

**THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION, 'WATER FOR LIFE':
PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND LESSONS LEARNED
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

30 March 2015

UN Headquarters –Trusteeship Council

Background

In December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (A/RES/69/215) which "invites the President of the General Assembly to convene a one-day high-level interactive dialogue of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly on a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade, including the best practices and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development".

Water is essential for life on this planet – it is the source and foundation of all living things. Over the past years the international community has come to acknowledge the indispensable role water and sanitation play for human well-being and sustainable development. With the aim of furthering efforts to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life'. The Decade has strived to promote greater focus on water-related issues, the participation of women in water-related development efforts, and the strengthening of cooperation at all levels.

During the course of the Decade, great progress has been made internationally in the areas of water and sanitation: almost two billion people gained access to improved sources of sanitation between 1990 and 2012¹ and in 2010 the MDG target to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water was met ahead of schedule. In the same year, the UN recognised access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right.

In the Rio+20 Conference, Heads of States and Governments recognized that water is at core of sustainable development and underlined the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development. Discussions around the Post-2015 development agenda, including a proposed goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable

¹ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2014 Update: http://www.unicef.org/gambia/Progress_on_drinking_water_and_sanitation_2014_update.pdf

management of water and sanitation for all by the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasize the importance of promoting an integrated approach to sustainable water management.

Objectives

In line with resolution 69/215, the high level interactive dialogue aims at providing Member States and other stakeholders an opportunity to comprehensively review the achievements and gaps in the implementation of the ‘Water for Life’ Decade, while also reflecting on the lessons learned that can contribute to an effective and comprehensive approach to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in the post-2015 development agenda.

As the international community approaches the end of the Decade and the beginning of the post-2015 development agenda, it is timely to have this in depth discussion on how the best practices and lessons learned from the Decade can be translated into concrete actions for sustainable water management in the new development agenda.

Format, Outcome and Participation

The one-day interactive dialogue will take place on 30 March 2015, at the UN headquarters in New York, and is being prepared in cooperation with UN Water.

It will consist of an opening and a plenary segment in the morning, dedicated to a comprehensive review of the ‘Water for Life’ Decade, followed in the afternoon by one interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussion , focused on the theme “carrying lessons learned from Decade into the post-2015 development agenda”.

A President’s summary will be prepared and circulated to member States and stakeholders as the outcome of the high-level interactive dialogue.

The interactive dialogue will include participation of Member States at the highest possible level, Observers, UN Agencies and representatives of civil society, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders.

Additional details, including a provisional programme, will be communicated at a later stage.

Background Paper

High-Level Interactive Dialogue on “The International Decade For Action, ‘Water For Life’: Progress Achieved And Lessons Learned for Sustainable Development”

30 March 2015

UN Headquarters –Trusteeship Council

Introduction

The international community has acknowledged the indispensable role that water and sanitation play for human health, well-being and sustainable development. During the ‘Water for Life’ Decade (2005-2015), significant progress was achieved in promoting access to water and sanitation and fostering cooperation on water issues¹. Despite progress, serious water challenges still persist, with as many as 1.8 billion people living in countries facing water scarcity by 2025². Global water crisis has been listed as one of the top global risks by the World Economic Forum in recent years and has hit the number one spot in 2015. Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is going to require a comprehensive and ambitious approach to water issues in the new development agenda.

In December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution on the “International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015” (A/RES/69/215) which invites the President of the General Assembly to convene a one-day high-level interactive dialogue “on a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade, including the best practices and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development”.

At the crossroads between the end of the Decade and the beginning of the Post-2015 Development agenda, the convening of the High-Level Interactive Dialogue on The International Decade For Action ‘Water For Life’: Progress Achieved And Lessons Learned for Sustainable Development” provides a timely opportunity to review the achievements and gaps of the ‘Water for Life’ Decade and have an in depth discussion on how lessons learned can be translated into concrete actions for sustainable water management in the new development agenda.

¹ <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>

² UN-Water GLAAS Report, 2014

Morning Session: Review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade

With the aim of furthering efforts to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life' in December 2003 (A/Res/58/217). The Decade has strived to promote greater focus on water-related issues, the participation of women in water-related development efforts, and the strengthening of cooperation at all levels.

With regards to the MDG safe drinking water target, a major achievement was reached in 2010 when the UN Secretary-General declared the target to have been met five years ahead of schedule.³ Between 1990 and 2012, 2.3 billion people gained access to an improved drinking water source, raising global coverage to 89 per cent in 2012⁴. Yet, significant obstacles remain to realize the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Today, 800 million people are without access to an improved water source and many more remain without safe and sustainable water supply. In addition, disparities continue to exist between and within countries.

There was also progress in the MDG sanitation target, with almost 1.8 billion people gaining access to improved sanitation facilities since 1990, but more remains to be done. Access to sanitation is today the most lagging of the MDGs with 2.5 billion people without improved sanitation and 1.1 billion still practicing open defecation⁵.

Another important achievement of the Decade was the declaration by the General Assembly, in 2010, of the human right to water and sanitation. It represented a landmark in the pursuit and awareness of the Decade goal of shifting to a rights-based approach on water and sanitation issues and lead to the establishment of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. During the Decade, considerable efforts were also made to mainstream gender in water and hygiene management, both by UN-Water's activities, but also in the creation of UN Women and pilot projects carried out throughout the Decade by different UN agencies and partners.

