Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

666 Third Avenue, 19th floor
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United States of America

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25 March 2022

Our reference
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Excellency,

Water is integral to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It is crosscutting and supports the achievement of many SDGs through close linkages with climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality and health, amongst others.

In 2018, the United Nations committed to focus on water for a decade, aiming to further improve cooperation, partnership, capacity development and catalyze actions in response to the ambitious United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General of the United Nations noted "This is an opportunity to raise awareness, define a roadmap and advance the water agenda". To successfully implement the goals and objectives of the Water Action Decade and other internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including SDG6, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 73/226 of 20 December 2018 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, in which it decided to convene, in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

As the first UN conference on water held since 1977, the UN 2023 Water Conference will be a major milestone to create momentum and accelerate progress on the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. The UN 2023 Water Conference aims for concrete results through concrete actions and participants from all sectors will be encouraged to announce voluntary commitments and partnerships at the national and regional levels.

The co-hosts of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Permanent Mission of Kingdom of the Netherlands, are therefore pleased to invite Your Excellency (+1) to an in-person Member States briefing on **Tuesday, 12 April 2022, from 10:00AM - 1:00PM (EST) at UN Headquarters in CR2.**

During this briefing, the Special Envoys for the UN 2023 Water Conference from both the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Sulton Rahimzoda, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Henk Ovink, will together with USG Mr. Liu Zhenmin as Secretary-General of the 2023 Conference, and Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo as Chair of UN-Water, update Member States and other stakeholders on the current state of play regarding the preparatory process for the UN 2023 Water Conference. During this event, there will be ample room for engagement and thematic input.

In a letter of 21 January 2022, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Conference Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs invited all Member States to submit proposals on the themes of the five interactive dialogues to be held at the Conference. At the same time, UNDESA held global online stakeholder consultations on the same. We thank all those who have already sent in their contributions to the Secretariat and encourage others to do so. In addition, UN Water has also contributed to this endeavor by producing a paper with options for proposed themes.
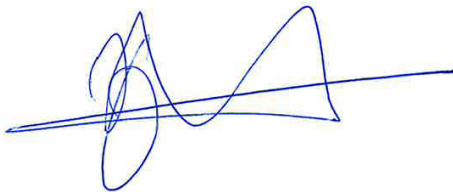
For this briefing, a speakers list for a limited number of Member States will be opened on a first-come, first-served basis, Ms. Tahmina Hasanova (khasanova.takhmina@gmail.com) and Ms. Julia Munsters (julia.munsters@minbuza.nl) may be contacted before 8 April 2022 to register.

Please find enclosed the proposed programme for the briefing and the Vision Statement from both co-hosts for the UN 2023 Water Conference. Any other documents will be circulated in due course for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Jonibek Hikmat, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan the to the United Nations

H.E. Yoka Brandt, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations