Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to be here today, to discuss the historic UN Systemwide Strategy on Water and its implementation plan.

I want to thank UN-Water for the presentation and Alvaro’s leadership in the water sector during these past few months.

The strategy’s entry points, outputs, and outcomes will provide critical guidance to DESA and the entire UN system.

In this context, let me highlight three key priorities as requested, that can add value to the Strategy and Implementation Plan:

First, the UN 2026 Water Conference: Negotiations on the modalities’ resolution are ongoing. We must deliver together, building on the success of the 2023 Water Conference, which leads me to the second priority:
Second, the implementation of the Water Action Agenda: DESA, is committed to analyzing progress in implementation based on information shared voluntarily. UN-Water and the RC system can support us in driving implementation on the ground at all levels: national, global and regional.

Partnerships, resource mobilization strategies, and innovative financing, in collaboration with a diverse set of stakeholders, will be crucial.

Third: the Capacity Development Initiative co-coordinated by DESA alongside UNESCO. This initiative can impact the implementation of SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets.

The Water Action Agenda and the CDI are all part of the same effort. If managed and implemented well, the UN system can offer integrated policy guidance on the water sector.

DESA is uniquely positioned to ensure that water-related issues are brought into key intergovernmental processes such as the Science Technology and Innovation Forum among others.

These processes can provide guidance on integrated policy advice and multi-sectoral programming approaches to managing water and sanitation.

Dear Colleagues,
We should ensure that issues related to the water sector are not discussed in a vacuum. We should work across sectors to enhance policy coherence. Evidence-based, data-driven policies rooted in scientific evidence will be crucial for our success.

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