Issues for consideration/ Guiding questions:

- What are the major achievements of the 'Water for Life Decade? What are the remaining

³ WHO/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme, 2012

⁴ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, 2014

⁵ Ibid

obstacles for achieving universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, and what do we still need to do in order to make further progress?

- What factors lie behind the increase in safe drinking water and sanitation access achieved during the Decade?
- How has the recognition of the human right to water and sanitation contributed to promotion of the MDG targets?
- Why is involving women in decision making at all levels crucial for ensuring access and sustainable management of water and sanitation?
- When the General Assembly declared the International Year of Water Cooperation, it recognized that “cooperation is essential in order to strike a balance between the different needs and priorities” related to water. In that regard, what conditions and measures can facilitate transboundary cooperation?

Afternoon Session: Carrying the lessons learned from the Decade into the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Member States recognized that water is at the core of sustainable development as it is closely linked to a number of key global challenges. They also underlined the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development.

In July 2014, the report of the United Nations General Assembly’s Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed a stand-alone water goal for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, entitled “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. The proposed goal addresses aspects beyond the drinking water and sanitation targets of the MDGs and includes issues such as water resources management and protection, water quality, water efficiency and wastewater management. Moreover, the proposal for the SDGs includes targets related to water in the context of other goals, underlining the cross-cutting impact of water management to the promotion of sustainable development.

Global water requirements are projected to exceed sustainable water supplies by 40% by 2030⁶. The situation could be worsened by climate change and environmental degradation. Being able to manage water resources in a sustainable way will be a key to ensuring food production, energy supply, human health and well-being. An integrated management of water resources that balances access, quality and water efficiency is necessary to ensure that the complicated and inter-related decisions on water allocation will take into consideration the impacts on society, the economy or the environment.

Learning from the achievements and shortcomings of the Decade can provide invaluable lessons to move forward and succeed in the promotion of the new, more ambitious agenda. It can also shed some light on which means of implementation can secure concrete progress.

Issues for consideration/ Guiding questions:

- What key measures are needed to ensure water for sustainable development in a holistic manner?
- What are the linkages between water, energy and agriculture and how can different interests related to water, energy and agriculture be best consolidated in order to ensure sustainable development?
- How can we reduce the risks of water-related disasters and mitigate the water-related effects of climate change?
- What measures (e.g. finance, infrastructure, technology, human capacity, institutional reforms etc.) must governments, their international partners and other stakeholders undertake to ensure concrete and lasting outcomes?
- What can governments do to address water pollution and improve water quality? What is the role of the private sector and other stakeholders? Where are the opportunities for partnerships?

⁶ “Charting Our Water Future. Economic frameworks to inform decision-making”, 2030 WRG, 2009.

High Level Interactive Dialogue
The International Decade for Action, 'WATER FOR LIFE':
Progress achieved and lessons learned for sustainable development

30 March 2015, UN Headquarters –Trusteeship Council

Provisional Programme

Opening segment: 9:30 -10:00 am

- **H.E. Mr. Sam K. Kutesa**, President of the General Assembly
- **H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H. E. Mr. Perry Gladstone Christie**, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas
- **H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

Morning Session: 10:00 – 12:30 pm: Comprehensive Review of 'Water for Life' Decade

Chair: **H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamária Bogyay**, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations

- ❖ *What progress has been achieved during the Decade and what challenges persist?*

Keynote Speaker:

- **Mr. Michel Jarraud**, Chair of UN-Water and Secretary-General of WMO

Panellists:

- **Mr. Leo Heller**, Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation
- **Mr. Bai Mass Taal**, Executive Director of African Ministers' Council on Water
- **Ms. Sarina Prabasi**, CEO, Water Aid America

Interventions by Member States and stakeholders

Afternoon Session: 3:00 – 6:00 pm: Carrying the lessons learned from the Decade into the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Chair: **H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai**, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

Panellists

❖ *What are the good practices for sustainable and integrated water management?*

- **H.E Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga**, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations
- **Dr. Letitia A Obeng**, Board Member, International Water Management Institute (IMWI)
- **H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra**, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations
- **Mr. Anders Berntell**, Executive Director, 2030 Water Resources Group

Moderator: Ndey-Isatou Njie, Chief of the Water, Energy and Capacity Development Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA

Interactive discussion

❖ *What are the good practices with regards to means of implementation and partnerships?*

- **Ms. Alice Bouman-Dentener**, Vice-Chair, Global Water Partnership
- **Mr. Jack Moss**, Executive Director, AquaFed, International Federation of Private Water Operators
- **Mr. Daniel Bena**, Head of Global Sustainable Development & Operations Outreach, Pepsico
- **Ms. Blanca Jimenez Cisneros**, Director of the Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO

Moderator: Josefina Maestu, Director of UN Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication

Interactive discussion



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 May 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Summary of the key messages and recommendations from the High-level Interactive Dialogue on “The International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’: Progress achieved and lessons learned for sustainable development,” which I convened on 30 March 2015.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

High-level Interactive Dialogue

***“The International Decade for Action, ‘WATER FOR LIFE’:
Progress achieved and lessons learned for sustainable development”***

30 March 2015

United Nations Headquarters

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/215, the President of the General Assembly convened a High-level Interactive Dialogue on The International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’: Progress achieved and lessons learned for sustainable development, on 30 March 2015. The following is a summary of the key messages and recommendations from the Dialogue.

