**Speaking points**

**UN-Water Chair**

**High-level Political Forum Special Event: Launch of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**

**9 July 2020**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am delighted to welcome you today and I would like to echo Mr Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in thanking you for joining us for the official launch of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework.
2. I also welcome the UN Secretary-General’s presence later on, and representatives from all sectors of society. It is encouraging to see your commitment and support.
3. We have known for some time that SDG6 is far off track. Global demand for water is rising, and water resources are becoming more polluted. This is why we were working on the Framework -- even before COVID-19. But the pandemic has clearly revealed the results of inaction. Chronic underfunding has left the poor more vulnerable than ever, with a first line of defence against the virus missing for billions of people globally.
4. In January, the UN Secretary-General launched the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. This call to action rings even louder today. Water and sanitation must be a key component of the COVID response. We have in front of us a unique opportunity to “build back better”.
5. Today, you will hear about new ways of working together that the Framework will introduce.
6. In particular, firstly the Framework increases focus on concrete country support as part of the UN reform. This has not been possible before. But, today, through a reinvigorated Resident Coordinators system and a new generation of UN Country Teams, we will be able to provide access to expertise, technical assistance and advocacy support.
7. Secondly, the Framework will also improve coordination in delivering results for water and sanitation. There is now a clear commitment from Principals of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. This is a unique shift that will enable UN entities to work better together.
8. And thirdly, the Framework introduces an annual moment for high level stock taking – to discuss progress, and share lessons learned and best practices. A key milestone will be on World Water Day in 2023 when we meet in New York for a United Nations conference on the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade . This is the first UN conference on water since the 1970s.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. We meet today at a time of urgency and action. We cannot afford to wait. Let us use the Framework to together tackle our challenges and deliver as one.
2. I thank you for your attention and I would now like to welcome H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Band, President of the General Assembly, to provide the opening remarks. Excellency, please, the floor is yours.

**Concluding remarks:**

Let me now thank all of the speakers, and all of you in the audience who joined us virtually today to hear about the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. Delivering on our water and sanitation goals and securing our water future requires collective and collaborative action from each one of us.

I am ready. Let’s do this together.

Thank you.