



**STATEMENT**  
**DELIVERED BY OASIS – THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**  
**AT THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE AND NEW YORK WATER WEEK**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

Distinguished Delegates from the United Nations, the Kingdom of Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan and the international community,

On behalf of Oasis from Serbia, I am pleased to deliver a statement for the first UN WATER CONFERENCE organized in NEW YORK for the last 50 years.

WATER is essential for life. The right to access to safe drinking water and hygiene is one of the basic human rights declared by the UN Resolution 64/292 in 2010. Accordingly, all member states are obligated to develop an appropriate legal instrument and mechanism for its gradual implementation through national legislation.

The main negative impacts on water include climate change, land use change, economic activities such as energy production, industry, agriculture and tourism, as well as urban development and demographic changes.

The excessive and irrational use of water, building of small hydro power plants on small streams and the occurrence of extreme droughts undoubtedly increases a high risk of water scarcity contributing to the significant economic loss and social consequences in rural areas.

Along with the increase in population and the rise in living standards, the amount of available water reserves and access to clean drinking water is progressively decreasing. It is certain that water is already becoming the subject of current and future conflicts, both at the local and global level.

Therefore, it is necessary to apply multidisciplinary measures into the few main directions including preventive and protective measures against water pollution, sustainable usage of water, effective implementation of national and international legislation, strengthening of inspection services, education and raising public awareness through implementation of various environmental programs and cross-border projects, as well as providing urgent financial and technical assistance to the most vulnerable areas.

Water, as the most important natural resource for the survival of humanity, obligates us to collective rational use and protection from pollution for the sustainable development for future generations.

Thank you.

Gordana Grujic