The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Comments on the
draft UN System-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation

General Comments:
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the timely development of the United Nations (UN) System-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation in response to General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/334, which "requests the Secretary General to present a UN system-wide strategy for water and sanitation (SWS) in consultation with Member States before the end of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly"

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has carefully reviewed the draft of the UN-Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. This document is well developed, with achievable objectives and realistic expected outcomes. The implementation of the strategy shall achieve the overall goal of enhancing UN-system coordination and delivery of water-related priorities across the United Nations system in support of countries to accelerate progress on national plans. In addition, priorities and internationally agreed-upon water related goals, targets, and transformative solutions to current and future water-related challenges are required.

With reference to expected outcome A: Lead and inspire collective action for water sanitation, the strategy refers to a role for a UN Special Envoy for Water. The special envoy mandate is not clear, and it is not further clarified or mentioned across the document. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes appointing a Special Envoy for Water will add significant value to the strategy's successful implementations. Accordingly, we encourage the appointment of the UN Special Envoy for Water as soon as possible from a developing country characterized by water stress challenges.

Finally, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is very keen to participate in the development of Annex 1, "Collaborative Implementation Action Plan (CIAP)," and to provide feedback on Annex 2 and Annex 3 as needed.