Effective, fair and mutually beneficial water cooperation can become a catalyst for the development of countries connected by common water basins.

Mr. Emomali Rahmon
President of the Republic of Tajikistan
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
20-22 June 2018

The High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized by the Government of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations, met in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 20-22 June 2018. Under the theme “Promoting Action for Policy Dialogue”, the Conference sought to discuss the ways in which Member States, the United Nations, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, as well as civil society and other stakeholders, can contribute to the Decade and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

High-level delegations and representatives came from 120 countries, including heads of state and government, deputy prime ministers, ministers and deputy ministers, ambassadors, permanent representatives to the United Nations and special envoys, representatives of 46 international and regional organizations, such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies and programs, as well as representatives of local governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector. In total, more than 1,500 people took part in two days of discussion about one of the most pressing issues and ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Conference provided valuable opportunities for Member States and other stakeholders to promote actions, partnerships and policy dialogue, as well as review the implementation of the Decade and progress made towards implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 - ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and other water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The high-level international conference will also ensure timely follow-up in view of the Mid-Term and Final Review of the Decade.

This Conference comprised an Opening Ceremony at the level of Heads of State and Government, a Plenary Session where all heads of official delegations were invited to deliver a statement, Action Panels on specific themes, as well as Pre-Conference Events and Side Events. The Action Panels focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and on the objectives of the Water Action Decade, addressing progress in reporting, analysis of main gaps in implementation, reporting on progress to support partnerships and other proposals made by the different actors, sharing innovative practices and presenting new proposals for action. Pre-Conference Events were held to promote dialogue for major groups that are important for water management but are not sufficiently represented in decision-making on water-related issues, such as women, children, youth and academia. Special attention was paid to cover the issues and enable participation of Least Developed Countries, Land-Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.
CO-CHAIRS’ SUMMARY

Opening Ceremony

During the opening ceremony of the Conference, nine speakers at the level of Heads of State and Government and heads of international organizations shared their views and insights on various issues at global, regional and country levels. In his speech, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, emphasized the need to mobilize and address water-related issues at all levels. He stated the intention of Tajikistan to convene this conference every two years and to create an international center in Dushanbe as a contribution to the implementation of the Water Action Decade. He also praised the positive dynamics of water cooperation in Central Asia and the development of a program to provide the population of Tajikistan with safe drinking water by 2030, in accordance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In his message, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, underscored how water and sanitation are at the core of sustainable development and the need to go beyond business as usual. This conference represented the first opportunity for all stakeholders to engage in the United Nations Secretary-General’s plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028. In this regard, he drew the attention of the participants on the outcome document of the High-Level Panel on Water and to the new approach it proposes to achieve the water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations stands ready to support countries in implementing water and sanitation-related targets.

The opening ceremony of the Conference was also addressed by the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguli Berdymuhamedov, by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, by the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, by the Vice President of the World Bank for Europe and Central Asia, H.E. Mr. Cyril Muller, by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations and the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mrs. Marie Chatardová, by the President of International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Chair of UN-Water, H.E. Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, and by United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, H.E. Ms. Gerda Verburg. A video message was also delivered by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. The ceremony was moderated by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of the National Organizing Committee of the conference, H.E. Mr. Kohir Rasulzoda.

Plenary Session: Mobilizing Actions for Sustainable Water Development

This session, which was co-chaired by Prime Minister Rasulzoda and Under-Secretary-General Liu and continued during both days of the conference, provided an opportunity for all the heads of official delegations to deliver a statement. It was opened by a keynote speech on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation. Its key message is that the world is not on track to achieve SDG 6, particularly with regard to safe drinking water and sanitation. It provided some analytical insights on the most pressing issues. This speech was followed by reports from the four Pre-Conference Events, held the previous day: Women Water Forum; Children Water Forum; Water and Science for Sustainable Future; Climate and Water Dialogue. Several high-level representatives expressed support and keen interest in the transformation of the Dushanbe Conferences into the “Dushanbe Process” for the Water Action Decade and in the creation of an International Center for the Water Action Decade in Dushanbe, aimed at supporting the implementation of the Decade, including the organization of the biennial Water Decade Conferences.
Action Panels

The main discussions then continued within twelve Action Panels under the overarching theme of conference “Promoting Action for Policy Dialogue”. They were co-organized by various entities of the United Nations and other international organizations and development partners. They focused discussions on issues that play an important role for the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, and for Sustainable Development Goals.

Action Panel 1.1 on Drinking Water and Sanitation

Co-organized by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), this panel stressed the need to empower partnership for action, to ensure good health and educational outcomes, to use innovative water, sanitation and hygiene financing, particularly for the vulnerable, and to strengthen targeted monitoring. Setting country-tailored national targets and adapted progress indicators for water, sanitation and hygiene was also emphasized as vital and facilitating efficient and effective water governance. It was further highlighted that water and sanitation safety planning at utility or community level leads the way in transforming drinking water and sanitation service provision. The panel stressed strongly increased and well-leveraged investments as essential to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation services that are resilient to the adverse impacts of climate and demographic change.


This panel, which was co-organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), concluded that promoting holistic, balanced approaches to water resources management will help realize not only SDG 6, but help make progress across the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moreover, it was stressed that Integrated Water Resource Management must be applied and include rural and urban perspectives, social and economic aspects, address inequalities and inclusiveness and use source-to-sea approaches. Accounting and auditing was also put forward as essential to manage water resources. Therefore, tools for resource management and capacity building were highlighted, together with the need for political will and responsibility. Several speakers also echoed the keywords partnerships and community involvement for successful water management.

Action Panel 1.3 on Water Quality and Ecosystems

Co-organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Stockholm International Water Institute, the key messages from this panel included that users, consumers and polluters of water resources from agricultural, industrial, energy and touristic areas need to exchange information, collaborate and identify shared objectives to protect water resources and ecosystems. The need to develop an open monitoring network was highlighted as vital for the valorization of water quality rather than quantity values. Moreover, cooperation was stressed as crucial to ensure the research and knowledge dissemination and to improve the scientific understanding on emerging pollutants and the impact of climate change on water quality and water-related ecosystems. The panel further noted the need to develop effective solutions and policy responses among all stakeholders.

Action Panel 2.1 on Capacity Building including Improving Knowledge and Education

Co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO, this panel emphasized how capacity development to achieve the SDGs is about country ownership and leadership, as well as adaptive, integrated, whole of society approaches that take into account the broader economic and socio-political context. The panel also stressed that this is a continuous long-term process and requires measurement based on clear evidence of relevant changes and, at the same time, a prerequisite and zero-regret investment in moving towards water for sustainable development. The need for a holistic approach encompassing all levels of water education was also highlighted, as well as addressing its tertiary and professional dimensions and providing training for policy makers and the mass media, thereby contributing to a water-smart society. Technology was recognized as a disruptor and innovator for water-related capacity development, knowledge and education for all.
**Action Panel 2.2 on Water-related Communication, Advocacy and Networking**

Co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UN-Water, the session concluded that different stakeholders need to consider aligning their advocacy, communication and networking efforts and integrate bottom-up approaches. Successful advocacy efforts were stressed to require multi-sector coalitions and cooperation with the involvement of the public, the private sector, as well as major groups to avoid silos. It also concluded that advocacy efforts at global, regional, national, local and community levels may be supported by regular dialogues, conferences and meetings to promote the delivery and implementation of water-related goals. Communication campaigns, preparation of outreach materials and reports targeted with clear and tailor-made narratives was also highlighted as important to promote the involvement of academia, youth, women and civil society. The panel further noted the need for good case studies to be presented and collected in order for lessons to be learned and replicated.

