

Statement by Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 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

On behalf of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), let me start by congratulating President Rahmon for his leadership and for the initiative of Tajikistan to contribute to the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” through the organization of the high-level Conference.

Water is among the most urgent issues on the global agenda today. It is fundamental to life. It is essential for human well-being, sustainable development and lasting peace. Yet, as we have been reminded by many delegates, 2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and water scarcity already affects four out of every ten persons.

In recognition of the importance of these challenges, the international community included water as one of the major goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, in order to successfully achieve these water related goals and targets, we need knowledge and data, we need concrete actions at all levels and we need new and innovative partnerships.

The International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” is a timely and significant initiative. This decade is expected to advance cooperation and partnerships at all levels and put a greater focus on sharing good practices and providing a platform for advocacy and networking. The Decade, together with the global frameworks of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, provide a solid framework for supporting the implementation of water related targets and goals.

UNESCO was honored to be part of the High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” organized in Dushanbe, this June 2018. The Conference allowed different stakeholders to discuss their contributions to the Water Decade and to contribute to the review of SDG 6 and related goals and targets.

UNESCO is fully committed to support its Member States in implementing these global objectives by improving science-based knowledge generation, dissemination and decision-making, by strengthening the quality of water education and training, by raising awareness of the communities, and by promoting advocacy and networking. We promote a holistic approach to addressing the complexities and interlinkages of issues around water.

UNESCO is honored to host and coordinate the World Water Assessment Programme, which provides Governments and the international community with cutting-edge and policy-relevant information on freshwater resources worldwide. The Programme’s flagship publication, the World Water Development Report, is a result of collaboration among 31 UN Agencies and 39 partner organizations comprising UN-Water.

UNESCO’s intergovernmental sciences’ programmes, including the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and its national committees, UNESCO’s water related centres and chairs with over 3000 experts around the world, stand ready to work with national stakeholders and communities to implement the water related goals and make the Water Decade and the 2030 Agenda a success.