I am honored to address this distinguished gathering today on behalf of the Kingdom of Tonga. Today, I will speak about the crucial topic of water cooperation, especially transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 agenda.

Tonga recognizes the importance of water cooperation, as water is essential for human survival and the sustainability of the planet. We also recognize that access to water is a basic human right and that everyone has a right to clean water and sanitation. Furthermore, we believe that water cooperation is essential for achieving sustainable development goals, especially for low-lying island countries like Tonga.

Transboundary and international water cooperation is crucial for the sustainable management of water resources, especially for countries that share water
resources. Tonga recognizes the importance of regional and international cooperation, as our water resources are limited, and we sometimes depend on water resources shared with neighboring countries. We believe that international water cooperation can help to promote peace and stability in the region, as water resources can sometimes be a lifeline as we saw with the recent volcanic eruption and the resultant scarcity of potable, drinking water.

In this regard, Tonga is committed to the implementation of the United Nations Watercourses Convention, which provides a framework for the management and protection of transboundary water resources. We also believe that cross-sectoral cooperation is essential for the sustainable management of water resources. Tonga is committed to working with all stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector, to ensure that water resources are managed sustainably and for the benefit of all.

Scientific cooperation is another important aspect of water cooperation, as it can help to build knowledge and capacity for the sustainable management of water resources. Tonga recognizes the importance of scientific cooperation and is committed to working with the international community to build our scientific capacity in the field of water resources management.

Finally, water is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Water is an essential component of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 6, which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. In this regard, Tonga is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to water, and we believe that international cooperation is crucial for the achievement of these goals.

In conclusion, Tonga recognizes the importance of water cooperation, especially transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, scientific cooperation, and water across the 2030 agenda. We are committed to working with the international community to ensure the sustainable management of water resources for the benefit of all. We believe that water cooperation is
essential for achieving sustainable development goals, and we look forward to working with all stakeholders to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your attention.