Morning session: Review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade

It was noted that water is not only a prerequisite for life itself, but must also be seen as one of the highest priorities for sustainable development. The need to enhance cooperation on water management, “hydro-diplomacy” was emphasized.

The session acknowledged the achievements of the International Decade for Action, which enhanced cooperation and focus on the achievement of international water-related goals.

During the International Decade for Action, progress was made in promoting international agreed water-related goals, in particular meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) safe drinking water target. In spite of the progress made in the area in sanitation, significant challenges persist, such as the need to end open defecation.

Presented as one of the milestones of the Decade, the declaration of the human right to water and sanitation was underscored as an important shift from the idea that its provision is a “favour” or charity from governments, to the understanding that governments have an obligation to ensure access to water and sanitation.

With regard to gender access to water and sanitation, important steps were made towards understanding and considering the impact of water and sanitation issues on women and girls, including the dangers and vulnerability faced when gathering water and the impacts on education of a lack of sanitation or hygiene management in schools. The need to address the burden on women’s life for the time lost in collecting water was presented as a priority.

It was noted that the provision of safe water and sanitation access is critical for poverty eradication, and that water is essential in efforts to develop national economies.

Evolving from the approach adopted during the Decade, sustainable water resources management in the new development agenda should encompass a comprehensive and broader perspective to water management, which includes, inter alia, access, water quality and efficiency, wastewater, integrated water resources management, disaster risk reduction, and environmental concerns.

The lessons learned from the International Decade shall be valuable in the years to come, as increasing population growth, urbanization and climate change will present additional challenges to sustainable water management. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may live in water-stressed conditions and global water demands are expected to increase by 40%. The special situations and challenges of Small Island Developing States, which are surrounded by water but face challenges related to potable sources, were highlighted.

Several speakers, in their interventions, stressed the cross-cutting nature of the water challenge, including the impact of water management to food and energy production and diseases control. The inclusion of a stand-alone goal in the Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was welcomed. In recognizing the importance of sustainable water management for the attainment of other goals, the need for enhanced cooperation, capacity building and adequate technologies was emphasized.

Many success stories of the provision of drinking water access and water cooperation during the decade were shared. In Africa, the Sharm-el-Sheikh Declaration brought water and sanitation to the highest political level and its internalization at the country level will further strengthen the promotion of international goals and targets. There was a call for increasing funding for water priority areas in Africa, and in this regard greater coordination and dialogue between water and finance ministries was recommended.

In Europe, the fact that water resources are often shared, contributed to the importance of regional cooperation in water management. At the European Union (EU) level, the legal framework put in place since 2000 introduced integrated water resources management. Slovakia underscored its readiness to share their national experience in water purification; and Georgia indicated how it is developing a law to promote an integrated river basin management approach.

Further good examples were provided from several countries, such as Singapore, which, without any of fresh water sources, has achieved water self-sufficiency and nearly 100% access due to integrated planning of water infrastructure, effective use of technology such as rain collection and water recycling, and working with community and key stakeholders.

Brazil mentioned a partnership with UNEP to host a centre for building water monitoring capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and also in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP). In Panama, the management of the Panama Canal in the past decade included a local governance structure in place for the watershed, overseen by an inter-institutional commission between government and civil society which contributed to coordinating efforts and resources.

The case of Central Asian states, which are experiencing a strain on water resources, was also highlighted, in particular how trans-boundary water cooperation is important in the case of small and medium-size hydropower stations.

The panelists noted that lessons learned from the Decade included the recognition of the cross-cutting character of water management to sustainable development and the need to make sophisticated, better quantifiable and clearer indicators within the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and the importance of disaggregated data. Other important messages included the human rights-based approach to water and sanitation, and the need for increased investment in water.

Afternoon Session: Carrying the lessons learned from the Decade into the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The first interactive round table focused on a dialogue on water resource management, including trans-boundary cooperation, integrated water resources management (IWRM) and the linkages between different water uses such as agriculture, industries, energy, cities and domestic use.

It was noted that the Mekong River Commission provides a robust and successful legal framework and fosters a multidisciplinary stakeholder approach to water resources management which promotes the sustainable use of water resources, preserves biodiversity and increases access to safe drinking water in the 10th largest river basin in the world.

IWRM is a multi-sectoral approach which considers all uses of water and encourages the making of smart choices about how to develop, manage and share water in order to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner.

National IWRM planning was a key goal of the Decade, and the number of countries with IWRM plans has grown steadily, with nearly 80% of the countries now adopting integrated approaches. Despite this, the implementation of reforms is slow and integrated water resources management still often has a low profile in most governmental actions. Major investments are also needed to improve data. Leadership is needed at the highest level, including the necessary dialogue between different relevant ministries.

The panel also discussed the relation between water and economic growth, and the impact of agriculture and energy in water usage, related not only to population growth, but also to patterns of consumption and production. It was noted that all actors should work together to solve problems in a multidisciplinary way. Multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together representatives from government, private sector and civil society may facilitate collective action to improve water management and efficiency. This will foster economic growth and improve peoples' livelihoods.

Disaster risk reduction is an integral element of sustainable water management. Water-related disasters are responsible for 90% of all people affected from disasters, with the damage to human lives and assets expected to become more severe in the future due to climate change and urbanization. In this regard, the implementation of the outcome document of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai is critical for the reduction of water-related disasters and promoting disaster risk reduction.

