



Proposal of Turkey

for the Interactive Dialogues of the “United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

1. Examining the “Vision Statement UN 2023 Water Conference: “Our watershed moment: uniting the world for water”, it is understood that the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, is expected to set an ambitious vision and targets that is likely to go beyond the aim of the Conference as set by UN General Assembly Resolution 73/226 entitled “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028” as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Turkey is of the view that the Conference and its interactive dialogue sessions should not deviate from the mandate as set by the relevant Resolution as well as the GA Resolution 75/212.

2. Since the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review will be one of the most important intergovernmental conferences to take place under the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic, it would be highly relevant and timely for the Conference and the interactive dialogues to focus on **pandemic and WASH** (water, sanitation and hygiene).

3. Given this background, Turkey believes that the proposed theme for the interactive dialogue can lead to the following:

- Developing a better understanding of coordination at different levels for protection, prevention and preparation in water and wastewater management and services during pandemic situations to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation systems for all: Lessons Learnt through the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Developing global cooperation among governments (local authorities/mayors, parliamentarians, ministers, heads of governments/state), intergovernmental, multilateral organizations, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, water professionals, scientists, policy and decision makers, representatives of water-related sectors and draw attention for protection, prevention and preparation in water and wastewater management and services during pandemic situations to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all.
- Maximizing potential of studies, which have been developed in response to Covid-19 pandemic to ensure access to safe drinking water for all by 2030.
- Developing a platform for all activities and actions in response to Covid-19 / Providing a platform for scientific disciplines, water associations, globally active water operators and major actors to develop world-wide capacity building activities.

- Establishing a platform to encourage WASH-related entrepreneurial and operational capacity building activities, dissemination of Waste-water based Epidemiology (WBE) activities for urban settings, especially in non-sewered low-income countries.
- Disseminating WASH requirements under pandemic situations.
- Increasing interest from funding agencies, scientific disciplines, water associations, globally active water operators and major actors to develop capacity building activities especially for training of specialists and setting-up infrastructure (e.g., labs) and logistics.
- Ensuring worldwide preparedness for new waves of Covid-19 or other possible pandemics, ensuring use of WASH studies like WBE as an early warning tool.