Africa, under the theme: “Investment and financing solutions for Africa’s railway future.”

Against a backdrop of serious economic, energy and climate-related, as well as geopolitical changes, rail is more than ever becoming a strategic driver of sustainable transport, regional integration, and economic competitiveness. More than just a mode of transport, it is a core catalyst for regional transformation, greater social cohesion, and the transition to more resilient models of development. However, achieving the African continent’s rail aspirations remains closely linked to our collective ability to implement innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms that are tailored to the realities of our region.

The forum has therefore been designed as a platform for dialogue and cooperation between key public and private decision-makers, financial institutions, investors, rail operators, manufacturers, and international partners. The aim is to encourage the sharing of experiences, explore new funding approaches, and strengthen the synergies needed to carry out key rail projects across the African continent. Innovative financing mechanisms will take centre stage, notably those relating to sustainable finance, public-private partnerships, and measures designed to better cover the risks associated with infrastructure projects.

The choice of Morocco to host this continent-wide gathering highlights the strategic steps our country has taken under the enlightened leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI**, may God assist Him, in support of inclusive, sustainable, and modern transport for Africa.

Through its major infrastructure projects and its ambitious plans for rail transport, the Kingdom continues to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening connectivity, integration, and cooperation amongst the countries of the continent. Rabat is therefore delighted to welcome you to this dedicated space for discussion and reflection on the major changes taking place in the African rail sector.

The forum also aims to provide an important next step towards developing a shared vision for the future of rail in Africa, based on innovation, sustainability, and the securing of long-term funding. It reflects our conviction that the continent’s rail development can only be achieved through strengthened cooperation and an ambitious collective effort for the benefit of future generations.

By supporting this initiative, our partners and sponsors are helping to promote a shared vision of African rail development that is firmly focused on the challenges of tomorrow.



FOREWORD FROM FRANÇOIS DAVENNE

UIC Director General

Dear partners and participants,

Rail is a strategic pillar of sustainable transport, economic development, and integration within regions. Far more than mere transport infrastructure, it connects people, markets, and opportunities, whilst supporting climate-related targets and strengthening regional resilience. With climate change and rapid urbanisation accelerating, and pressure on public finances growing, rail is becoming one of the most effective and long-term investments for sustainable development. It is this conviction that drives the International Union of Railways in its efforts to promote railway development worldwide.

Over the years, Africa has demonstrated a growing drive to expand and modernise its rail networks. However, significant challenges remain, particularly with regard to securing the long-term investment required to deliver integrated, high-performing, and profitable rail projects. Closing this funding gap will require stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors, development finance institutions, infrastructure investors, and climate finance stakeholders. This forum has been created to address this challenge by bringing together decision-makers, operators, financial institutions, investors, and development partners from all around the world.

Together, we will explore innovative funding mechanisms and strengthen cooperation and identify practical solutions to accelerate railway development on the continent. From project planning to regional freight corridors, via urban mobility and opportunities linked to climate finance, this forum aims to turn aspiration into concrete achievements. The spotlight will also shine on emerging mechanisms relating to carbon markets and sustainable finance, which have the potential to secure additional resources for rail projects and public transport, whilst recognising their long-term contribution to decarbonisation.

This year's event, organised in Rabat in partnership with the Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF), is particularly important. It reflects Morocco's leadership in railway development and its commitment to strengthening regional connectivity in Africa. Morocco's strategic vision for sustainable mobility, combined with its growing expertise in high-speed rail and integrated transport planning, makes Rabat a particularly suitable venue for hosting this discussion on the future of rail financing in Africa.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ONCF for its commitment and hospitality, and to our partners and sponsors for their invaluable support. Together, we share a common goal: to lay the financial foundations for Africa's rail future and ensure sustainable transport for future generations.

By supporting this initiative, our sponsors and partners are contributing not only to an event, but to a wider movement aimed at establishing rail as a central pillar of climate-friendly growth and enhanced regional integration across the continent.