The second round table discussed issues such as the means of implementation, including finance, infrastructure, technology, human capacity and institutional. It was emphasized that while water issues are global in nature, much of the action that is required is local. However, local capacity is often limited and available resources are insufficient and inefficiently used.

Many speakers stressed the need to also strengthen capabilities in the civil society, which should be an active actor in the discussions on sustainable water management. Myanmar provided a good example where a women water professionals group discussed the importance of an IWRM participatory approach with government officials and contributed to the establishment of a Sustainable Water Resources Development Standing Committee (SWRDSC), composed of government representatives and representatives from a non-governmental Water Advisory Group.

Furthermore, participants underscored that ensuring adequate resources for sustainable water management requires good understanding and application of the differences between full cost and sustainable cost recovery. It was noted that in order for the burden of water and sanitation access to be spread fairly and sustainably, project costs need to be recovered over sufficiently long periods of time from a sufficiently wide basket of contributors. Moreover, cost systems cannot be based on only what the poorest can pay – almost everyone can pay something, and those who cannot, need to be identified and helped financially.

It was noted that statistics indicate that 80% to 90% of used water being discharged to the natural environment is without treatment, which demonstrates how vital water quality will be in the new agenda.

Efforts to raise awareness about the effects of water pollution, such as in the Earth Security Index's dashboard of risks, contributed to the discussions.

The engagement of private sector in the achievement of sustainable water management was also highlighted. Good examples were shared, such as PepsiCo, which together with the Earth Institute has aimed to apply sound science with academic rigor in support of policies that make a difference to water users worldwide. It was noted that in a recent survey of issues important for the private sector, the first priority listed was the provision of safe drinking water.

In the area of international cooperation, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO promotes international collaboration on hydrological research, and capacity building to enhance water resources management and governance. International cooperation is necessary to share and sustainably manage water between upstream and downstream users, reiterating the point that called for water as source of cooperation than conflict.

Concluding highlights of the session included the importance of participatory governance, the need to address financing and pollution, and the importance of monitoring and data collection. Science and appropriate policies also play an important role, and lessons can be learned from methods to encourage water cooperation, which has been successfully happening for hundreds of years.

30 March 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the High-Level Interactive Dialogue on International Decade for
Action, ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015**

Delivered by H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, on behalf of H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly

**H.E. Perry Gladstone Christie, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas,
H.E. Sirodjiddin Aslov, Foreign Minister of Tajikistan,
Excellencies,
Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased, on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, to address this important meeting as we review the progress made in the implementation of the International Decade for Action on “Water for Life”. Today’s interactive dialogue will provide an opportunity to share best practices and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development, as well as evaluate progress made in fostering cooperation on water issues.

Excellencies,

The International Decade of Action on “Water for Life” was launched in 2005 in response to the growing recognition of the challenges posed by the global water crisis. The Decade included a number of ambitious objectives, including the acceleration of progress on water-related Millennium Development Goals and other international commitments related to water and sanitation.

In the last 10-years, we have witnessed a significant increase in access to improved water sources, progress on access to sanitation, important steps taken in water cooperation and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in water and hygiene management.

Over the course of the International Decade of Action, the global community also recognized that ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation are key in our efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The impact of water on human health as well as economic well-being is better understood than a decade ago, including water’s critical importance for households, industries, agriculture, cities, energy

production and transportation. We also learned more about how the water cycle underpins the Earth's ecosystems and its susceptibility to the effects of climate change.

Nevertheless, as today's event will demonstrate, the world still faces considerable water challenges. In recent years, the world water crisis has been listed as one of the leading global risks by the World Economic Forum. In 2015 it moved to the number one spot in the ranking.

Despite considerable accomplishments made under the MDGs, approximately 800 million people still do not have access to an improved water source, while many more remain without a safe and sustainable water supply. Some estimates indicate as many as 1.8 billion people are living in countries that will face water scarcity by 2025.

**Excellencies
Distinguished delegates,**

This year represents a pivotal opportunity for the international community. From the Disaster Risk Reduction conference in Sendai to Climate Change Summit in Paris; from our on-going negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda in New York to the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa; we are in the midst of an historic opportunity to change our world by improving livelihoods everywhere and protecting our planet.

As we progress in the important negotiations underway, we should continue to take into account the importance of water and sanitation issues. We should also use the critical lessons learned through the International Decade for Action on "Water for Life" to improve our efforts to achieve water and sanitation access for all.

I thank you for your kind attention.



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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin ASLOV

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan

at

the High level Interactive Dialogue on “The International Decade for Action ‘*Water for Life*’, Progress Achieved and Lessons Learned for Sustainable Development”

69th UNGA

March 30, 2015, UN Headquarters-Trusteeship Council, New York

(Check against delivery)

Distinguished Mr. Acting President,

Distinguished Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,

Distinguished Mr. Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Bahamas,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to extend to the President of the General Assembly our appreciation for convening and organizing today's High level interactive Dialogue on comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the International Decade for Action '*Water for Life*', 2005-2015.

Ten years ago on World Water Day, 2005, the International Decade for Action '*Water for Life*', 2005-2015, a joint project of a global magnitude, was launched. The primary goal of the International Decade was to promote greater focus on implementation by 2015 the international water-related goals, among them, to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation. In addition, the International Decade placed a special emphasis on promoting the participation and involvement of women in water related issues, and the strengthening of international cooperation at all levels to promote the achievement of the set goals and objectives. In this way, a direct linkage was established between the Decade goals and the MDGs, the two fundamental projects of global dimension, both of which have now approached their final stage.

