Mr. Alvaro Lario, UN-Water Chair and President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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

This is the first-ever United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation.

For too long, we have taken our most precious resource for granted. Action on water and sanitation has been too slow, too fragmented, and too under-resourced.

On every continent, water quality is suffering, water scarcity is worsening, food systems are straining, and water-related disasters are increasing.

This water and sanitation crisis threatens the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The System-wide Strategy is the United Nation’s operational plan to solve it.

Member States, United Nations entities and partners have shown inspirational levels of ambition, and, in response, we crafted this Strategy to coordinate, complement and catalyse the collective strength of the UN system to support country progress.

Rapid action on water and sanitation will be key to tackling all major global challenges, including climate change, disease outbreaks, gender inequality, extreme poverty, food insecurity and nature’s collapse.

We must move forward as one – to accelerate towards a world with accessible, available and sustainably managed water and sanitation for all.