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**Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the Organizational Session for the 2026 UN Water Conference**

Delivered by Mrs. Billur Ahmadova, Third Secretary

3 March 2025

Distinguished Co-chairs,

We are pleased to address today's organizational session as we take important steps toward shaping the agenda for the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Azerbaijan reaffirms its commitment to strengthening global water cooperation, ensuring that water remains central to climate resilience, sustainable development, and international peace.

The urgency of addressing the water-climate nexus cannot be overstated. Water is at the core of climate change and is often the first and most immediate casualty of its effects. These impacts include floods, droughts, water scarcity, and declining water quality. Additionally, water-related challenges are closely interconnected with the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity.

The three Rio Conventions—on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification—are inherently linked through water, and addressing these crises requires a coordinated and cross-sectoral approach.

As the COP29 Presidency, Azerbaijan has responded to the outcomes of the 2023 UN Water Conference by placing water at the forefront of its climate agenda. At COP29, we launched the Declaration on Water for Climate Action and the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, a platform designed to connect COP-to-COP processes and enhance synergies among water-related climate and environmental agendas.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Member States that have endorsed this initiative and invite those who have not yet done so to lend their support to this and other important declarations and pledges announced at COP29.

Having said that, Azerbaijan strongly supports the continuation of the Interactive Dialogue on Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment at the 2026 Water Conference and formally expresses its interest in co-chairing this dialogue.

Our goal is to ensure that water is not viewed as an isolated issue but rather as a driving force for climate solutions and a crucial pillar of global sustainability. No country can tackle these challenges alone. Stronger partnerships are needed to bridge gaps in knowledge, financing, and governance. Therefore, Azerbaijan seeks to collaborate closely with the United Arab Emirates and Senegal to ensure that the UN Water Conference yields transformative outcomes, enhancing the dialogue on water, climate, and the environment.

As we move forward, let us make sure that the 2026 Conference is not just another milestone but a catalyst for transformation. Azerbaijan stands ready to work with all partners to accelerate action, strengthen commitments, and mobilize solutions that will make a lasting impact on water security and climate resilience worldwide.

Thank you.