

Statement by Representative of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, at the Event “Presentation of Outcomes of the Dushanbe High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028”

UN Headquarters, New York, 19 July 2018

The Prime Minister of Canada’s Special Envoy to the EU and Europe, Hon. Stephane Dion, lead Canada's delegation in the 2018 Dushanbe Water Conference and engage bilaterally with senior officials from various countries, to reaffirm Canada's willingness to contribute to water sustainability efforts and encourage democratic progression.

Canada’s key message: as much as our life is, our future depends on a water-secure world. We must all honor our commitments. Canada is here to contribute and be part of the solution.

Water management must be a source of peace through bilateral+ multilateral partnerships, a global effort. Canada is ready to act, share our transborder experiences, and contribute to a sustainable future and peaceful, exemplary water governance.

In order to prevent a dramatic increase in the number of people forced from their homes due to water insecurity, Canada will be a strong partner for a sustainable future, one built on water security for all; water for each home.

The global community must do more, together, to adequately address the effects of climate change. COP 24 (this December, Poland) is a key platform to continue these discussions and more importantly, to act.

Canada also reiterates that women should be at the forefront of global activities initiated by the International Decade for Action on ‘Water for Sustainable Development’. This approach is in line with Canada’s new Feminist International Assistance Policy, which recognizes that addressing water issues, including water security, access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and integrated water resource management, is key to unlocking development potential in other sectors including health, agriculture, environmental sustainability and women’s empowerment.

Canada’s focus on empowering women and girls recognizes the traditional responsibilities women and girls have in terms of collecting water, and the challenges they face. These challenges affect girls’ education and women’s ability to work, and to care for their families. Lack of access to education and to decent work negatively impact their quality of life, and limits their opportunity for progress and empowerment.