THE FORUM ORGANISERS

About ONCF

Established in 1963, the Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF) are a strategic public body reporting to the Ministry of Transport and Logistics. As a key stakeholder in the transport sector, its mission is to develop, operate, and modernise the national rail network, whilst supporting the Kingdom's major economic and social initiatives.

Over the past two decades, the Moroccan rail sector has undergone significant changes. In order to modernise and expand its network, ONCF undertook several major projects that have radically transformed the organisation and performance of the rail system.

The opening of Africa's first high-speed rail line, linking Tangier to Casablanca, marks a milestone in its history. This landmark achievement enabled Morocco to become the first African country to have a high-speed train, thereby confirming its status as a leader and pioneer in the development of rail transport on the continent.

Today, ONCF is undertaking major projects to transform the national rail network, the principal of which being the extension of the highspeed line between Kenitra and Marrakesh, designed to strengthen links between the north and south of the Kingdom and improve connectivity between the main economic and tourist hubs.

At the same time, ONCF is continuing to renew its fleet of rolling stock to increase capacity, punctuality, and service quality, whilst developing local transport solutions to support daily travel in urban areas.

These efforts are complemented by a wide-ranging programme to modernise stations, aimed at improving the passenger experience and comfort.

In line with this, ONCF is committed to a vision that is resolutely forward-looking, based on innovation, performance, and sustainability. It aims to strengthen national and regional connectivity, whilst supporting the Kingdom's key strategic priorities, notably the preparations for the 2030 World Cup and the promotion of safe, inclusive, and environmentally friendly transport.



ONCF in figures*:

55,6
million
passengers

5,6
million
Al Boraq passengers

23
million tonnes of freight
transported

100%
of electric trains running on
green energy

4233 KM
of track

84%
punctuality rate

95%
SME
integration

14%
reduction in carbon
emissions

*Source: Activity report and ESG report 2025

THE FORUM ORGANISERS

About UIC

The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide reference organisation for the railway sector. Created in 1922, it now brings together over 200 members from across five continents, including railway undertakings, transport operators, infrastructure managers and institutional stakeholders. Its mission is to promote rail as a safe, efficient, innovative and sustainable mode of transport for the mobility of passengers and freight.

The main tasks of UIC consist of developing the overall coherence of the global railway system, ensuring its technical and operational interoperability, and promoting the exchange of best practices between its members.

It develops international standards, drafts common technical reference documents, and undertakes research and innovation projects in such strategic fields as digitalisation, energy transition, safety and multi-modal logistics.

Acting as a platform for cooperation, UIC helps to improve the competitiveness of rail compared to other land-based transport modes and works to ensure that customers consider rail as a preferred, viable and environmentally friendly choice. One of its key goals is to support operators as they face the major challenges of today: climate change, increasing urbanisation, international connectivity and increased sustainability requirements.



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

UIC in figures*:

