We would like to begin by thanking the UN Water and UN-DESA for co-organizing this Member State consultation. We appreciate the opportunity to receive updates and to provide our views on the UN System-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation.

Water is a very broad and cross-cutting issue that impacts many diverse sectors, and thus it has been dealt with by many different UN organizations under their respective strategies, frameworks and approaches. This has led to longstanding coordination challenges and a lack of a comprehensive and coherent strategy to be implemented across the UN System.

Building on the discussions at the UN Water Conference, we would like to welcome and commend the development of the UN System-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation to enhance coordination and synergies around water-related issues across the UN system. We support the overall direction and content of the Strategy.

We stress the importance of the effective and efficient implementation of the Strategy, if it is to adequately address and respond to water-related issues at the global, regional, and national levels across the UN System.

In addition, the Strategy should avoid adding any additional layers of inter-governmental process or the establishment of any new organizations. It should also focus on avoiding duplications within the UN System. In particular, it will be necessary to consider how the Strategy ought to coordinate with existing inter-governmental processes, such as UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and other similar processes under other agencies.

We remain committed to working with the UN organizations and the other Member States to strengthen our response to water-related issues and look forward to continuing to work together under this strategy.