

Thank you Mr President

Excellencies

In line with its mandate on science and education, UNESCO has been supporting countries in building their capacity and promoting scientific cooperation for evidence based decision on water through its intergovernmental hydrological programme with its current phase 9 on science for a water secure world in a changing environment.

We welcome the five themes for the interactive dialogue. UNESCO has been supporting the preparatory process of the conference through the following 4 streams :

- Science for evidence based decision on water in line with open science. UNESCO has been mobilizing and will continue to mobilize scientific community and partners to raise the profile of science and committed to support the water science based assessment game changer.
- Groundwater: making visible the invisible. We need to raise the profile of groundwater for conjunctive water management and in that regard UNESCO is hosting the UN-Water Groundwater summit in Paris on 7 and 8 December for which you are all invited.
- Capacity development: UNESCO and UN DESA are coordinating the UN-Water Capacity building Development initiative which is a demand driven initiative. UNESCO is committed to mobilize all its water centres and water chairs within universities to build capacity of Members States.
- Mainstreaming gender in water management. A call for action on gender in water was launched last year by the world water assessment programme as contribution to the conference.

UNESCO will continue contributing to the preparation of the conference and in supporting countries for evidence based solutions to complex interrelated water challenges.

Thank you.