

Statement by Representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 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

It was an honor for me to co-chair the High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

The Conference, held in June in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, offered a timely opportunity to discuss how to achieve the objectives of the Decade, and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Conference also provided an important platform for elaborating recommendations in the run-up to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which reviewed, among other issues, Sustainable Development Goal 6 to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.

The Conference produced three outcome documents:

1. the Co-chairs’ Summary,
2. the Declaration adopted by acclamation and a
3. Call for Action and Partnership, prepared by the Conference Secretariat on the basis of the proceedings of the conference.

I wish again to congratulate the Government of Tajikistan for organizing a successful conference.

It was indeed timely, as showcased last week at the HLPF thematic discussion.

We heard during the HLPF that the world is not on track to meet the SDG 6 targets by 2030. This is in view of increasing freshwater pollution, water stress, and a declining share of official development assistance (ODA) for water-related activities.

There are still 2.1 billion people in the world who lack safely managed drinking water, and 4.5 billion who lack access to safely managed sanitation services.

Climate change is worsening the situation, with water-related disasters, such as floods and droughts accounting for 90% of all disasters in terms of number of people affected.

We must do more if we want to achieve the goals and targets we have committed to by 2030.

The Water Action Decade will help strengthen cooperation among countries and stakeholders for the implementation of the water related sustainable development goals.

The United Nations Secretary-General Action Plan, released earlier this year, supports the implementation in cooperation with Governments and other relevant stakeholders. DESA was asked to plan and facilitate the activities together with other UN Agencies and UN-Water.

The High-Level International Conference on the Water Action Decade was the first opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to promote actions, partnerships and policy dialogue for the implementation of the Decade. It was also key to enhancing progress towards implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and other water related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations was honored to support Tajikistan in the organization of the conference, and stands ready to continue to support countries and stakeholders in the implementation of water-related SDGs and targets, within the framework of the Water Action Decade.

I hope the outcomes of the Dushanbe Conference presented today will inspire you to take action. I wish you a fruitful and successful session.