+200

members across 100
countries

+3 000

billion
passenger-kilometres

+10 000

billion tonne-kilometers
of freight

+1

million kilometres of
railway lines

+7

million railway personnel

100

partnerships with over
100 institutions

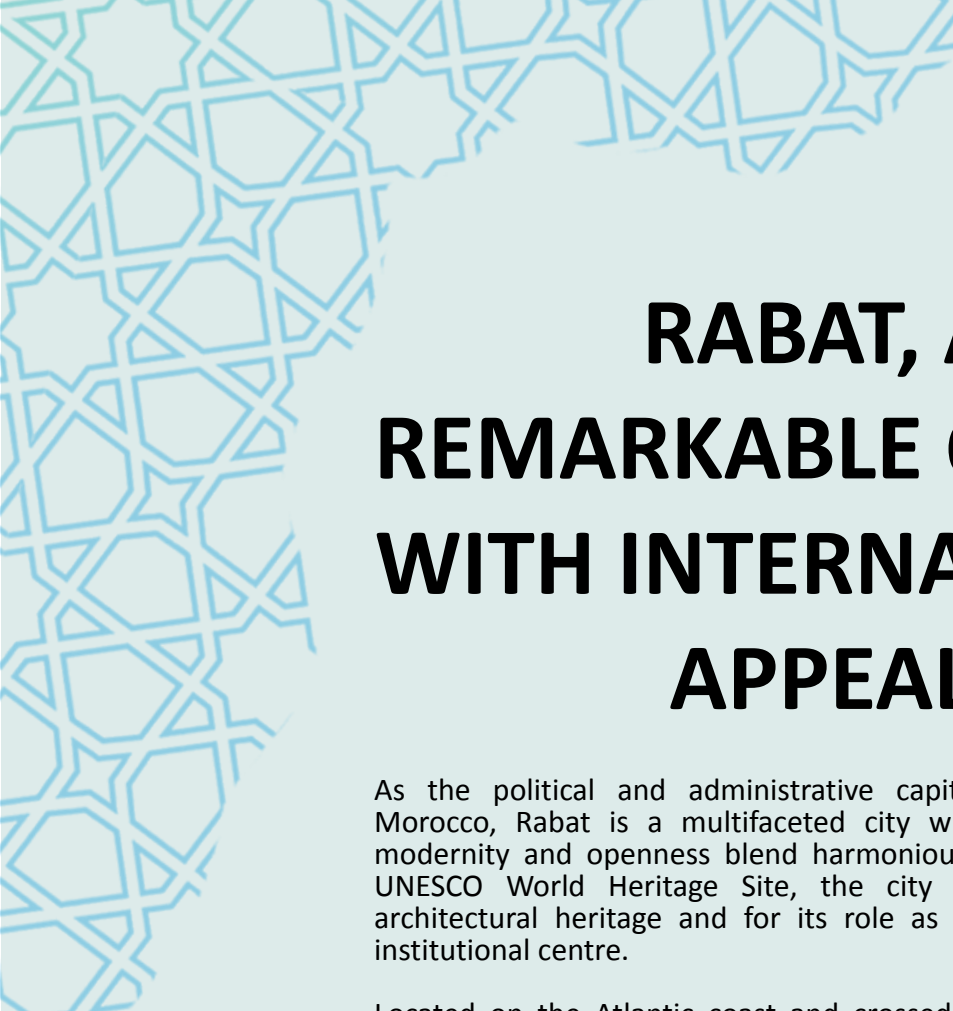
+700

International Rail
Solutions (IRS)

85

conferences, lectures
and seminars per year

*Source: UIC



RABAT, A REMARKABLE CAPITAL WITH INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

As the political and administrative capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, Rabat is a multifaceted city where historical heritage, modernity and openness blend harmoniously together. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city is notable for its rich architectural heritage and for its role as a major diplomatic and institutional centre.

Located on the Atlantic coast and crossed by the Bouregreg river, Rabat has a remarkable historical heritage, ranging from the ramparts, Almohad gates, and the Oudaya Kasbah, to its striking contemporary monuments. This is accompanied by a drive for urban development which now ranks the city amongst Africa's most attractive and innovative cities.

Known as the "City of light, Moroccan capital of culture", Rabat embodies a unique way of life where tradition and modernity come together. Throughout the year, the city hosts cultural, artistic and sporting events of international stature, reinforcing its image as a creative, cosmopolitan, and future-oriented city.

As the host city for the Forum on Financing Railway Projects in Africa, Rabat is an exceptional location, combining modern infrastructure, excellent accessibility, and a reputation for hospitality. It is therefore the ideal setting for bringing together the international railway community, around the values of cooperation, safety, and sustainable mobility.



FORUM ON FINANCING RAILWAY PROJECTS IN AFRICA

The development of transport infrastructure is a strategic lever for supporting the economic transformation and regional integration of the African continent. Within this context, rail is emerging as a key, sustainable, and efficient mode of transport, set to play a central role in the mobility of people and goods, as well as in strengthening intra-African trade.

