Statement by Representative of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the
United Nations, at the Event “Presentation of Outcomes of the Dushanbe
High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action
“Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028”
UN Headquarters, New York, 19 July 2018

The Prime Minister of Canada’s Special Envoy to the EU and Europe, Hon.
Stephane Dion, lead Canada’s delegation in the 2018 Dushanbe Water Conference
and engage bilaterally with senior officials from various countries, to reaffirm Canada's
willingness to contribute to water sustainability efforts and encourage democratic
progression.

Canada’s key message: as much as our life is, our future depends on a water-secure
world. We must all honor our commitments. Canada is here to contribute and be part
of the solution.

Water management must be a source of peace through bilateral + multilateral
partnerships, a global effort. Canada is ready to act, share our transborder
experiences, and contribute to a sustainable future and peaceful, exemplary water
governance.

In order to prevent a dramatic increase in the number of people forced from their homes
due to water insecurity, Canada will be a strong partner for a sustainable future, one
built on water security for all; water for each home.

The global community must do more, together, to adequately address the effects of
climate change. COP 24 (this December, Poland) is a key platform to continue these
discussions and more importantly, to act.

Canada also reiterates that women should be at the forefront of global activities
initiated by the International Decade for Action on ‘Water for Sustainable
Development’. This approach is in line with Canada’s new Feminist International
Assistance Policy, which recognizes that addressing water issues, including water
security, access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and integrated water resource
management, is key to unlocking development potential in other sectors including
health, agriculture, environmental sustainability and women’s empowerment.

Canada’s focus on empowering women and girls recognizes the traditional
responsibilities women and girls have in terms of collecting water, and the challenges
they face. These challenges affect girls’ education and women’s ability to work, and to
care for their families. Lack of access to education and to decent work negatively
impact their quality of life, and limits their opportunity for progress and empowerment.