

2026 UN Water Conference Organizational Session
Statement by Republic of Korea on the Themes for the Conference
New York, 3 March 2025

Thank you Chair.

Let me first join others in thanking the co-hosts, Senegal and UAE for convening today's meeting, and to UN Water Envoy, DESA and UN-Water for their dedication and support.

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

Across the globe, more and more people are being affected from floods, droughts, and changing rainfall patterns that are exacerbated by climate change.

The 2023 UN Water Conference, held in 46 years, became a key moment for all of us to gather our will and build solidarity against this climate crisis. We then adopted by consensus the successive 2026 and 2028 conferences as a timeline of our journey to accelerate the achievement of SDG6.

Naturally, and as agreed upon in our modalities resolution for the 2026 conference, our discussions should build on the interactive dialogues of 2023. The Republic of Korea believes that health, sustainable development, climate resilience, and international cooperation, in particular, are still relevant and central to the achievement of SDG6, and thereby these key themes should be further discussed in the upcoming 2026 conference as well.

In addition, mindful of the critical need to preemptively tackle this global challenge, we would like to stress the importance of sound and robust science and technology in our water management.

From data collection and accessible analysis to early warning against water-induced disasters and smart water management based on information technology, we hope that we will have a dedicated discussion on how science and technology can accelerate the achievement of SDG6.

After today's session and prior to the one-day meeting convened by the President of General Assembly in July, we look forward to having a transparent and constructive discussions between and among the secretariat and the member states in finalizing the themes.

I thank you.