Excellency,

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/212 of 21 December 2020 and my letter dated 16 September 2022, 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 now scheduled to be held from 22 to 24 March 2023 at UN Headquarters, New York. The one-day preparatory meeting for the Conference convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on 25 October 2022, finalized the themes of the interactive dialogues as follows:

1. Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17);
2. Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12);
3. Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR (SDGs 6.5, 6.6, 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15);
4. Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda (SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17);
5. Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan.

The proposed themes are supported by the five accelerators of the SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework\(^1\) (Financing, Governance, Data and Information, Capacity Development, and Innovation), and the three principles of the Conference (Inclusive, Cross Sectoral and Action Oriented).

The Secretariat will begin preparing the respective concept papers on each of the themes of the interactive dialogues with a view to finalizing them by the end of December 2022. As provided for in paragraph 9(d) of General Assembly resolution 75/212, I would

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

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\(^1\) https://www.unwater.org/publications/sdg-6-global-acceleration-framework
like to invite contributions from Member States to the concept papers with the latest related data and analysis, analysis on the interlinkages between SDG 6 and its targets with other SDGs as highlighted in the themes, as well as how the five accelerators of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework can support the achievement of water-related goals and targets, bearing in mind the cross-cutting nature of water and interlinkages between SDG 6 and other goals. I would encourage your Government to share good practices and contributions for the way forward, and recommendations on advancing the implementation of water-related SDGs. A generic draft outline for the concept papers is attached for reference.

Due to the restrictions on the length of the documents emanating from the Secretariat, the main recommendations of your Government on the concept papers will be reflected to the extent possible. However, with your consent, the full text of your Government’s contribution will be published on the website of the Conference at: https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023.

It would be greatly appreciated if the contribution of your Government could be sent in English to the Secretariat - Mr. Tomoyuki Okada, tomoyuki.okada@un.org and Ms. Eun Hee Lee, eunhee.lee@un.org with copy to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, chatterjeem@un.org by 28 November 2022. In your submission, please also indicate if the Secretariat may publish it on the Conference website.

I would also like to invite an expression of interest, of your Government, to serve as a co-chair for any of the five interactive dialogues at the highest level, and nominations of distinguished experts to serve as moderators and panellists of the interactive dialogues, as provided for in paragraph 9(c) and 9(d) of General Assembly resolution 75/212. Please communicate your proposals to the abovementioned Secretariat no later than 28 November 2022.

Finally, I would like to encourage all Governments to announce voluntary commitments that feed into the Water Action Agenda that aim to contribute to the implementation of water-related SDGs and associated targets as envisaged in paragraph 4(g) of General Assembly resolution 75/212. The voluntary commitments can be registered through the online form available on the UN 2023 Water Conference website: https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water, or announced in the official meetings of the Conference.

The Secretariat stands ready to support you in this process.

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

LI Junhua
Under-Secretary-General