**Action Panel 2.3 on Water-related Partnerships for Action**

Organized by the GWP, the session emphasized three strong messages: partnerships contribute to good water governance and create platforms for participation and dialogue; they need to understand the multilevel governance context in which they operate and to be mindful in their design of differences in capacity, cultures, power, personalities, and economies; they are critical as they create a space for the discovery of new and innovative financial solutions to our complex water challenges. The panel further proposed to initiate a dialogue between the many existing water partnership organizations to strengthen collaboration efforts for sustainable water management and to utilize the intelligence and energy of young water professionals as catalysts for partnership building.

**Action Panel 3.1 on Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus**

Organized by FAO, the session stressed the water, energy and food nexus and the dependency on the environment and ecosystems for their sustainability, as well as the interrelations with a circular economy. The panel highlighted the inherent complexity in these relationships, while presenting some risks and potential for conflict, as well as the opportunity for a new way of looking at shared benefits and opportunities. The panel noted that understanding these relations requires investment in capacity building at various levels. Furthermore, particular emphasis was given to support and empower women’s groups, particularly smallholder farmers. The panel noted the nexus approach works well with the SDG process, which offers opportunities for integration across a range of SDGs through a “systems approach”. Investment into the nexus was also emphasized, as it requires tradeoffs based on detailed stakeholder negotiations, followed by the development of joint plans, mutual understanding and agreement on tradeoffs, leading to political decisions. The panel further noted that the consideration of the nexus can provide an effective tool for negotiations across transboundary water resources.

**Action Panel 3.2 on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

Co-organized by Switzerland and the European Union, the session stressed the importance of a resilience approach as key to link climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Panelists noted the need to know the risks and be prepared, as prevention is much more efficient than response and recovery. Panelists noted that, although one-third of official development assistance goes to prevention and risk reduction, costs to recover are more than threefold. The panel further noted the need for innovative solutions, as well as overcoming uncertainty and aiming for inclusive, transformational world that leaves no one behind, as defined by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, the panel stressed the need for innovative financing to implement multisectoral and multi service programs that respond to the needs of all communities. Furthermore, the panel emphasized the need for all levels to cooperate at multilateral, regional, transboundary, national and local levels, as well as the importance to find means to implement the global agenda in a coherent, holistic, integrated and inclusive manner.
Action Panel 3.3 on Water Sustainability in Cities and Human Settlements

Organized by UN-Habitat, the session stressed that, despite the accelerating population growth and urbanization, no one should be left behind for the provision of water supply and sanitation. Panelists emphasized that attention should be given to vulnerable groups in cities living in slums, as well as displaced people because of conflicts and environmental hazards. They highlighted that for cities, it is important to develop appropriate policy and legal frameworks to guide the urbanization process and consider urbanization as an opportunity for development. Furthermore, the need was stressed for transparent financing mechanisms and monitoring instruments to reach a balance between, on the one hand, affordability for the poor and, on the other, cost recovery for water service providers. Panelists also noted the need for efficient use of water resources in cities against the background of growing population and climate change, therefore the importance to live with nature in a river basin and recover, reuse and recycle water as much as possible. Finally, it was emphasized that efforts should be taken to enhance the capacity of water utilities and local governments through capacity building and financial decentralization to meet the challenges of rapid urbanization.

Action Panel 4.1 on Financing, Investment and Resilient Infrastructure

Coorganized by the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the session concluded that financing, investment and resilient infrastructure under the SDGs aim substantially higher than the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore there is a need for a shift under these new circumstances. The panel stressed the need not only for additional financial, but also human and technical resources, noting the opportunities for efficiency gains in developing countries to be as much as 65% of utility costs. The panel also noted the need to explore full continuum of public, concessional and commercial financing solutions, and the importance that governments commit sufficient own resources to this vital sector. The panel further noted the need for service providers to shift towards greater credit worthiness and the importance of concessional financing to help toward financial sustainability. The panel highlighted that financing options will show results once financial and technical efficiency have been coupled with improved governance and institutional reforms, and private sector resources are in an environment of effective institutional frameworks for management and oversight. The panel noted the importance for service providers to look at blending public finance with alternative revenue sources, such concessional and commercial finance, as well as governance, regulatory and tariff challenges that need to be dealt with to make business models viable.

Action Panel 4.2 on Transboundary Cooperation and Water Diplomacy

Co-convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, the session concluded that international water law is fundamental to ensure long-term predictability of cooperation, prevent adverse transboundary impacts and ensure equitable and reasonable use of water resources. The panel highlighted that boosting water diplomacy building on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation allows preventing or resolving conflicts, while promoting regional stability and integration. The need for resources to promote and strengthen transboundary water cooperation was stressed, as well as the importance of water diplomacy to implement coordinated actions to develop transboundary basins in a sustainable manner. To achieve these outcomes, the panel recommended fostering progress on the development of agreements and effective institutions to support long-term, predictable and equitable transboundary water cooperation, as well as increasing financial and water diplomacy efforts to support sustainable development in transboundary basins, building on the benefits of cooperation.

Action Panel 4.3 on Water for Vulnerable People, including Refugees and Migrants

Coorganized by UN-Water and the International Organization for Migration with the support of FAO and in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the session discussed the issues related to water and people in vulnerable
situations, such as migrants, internally displaced people, women and rural poor. The panel concluded that the SDGs cannot be fully achieved if the conditions of these groups are not considered and their needs addressed. The panel highlighted water challenges, such as scarcity, may be among the drivers of migration, but can also be caused by migration, and climate change further exacerbates the pressure on water resources. The panel noted most of the poor and vulnerable people live in rural areas and are smallholders who rely on agriculture for their subsistence. The panel also noted data and information on water and its relationship with migration is scarce and must be improved. Panelists highlighted water scarcity can be driven by multiple factors, which must be known to design appropriate solutions for vulnerable people. They further noted that migration governance needs a comprehensive approach, including other perspectives such as water management, rural development and poverty reduction, which requires cooperation of different stakeholders, such as governments, international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector. The panel stressed the need to identify different categories of vulnerable people, such as women and youth, so that tailored strategies to each category can be defined.

**Side Events**

Moreover, six Side Events were organized by actors at the global, regional and national level. These activities created an additional platform for wider discussion on various water-related issues and priority themes of the conference:

- Side Event 1: Fostering innovation in water and agriculture for smallholders;
- Side Event 2: Meeting of the extended committee in the framework of the «Student research competition on sustainable management of natural resources in Central Asia and Afghanistan project»;
- Side Event 3: Young water professionals;
- Side Event 4: Migration in the age of vanishing waters;
- Side Event 5: Implementation of the water sector reform in the Republic of Tajikistan;

**Exhibition**

An important highlight of the conference was the International Exhibition “Water for Sustainable Development”, where organizations at the international, regional and national level showcased their experience. This event attested the presence of enormous potential to address urgent water issues.

**Excursions**

The National Organizing Committee organized excursions to the Nurek Hydropower Plant, the Rogun Hydropower Plant, the Hissor Fortress and the Sarez Lake, on the last day of the conference for participants to explore potential solutions to water-related issues, as well as to learn more about the history and experience the friendliness of the Host Country.

**Media Coverage**

The conference was widely covered by media, including through social media. Millions of people in Tajikistan and beyond were able to follow this important international event, obtain the necessary information, keep abreast of the global water agenda and, to some extent, be part of it. The official hashtags of the conference were #DushanbeWaterConf and #WaterActionDecade.
Outcome Documents

The High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, produced three outcome documents: this Co-chairs’ Summary, a Final Declaration, which was adopted by acclamation by the representatives of the participating states and organizations, and a Call for Action and Partnership, which was prepared by the Conference Secretariat on the basis of the proceedings of the conference. The Final Declaration and the Call for Action and Partnership are both annexed to this document.