Today, when the time allocated for the implementation of these two global projects is up, I believe each of us asks himself/herself a question: '*How close are we to the full implementation of the commitments we made?*' No simple answer to this question is available. On the one hand, we have made considerable progress in ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation, in increasing awareness of the water related challenges. On the other hand, the achieved progress remains unsustainable and uneven. Moreover, the increased awareness and knowledge of the existing water-related problems and challenges have not been translated into concrete practical and sustainable actions.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to note that in Tajikistan, on the territory of which 60 percent of all water resources of Central Asia originate, as of today, only 58.5 percent of the entire population have access to improved drinking water source and about 30 percent to improved sanitation facilities. This kind of problem is extremely urgent in the rural areas, where only 49 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water and about 10 percent - to improved sanitation. With the aim of promoting access to safe drinking water and developing the water infrastructure of the country, the Government of Tajikistan has been implementing *“The Program on improvement of supply of the Tajikistan population with safe drinking water for 2007-2020”*. As a result of the measures implemented in this field over five recent years about 1.2 million people were provided with improved water supply and over 600 thousand people got access to safe drinking water.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we have gathered not only to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade but also the lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development agenda, which is under negotiations. Last week, the third round of intergovernmental negotiations had an in-depth discussion of the key elements of the post 2015 development agenda, in particular, sustainable development goals, targets and indicators. It is very inspirational that in the submitted sustainable development goals (SDGs) water is given due attention, and in addition to being included as a separate goal under # 6 it is also referred to in the other SDGs.

In my view, the main lesson learned during the International Decade is as follows: if we set ambitious targets, the means mobilized and allocated for their implementation should be equally ample. Experience shows that the targets can be achieved only if efficient mechanisms are in place and specific plans for their implementation, assessment and review are available. New plans and actions should be reinforced by adequate means of implementation, in particular, finance, human resources and capacity, investments and technologies.

It is obvious that new conditions and realities demand a renewal and optimization of global partnership in the interests of sustainable development.

In addition, while developing new goals and targets we should take into consideration a number of factors that define future framework and opportunities for water cooperation:

First, climate change impacts water resources and considerably undermines our efforts. For instance, in recent decades the Tajikistan glaciers have degraded by 30 percent, and this tendency persists. The Fedchenko glacier, the largest continental glacier, has retreated by almost 1 km and lost about 2 cubic km in volume. Given the fact that about 60 percent of water resources of the Aral Sea originate on the territory of Tajikistan, the above situation raises serious concern and requires urgent measures on adaptation and achieving sustainability with regard to climate change.

Second, population growth and need in water resources set new and complex tasks. Tough competition for water resources under the ever increasing water shortage can have negative impact even within one country. We believe that introduction of integrated and nexus approaches to water resources management provide new opportunities for improvement of existing mechanisms of cross-sectoral and intergovernmental water cooperation.

Third, it is essential to take into account a gender component of water issues. Women should be actively involved in sustainable management and protection of water resources.

Fouth: the transboundary component of water cooperation is key to ensuring peace, stability and sustainable development. Efficient water cooperation can become a catalyst for development, while the lack of such collaboration can create risks and cause losses that have negative impact on economic and social situation in transboundary countries. In many regions of the world strengthening of the institutionalized potential of transboundary water cooperation and its adaptation to new realities promotes harmonious and coordinated development of all transboundary countries.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to cite as an example the transboundary cooperation in Central Asia. It is known that the countries of the region share water resources of the two large rivers – the Amu Darya and the Syr-Darya, as well as those of a number of small transboundary waters. In Central Asian region, where a considerable part of water resources originate on the territory of one states, and the largest part of consumption of the available water resources falls on other states, efficient cooperation on management and use of water resources is key to sustainable development.

Establishment of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and signing of a number of important agreements made it possible for the water infrastructures to function under the difficult conditions of transition to market economy. However, a considerable potential for cooperation in the region remains unused, in particular, in the field of use of water-and-energy resources. If used, it can bring considerable benefits to all the countries involved. In our view, the current legal and institutional framework in this sphere in the region needs to be improved and adjusted to the new conditions and realities. Alongside with this, it is necessary to reinforce such important mechanisms of water cooperation as equitable allocation of advantages, data exchange, joint assessment and monitoring, sharing of costs and benefits, financing of joint activities, etc. In addition, it is essential that Afghanistan, which shares the Amu-Darya basin with the countries of the region, get involved in the process of regional water cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to note that today's High level interactive dialogue is the first and very important event on comprehensive review of achievements and lessons learned during the implementation of the International Decade for Action '*Water for Life*', 2005-2015.

The next event envisaged by the UNGA resolution 69/215 is the High level Conference to review the implementation of the International Decade for Action '*Water for Life*', 2005-2015, which will be held on June 9-10, 2015 in the city of Dushanbe. In this regard, I would like to use this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all delegations for the support of the above resolution and to invite representatives of governments, UN,

international and regional organizations, civil society and business community to take part in the forthcoming High level Conference, at which we are going to continue and expand the dialogue that we have started today. The Government of Tajikistan is doing everything in its capacity to make the Conference a success so that its outcomes will contribute to further promotion of cooperation in the field of water resources.

Thank you for attention.

