Mr. Nikhil Seth  
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)  

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

On behalf of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the UNITAR Global Water Academy (UGWA), I am pleased to share with you that during our pilot year between 2023-2024, we laid the foundation for the UGWA, defining its structure, vision, and mission. We forged key partnerships and established ourselves on the global stage by launching our online platform (www.globalwateracademy.org) on World Water Day in Geneva, a momentous occasion that symbolized our commitment to global cooperation in tackling water-related challenges. By the end of this year, we will be launching our SDG 6 Flagship course on our platform, and invite all organizations to join us in hosting material on this open-access platform similarly modeled from our platform UN: CC Learn.

As part of the 2018-2028 International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, we commemorated the theme of World Water Day 2024 this year, ‘Water for Peace’ as we recognize it unites communities and countries around the globe. Water is a universal human right, and it takes a collaborative effort in water management to ensure everyone’s needs are met. Given the challenges posed by climate change, mass migration, and political instability, we must prioritize transboundary cooperation in sustainable water management to safeguard our peace and prosperity.

In 2025, during the International Year of Glacier Preservation, we are committed to maintaining our collaborative momentum and dedication to achieving SDG 6 targets. That is why, in 2025, it is the UGWA’s ambition to work closely with our academic partners who annually survey remote glaciers to collect data to understand its impact on hydrology, freshwater availability, and aquatic ecosystems, potentially affecting fish stocks and habitat. Moving towards the new year, the UGWA remains committed to advancing global water security through innovative partnerships, rigorous scientific research, and capacity-building.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nikhil Seth  
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
Executive Director, UNITAR