

**2026 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION
3 March 2025, New York**

National Statement by Finland

Minister, Vice-Minister, Excellencies,

Thank you for organizing this session and for the opportunity to hear, from such a high level, about the plans for next year's Water Conference. The participation of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water, today, is also very useful.

I have a few remarks in addition to the statement delivered by the European Union on behalf of its members.

As mentioned here by many colleagues, significant progress on the global water agenda has been achieved, since the 2023 UN Water Conference. We thank the UAE and Senegal for taking the responsibility for bringing this agenda forward.

With the **water agenda, there is great urgency** in many ways. The global hydrological cycle is off-balance, and many feel its consequences in their daily lives – most dramatically in water scarce regions, or in areas, where weather patterns bring upon serious flooding. The climate crisis is a water crisis.

As water is a major international question today, it needs **solid global systems and structures** that we can rely on.

Holding **regular and clearly mandated intergovernmental UN water conferences** responds to this call. It is of utmost importance that each conference builds on the previous one, takes the agenda forward, and **builds up in ambition**. We need to achieve tangible and actionable results to reach SDG6, which is a critical prerequisite for the achievement of all the other SDGs.

In order to make the conferences successful and impactful, we need to have a truly **inclusive and cross-sectoral process, which guarantees**

that all stakeholders including private sector, academia and civil society, including women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, are all part of joint solutions.

We commend the two hosts, Senegal and the UAE, on launching a **transparent and science-based preparatory process**, engaging **all regions and sectors and working in the spirit of inclusivity**.

As regards the **Interactive Dialogues**, we believe that **the five themes of the 2023 Water Conference** still capture relevant aspects for accelerating the implementation of the SDG6, in a balanced and consensual manner. We see merits in focusing our efforts on **building upon the five established themes**. **We also appreciate an in-depth discussion, initiated here today, on developing together the 6th theme.**

In the context of the Interactive Dialogues, we find it important and timely to continue discussions on **international water cooperation**. **Its importance is highlighted in SDG 6.5., and it received significant and high-level political support** at the 2023 Conference.

In concluding, let me underline that **Finland remains fully committed** to contributing to the global water agenda, and to supporting the co-hosts in making the conference a success.

I thank you.