The Final Declaration reflects the key messages that emerged from the policy dialogue and several important conclusions and recommendations. In particular, this document stresses the main challenges ahead and recalls the key instruments available to address them. The Final Declaration calls upon Member States and other stakeholders inter alia to increase water-related investment and its efficiency, to reduce inequalities in access and ensure affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services for all, to address water-related disasters by substantially increasing investment, among other things. It also notes the intention of the Government of Tajikistan to hold Water Action Decade Conferences in Dushanbe on a biennial basis and to keep organizing them in an open and inclusive manner and invites all Member States, the United Nations, including UN-Water, as well other relevant stakeholders, to actively participate in the Dushanbe Process.

The Call for Action and Partnership contains all the initiatives that were proposed during this conference as a contribution to the implementation of the Water Action Decade at all levels. This document aims at taking stock of the actions and partnerships in the framework of the Decade and at contributing to their follow-up. It also includes the proposal to establish an International Center for the Water Action Decade in Dushanbe, as well as the idea to establish a register for actions and partnerships that contribute to achieve the objectives of the Decade, starting from those included in the document.

The conference was a clear success, largely thanks to the joint and coordinated efforts of all parties. The Government of Tajikistan will present this Co-chairs’ Summary, the Final Declaration and the Call for Action and Partnership to the United Nations General Assembly at its 73rd Session. The participants expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting the Conference in Dushanbe and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all participants. They also manifested gratitude to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Water and other partners for their support.
PROMOTING ACTION AND POLICY DIALOGUE

Dushanbe, Tajikistan
20-21 June 2018

The High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 20-21 June 2018, to discuss how to achieve the objectives of the Decade, contained in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Heads of State and Government, ministers and other high-level dignitaries took part in this historical gathering together with representatives of international and regional organizations, local governments, civil society, the private sector and academia. The Conference also provided a timely and necessary platform for elaborating recommendations in the run-up of the next session of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development where, among other issues, the Sustainable Development Goal 6 to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” will be discussed. The Conference built on the outcomes of the Eighth World Water Forum, the High-Level Panel on Water, the Water for Life Decade and other major water-related events and platforms at the global and regional level.
We, the participating representatives of states and organizations,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (hereinafter referred to as the “Water Action Decade”),

Also recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which reiterates the importance of “ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” as a Sustainable Development Goal to be achieved by 2030, the underpinning importance of water related issues in other goals and targets in order to reach the overall Agenda and the centrality of the “No One Left Behind” principle,

Further recalling resolutions 68/157 of 18 December 2013 on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and 70/169 of 17 December 2015 on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of the United Nations General Assembly,

Taking note of the efforts and extensive work carried out by the High-Level Panel on Water,

Acknowledging the additional challenges facing countries with water scarcity and concerned with the impacts of such challenges, including inter alia their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Highlighting the challenge of rapid population growth and the importance of water management in disaster risk reduction in mitigating and adapting to climate change and in ensuring ecosystem protection, particularly of watersheds in mountain areas, wetlands, deltas and in coastal zones, in order to increase the resilience of communities, and noting that water management can contribute, as applicable, to the implementation of relevant multilateral agreements, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2015 Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Stressing the need to manage in an integrated and sustainable manner water resources from source to sea around the water, food, energy and environment nexus, including by promoting the concept of circular economy and other relevant solutions to reduce, recycle and safely reuse water,

Expressing concern about the current and projected adverse impacts of climate change on water resources and sanitation, as well as the challenges posed by pathogens, nutrients and emerging pollutants, including pharmaceuticals and microplastics, that are threatening human health and the quality of surface and groundwater,

Bearing in mind the need to implement integrated urban water management, including sustainable waste management systems, in line with the New Urban Agenda, as part of Integrated Water Resource Management, by implementing inter alia nature-based solutions, decentralized wastewater management and improved rainwater management and harvesting,

Recognizing that, according to Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, the world is not on track to achieve water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets at the global level by 2030 at the current rate of progress,

Recognizing that effective lake and river basin organizations, water planning and target setting at the appropriate levels, including of drinking water supply and sanitation safety, are key to the sustainable management of water resources and require coordination of actors, development of infrastructure, benefit sharing and harmonization of national and basin wide development agendas,

Recognizing that parliamentarians and citizens make an important contribution to water governance alongside national governments, as well as regional and local authorities, as applicable,

Reemphasizing the key role of women for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6, their insufficient representation in water-related decision-making processes and among water professionals at all levels, the disproportionate burden carried by many women and girls for water collection and use, their specific needs of safe water and sanitation facilities and the need to create an enabling environment to address these issues,

Acknowledging the importance of ensuring water availability for civilians and protecting civilian water infrastructure and service delivery in the event of conflicts and natural disasters, as well as for refugee and migrant populations living in informal or inadequate housing,

Looking forward to the Mid-Term Review of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, as an important milestone focused on the goals of the Decade and water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets,
Noting the ongoing efforts by UN-Water in responding to the expectations of the international community, supporting the monitoring of the SDG 6 targets and providing coordination among its members,

Also noting the possibility to create an International Center for the Water Action Decade in Dushanbe with the support of the Government of Tajikistan and other interested parties to sustain the process towards implementation of the goals of the Water Action Decade and the organization of Water Action Decade Conferences,

Hereby reiterate our determination to achieve the objectives of the Water Action Decade and declare to:

Promote, at the local, national, regional and global levels, opportunities for public and private investment in infrastructure, including through the development of innovative financial instruments and mechanisms, and seek to increase the efficiency of investment to conserve and sustainably manage freshwater, wastewater and water contained in soil and vegetation, support community-based efforts and develop non-conventional water resources, such as water reuse and desalination;

Strengthen the capacities, resources and skills, as well as improve knowledge generation and exchange of practices, to support national and local governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in those countries and for those people furthest behind;

Make concentrated and coordinated efforts to build innovative, robust, flexible and fair systems for source to sea Integrated Water Resources Management, to increase water use efficiency and productivity, particularly in agriculture, energy, tourism, urban and rural development, as well as industry, to better appreciate the value of water and associated ecosystem services, to reduce emissions and the transport of hazardous substances and to take into consideration the serious impacts on the quality and availability of water resources caused from extractive activities;

Commit to reduce inequalities in access and ensure affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services that are basic human needs, essential to the health and well-being of families and communities, to avoid any kind of discrimination and to support countries and communities with specific needs and people suffering from poverty and in vulnerable situations, especially women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and those living in remote areas, going beyond the household, particularly targeting schools, healthcare facilities and workplaces;

Improve communication and access to practical, water-related information and funding to empower communities at all levels, through clear messages, to promote participation, equity, improved accountability and social innovation, supporting the engagement of civil society representatives in decision-making processes related to the rational, transparent and sustainable use and management of water resources and the provision of water-related services;

Step up the efforts to develop tools, build institutional and human resources capacity, foster technology exchange, improve data that are appropriately disaggregated, disseminate knowledge, including traditional knowledge, skills and enhanced scientific and technical know-how to better understand the water cycle, contribute to the identification of appropriate solutions, including through South-South and triangular cooperation and improved research, education and training with a local perspective and special attention to children and youth;

Facilitate partnerships at all levels among different kinds of stakeholders, including public authorities, the private sector, civil society organizations and academia, with the engagement of women, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, as appropriate, to develop and implement actions that address problems related to water and sanitation at suitable levels and to promote the all-of-society engagement necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Prioritize water diplomacy and transboundary cooperation in line with the applicable principles of international law by strengthening inter alia the means of information and data exchange, open and inclusive multilevel and intersectoral dialogue in order to foster mutually beneficial solutions and institutional arrangements, such as basin commissions and plans, among riparian countries, for the development of transboundary river basins, lakes and aquifers and for protection of ecosystems and recharge zones;

