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Statement

by

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at

**Interactive Dialogue – Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water,
Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban
Development**

United Nations 2023 Water Conference

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Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters

Excellencies, ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the organisers, co-chairs, moderator, panellists, lead discussants, participants for such an interesting dialogue.

I would like to point out only the most important things in the light of questions raised in the concept paper.

I believe that for the protection of our water resources, we need to use a sustainable approach to water management. This includes investing in water infrastructure, improving water use efficiency, and promoting water conservation practices. Over the last decades, Estonia has invested more than 1 billion euros in water management infrastructure to ensure proper drinking water supply and wastewater treatment for the population.

It is very important to bear in mind that the automation and digitisation of water supply and wastewater treatment is an important step in ensuring the efficiency. It's also crucial not to forget that the maintenance of already built systems is not less important than building the system. Thus, in addition to investing in modern technology, we are making efforts to modernise the overall structure and set up of the municipal water sector to keep the water services available also in the long run.

We also need to ensure that by implementing effective regulations and enforcing them our water resources are protected from pollution. We are continuously updating the relevant legislation in the light of evolving knowledge and the general trends in the sector. In Estonia, we have significantly reduced pollution from point sources, but there is still a challenging way to go in managing diffuse pollution.

In conclusion, providing access to safe and reliable water services is not just a basic human right, but it is also essential for sustainable development and prosperity of our societies and economies. It is up to all of us to work together to protect and conserve our water resources for future generations.

Thank you!