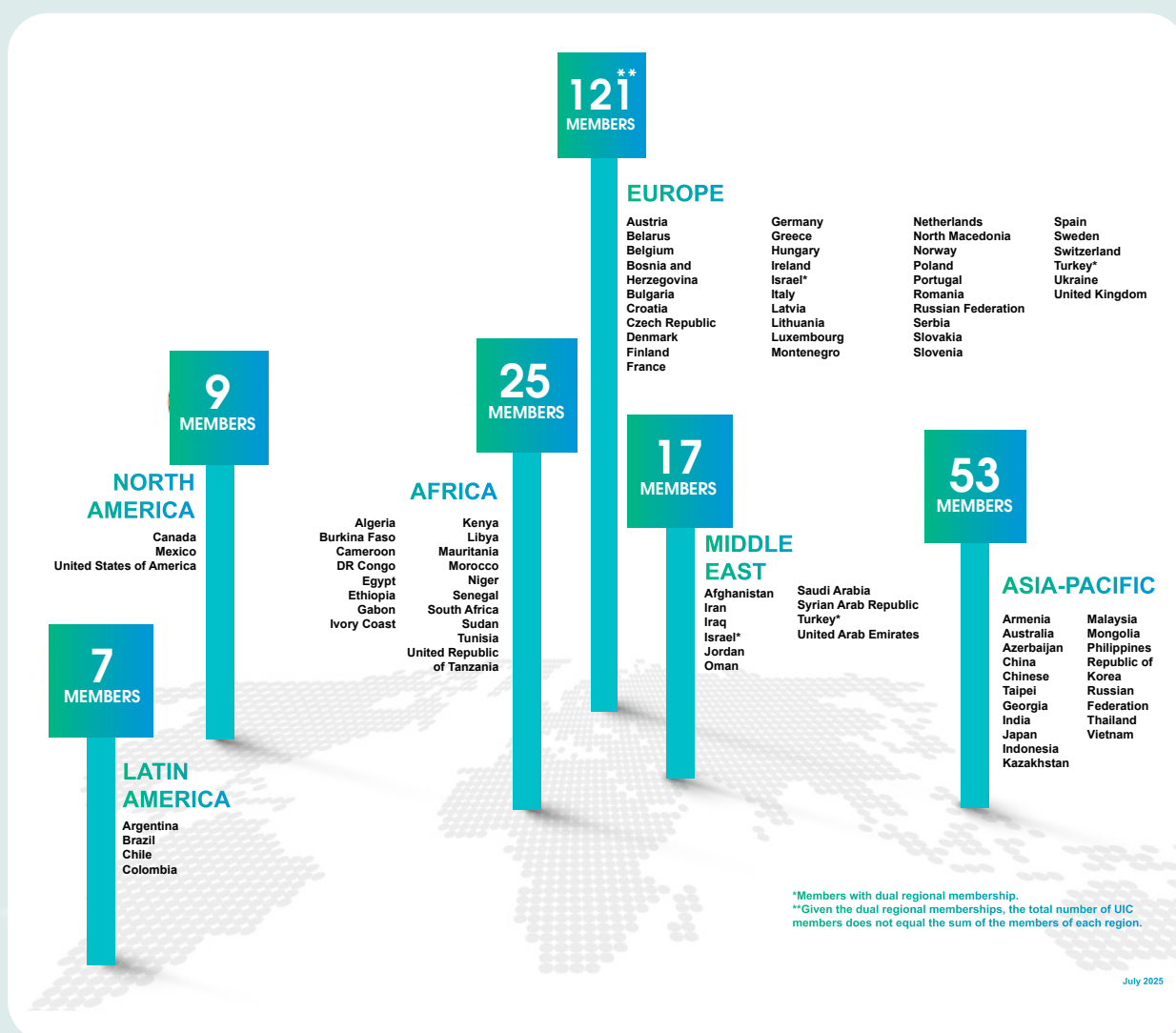
It is with this in mind that the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF) are organizing the Forum on Financing Railway Projects in Africa.