UN General Assembly, High-Level Interactive Dialogue on

"the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life'"

March 30, 2015

Presentation by Anders Berntell, Executive Director, 2030Water Resources Group

Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

The World Economic Forum in their annual Global Risk Report, building on the expert opinion of some 1000 international experts, leaders of companies and international organizations, has for five years ranked water among the top five Global Risks. This year it is ranked as number 1. Similarly the CDP Water Disclosure Report has over the last years reported on an increasing number of companies that share this belief. In the 2014 report 68% of the companies (all of them are amongst the Global 500 companies) reported that water poses a substantive risk to their business, and 22% reported that issues around water could limit the growth of their business.

It is clear that water availability and/or water quality poses a real risk not only to people and ecosystems, but also to countries and their economies.

Growth is thirsty, and all production has a water footprint, 130 liters of water was required to grow the beans that produces one cup of coffee. My total water footprint for food only, as an average US/European citizen, is probably above 4000 liter per day, because of all the meat and dairy products I use. A vegetarian Indian or a Chinese with less meat in the diet has a footprint of about 2 000 liter. But not only food has a water footprint, any production of any goods requires water.

The growing number of people in the world increases demand for food, commercial goods, energy and water. Changing patterns of consumption – not just the growing head count – creates demand for more water. To provide the energy and quality of food that people need and want to make a better life, particularly in developing countries, there are shifts to more water-intensive production methods; grain-fed meat, for example, is now part of the food chain in developing countries as well as developed markets.

The Global Risk Report acknowledged that concerns over a looming water resource crisis reflect the fact that “past warnings of potential environmental catastrophes have begun to be borne out, yet insufficient progress has been made.”

Global water requirements are projected to be pushed beyond sustainable water supplies by 40 percent by 2030 in a business as usual scenario. A big component of this is increased agricultural water needs.

Agriculture already accounts for 70 percent of total average water consumption worldwide. By 2030, food production will have to increase by 50 percent to meet needs of a growing population and dietary

changes, with a potential increase of water demand of the same size, unless we produce that food more water efficient.

The International Energy Agency further projects water consumption to meet the needs of energy generation and production to increase by 85 percent by 2035.

Today, many regions of the world are already water stressed due to population and economic growth. 2.5 billion people (36% of the world population) live in these water stressed regions and more than 20% of the global GDP is already produced in risky, water-scarce areas.

A recent report by IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute), found that 4.8 billion people – more than half the world's population – and approximately half of global grain production will be at risk due to water stress by 2050 if status quo/business-as-usual behavior is followed.

The IFPRI study also found that 45% of total GDP (\$63 trillion) will be at risk due to water stress by 2050. That's 1.5 times the size of today's entire global economy.

The nexus of food, water, energy and climate change is “one of four overarching mega trends that will shape the world in 2030,” and these risks are further related to other risks like large-scale involuntary migration, according to the Global Risk Report.

And we know that water scarcity and water pollution is already today affecting economies in many countries.

We see investments being stopped because the investors are not sure that the water that is needed for the operation of the production is guaranteed. Examples are found in agriculture and hydropower in Africa, mining in Peru and coal power plants in China, amongst others. Other examples are found where water quality becomes an issue not only for people and ecosystems, but for the requirements of industry itself such as the textile industry in Bangladesh, and other industries in China and India.

And we also know the effects of lack unsafe drinking water and inappropriate sanitation has on people's health, and thereby also on the economic development of countries.

The 2030WRG is a Public-Private-Civils Society initiative. We were founded on the understanding that the challenges ahead of us are too big, and too complex, for anyone to resolve if working on their own. We need to join hands and work together across sectors (agriculture, energy, water, industry, financing etc) and also across the divide between public, private and civil society actors.

We were established, couple of years ago, by a few global companies, food o beverage, (Nestle, PepsiCo, and the Coca Cola Company) but many more companies have joined our work in the countries where we operate. Bilateral donors such as Sweden and Switzerland and IFC (World Bank Group) were also among the founding partners, but also others are supporting our work in different countries such as Germany, USA, AfDB and IDB. Many other organizations are working closely with and supporting us such as UNDP, GWP, WWF GGGI and others.

The reason why we were established is beyond the direct self-interest of the companies involved, and the concern for their own production/manufacturing of products.

We were established because these companies were concerned about what water scarcity, and other challenges such as water quality, will do to the development and the economy of countries where they operate. One can describe it as a long term, enlightened, self-interest of the companies. They depend on countries where the economy is growing, where development is not jeopardized because of lack of water and where people's livelihoods is improving.

In the countries where we work, we create a platform where the government in that country can sit down with the water using private sector from that country and the civil society, and discuss together what needs to be done to address the water challenges they are facing, and how they can do that by working together.

We call these platforms "Multistakeholder platforms", and the objective is to facilitate and stimulate collective action for improved management of the water resources and reduced demand by using the water more efficiently. In the countries we have worked, we have been able to show how effective and powerful this approach can be, such as in Mexico and Peru, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, India (including in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka) Bangladesh and Mongolia.

We are convinced that this approach, by making the various stakeholders work together to develop concrete solutions to the challenges they are facing, is a very effective way to reduce the risk of water scarcity in their country.

Thank You.

Statement by Ambassador HAHN Choonghee

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

High Level Interactive Dialogue: The International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life'

30 March 2015

New York

<Check against delivery>

Thank you, Madame Chair,

First of all, I would like to thank our keynote speaker and panelists for the informative and insightful presentation.