Promote actions to address water-related disasters by significantly decreasing loss of life and damage as percentage of gross domestic product, by treating investment in disaster risk reduction as integral to expanding capacity for socioeconomic growth, by integrating science into policy, by substantially increasing investment in disaster risk reduction and establishing financing and investment principles and by supporting alliance of alliances in recognition that climate change may exacerbate water-related disasters, contributing to promote action for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities;
Recall the United Nations Secretary General’s plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 as a blueprint to coordinate and catalyze action throughout the Decade and invite the United Nations Secretary General to report to the Member States about the progress made by the United Nations and its entities with the implementation of this action plan;

Note the intention of the Government of Tajikistan to hold Water Action Decade Conferences in Dushanbe on a biennial basis and to keep organizing them in an open and inclusive manner and invite all states, the United Nations, including UN-Water, and other relevant stakeholders, to actively participate in this Dushanbe Process;

Invite countries to consider the establishment of Water Action Decade centers and partnerships on specific themes, such as one for water and disasters, or at the regional level and use the already existing water-related centers, programs and partnerships, such as those under the auspices of the United Nations and its entities, including UNESCO Centers and Chairs, as useful mechanisms to enhance dialogue, cooperation, technical and scientific transfer and development for the effective implementation of the Decade;

Further invite all Member States to consider appointing water champions, who will play a mobilizing role for the Water Action Decade;

Strongly recommend Member States to prepare and adopt national strategies and plans and implement actions for the achievement of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as the goals of the Water Action Decade;

Ask the United Nations, within existing resources, regional organizations, International Financial Institutions, philanthropic organizations, the private sector and development partners to support the implementation of the Water Action Decade, particularly in developing countries, Least Developed Countries, countries suffering from water scarcity, Small Island Developing States and Land-Locked Developing Countries and middle-income countries, considering their specific circumstances;

Request the Government of Tajikistan to present the Chair’s Summary of this Conference, accompanied by this Declaration, to the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other relevant venues;

Urge all Member States to actively participate in the preparation process of a United Nations General Assembly resolution on the Mid-Term Comprehensive Review of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, to be undertaken during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly;

Request the Secretariat of this First High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, to collect, in collaboration with the International Steering Committee, the actions and partnerships that were proposed by the participating states and organizations during this Conference in a document to be entitled “Call for Action and Partnership”;

Invite the participating states and organizations to share the progress made on the actions and partnerships proposed during this Conference at inter alia the Second Water Action Decade Conference, and as a contribution towards the Mid-Term Review of the Decade;

Decide that the theme of the Second Water Action Decade Conference shall be “catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels” to achieve the goals of the Water Action Decade and water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

Express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting the Water Action Decade Conferences in Dushanbe and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all participants; we also express our sincere appreciation to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Water and other partners for their support.
The first High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, organized by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and other partners, met in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 20-22 June 2018. The Conference sought to discuss the ways in which the Member States, the United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, as well as civil society and other stakeholders, can contribute to the Decade and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This document collects the key actions, partnerships and other initiatives that were proposed during the Water Decade Conference, calling Member States, the United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, as well as other stakeholders, to contribute to their implementation, as appropriate. These initiatives are taken directly from the speeches delivered during the Opening Ceremony and Plenary Sessions, as well as from the reports of the Action Panels. It will serve as basis for discussion for the second High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

The proposed activities and partnerships are presented here following the work streams that were identified in the United Nations Secretary-General’s plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028.
CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

WORK STREAM 1: FACILITATING ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

Activity 1.1: Host Decade campaign website as a platform to learn about the Decade and related topics, get engaged and promote Decade activities, including space for Member State activities

Encourage Member States and other stakeholders to submit activities and commitments, as well as initiatives, on the Decade campaign website www.wateractiondecade.org (UN-Water)

Activity 1.2: Improve access to knowledge for Member States and other relevant actors through coordinated policy support, capacity development and improved access to reliable water data to effectively model and plan for the future

Strengthen and country-tailored monitoring systems on drinking water and sanitation to inform national policy making and data-based prioritization (Action Panel 1.1)

Consider and include theory of change principles in capacity development and education interventions for sustainable water management with defined outcomes and predictable impacts (Action Panel 2.1)

Ensure that all investments in infrastructure/hardware are accompanied by matching investment in software/capacities, knowledge, skills, and good water governance or the entire life-cycle of the projects or schemes (Action Panel 2.1)

Seek increased capacity building for data collection and analysis to develop baseline data and to support the development of evidence-based policy and monitoring processes (Jamaica on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States)

Establish the national groundwater monitoring system for dual control of the total utilization amount and water level of groundwater (China)

Establish a monitoring and warning mechanism of water resources carrying capacity (China)

Keep developing the High Level Panel on Water’s World Water Data Initiative, aimed at reducing the cost and complexity of information necessary for making evidence-based decisions about water (Australia)

Establish a transparent and reliable information basis for sound decisions and improve water management and governance capacities (Switzerland)

Implement the country-specific SDG-related targets to be achieved by 2030, including indicators of targets for SDG 6 (Nepal)

Align data collection efforts for compliance with the definitions for water-related SDG indicators with UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Program (World Bank)

Continue supporting Citizen Water Observatories in South Asia, a citizen-science based approach to monitoring water quality and quantity and promoting dialogue (Oxfam)

Activity 1.3: Improve international scientific cooperation in fresh and marine water research, resources management, education and capacity-building through enhanced access to knowledge

Propose a new SDG Indicator 6.a.2 on Water Education, mapping on capacity building and water education in Member states to assess the relevance of the water-related curricula (Action Panel 2.1)

Support the development of partnerships and alliances such as the Alliance of Alliances, the different Global Climate Action agendas, Alliances that engage basins, cities and the private sector, as well as those that bridge the water and climate community (Action Panel 3.2)

Support the activities of the recently-established Glacier Research Center at the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan (Tajikistan)

Support the activities of the recently-established Global Change Impact Study Centre to conduct research on climate change impacts on different sectors, including water resources (Pakistan)

Establish the National Water Information Centre (NWIC) to upgrade the water resources information and management system for scientific development, conservation and joint use of ground and surface water resources (India)

Implement an ambitious national project on aquifer management (NAQUIM) to completely map 2 million sq. km. of the mapable area of the country, followed by proper aquifer management plan (India)

Set up a national training center, formulate curricula for water engineers and promote graduate degrees in water engineering with the University of Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone)
Increase the efficiency of water use through training, including for university graduates, water research and water harvesting in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Center Hydraulic Research (Sudan)

Build capacity among professionals for activities such as the improvement of water use efficiency, water harvesting and groundwater recharge, treatment of wastewater and sanitation-related activities, especially in urban areas (Bangladesh)

Firmly establish the ecological culture concept of respecting and protecting nature and coordinate the relationship between water resources development and protection (China)

Promote and use rainwater technology to increase freshwater resources and encourage research and development under the National Rainfall Program (United Arab Emirates)

Encourage scientists and researchers from all over the world to explore new horizons for the development of techniques of mapping and providing solutions within the National Center for Meteorology to increase the fertility of clouds, especially in areas where there is much dust (United Arab Emirates)

Implement the hub for water-related innovation contained in the updated version of the National Innovation Strategy (United Arab Emirates)

Continue organizing training programs for the utilization of water resources and waste water to share experiences with the experts of other countries (Turkey)

Continue collaborating with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) on the so-called “Water Future and Solutions” initiative to develop global and regional water models and scenarios (Austria)

Provide trainings on agriculture water management for Asian and African countries under the South-South Cooperation (Indonesia)

