**Remarks by**

**Dr. Bettina Hoffmann, Parliamentary State Secretary, BMUV, Germany**

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

**13 July 2022**

Mr Houngbo*,*

Mr Zhenmin*,*

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to see that for the second time running, water has been prioritised at the HLPF outside of the regular review. I would like to sincerely thank UN Water for establishing and organising this SDG 6 Special Event.

Water is increasingly at the centre of global crises, which cannot be solved without this vital resource. This event therefore underscores how important SDG 6 is for the entire 2030 Agenda.

We have to be more ambitious and bolder if we want to make full use of the UN 2023 Water Conference. We need accelerated, targeted and effective progress on SDG 6 and other water‑related goals.

Germany made a valuable contribution with the Bonn Water Dialogues for Results. The Bonn Key Messages and Recommendations take an action-oriented approach to the UN-Water Global Acceleration Framework and are already supported by 64 UN member states.

I would like to give three examples:

-       First, the Bonn Water Dialogues show that a paradigm shift is needed to close the financing gap in the water sector. They recommend additional and new financing sources from the public and private sectors. In addition, available funds should be used more efficiently in line with our goals. In this context, we urgently need a human rights‑based approach and effective regulation — not just to ensure the human rights to water and sanitation, but all water-related human rights.

-       Second, water does not stop at national borders. The Bonn Water Dialogues highlighted the many advantages of transboundary water cooperation and integrated water resource management. Given the ever-increasing demand for water, tools like international agreements and conventions can help strengthen climate resilience, bring about peace and stability and increase resources and capacities.

-       Third, coherent global water governance is crucial for implementing SDG 6 in all corners of the world. To achieve this, we need strong institutions, legal and regulatory framework conditions on all levels and stronger coordination of UN action on water.

For 2023, we need to go further and get financing and implementation underway for the five accelerators and cross-sectoral approaches we identified. This will ensure that the UN 2023 Water Conference is not just a drop in the ocean. Pledges and agreements in 2023 have to be honoured and water must be globally present at a high political level.

The appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water as proposed in the Bonn Key Messages could support these efforts. The initiative has a clear objective: to give water a more powerful voice!

A Special Envoy on Water could make this issue more visible at the highest political level, both within and outside the UN. This Envoy could mobilise additional financial resources, facilitate cross-sectoral action and give vulnerable regions a stronger voice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few days ago, Germany and UN member states from various regions around the world sent a letter to all UN member states asking them to support the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water. We would be very grateful if you could express your support by signing this letter. This and many other initiatives are an important part of the preparatory process leading up to the UN 2023 Water Conference. They show that we are reaching a turning point to make 2023, the year of water action, a true success.

Please give us your support on this, we look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you very much.