Distinguished Colleagues,

First, I would like to extend my gratitude to the UN-Water Chair and IFAD President for his leadership in developing the Collaborative Implementation Plan (CIP), which has a critical role in guiding the operationalization, localization, and monitoring of the UN System-wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation.

As the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), I want to emphasize our continued commitment to water as a top organizational priority and to strengthened partnerships.

WMO oversees and supports the generation of data and information on hydrology and water resources. We will soon publish the next State of Global Water Resources 2023 report, with an increased focus on the interrelations between water and climate change issues. In 2023 62% of the globe's streamflow was under not normal condition and in comparison to 2022, we have gotten from 34% to 45% "drier than normal". In 2023, glaciers also lost more than 600 Gt of water, the largest mass loss ever registered in the last five decades. Through this kind of findings, we aim to be a compelling voice on global water issues, similar to our role on the state of the climate, so that countries, civil society, and the private sector are better informed and inspired to act.
A specific WMO high-priority that could be incorporated into the CIP is the Early Warnings for All initiative. This is a truly international initiative between the United Nations, multilateral development banks, NGOs, civil society and the private sector. **By providing early warnings for floods, droughts, and other water-related hazards, the initiative helps communities prepare and respond more effectively, reducing the impact of these events. It offers tangible outcomes that support the System-wide Strategy.**

WMO, as co-coordinator of the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change, alongside UNESCO and UNECE, continues to support Member States on water-related issues at UNFCCC processes. WMO is working with partners on the water requirements for climate mitigation measures and recently released a study quantifying these interdependencies. **The study concluded that only the clean energy measures subjected to the analysis, are preliminarily estimated to require around 900 cubic kilometres of freshwater per annum globally, which equates to approximately a third of the water withdrawn by irrigation.** Countries will need to work out how to secure the necessary water as they prepare their NDCs and we are now collaborating in the development of an analytical brief to translate these findings for climate policymakers.

WMO is also co-organizing the Drought Resilience +10 Conference happening this year from 30 September to 2 October in Geneva. The Conference will unite countries, experts, and practitioners **to define a joint way forward for scaling up drought prevention and management. Reducing the impacts of drought is crucial for achieving several SDGs, including SDG 6 by ensuring the availability of water, SDG 2 by minimizing the negative effects on food production, and SDG 7 by**
supporting the clean energy transition. We look forward to your participation.

WMO will not only contribute to the Collaborative Implementation Plan, but it will also benefit by significantly supporting WMO’s engagement with countries in developing and implementing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services should be consulted on the Common Country Analysis to provide the latest scientific data and information on each country’s meteorological, climatological, and hydrological situation.

WMO stands ready to support Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in connecting to their respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to incorporate climate- and disaster-resilient approaches for water and sanitation across the entirety of the SDGs.

Dear Colleagues,

Recent extreme weather events, particularly devastating floods and debilitating drought, once again underscore the urgent need for coordinated water action.

We need to enhance resilience and preparedness across nations.

We are committed to collaboration to implement the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation.

Thank you.