## **Interventional Statement**

Delivered by
Dr. Thomas G. Hedberg,
Executive Director, International Medical Crisis Response Alliance (IMCRA)

Mr. Chairman, esteemed colleagues and delegates: In alignment with points made earlier today, International Medical Crisis Response Alliance notes the following:

- Scientifically informed conservation of fragile oceanic and freshwater ecosystems is essential to maintaining climatic stability, human health and sustainable livelihoods. While hydrologic mechanisms are robustly capable of self-repair, the impact of local human activities can be devastating, pushing renewal capabilities below a critical level. Recovery may then require decades or centuries, during which time damage to dependent human communities and linked ecosystems can become irreversible.
- 2. In a crowded world, water-resource dependent communities **must** be conversant with scientific water management as it relates to their cultural lifestyle. Ecosystem integrity, global climate, and human wellness are inextricably linked, and uninformed practices, seemingly lucrative and beneficial in the short term, may rebound negatively, endangering the health, sanitation and nutrition of human communities. Examples abound, and small rural stakeholders remain the most vulnerable, facing issues of neosalinization, water scarcity and pollution.
- 3. IMCRA proposes that a key focus of the 2026 UN Water Conference be the identification, certification and design of simplified access to a core of reputable (and ideally local/indigenous) ecologists and hydrologists as advisors to communities heavily utilizing water resources. Thus, a master clearinghouse of recognized academic experts or university consortia willing to donate their time and knowledge to sound water resource use and conservation.
- 4. Finally, because contact with academicians maybe avoided by some due to perceptions that this will only complicate extant plans, IMCRA proposes that a penetrative PR campaign, fostering awareness of the **need** for scientific management be co-launched via social media and other familiar platforms, using advertising techniques that make informed water stewardship seem attractive, culturally palatable, and desirable to target communities.

Thank you