Madame Chair,

As the timeframe for the MDGs and the 'Water for Life' Decade nears completion, the successes, lessons learned, and remaining challenges are becoming increasingly clear.

Despite appreciable efforts undertaken over the years, people are still struggling to meet the demand for safe drinking water in most developing countries. Every year, millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.

According to the United Nations World Water Development Report, by 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of freshwater. Water scarcity, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security and livelihood choices for poor people across the world.

Water-related disasters such as floods, tropical storms and droughts are becoming more frequent and their impact on human and economic development is becoming ever greater. Furthermore, the MDG framework did not address the broader water agenda, such as water quality, development, as well as management of water resources and wastewater.

Madame Chair,

This reality forces us to confront the magnitude of the challenge that we face in order to move forward. It is time to reaffirm our commitment to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, while simultaneously charting the way for a post-2015 development agenda as a stand-alone goal.

For achieving a world of dignity for all, and taking into account the proposition that no target should be considered met unless it is met for all social and economic groups, no one should lack safe water and sanitation. To build a sustainable, climate-resilient future for all, we need concerted action for the sustainable management of water resources, both in quantity and quality.

Taking this opportunity, Madame Chair, I would like to remind all of you that the 7th World Water Forum (WWF) will take place in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea in April this year. Under the theme of 'Water for Our Future', the World Water Forum will bring together governments, civil society, businesses and academia. It will serve as an opportunity to share our knowledge and experience, and promote

international cooperation to tackle water challenges. The Republic of Korea will continue to actively engage in these important global efforts.

Thank you. Madame Chair. //END//



STATEMENT

**BY THE
PRIME MINISTER OF THE BAHAMAS AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE
OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM
RT. HON. PERRY G. CHRISTIE,**

**AT THE
2015 HIGH-LEVEL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
“THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION:
PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

30 MARCH 2015

I thank the President of the General Assembly for inviting me to participate in this High-Level Dialogue on the most important element for life - Water. As either island or low-lying coastal states, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States are highly dependent on all forms of water, socially, economically and environmentally.

Against that background we welcomed the United Nations-declared 'Water for Life' Decade which aimed to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015.

There is a fundamental irony about small island developing states. They are surrounded by water but increasingly there is not enough to

drink. You will remember the line from Samuel Coleridge's Rime of The Ancient Mariner: "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink." That is the living and ever present reality of many small island developing states.

From the country surveys conducted, the reports indicate that significant progress has been made in pursuit of Goal 7.C of the Millennium

Development Goals (MDG) which focuses on reducing by 2015, half the proportion of the world population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

The 2015 UN-World Water Day Report draws our attention to the UN Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which indicates that billions of people do

not have access to water that is truly safe.

Mr. President, it is acknowledged that global climate change, financial and food crises, low rates of economic growth and shortage of water resources negatively impact and undermine the efforts of the Member States aimed at achieving the internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation.

In addressing the water challenges facing the international community a new dialogue is required and the deliberations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda offer us that opportunity.

Increasingly, water is being acknowledged as a valuable resource that requires new forms of investment and modern policies to increase productivity and support

human well-being. In this context, there are growing concerns by investors and a large number of stakeholders that if left unmanaged, water would be in short supply across the globe and water scarcity would become a major economic risk compounding the challenges associated with human well-being. We in Caricom accept that reality and are ever conscious of it in our public policy.

Many CARICOM Member States for example, especially those in the southern and eastern Caribbean, have recently been experiencing extreme drought conditions which have been significantly impacting the water resources sector, as well as those socio-economic sectors that rely heavily on water as an input.

In The Bahamas, we are deeply conscious of the issue of potable water everywhere, and its availability to our population. We now depend heavily on reverse osmosis for fresh water. We are committed to supply water to our people at a reasonable cost and properly sanitized. Producing fresh water in The Bahamas has implications for the use of scarce energy resources and it drives up the expense of delivering

potable water for drinking, sanitary matters and for agriculture. In considering our renewable energy mix, one possible adjunct to this is the ability

as a side product to produce fresh water. The Bahamas is committed to the goals for delivery of clean potable water in the post 2015 era.

Indeed, Mr President, it is worth noting that in The Bahamas, we were losing around 60% of our water in

New Providence, our most populated island. And through new technology, we have reduced losses from 60% to under 35%. This has resulted in savings of close to 1 billion gallons of water, I am advised.

Mr. President, it must be underscored that there are many challenges associated with water which require action. These include action to improve water resources planning, evaluate availability and needs within

watersheds and aquifers, and reallocation or expansion of existing storage facilities. There must also be emphasis on the importance of managing water demand and developing a better balance between equity and efficiency in water use. We must put in place adequate legislative and institutional frameworks and overcome the rising financial burdens of ageing infrastructure.

The lessons learned over the past decade should guide us to an effective and comprehensive approach to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation as we consider the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Our lives depend on it.

Thank you, Mr President.

INTERVENCION DEL EMBAJADOR GUSTAVO MEZA-CUADRA EN EL “DIALOGO INTERACTIVO DE ALTO NIVEL SOBRE LA DECADA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA ACCION: AGUA PARA LA VIDA: PROGRESOS ALCANZADOS Y LECCIONES APRENDIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE”

Nueva York, 30 de marzo de 2015

Título del segmento: What are the good practices for sustainable and integrated water management?

