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Inputs to Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan

To whom may concern

As an organization this year we celebrate 20 years of existence. During this time, we have gained a lot of knowledge and experience in the water sector in Poland, Europe and the World. Since 2017 our work has been mainly focused in Middle East and Africa. Only in last few years I had attended 300 conferences and executed 3000 meetings all related to water field or sustainability.

The common point of all initiatives is the lack of action due to bureaucracy, lack of a person to make the final decision, uncertainty in taking bold action which requires courage based on multidisciplinary knowledge and many years of experience. In 2018 I had visited Uganda and met H.E. Former Prime Minister to discuss Lake Victoria Challenges and action plan. Project has never started and 6 years later in UN HQ I have been listening to the same conversation. This time is gone and it could had been used properly to restore LV waters, set up protection plan and secure engagement of local communities through awareness and social part of the project which goal was to actively convince people to take part in restoring the ecosystem that 7 countries depend on. This is only one of many examples where decision could had prevent the water crisis toward which we are heading now. We can't afford to talk about the obvious for days, months and weeks to come. The implementation of a pilot project on a given river, lake other water resource should not take more than 4 weeks.

On technology note we are in the era of Metaverse, AI, VR, tech twins but in terms of water treatment on a mass scale nothing has happened in 100 years. The only solution used in chlorine and other chemicals and that is absolute outdated and old-fashioned solution - yet no one notices the lack of innovation in the water sector we have disturbed the balance of the natural environment so much that we have created ideal conditions for the development of ever stronger pathogens. It is naive to think that we can solve the problem by still using the same tools we can't poison the water even more and expect it to be healthy choked with chemicals and pollution.

Plastic - its production is increasing; in the past year, with food and drinks, we traced the amount of plastic the equivalent of a credit card - today it is the equivalent of one laptop a year – yet we have ready existing solutions both in water treatment sector and packaging and alternative materials sources.

I could multiply these data, but I want to focus on the solutions to the challenges we face. The starting point should be the ocean – it covers 70 % of our planet, 70% of each human is water and 70 % of people will be living in cities by 2050. We have to start see the world, SDGs goals, ocean as big pictures where all actions are connected so is the impact on natural environment. We talk about carbon footprint, water footprint, plastic footprint but all of those are human footprint – this is the outcome of our long term activities on the planet Earth and this is us who have to take action and reverse what we have done to our ecosystem on all the levels in micro and macro scale.

An effective action plan should create a round table in each country consisting of representatives of all stakeholders and jointly build clusters based on action, and once a quarter verify what has already been implemented and the effectiveness of activities. Governments should immediately establish a fast-track legislation and its ongoing update on issues of innovative solutions, the potential of which is lost due to the lack of categories, standards and other bureaucratic factors that do not translate into effectiveness and effective problem solving.

I am ready and would be honored to act on behalf of the UN Presidency as Special Envoy for Global Water Resources restoration and Climate Change impact mitigation.