**Remarks by**

**H.E. Ms. Heba Mostafa, Charge d’affaire i.e., Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations**

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

**13 July 2022**

Excellences,

All protocol observed and mindful of the time constrains; allow me to focus my intervention on **Cairo Water Week 2021.**

Egypt included **Cairo Water Week (CWW21) within the framework of the preparatory meetings** towards the UN 2023 Water Conference, **in order to contribute to the discussions and provide substantive inputs to the Conference**.

CWW21 was held from 24 to 28 October 2021, bringing together more than 3000 participants from Africa and the Middle East. The participation, from 38 countries and 15 organizations, involved ministers, senior officials, academia, and civil society.

Cairo Conclusions were the outcome of the CWW21. The conclusions focus on five main themes; water scarcity & accessibility, water & climate, finance, innovation, and transboundary cooperation. I will touch upon the core message below each of those themes:

**Frist, on Water Scarcity and Accessibility**:

* Access to water can affect range of human rights such as the right to life, property, health, food, safe drinking water, sanitation, decent work, a healthy environment, and other rights.
* It is essential that the UN and its relevant entities work to support water scarce countries to deliver on the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda.

**Second, on Water & Climate Cooperation**:

* Climate change affects water availability and demand. There is a need to approach issues in holistic and cooperative manner and to promote links between water and climate.
* On this, more detailed info will be shared during our important meeting tomorrow on “water and climate adaptation”.

**Third, on finance**:

* Incorporating sustainable financing, regulation, monitoring, reporting, and maintenance mechanisms into all water-related project interventions can mobilize action at all levels of government and service providers to ensure water security for all.

**Fourth, on Innovation:**

* Utilizing non-conventional water resources in water-scarce countries must be supported by appropriate technology transfer, financing, and capacity building that engage national and regional institutions and research centers, and local knowledge.

**Fifth, on transboundary cooperation:**

* Political dialogue and water diplomacy are critical in the framework of conflict-prevention and building cooperation opportunities. Peace and sustainable development around shared water resources contribute to regional stability and security.
* Strengthening transboundary water cooperation is essential for achieving water-related SDGs and the broader sustainable development goals. The cooperation needs to be based on the rules and principles of the applicable international law.

Colleagues,

Cairo conclusions were submitted to the SG of the UN 2023 Water Conference ( USG Liu Zienmen /DESA ) and the Co-hosts (the Netherlands and Tajikistan).

Egypt is currently working on developing Cairo Conclusions through a series of regional and international events, in cooperation with relevant organizations and partners. This will fit in the preparations for the upcoming Cairo Water Week.

**We will aim to adopt action-oriented outcomes during the fifth edition of Cairo Water Week in October 2022, in order to submit concrete proposals to the UN 2023 Water Conference.**

More info will be shared in due course.

Let me finish by reiterating Egypt’s commitment to the process of the UN 2023, in order to raise the ambition to grant the global water agenda … our source of life … the much-required attention.

I thank you.