Advance research and development as well as education and training to facilitate the implementation of integrated water resources management at all levels, applying measures and actions tailored to the local conditions through regional management as milestones to breakthrough for enhanced water security (Leaders at the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit)

Support Member States by improving science-based knowledge generation, dissemination and decision-making, by strengthening the quality of water education and training, by raising awareness of communities and by promoting advocacy and networking (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Continue to host and coordinate the World Water Assessment Programme, which provides Governments and the international community with cutting-edge and policy-relevant information on freshwater resources worldwide (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Expand cooperation in the field of prevention and exchange of information on the struggle from transboundary epizootics, access to quality agricultural products and sanitary quarantine to ensure food security (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)

Take practical steps to strengthen cooperation in such areas as response capabilities in emergency situations in the field of health, sanitation, epidemiological well-being of the population, countering the spreading of infectious diseases (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)

Commit to research and teaching on water through the University of Central Asia in partnership with governments in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (Aga Khan Development Network)

Start an academic major in Earth and Environmental Sciences at the campus in Tajikistan of the University of Central Asia and the Mountain Societies Research Institute (Aga Khan Development Network)

Encourage to dedicate 1% of investments in infrastructure to capacity building initiatives around women farmers (Women for Water Partnership)

Activity 1.4: Promote and enable the exchange of good practices and environmentally sound technology transfer

Set country-tailored WASH targets and engage in best practice exchange to ensure efficient and effective water governance (Action Panel 1.1)

Target knowledge sharing on water quality and ecosystems as key element to the achievement of an effective networking (Action Panel 1.3)

Share national experiences and lessons learned amongst LLDCs and countries in similar situations as an important element of cooperation (Paraguay on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries)

Share the experiences of the Danube basin countries and invite others to draw inspiration from the work of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and its Secretariat in Vienna (Austria)

Continue leading the implementation of an EU project which prepares river basin plans - in line with the methodology of the EU Water Framework Directive - to help improve the management of water resources and
specifically of transboundary rivers in the six Eastern Partnership countries (Austria)

Continue supporting a country-wide program for the water and environment sector in Uganda, including an integrated water resource management component to promote sustainable water catchment management planning (Austria)

Share positive experience with water management both internally and along and across its borders with the United States, share expertise in water-related technologies and services and share lessons learned, inspire innovation and increase the availability of science and data (Canada)

Create an open registry where all countries can propose their commitments on the model of the Our Ocean conferences (Indonesia)

Exchange the available experience and best practices on the comprehensive development of bilateral cooperation mechanisms to avoid unjustified difficulties in resolving many issues related to the use of water resources (Russian Federation)

Share experiences and best practices in water management (Slovakia) with countries in Central Asia (Romania)

Learn from each other about the many instruments and experiences are available for successful transboundary integrated water resources management (Switzerland)

Share experiences gained through the implementation of EU-funded water governance projects together with the 13 other countries sharing the Danube basin under the umbrella of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (Hungary)

Share with the world experiences and best practices on water resources management and technology, such as ICT-based smart water management (Republic of Korea)
CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

WORK STREAM 2: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND DISSEMINATION, INCLUDING NEW INFORMATION RELEVANT TO WATER-RELATED SDGS

**Activity 2.1: Develop guidelines, financing mechanisms, policy advice and integrated monitoring of progress in support of Member State implementation of water-related Sustainable Development Goals**

- Prepare the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the mid-term review of the implementation of the Decade (Tajikistan)
- Implement the guideline that was developed for full and effective participation of local communities in all water development projects (Bangladesh)
- Develop and prepare joint methodologies and tools for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, into which the River Danube flows, and for the training of relevant authorities, providing interregional expertise and ensuring a coherent approach in the Black Sea region (Romania)
- Disseminate guidance materials on how to improve water data management, how to maximise the benefits of environmental watering, how water policies can achieve more efficient use of water consistent with integrated water resource management principles and, soon, how to achieve water efficiency in irrigation (Australia)
- Use the SDG 6 Synthesis Report as a common ground for discussions on SDG 6 implementation during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and beyond (Germany)

**Activity 2.2: Conduct scientific research projects aiming to advance sustainable development**

- Join in and support UN-Water’s efforts in monitoring SDG 6, as the custodian agency for the indicators of target 4 related to water use efficiency, sustainable withdrawals and water scarcity, working with member states in acquisition, harmonization, and interpretation of water-related data and information through the AQUASTAT data base, as well as normative, capacity-building and field activities to monitor the respective indicators (Food and Agriculture Organization)
- Use UN-Water’s SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 and the World Bank’s High and Dry Report to support the achievement of SDG 6 (UN-Water, World Bank)
- Disseminate gender impact assessment tools that are specifically aimed at the private sector involved in large water infrastructure projects, including an app that enables gender specific data to be gathered for Strategic/Environmental Impact Assessment (Oxfam)

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**Use UN-Water’s SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 and the World Bank’s High and Dry Report to support the achievement of SDG 6 (UN-Water, World Bank) **

**Disseminate gender impact assessment tools that are specifically aimed at the private sector involved in large water infrastructure projects, including an app that enables gender specific data to be gathered for Strategic/Environmental Impact Assessment (Oxfam) **
WORK STREAM 3: PURSUING ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND PROMOTING PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTION

Activity 3.1: Pursue advocacy campaigns in cooperation with public and private stakeholders and Major Groups including establishing thematic years in line with other water related observances

Promote water and sanitation safety planning at utility or community level to lead the way in transforming drinking water and sanitation service provision to be safe, and thus health-protective, sustainably managed and equitable (Action Panel 1.1)

Utilize the energy and intelligence of young water professionals as catalyst for partnership building (Action Panel 2.3)

Implement the 110 million AUD Water for Women Fund to help improve the health, gender equality and well-being of Asia and Pacific communities through inclusive, sustainable water and sanitation projects (Australia)

Enhance the positive momentum by raising awareness, sharing best-practices and promoting cooperation (Brazil)

Make use of the Mountain Partnership, which is essential to raise awareness about the importance of mountain peoples and ecosystems to achieve a water-safe future (Italy, Mountain Partnership)

Continue conducting sanitation campaigns, such as Nepal WASH campaign, National Sanitation Week, Global Handwashing Day, Menstrual Hygiene Management Day, etc., under the leadership of the government to increase sanitation coverage in the country (Nepal)

Pay attention to the International Decade on Family Farming, which presents opportunities for synergy and cooperation (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Call for urgent action to ensure women’s effective and meaningful engagement in decision-making in the water sector (UN Women)

Lead to local action in water and sanitation programming and advocacy, influencing and supporting Government action while partnering with a broad range of stakeholders (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

Continue supporting government leaders to push water security to the top of their political priorities together with member organizations (Asia-Pacific Water Forum)

Champion the Water Action Decade and facilitate research and partnership with academia, private sector and other stakeholders (Royal Academy of Science International Trust)

Activity 3.2: Promote partnerships and actions through multistakeholder platforms, agreements and partnerships

Create multistakeholder action platforms aiming at mobilizing action on water quality and ecosystems at all levels to generate political will, reinforce regulation standards and facilitate cooperation between national and international stakeholders (Action Panel 1.3)

Open up to existing networks relevant for water quality and ecosystems and coordinate with non-water sectors such as agriculture, industry, energy and tourism, as well as cities and local authorities (Action Panel 1.3)

Create an International Center on the implementation of the Decade in Dushanbe to sustain the process towards implementation of the goals of the Water Action Decade and the organization of Water Action Decade Conferences (Tajikistan)

Contribute to the logical completion of the organizational structure and legal basis and International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (Kazakhstan)

