

Excellencies,

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to Senegal and the UAE, the co-hosts of the UN 2026 Water Conference, for organizing this important session.

Co-chairs,

As we move closer to 2030, the global water situation remains alarming. The world is far behind in meeting its commitments under SDG 6:

The urgency is clear: investment, innovation, political commitment, and global solidarity are critical to reversing this trend and achieving our shared water-related goals.

Co-chairs,

Tajikistan, along with the Netherlands, proudly co-hosted the UN 2023 Water Conference, the first of its kind in nearly five decades. This historic event mobilized global momentum and led to key outcomes, including the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation and the appointment of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water to strengthen global partnerships and ensure follow-up on the conference outcomes.

Moving forward, the UN 2026 Water Conference must build upon these efforts—not only assessing progress but also driving implementation at scale.

Tajikistan believes that implementing the Water Action Agenda, should be one of the important priorities for the 2026 Water Conference. This agenda should serve as a driving force in bridging the UN 2023 and 2026 Water Conferences, reinforcing actions under the Water Action Decade (2018-2028) and the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, we appreciate the co-hosts' approach to maintaining thematic continuity by using the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogues themes as the foundation for discussions, in particular thematic session 5 on Water Action Decade which gave the birth to the UN 2023 and 2026 Conference and which would be crucial for Tajikistan as a host of 2028 to review progress on the Water

Action Decade and connect 2026 and 2028 conference.. This approach, shaped through transparent and inclusive consultations in 2022, gained broad support from UN Member States and should continue.

As for the sixth theme, **like my colleague from the Netherlands**, we believe that innovation and technology should be the theme of the sixth interactive dialogue.

Indeed, technological advancements offer unprecedented opportunities to enhance water efficiency, improve service delivery, and build resilience against climate-induced water risks.

Co-chairs,

We firmly believe that the momentum must continue beyond 2026. Tajikistan is honored to host the UN 2028 Water Conference, which will provide a dedicated opportunity to assess progress, enhance implementation mechanisms, and reinforce global partnerships.

To conclude, Tajikistan remains fully committed to working with you, the UN system, and all stakeholders to ensure that water stays at the heart of sustainable development and that we have a smooth transition from 2023 to 2026, building momentum toward 2028 and beyond.

You have our full support in this important journey.

Thank you