PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

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AT THE

2026 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION.

3 March 2025. New York.

Co-facilitators,

My delegation would like to thank the Republic of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates for convening this organizational meeting and for co-hosting the 2026 UN Water Conference.

We also thank the Government of Senegal for offering to convene a high-level international meeting in Dakar in 2025 to support the preparatory process of the Conference.

Ethiopia believes that the Conference will be an opportune moment to share best practices and strengthen cooperation by reaffirming

the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to the General Assembly resolution 78/327, the aim of the 2026 UN Water Conference is to accelerate the implementation of SDGs 6. This should be the objective on which we need to focus on and put our efforts together to achieve this critical task. In this regard, building on the discussions of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Review would be the fitting approach to proceed with the preparatory process.

Ethiopia, therefore, would like to preliminary propose in this organizational session that the five themes of the 2023 UN Water Conference be considered for the interactive dialogues with the following amendments:

On Interactive Dialogue 1, the emphasis should be on the progress made in achieving water, hygiene, and sanitation for the implementation of the SDG-6, and support needed in developing capacities to deliver these services.

We propose that the theme of Interactive Dialogue 2 be amended as "Water for Urban Development." This helps our discussion to focus on the urgent need to address the increasing water demand for sustainable urban development.

Discussions on Interactive Dialogue 3 would be greatly beneficial if its emphasis is on building resilience at its core and on the collective measures that need to be taken to mitigate the overall effects of climate change on sustainable development; climate

change knows no boundary and thus its effects cannot be sector specific. We propose the title be changed to "Water, natural disasters and building resilience".

Interactive Dialogue 4 serves the discussion better if it's coiled on the need to strengthening international cooperation, advocating for win-win solutions based on international law; we thus recommend the theme "Water and international cooperation".

For the sixth interactive dialogue, we would like to submit a theme entitled "water-use efficiency across all sectors" with a focus on fresh water resources and changes in water-use efficiency over time including harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse via available technologies.

My delegation would also like seize this opportunity to urge the co-facilitators to ensure that the views and inputs of Member States are given due regards throughout the process to maximize results and forge consensus on this important matter.

It's our view that the outcome of the next conference should be measured not by mere promises but with concrete actions that it delivers to attain the targets of the SDGs and the Water Action Agenda that we collectively set out to achieve.

We will provide detailed inputs in writing in due course.

Ethiopia looks forward to work with all and actively engage in this process.

I thank you