Ensure participation and full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Decade at all levels (Group of 77 and China)

Spread passion for water to other sectors and build meaning, including high-level partnerships, in future conferences (Bulgaria)

Create broad global platforms for cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations to achieve water-related Sustainable Development Goals (Kyrgyzstan)

Strengthen partnership as a potential mechanism for effective cooperation based on clear understanding of priorities and the search for mutually acceptable solutions (Azerbaijan)

Pursue initiatives and activities that lead to positive, concrete impacts on the national and local levels such as multistakeholder events like the World Water Forum (Brazil)

Help develop a comprehensive engagement on water, including with the five Central Asian republics (Canada)

Jointly implement measures, managed at river basin level, including in transboundary waters and involving authorities at all levels, water industry, major water users, scientists, civil society, farmers, etc., ensuring transparency as comprehensive data collection and monitoring (Estonia)

Develop a water partnership at the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Estonia)
CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

Continue implementing the European Flood Awareness System (Slovakia)

Develop new partnerships and innovative approaches including joint management of transboundary infrastructure (Switzerland)

Collaborate on collective solutions to water scarcity through the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) partnership initiative to help countries and stakeholders (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Focus more on regional dialogues in the context of SDG implementation (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

Work with national stakeholders and communities to implement the water related goals through intergovernmental sciences programmes, including the International Hydrological Programme and its national committees, water-related centers and chairs with over 3,000 experts around the world (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Continue efforts to build support for a proposal on modernizing the legal framework for transboundary water management in the Aral Sea Basin (United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia)

Continuing collaborating with partners and different United Nations agencies within the framework of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

Support the activities of the International Center on the implementation of the Decade in Dushanbe that was proposed by Tajikistan through the development of knowledge products, advisory and technical guidance and implementation of capacity building programs (Global Water Partnership)

Contribute to the active and consistent implementation of the actions in the Asia-Pacific region as per the Water Action Decade by regularly holding the Asia-Pacific Water Summit and by enhancing regional cooperation (Asia-Pacific Water Forum)

Activity 3.3: Disseminate and put into effect recommendations made by eminent bodies pertaining to the implementation of water-related Goals to the extent possible

Implement the Outcome Document of the High-Level Panel on Water, including the recommendation “valuing water” (Tajikistan, St. Vincent and Grenadines on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Netherlands, Hungary, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Bank)

Take into consideration the recommendations of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace (Netherlands)

Implement the United Nations Secretary General’s Plan for the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN-Water)

Disseminate and put into effect the recommendations of the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Yangon, Myanmar, on 11-12 December 2017 (Advisory Group of the National Water Resource Council of Myanmar, Asia-Pacific Water Forum)
WORK STREAM 4: STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER-RELATED GOALS

Activity 4.1: Organize regular dialogues, conferences and meetings to facilitate implementation of the water-related Goals

Organize one workshop on monitoring of selected targets of SDG 6 by the end of the year (Action Panel 1.2)

Organize periodic biennial meetings at the highest possible level, such as the Dushanbe Conferences (Action Panel 2.2)

Initiate a dialogue among Water Partnership organizations to strengthen collaboration efforts for sustainable water management (Action Panel 2.3)

Hold High-Level International Conferences in Dushanbe on a biennial basis on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade with the support of the International Steering Committee (Tajikistan)

Hold a summit of the heads of the founding states of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea in Turkmenistan to improving its activities and enhance its effectiveness (Turkmenistan)

Recognize that the World Water Forum, since its first meeting convened in 1997, has contributed to international dialogue on water and has promoted local, national and regional action on integrated and sustainable water resources management worldwide (Group of 77 and China)

Hold the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Helsinki Convention in Astana (Kazakhstan)

Organize the Water Week in Cairo to promote awareness related to water conservation and sustainable development, foster new thinking to face water-related challenges and support actions towards integrated water resources management (Egypt)

Establish long-term mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector by building large hydropower plants and exchanging energy resources in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan)

Recommend that “United Nations member states and other stakeholders use the Decade as a platform for policy dialogue, exchange best practices and build partnerships to address water issues at all levels” (Australia, High Level Panel on Water)

Participate in the working-level dialogue on the water-related goals and targets under United Nations sustainable development pillar, with emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Estonia)

Ensure that also after 2018 there is a space at the highest political level for Member States to fully discuss the action to be taken to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs (Germany)

Continue positive dialogues on major water-related issues, including disaster prevention, health, climate change, gender, education and poverty with the people concerned (Japan)

Organize the Budapest Water Summit 2019 to provide future generations with a water-secure world (Hungary)

Host the Korea International Water Week and the International Water Industry Conference every year to further deepen water cooperation (Republic of Korea)

Provide a platform where partners in the Asia and Pacific Region can share their experiences of water-related enterprises and together conceive better ideas for integrated water resources management through the Asia-Pacific Water Summits (Advisory Group of the National Water Resource Council of Myanmar)

Support countries in implementing water and sanitation-related targets of the 2030 Agenda, including by promoting policy dialogue, exchanging best practices, raising awareness and forging partnerships (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

Activity 4.2: Produce communication material and reports related to implementation of the water-related Goals

Publish an e-learning tool for capacity development on indicator 6.4.1 by the end of the year (Action Panel 1.2)
OTHER PROPOSED ACTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Infrastructure
Implement the CASA-1000 regional project and the resumption of the parallel operation of Tajikistan's energy system with the unified energy system of Central Asia (Tajikistan)

Continue the implementation of the «Green Belt» program to create extensive forest belts around cities and settlements with the use of advanced water-saving irrigation methods (Turkmenistan)

Establish a navigation line between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) to achieve socio-economic integration and cohesion among Nile river basin countries (Egypt)

Complete the construction of the Kaechon-Taesong reservoir, renewing the terrestrial landscape (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Implement the Namami Gange flagship programme to rejuvenate and make river Ganga pollution free and similar projects in other rivers (India)

Implement the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (Prime Ministers Irrigation Project) flagship programme to complete 99 large irrigation projects by December 2019 to create additional irrigation potential of 7.62 million hectares, provide water to every field, promote micro and drip irrigation and ensuring better water efficiency (India)

Implement the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) with the objective of providing adequate safe water for drinking, cooking and other domestic basic needs on sustainable basis through creation of infrastructure (India)

Execute the Swachh Bharat Mission, which is being executed in both urban and rural areas with focus on safe sanitation and aim to achieve universal sanitation coverage (India)

Implement the programme for inter-basin transfer of water by interlinking rivers (India)

Undertake water conservation and water harvesting works by digging wells, ponds and repairing of traditional water bodies, reservoirs and canals under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (India)

Complete the implementation of short, medium and long-term water supply projects entailing the construction of solar powered boreholes, containerized water systems, gravity water supply systems, dams, transmission and distribution networks, etc. (Sierra Leone)

Build up water supply and sanitation systems to cover all educational institutions with special attention to the needs of female pupils and students (Bangladesh)

Seep up the construction of a batch of major water-saving and water supply projects of overall and strategic importance to provide strong support for the sustainable and healthy socio-economic development (China)

Complete the cleanup project of the highly polluted Citarum River to transform it into a source of drinking water (Indonesia)

Increase water storage capacity by developing 65 new dams, which will be used for 1,4 million hectares of agricultural land (Indonesia)

Provide water in cases where production is interrupted or reduced by identifying storage capacities, particularly in natural underground reservoirs (United Arab Emirates)

Adopt reverse osmosis techniques in desalination of sea water to separate water production from energy production (United Arab Emirates)

Promote the cultivation of plant varieties resistant to salinity, drought and modern irrigation and aquaculture techniques as means of rationalizing water consumption in the agricultural sector (United Arab Emirates)

