

## Statement

### World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

#### UN 2023 Water Conference

#### Interactive Dialogue 1

#### Water for Health:

#### Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

22 March 2023 10:00 – 13:00

VENUE: UN HQ, New York

Thank you, Madame Moderator,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is an honor to address this Interactive Dialogue on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization. Yes, water is obviously a part of the solution, providing sustainable and adaptive solutions to the challenges posed by climate change. It is also obvious that Health, WASH, water quality are correlated with water quantity, and we have to consider all of them together.

During the COP27 last October, the **Water and Climate Leaders** issued a statement that clearly articulated the need to shift the narrative from water being a problem to water being part of the solution to climate change. The statement emphasized notably that:

1. Hydrological monitoring and forecasting systems significantly reduce climate and weather-induced disaster risk. (These systems can provide early warning of potential water-related disaster)
2. Smart water management can enhance climate change resilience and security. (This can be achieved by developing climate-resilient water infrastructure, promoting integrated water resources management, and enhancing water conservation and demand management practices.)

The challenges facing us are vast, complex, and multidimensional. However, it is clear that **global integrated water data and information systems** can improve water management by providing reliable data for effective decision making. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is at the forefront of addressing this challenge with solutions such as HydroSOS, and liaising with FAO on a global water data portal. WMO is supporting different partners to help building a sustainable and effective water quality monitoring at national, regional and global scale. These solutions are critical for evidence-based decision making to manage water resources sustainably and to build resilience. Last year WMO published the first **State of Global Water Resources Report** which assesses the effects of climate, environmental, and societal change on the Earth's freshwater resources. These forementioned activities are also WMO's commitment to the Water Action Agenda.

WMO as the UN Specialized Agency on Weather, Climate, and Water focused on providing science-based knowledge to policy makers is particularly committed to accelerating the progress on data and information and stands ready to support countries and partners in implementing such water information services.