**Speech (concept) Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, at the UN-water High-level Political Forum Special Event, 9 juli 2020**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to speak at this Special Event.

Our meeting today takes place on a defining moment.

Not only the world is on the verge of spending trillions of dollars, made available to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also, we have only ten years to go to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is now that we have the choice between spending the recovery money well and prepare our societies for a resilient future, or waste it on short term quick wins.

As it comes to water, it is about delivering a promise!

Therefore, I warmly welcome the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and the major presence of the UN Leadership today!

At this important point in time, I have two key messages.

The first one is: we must improve the resilience of our systems.

And my second message is: the Water Action Track of the Global Commission on Adaptation can help us reach that goal.

As it comes to water, the Netherlands has a long-standing commitment.

We experience on a daily basis what it means to live with water.

Therefor we have a long-standing involvement at UN level, for instance as in the High Level Panel on Water.

In this year of Water and Climate, the Global Commission on Adaptation, led by Ban Ki-Moon, Bill Gates and Kristalina Georgieva has initiated the Water Action Track.

It’s collaborating with key stakeholders to make recovery projects sustainable, inclusive and more adaptive to climate change.

We hope many will join this initiative!

It’s results will contribute to the UNSG’s Decade of Action and Delivery and the SDG 6 Acceleration Framework, launched today. Working towards the 2023 UN conference on Water.

To help trigger the systemic change needed, the Netherlands will be hosting the first ever global summit of world leaders entirely focused on climate change adaptation.

It will be held on January 25th, 2021.

With this online conference, we will join forces to offer hope, energy and real solutions.

That is also my message to the World Youth Parliament for Water: this is all about future generations!

Let’s ensure that our recovery from the COVID crisis is a resilient one.

Thank you.