



Statement by

Slovenia

at the

2026 UN Water Conference Organizational Session

New York, 3 March 2025

Excellencies,

I have the honour to deliver this statement today on behalf of Slovenia and contribute to the preparatory process for the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Slovenia aligns with the statement delivered by the EU, statement of the cross-regional group delivered by Egypt, and the statement of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition delivered by Switzerland.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2023 UN Water Conference garnered the necessary momentum, placing water high on the global agenda and accelerating action on SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets.

Over 800 commitments to the Water Action Agenda, the adoption of the UN System Wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation, and the appointment of the UN Special Envoy on Water are a testimony to its legacy.

It is crucially important to maintain this momentum by **holding regular intergovernmental meetings on water within the UN and build towards negotiated outcomes.**

Distinguished co-hosts,

The 2026 conference should build on the results from 2023, and present a common vision on global water agenda beyond the Water Decade and beyond 2030. In this regard we propose:

First, an inclusive approach, involving all relevant stake-holders and rights-holders, throughout the preparation and at the conference itself.

Second, bring non-water sectors on board.

And third, mainstream water into other processes.

Active engagement of the UN Special Envoy will make a great contribution in this regard.

To ensure an action-oriented conference, all Interactive Dialogues should be based on the Global Acceleration Framework. A mechanism to follow-up on the Water Action Agenda should be agreed. Human rights-based approach and gender equality must be mainstreamed into all discussions.

We strongly believe that the **themes of Interactive Dialogues from the 2023 conference should be maintained** as they capture the relevant aspects to implement SDG 6 in a balanced and consensual manner.

For Slovenia, **preserving the theme of Transboundary Water Cooperation in Interactive Dialogue 4 is of key importance.** With 60 percent of all rivers, lakes and aquifers crossing national borders and 3 billion people depending on them, achieving SDG 6 is impossible without effective transboundary cooperation.

Cooperative water management is a prerequisite for achieving climate resilience in international river basins, as reflected in the Main Messages from the 10th Meeting of the Parties of the UN Water Convention held in Slovenia last October.

The trend of accession to the UN Water Convention, which Slovenia currently chairs, reflects a growing recognition of the need to manage shared waters effectively. The 2026 conference should drive momentum for further action.

On former IED 5, we would be open to adapt the title to reflect the mandate of the conference, focusing on enhancing global water governance beyond the Water Decade and beyond 2030.

On the theme of the IED 6, Slovenia fully aligns with the proposal made earlier by the European Union and its Member States.

Slovenia wishes the co-hosts a productive preparatory process and stands ready to support them on the path to 2026 and beyond.

I thank you.