



STATEMENT OF TÜRKİYE

2026 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE

Organizational Session

(3 March 2025 ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ)

Allow me to start by thanking to co-hosts of the 2026 UN Water Conference, **Senegal** and the **United Arab Emirates**, as well as **the UN Secretariat** for convening this session.

Water is not only a **fundamental human need**, but also a key enabler for **sustainable development**.

As a water-stressed country, Türkiye advocates for “Integrated Water Resource Management” that optimizes water use and minimize waste. We are for the initiatives that enhance **efficient irrigation**, **smart water distribution**, **water-efficient infrastructure**, and **responsible water consumption practices**.

Türkiye firmly believes that water should be treated as a source of **cooperation**, **solidarity** and **unity**, as our new UN Special Envoy on Water, H.E. Marsudi has also underlined in her statement at the opening.

Türkiye is of the view that regional and global partnerships based on **mutual respect**, **dialogue**, and **technical collaboration** are essential to achieving SDG6.

On this occasion, with great pleasure we welcome H.E. Marsudi in today’s meeting. We welcome her appointment as the new Special Envoy on Water and also welcome her vision as highlighted today.

We have full confidence in You, Madam Envoy, in addressing the water issues with an “unbiased”, “impartial” and “independent” manner, respecting different positions, circumstances and perspectives of all Member States.

Türkiye looks forward to closely working with You in prioritizing the water-related needs of developing countries, in particular those related to **finance, technology transfer and capacity-building** to achieve SDG6.

With less than five years remaining until 2030, it goes without saying that we must accelerate our efforts to meet the SDG 6.

Needless to say, upcoming UN Water Conference should focus on deepening **implementation**, fostering **practical solutions** and promoting **constructive and development-focused dialogue**, while **avoiding** the politicization and securitization of water issues.

Achieving SDG 6 requires significant financial resources and innovative solutions.

Ensuring universal access to “safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene” remains a top priority.

This Conference should address the acceleration of investments in water and sanitation infrastructure.

It should advance commitments to close the **service gap**.

It should promote stronger global cooperation in capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and infrastructure development to achieve sustainable and equitable access.

It should address the gap for **financing SDG6**.

Considering the recent adoption of “*Global Digital Compact*”, as we all agree, **technology** plays a vital role in ensuring efficient water use. The Conference should encourage the utilization of digital solutions such as “smart water monitoring”, “efficient irrigation systems” and “artificial intelligence” and promote increased investments in research and technology to maximize water efficiency.

Mr. President,

Türkiye reaffirms its strong commitment to SDG 6. The world is not on track to reach SDG6 as a whole. All SDG6 targets are mutually reinforcing and they should be treated in a holistic manner.

In accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 77/334, this particular Conference is ONLY about accelerating the implementation of SDG6.

Based on our joint decision, we expect the themes of the Conference to address the **financing gap, water infrastructure investments, science, technology and innovation** and **capacity building**, which are the key enablers for the implementation of SDG6 as a whole.

We wish all the success to **Senegal** and the **United Arab Emirates**, and look forward to closely working with them for the real success of the Conference.

Thank you.