This international event aims to promote the revitalization of African railways, stimulate investment in the sector, and encourage the emergence of innovative projects that address the challenges of sustainable development.

The forum aims in particular to:

- Encourage Africa to take the lead in railway development;
- Bring together and rally stakeholders from the rail sector, policymakers, representatives of railway companies and the industry, technical bodies, expert bodies, economists, and key decision-makers in the field of financing;
- Identify major investment projects at national and international level;
- Identify funding mechanisms;
- Strengthen the public-private partnerships;
- Develop cooperation between states through strategic support for regional and sub-regional projects.

GLOBAL REACH & AUDIENCE OFFERED TO SPONSORS



A STRATEGIC MEETING FOR THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN RAILWAYS

Following a successfully organized 2023 edition in Senegal, the Forum on Financing Railway Projects in Africa returns this year to Morocco, bringing together the key institutional, financial and industrial players committed to the development of the rail sector on the continent.

As a true platform for dialogue and cooperation, this international event aims to foster discourse on the challenges of financing, modernising and integrating African rail networks, with a focus on promoting sustainable mobility and economic development.

The programme for this edition includes:

- Conferences and round-table discussions bringing together decision-makers, financial institutions, rail operators, experts and industry representatives to discuss the key challenges facing rail financing in Africa ;
- Thematic sessions focusing on innovative funding models, public-private partnerships, regional cooperation, and flagship projects across the continent ;
- B2B meetings and networking opportunities designed to facilitate discussion between investors, project leaders, and institutional partners.



FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Every year, the Forum on Financing Railway Projects in Africa brings together an exclusive and highly qualified community, making this event a point of reference for international discussion and cooperation.

For this edition, almost 200 participants are expected in Rabat, representing the diversity and wealth of the global railway ecosystem:

- Railway networks ;
- International financial institutions ;
- Development banks ;
- Investors and industry players ;
- Public authorities ;
- Regional organisations.

BECOME A KEY STAKEHOLDER AT THIS AFRICAN RAILWAY EVENT

As part of this year's event in Morocco, a limited number of exhibition spaces will be reserved for institutions, companies, and partners wishing to play an active role in the Forum on Financing Railway Projects in Africa.

Being a sponsor will present you with a unique strategic opportunity to strengthen your position within the African and international rail ecosystem.

By partnering with the forum, you will be able to:

- Develop sustainable strategic partnerships: build high-level relationships, initiate key collaborative projects, and expand your network within the international rail and financial communities ;
- Showcase your leadership in the sector: share your expertise, vision, and strategic direction with decision-makers, investors and industry experts ;
- Highlight your innovations and solutions: present your technologies, projects and expertise to an audience of key players involved in the development of the rail sector in Africa ;
- Boost your brand's visibility: link your brand to a major international event focused on the financing, integration, and modernisation of Africa's rail infrastructure.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



15 000 €

- 6m² exhibition booth including one table, two chairs, an electrical supply and internet access (bespoke arrangements possible) ;
- Your logo included on all communication aides: programme, website, welcome pack, as well as social media ;
- Your brochure included in the welcome pack given to participants ;
- 4 invitations for your team ;
- A reserved slot in the conference programme ;
- Partnership announced in the press release.



10 000 €

- 4m² exhibition booth including one table, two chairs, an electrical supply and internet access ;
- Your logo included on all communication aides: programme, website, welcome pack, as well as social media ;
- Your brochure included in the welcome pack given to participants ;
- 3 invitations for your team ;
- Partnership announced in the press release.



5 000 €

- A presentation area (up to 2m²) for showcasing your company or project, including a visual display (poster/roll-up banner) and an adjoining table ;
- Your logo included on all communication aides: programme, website, welcome pack, as well as social media ;
- Your brochure included in the welcome pack given to participants ;
- 2 invitations for your team ;
- Partnership announced in the press release.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact us at the following email addresses:



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RABAT MARRIOTT HOTEL 