

**Statement by Representative of the Permanent Mission of Egypt 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

We congratulate the Government of Tajikistan for the successful and well-organized International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

We believe that the International Decade for Action “Water for sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 shall provide a platform for increasing awareness, advancement and promotion of water cooperation at different levels, as well as for strengthening dialogue on the search for and establishment of mutually advantageous and efficient water cooperation.

The Water Decade would provide us another opportunity to promote international partnership to implement water and water related development goals and targets. In this regard, we encourage our development partners to support developing countries in their efforts to implement SDG 6 and other water and sanitation related internationally agreed development initiatives.

Dushanbe International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 was convened in a time while water sector is facing big challenges in many parts of the world. Those challenges can only be faced through collective efforts. These types of conferences can increase global awareness on such challenges, especially in water scarce countries such as Egypt, where the yearly water per capita is less than 600 cubic meter.

We deeply appreciate the professional and meticulous choice of the themes of the different panels of the Conference, the most important of which was the Panel dedicated to transboundary water cooperation. The Panel concluded with important messages including the critical role of international water law in promoting transboundary cooperation; and that this transboundary cooperation must be inclusive and consider the interests of all the riparian countries in order to sustain the shared water resource for the coming generations.

The Panel also tackled the role of private sector in investing in shared water resources projects and concluded that there are ethical and legal perspectives of such projects related to refraining from financing projects, its studies were not yet completed, and which lack the proper basis for its establishment.

Finally, that Panel addressed the issues of win- win principle as one of the targets of transboundary cooperation; exchange of information and data sharing in order to avoid harm, since prevention is better than recovery; promotion of knowledge; and achieving better understanding of the impacts of projects with transboundary nature.

The Conference stressed the importance of capacity building, developing national institutions dealing with water issues and water diplomacy, and promoting financing for water -related sectors.

Finally, we believe that we should deal with water in a different way, as it is the basis of life and it is a human right relevant to the right to life.