



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

2026 UN Water Conference

Organizational Session

New York, March 3rd, 2025

**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal
the United Nations in New York, H.E. Jorge Aranda**

[Check against delivery]

Excellencies,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Allow me also to congratulate the United Arab Emirates and Senegal for co-hosting the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Portugal is strongly committed and a frontrunner on water management issues. In particular, particularly, we attach great importance to a holistic management of freshwater, coasts, and the ocean. The adoption of a “source to sea” approach, linking SDG6 and SDG14, is critical to ensure a circular vision on human water use and to address the multiple challenges related to freshwater and the ocean that impact sustainable development.

This is why, at the Margins of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal organized a High-Level Symposium on Water that taught us the importance of ensuring that the water and ocean communities learn more about each other, understand the challenges that they face, and build mechanisms aimed at facilitating closer cooperation.



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This Symposium was included in the roadmap for the 2023 UN Water Conference, at which Portugal presented the Global Coalition for Better Policies and Regulation of Water and Sanitation Services, an international cooperation platform aimed at boosting the improvement of public policies and regulation of water and sanitation services in the world.

This Coalition constituted one of my country's contributions to the Water Action Agenda and is fully aligned with the objectives of the UN System-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, as well as the work of the UN Special Envoy on Water.

Portugal is and will remain available to cooperate with our international partners on water and sanitation services management.

You can continue counting on our support for the achievement of SDG6 by 2030, as well as for successful UN Water Conferences, both in 2026 and in 2028.

I thank you,

[293 words]