

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself fully with the statement of the European Union.

I would like to make a few remarks in national capacity.

We want to thank the Co-Hosts,

Senegal and the United Arab Emirates,

and UN DESA

for the tireless efforts

in preparing today's event and the entire preparatory process so far.

Allow me also to convey Germany's strong commitment and support to make this Conference a success.

The UN 2026 Water Conference can shape progress on water for the years to come and beyond 2030.

To be successful entails for us four key criteria.

1.

The conference needs to reflect

the unifying and cross-sectoral character of water.

If we fail in addressing the water crisis, in a comprehensive manner,
we will ultimately fail in all SDGs.

2.

We need a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process.

Yes, member states are in the lead,

but we need all relevant stakeholders on board

from the UN system to civil society.

All these relevant voices need to be heard.

3.

We should build on the existing momentum,
and on the themes of the Water Conference 2023.

This includes a strong focus on critical topics
such as

the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,
agriculture and global food security

or

transboundary and international water cooperation.

4.

Already today we must look beyond the 2026 conference to be impactful.

What we need is focused, joint action and ambitious steps on water.

To reach this common objective,

a continued intergovernmental process is required.

Co-Chairs,

Together we have called for the 2026 Water Conference to deal,
for the first time,

with all aspects of SDG 6.

This conference has the potential

to drive global cooperation

and

to accelerate critically needed progress on water.

We believe this is an opportunity not to be missed.

I want to reiterate our full support for your important work.

I thank you.