Continue improving infrastructure to ensure every person to access safe drinking water and sanitation services (Turkey)

Continue water drilling activities to provide access safe drinking water in African and Middle Eastern countries (Turkey)

Create regional and international water governance frameworks (Hungary)

Implement new projects like impounding reservoir, solar lifting water supply systems and bulk distribution systems to increase the coverage and sustainability of water supply and sanitation, to address the issue of water scarcity and to distribute arsenic free drinking water (Nepal)

Continue to support governments and communities in the region and beyond across a range of priorities, including water which is central to quality of life (Aga Khan Development Network)
Financing and investment

Secure increased and well-leveraged investments to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation services that are resilient to the adverse impacts of climate and demographic changes (Action Panel 1.1)

Ensure private sector contribution and investment in water and sanitation-related projects (Action Panel 1.3)

Adjust existing funding mechanisms and new funds to the new frameworks and allow for multi-sectorial and multi-service programmes to implement programmes in an integrated and holistic way (Action Panel 3.2)

Adopt a sub-regional approach to new investment projects combined with appropriate monitoring frameworks to provide a new impetus for improved access to services in cities and human settlements (Action Panel 3.3)

Value water and price services to ensure that everyone has access to water (Action Panel 4.1)

Invest in building capable and effective institutions to be able to improve creditworthiness (Action Panel 4.1)

Consider market segmentation for prioritizing “free” concessional funding for those that need it most (Action Panel 4.1)

Make progress on the issue of financing to improve climate change resilience by reducing exposure and vulnerability (Action Panel 4.1)

Increase finance and water diplomacy efforts to support sustainable development in transboundary basins building on the benefits of cooperation (Action Panel 4.2)

Support investment and economic development in rural areas and the livelihood of smallholders to increase water availability and reduce the risk of scarcity (Action Panel 4.3)

Increase support to origin, transit, and hosting countries to tackle the challenges of migration and displacement and harness opportunities (Action Panel 4.3)

Increase investment for activities targeted at developing facilities and infrastructure for providing access to fresh water and sanitation, as well as strengthening national and regional water management systems (Afghanistan)

Increase investments on introducing innovative and advanced water resources management technologies such as water saving farming methods and rainwater harvesting technologies (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)

Install new water treatment facilities and modernize existing ones (Azerbaijan)

Install modular sewage treatment plants on the Apsheron peninsula to prevent pollution of the Caspian Sea from small local sources (Azerbaijan)

Set up an institutional mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs and achievement of the targets within the stipulated timeframe, including the appointment of a senior civil servant as national SDG coordinator to ensure smooth and coordinated inter-ministerial coordination (Bangladesh)

Invest a total amount of 131.7 billion RMB for the reinforcement and improvement for drinking water safety in rural areas (China)

Implement water-saving management by contract, increase investment from public finance support from financial credit, as well as encourage and attract more social capital invested in water conservancy construction and water resources conservation and protection (China)

Continue making investments to ensure every person to access safe drinking water and sanitation services (Turkey)

Make significant investments in water sustainability and science (Canada)

Develop new innovative financial instruments, capable to address transboundary and regional approaches and help blending public and private funds (Switzerland)

Scaling up innovative financing options to secure adequate financing for water and sanitation infrastructure (Ethiopia)

Double investment at the regional level in infrastructure and community-based efforts to address water-related disasters (Leaders at the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit)

Use official development assistance as a catalyst to leverage new funding sources (UN-Water)

Reach 40% of annual financing commitments in the green economy by 2020 (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

Provide possible service and support to water-related global cooperation (Finance Center for South-South Cooperation)

Make key investments in hydropower in Tajikistan together with the government, the World Bank Group, Switzerland, Norway, the European Union and the United States (Aga Khan Development Network)
OUTCOME DOCUMENTS

CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

Policy

Develop a regional program for the Aral Sea that takes into consideration the water-energy-food-environment nexus and identify action areas (Action Panel 3.1)

Develop a program to provide the whole population with clean drinking water for the period until 2030 (Tajikistan)

Develop the 4<sup>th</sup> Aral Sea Basin Program under the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea to assist the countries of the Aral Sea basin (Turkmenistan)

Implement the Regional Environmental Action Plan as a unified environmental program for the countries of Central Asia (Turkmenistan)

Implement the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea” of 18 April 2018 (Turkmenistan)

Adopt the SDGs agenda as national development framework (Pakistan)

Implement the National Water Policy adopted in April 2018 (Pakistan)

Revise the National Water Law and National Water Strategy to fully reflect Integrated Water Resource Management at all levels (Afghanistan)

Increase joint investments and joint management of water infrastructure, as well as joint consultation mechanisms and joint plans for the development of river basin, lakes and aquifers to promote transboundary cooperation (Group of 77 and China)

Address the challenge of water scarcity and the impacts of climate change, drought and desertification (Group of Landlocked Developing Countries)

Decrease water consumption in irrigation of 20 percent per hectare and increase the volume of recycled and reused water in the framework of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (Kazakhstan)

Implement a five-year program to provide access to quality drinking water for consumers for a total of 280 million USD combining national funds and the participation of international financial institutions (Uzbekistan)

Implement the five-year state program approved in 2017 on the development of the region of the Aral Sea to improve the living conditions of the population (Uzbekistan)

Implement the «Water for All» programme to bring drinking water to 85% of the rural area population by 2025 (Angola)

Implement the National Water Resources Plan for the period 2017 to 2037 putting the year 2030 as key milestone (Egypt)
Settle outstanding issues on the international rivers with neighboring countries and within the country on interstate rivers (India)

Prepare a new resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to appeal for further international support for solving the problems of uranium heritage in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan)

Prepare the Integrated Water Management Strategy of the State of Qatar, commissioned by the Permanent Water Resources Committee (PWRC), to ensure the availability, reliability, access, and quality of water required for the social and economic development (Qatar)

Implement the Qatar Water National Strategy, which aims to secure water for the next generation and constitutes guidance for the state planning sector (Qatar)

Increase energy efficiency and stop wasting electricity and water as a daily practice and community culture (Qatar)

Reform the water sector through unbundling of water generation from water supply (Sierra Leone)

Encourage public-private partnerships (PPP) in the construction of major water supply projects, especially in urban areas where market potential exists (Sierra Leone)

Integrate sanitation and irrigation projects in future inventions (Sierra Leone)

Harvest rainwater and exploit underground water by implementing 7,500 projects by the end of the year with a total cost of over 900 million USD in the framework of the “Zero Thirst” project (Sudan)

Rehabilitate irrigation structures for agriculture by implementing a pilot program to install irrigation pumps for agricultural projects in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (Sudan)

Implement the Strategic Action Program for the Kura River basin within the framework of the partnership between Georgia and Azerbaijan with the support of the Global Environment Facility (Azerbaijan)

Develop an action program to achieve effective management of water in all river basins (Bangladesh)

Improve water quality by reducing pollution, treating wastewater and push for recycling (Bangladesh)

Protect and restore all water-related ecosystems, identifying important wetlands and forests to be brought under protection to conserve their sensitive ecosystems and declaring many wetlands as Ramsar sites (Bangladesh)

Look for ecosystem-based as well as community-based adaptation for managing adverse impacts of climate change (Bangladesh)
CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

Strengthen the protection of important ecological reserves, water conservation areas, river headwaters, promote ecological restoration of ecological vulnerable rivers (China)

Implement the water pollution control action plan and establish the joint mechanism of water pollution prevention and control (China)

Strictly control the water use intensity (China)

Strengthen the management on water quota and plan and explicitly define the water conservation requirement for various sectors (China)

Reduce the water consumption per unit of GDP and industrial added value by 23% and 20% respectively comparing to those in 2015 (China)

