Excellencies,


Guided by the General Assembly resolutions (A/RES/73/226; A/RES/75/212) the co-hosts of the Conference (the Governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and of the Republic of Tajikistan) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), serving as the Secretariat for the Conference, with the support of UN-Water, have been supporting the preparatory work of the Conference, scheduled to take place at UN Headquarters in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. Among other activities, three sets of consultations on possible themes for the five interactive dialogues at the Conference have been organized, namely:

1) Consultations with Member States;
2) Global online consultation with stakeholders; and
3) Consultations among Members and Partners of UN-Water.

Based on the results of these consultations, as well as the outcomes of regional and global preparatory meetings (https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023), the co-hosts have presented the following suggestions for the themes of the five interactive dialogues:

1) Water for Health;
2) Water for Development;
3) Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment;
4) Water for Cooperation; and
5) Water Action Decade.

These proposed themes will be finalized at a one-day preparatory meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its 77th session on 25 October 2022. In addition, on 24 October, stakeholders are invited to exchange views during a stakeholder consultation convened by the President of the General Assembly.


All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York
After this preparatory meeting, Member States and stakeholders will be invited to submit inputs to the concept papers on the themes of the five interactive dialogues. The concept papers will serve as a basis for the interactive dialogues, providing latest data and analysis on the status and trends, challenges and opportunities, possible areas for new partnerships, as well as recommendations on achieving water-related SDGs.

In addition, during the one-day preparatory meeting, Member States will be invited to express their interest in serving as co-chairs at the highest possible level for any of the interactive dialogues, as well as suggestions on distinguished experts to serve as moderators and panelists for the interactive dialogues.

The UN 2023 Water Conference is expected to bring concrete actions and commitments to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. We look forward to the participation of all Member States at the Heads of State and Government level, as well as from a wide range of stakeholders, in the Conference next March.

Together, we will make the Conference a great success to help realize a sustainable, inclusive and resilient society.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

LI Junhua
Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs
Secretary-General of the UN 2023 Water Conference