

**Statement by Representative of United Nations Development Programme, 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

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to join government representatives, Permanent Missions and colleagues across the UN today’s discussion of the outcomes of the High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028”.

Today’s event is a timely initiative in support of the concerted effort required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through cooperation, partnerships, and capacity development necessary to fulfill the water-related goals and targets.

UNDP welcomes the Final Declaration of the International Conference which was produced through an open and inclusive process, and adopted by acclamation by all participating states and organizations. The Declaration is a forward-looking document that sets a clear pathway for the implementation of the International Decade of Action by Member States and other stakeholders, including the United Nations and its entities.

UNDP stands ready to work with the governments and partners on sustainable water management. Our work on water and sanitation focuses on *governance*. Through the GoAL WaSH¹ programme we support a wide range of countries to set priorities, as well as coordinate and build capacity for implementation. In Tajikistan, for example, the GoAL WaSH programme assisted the government in developing its water regulatory framework and consumer rights protection mechanism.

Through other efforts, UNDP supports stakeholders in coming together to define and implement mutually agreed actions on water management at the local, national, regional and transboundary levels. Governance of water resources and related water and sanitation services are critical in resolving or preventing water crises, by enabling societies to manage resources and related services in efficient and equitable ways.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The UNDP Country Office in Dushanbe was also actively engaged in the preparatory process of the High Level International Conference. UNDP provided essential human resources, technical assistance, logistical and other support to the Secretariat and to the International Steering Committee of the Conference.

UNDP fully supports the Government of Tajikistan's initiative to scale up the Dushanbe Conferences on water, convened at regular intervals since 2003, into a Dushanbe Process as mentioned in the Final Declaration of the Conference. We also welcome the connected proposal of the Government of Tajikistan to create an International Center for the Water Action Decade in Dushanbe to support the Dushanbe Process throughout the Decade.

¹ GoAL WaSH programme (Governance, Advocacy and Leadership in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) targets post-conflict or fragile states and supports priority setting, coordination and capacity development for implementation.