Increase the effective utilization coefficient of farmland irrigation water will rise to above 0.55 (China)

Improve water quality in water functional zones of main rivers and lakes and completely reach standards if water quality in water supply source areas for cities and towns by 2020 (China)

Implement the EU Strategy for the Danube Region to further inspire economic, social and territorial cooperation among its participating countries and foster cohesion, especially among neighbors (Romania)

Ensure that drinking water reaches all citizens and residents and access to the drinking water services provided through piping networks from 87% of the population in 2016 to 92% in 2020 and sewage coverage from 60% to 65% by 2020 (Saudi Arabia)

Expand the use of non-conventional water to reach 88% of the population and improve the quality of wastewater used for irrigation through modern irrigation methods, motivating farmers to use them (Saudi Arabia)

Implement the Water Security Strategy 2036, which aims to ensure sustainable access to water during natural and non-natural conditions through a series of harmonized programs of action between different actors (United Arab Emirates)

Reduce the total demand for water resources by 21%, reduce the water scarcity index and increase the reuse ratio of treated sewage to 95% (United Arab Emirates)

Implement legislative arrangements and actions plans to ensure that every person has access to safe drinking water and sanitation services (Turkey)

Give priority to the water needs of vulnerable people including refugees and migrants to achieve the commitment of «leaving no one behind» (Turkey)

Focus on maintaining high national standards, keeping an aging water infrastructure in good shape, and enhancing efforts to reduce pollution from diffuse sources, pharmaceuticals and microplastics (Austria)

Protect marine and coastal areas and join other countries in banning plastic microbeads (Canada)

Enhance the role of women and girls, including in water management, through the new Feminist International Assistance Policy (Canada)

Honor the Paris commitment to decrease its GHGs emissions, because otherwise climate change will continue to cause rising sea levels, salinization of land and water, extreme weather disasters, glaciers melting, acidification and alterations in seawater chemistry and in fisheries ecology (Canada)

Implement the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2015-2019, which highlights the need to build water resilience (Indonesia)

Achieve good ecological and chemical status of all waters in the country, pursuant to the Water Law (Estonia)

Focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources, particularly through the worldwide implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (Germany)

Support the closer collaboration of Central Asian states on the melting of glaciers as an impact of climate change which in turn reduces both quality and quantity of water available for growing populations in downstream countries to mitigate the disastrous consequences, including through the Berlin Water Initiative and the EU Strategy for Central Asia (Germany)

Pay attention also to other goals, such as disaster prevention, health and climate change, addressing them in a comprehensive manner cooperating with every partner engaged in SDGs (Japan)

Continue to cooperate closely with stakeholders on water issues like relevant countries and international organizations (Japan)

Cooperate with the international community to reduce the global water crisis and mitigate its impacts while transforming the right to water for all a reality (Switzerland)

Continue leading a line of action on water, employment and migrations within the Union of the Mediterranean together with the WWA and other partners (Italy)

Draft SDG-aligned policies such as National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Act and the Sector Development Plan that encourage public-private partnerships in water and sanitation (Nepal)
Improve the coverage of water supply to 83 per cent by 2020 and 100 per cent by 2025 (Ethiopia)

Continue implementing the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program, which is nationally-owned and led program, involving development partners, both UN agencies and bilateral development partners, with one coordinated and integrated planning, budgeting, reporting, procurement and monitoring and evaluation system (Ethiopia)

Continue implementing Myanmar’s water sector reform, which is taking place in cooperation with many valued development partners (Advisory Group of the National Water Resource Council of Myanmar)

Support universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as an essential condition for health, well-being, growth and productivity (European Union and its Member States)

Sustain efforts to promote access to water and sanitation for women and girls in particular, who are often the furthest left behind, which can reduce the burden of household chores, increase education opportunities and generate income and innovation for the whole community (European Union)

Provide safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation for all in the region by 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Leaders at the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit)

Reducing food loss and waste, which not only causes significant water and energy wastage but also releases large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Work towards achieving universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, and to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations (UNICEF)

Finish providing basic sanitation for all including eliminating open defecation (World Health Organization)

Look beyond access and focus on achieving higher levels of service (World Health Organization)

Shift focus beyond households and provide safe water and sanitation in schools and healthcare facilities, including provision of facilities for handwashing with soap and menstrual hygiene management (World Health Organization)

Provides inspiration and a guiding template to set ambitious but achievable targets through the European Protocol on Water and Health (World Health Organization)

Continue the implementation of the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI), establishing a set of criteria that should be met by all the Red Cross Red Crescent water and sanitation players (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

Keep supporting small projects to identify ways communities can conserve natural ecosystems and receive payment for environmental services that sustains the community and is an alternative to costly engineering investments (Oxfam)
CALL FOR ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

**Institutions**

Foster progress on the development of agreements and effective institutions to support long-term, predictable and equitable transboundary water cooperation (Action Panel 4.2)

Establish the Economic Cooperation Organization’s Regional Water Management Center in Islamabad to evolve and share innovative solutions for integrated water management, particularly in agricultural use (Pakistan)

Set up a high-level coordination committee in the office of the Chief Executive to coordinate the efforts of the government and international partners, including the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations entities, to attain the SDGs (Afghanistan)

Develop and promote the international cooperation at all levels, including the transboundary river basins of Tumen and Amnok for ecosystem environment protection and sustainable utilization of water resources (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)

Form the national governmental «Task Force on Adaptation with Water Scarcity» (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Support to the activities of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management under the auspices of the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Support to the activities of the International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures under the auspices of United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Enact into law the creation of a National Water Resources Management Agency (Sierra Leone)

Transition to the principles of integrated water resources management in accordance with the Water Framework Directive to address the problems of transboundary water basins at the regional level, as a party to the Helsinki Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health, with particular attention to the Kura river (Azerbaijan)

Implement the European Water Initiative Union for the Eastern Partnership Countries to improve water resources management, in particular transboundary development of tools to improve water quality in the long-term perspective and its accessibility for all (Azerbaijan)

Implement the waterfront function management institutions and strictly control the occupation of waterfront in construction projects (China)

Implement the most stringent water resource management system and accelerate the transformation of economic development mode and water utilization pattern, including total water consumption volume control (China)

Promote the river chief system for river and lake management, whose establishment was completed at provincial, municipal, county and township levels (China)

Form the river-lake management and protection mechanism with defined responsibilities, orderly coordination, strict supervision effective management and sound protection to provide insurance for river health maintenance and sustainable utilization of the river and lake functions (China)

Progressively complete the water right transactions platform and mechanism and establish an incentive mechanism for water saving (China)

Support the promotion of international agreements on water cooperation and work together with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and all Danube countries to create synergies between national actions (Romania)

Promote regional cooperation for equitable access to quality water under the ASEAN Working Group on water resources management (Indonesia)

Coordinate efforts and policies among different actors (United Arab Emirates)

Cooperate internationally and exchange views for the purpose of finding a unified attitude for the way to use and develop water resources (Iraq)

Complete the new federal institutional set up to implement the plans and programs of water supply and sanitation at all levels (Nepal)

Prepare action plans to accelerate water cooperation between North and South Korea for achieving the SDGs and peaceful use of transboundary rivers and water availability (Republic of Korea)

Scale up existing implementation capacities for public institutions, water utilities, universities and research centers, which should also target women (Ethiopia)

Improve transboundary water cooperation at both the European and global level, including through important international agreements in this area (European Union)

Call all United Nations Member States to seize the opportunity of the global opening of the Helsinki Convention, accede to it and take advantage of its tools and of its multilateral framework to accelerate efforts towards cooperation worldwide (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

Continuing promoting and facilitating transboundary water cooperation (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)
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