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Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Statement on the launch of the UN-Water System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are fundamental to human health, dignity, and development. Despite significant progress, billions of people still lack access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Water scarcity is intensifying, exacerbated by conflicts and climate change, while water pollution remains a critical challenge affecting both human health and the environment. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, is more urgent than ever.

As the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), I express our unwavering support for the first UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. This initiative underscores our commitment to leveraging information and communication technologies (ICTs) to address one of the most critical challenges of our time.

Digital technologies are revolutionizing water management, with ITU leading the way in supporting IoT-enabled sensors and satellite monitoring systems for real-time data collection and analysis, crucial for effective water monitoring and management. ITU's efforts in satellite monitoring and submarine cables bolster global adaptation to climate change, providing essential data for resilient water management strategies worldwide.

ITU's leadership in pre-standardization initiatives and the development of internationally adopted standards underscores our commitment to creating open frameworks that address urgent water challenges. These standards ensure that different technologies can work together seamlessly and reliably, which is essential for integrating IoT and other emerging technologies into water monitoring systems. Additionally, ITU supports the ICT sector in enhancing internal operations, including data centers and cooling systems, to boost sustainability and efficiency efforts.

ITU is dedicated to harnessing the power of digitalization to ensure sustainable water and sanitation solutions. Together, through innovation and collaboration, we can pave the way for a more resilient and water-secure future for all.