The new UN strategy on water and sanitation is a significant advance for global water resilience, and therefore for human rights, peace and prosperity. The world needs swift and decisive action at all levels to avoid a global water crisis. Delivering on the commitments made at the 2023 UN Water Conference and implementing a system-wide approach to water are vital steps towards changing the way we use, manage and value water.

The action-oriented nature of the strategy allows for enhanced cooperation and greater coherence in the UN System on water and sanitation. In particular, the EU welcomes the emphasis on transboundary water cooperation, and the mainstreaming of water and sanitation in all relevant UN fora to ensure policy coherence. Appointing a UN Special Envoy for Water will help citizens understand the importance, urgency and centrality of water and sanitation in sustainable development.

The EU stands ready to support all UN entities to implement the strategy through their work plans and contributions to the upcoming collaborative implementation action plan.

Together, we can achieve our joint goal of ensuring access to water and sanitation for all.