INTRODUCCION

Agradezco la gentil invitación para participar en este panel. Agradezco de igual forma la convocatoria realizada por el señor Presidente de la Asamblea General para el tratamiento de este importante tema en este momento crucial en que los Estados nos encontramos ultimando la configuración de la agenda de desarrollo para los próximos 15 años.

VISION DEL PERU

- Para el Perú, el agua es un recurso natural renovable, indispensable para la vida y estratégico para el desarrollo sostenible, el mantenimiento de los sistemas y ciclos naturales que la sustentan así como para la seguridad de nuestra Nación.
-
- El territorio peruano se caracteriza por su alta vulnerabilidad al cambio climático, la creciente explotación de sus recursos naturales, en especial de sus depósitos minerales, y los impactos provocados por estas actividades en los recursos hídricos y el medio ambiente, incluyendo sus recursos naturales, la flora y la fauna local.
- En dicho contexto, el gobierno peruano con el apoyo de la cooperación internacional y el sistema de Naciones Unidas ha promovido el desarrollo de programas que apunten al fortalecimiento de las capacidades de los gobiernos locales y regionales, de las autoridades comunitarias e institucionales privadas y de la población en general sobre la gestión integral y adaptativa de los recursos naturales para minimizar las vulnerabilidades al cambio climático.
- Un ejemplo de lo anteriormente mencionado lo constituye el programa denominado “Manejo integral y adaptativo de recursos ambientales y riesgos climáticos en micro cuencas alto andinas”; realizado con el apoyo del Fondo para el logro de las Metas de Desarrollo del Milenio, de FAO, PNUD y PNUMA.
- Otro ejemplo a nivel de manejo institucional lo constituye la creación de la Autoridad Nacional del Agua (ANA), que es el ente rector y la máxima autoridad técnico-normativa del Sistema Nacional de Gestión de los Recursos Hídricos en el Perú.

- Con su creación, que data del año 2008, se reafirma como política de Estado la validez de un manejo coordinado e integral de los recursos hídricos en el Perú.
- A nivel bilateral, se ha promovido la suscripción de acuerdos de cooperación técnica internacional a nivel de gobiernos, como el suscrito entre el Gobierno del Perú y el Gobierno de Alemania respecto al “Programa de Reducción de Pérdidas de Agua” (suscrito en 2013). Asimismo, se han suscrito convenios, acuerdos y memorandos de entendimiento entre instituciones peruanas y extranjeras, como la Agencia Israelí de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (MASHAV), la Agencia Nacional de Aguas de Brasil, el Changjiang Institute of Survey, Planing, Design & Research de la República Popular China, entre otros.

Relación con el cambio climático y la reducción de desastres

Preguntas sugeridas:

1. Drawing from the lessons in the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai earlier this month, what lessons can we learn about water-related disasters and how we can reduce and mitigate the risks?

- Como ya se conoce, el mayor porcentaje de desastres naturales en el mundo está relacionado con el agua. Así, tenemos desde precipitaciones fluviales hasta desbordes de los cauces de los ríos, sin contar con riesgos de naturaleza más prolongada en el tiempo como el derretimiento de los glaciares que representan una amenaza al suministro de agua potable en muchos centros urbanos, como es el caso de Lima la capital del Perú.
- Desde esa perspectiva, el recientemente adoptado “*Marco de Sendai para la Reducción de Riesgo de Desastres*”, siguiendo la línea trazada por Hyogo y luego por el Grupo de Trabajo de Trabajo Abierto sobre ODS, reconoce en varios de sus acápites la importancia de la integración de un enfoque de riesgo en el manejo de, entre otros, de la gestión de agua en zonas vulnerables a la ocurrencia de desastres.
- Ejemplos concretos de ello los podemos encontrar en el párrafo 30 g) referido a la importancia de considerar la incorporación de dicha óptica en la planificación rural; así como en el párrafo 30 c) que señala la importancia de contar con infraestructura resiliente utilizada en la gestión de recursos hídricos.
- Mirando hacia la implementación del marco de Sendai, serán muy importante alcanzar dos objetivos a corto plazo:

- a) La alineación de las metas acordadas por el Grupo de Trabajo Abierto sobre Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular la meta 11.5 que habla sobre la reducción del número de muertes y pérdidas económicas causadas por desastres relacionados con el agua; con las metas acordadas en Sendai.
 - b) El desarrollo de indicadores que integren transectorialmente agua y saneamiento; agricultura sostenible; seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, respectivamente.
- Para ello, será fundamental desarrollar coherentemente las capacidades de los Estados para establecer líneas-base y medir el progreso en la consecución de estas metas.

2. Can you provide good examples of water-related disaster risk reduction? 3. How can we best prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change in the Post-2015 Development Agenda?

- Para el Perú, la gestión del riesgo de desastres es un proceso integral y de alto impacto social, que debe ser parte intrínseca de los procesos de planeamiento de todas las entidades públicas en todos los niveles de gobierno. En ese sentido, reiteramos, existe un vínculo claro entre el logro de un desarrollo sostenible y la reducción del riesgo de desastres.
- Gradualmente se ha reconocido que los desastres son el resultado de la combinación de la actividad humana y no así producto exclusivo de la naturaleza. El riesgo de que ocurran y la vulnerabilidad a la que se expone una comunidad o infraestructura específica determina su impacto. El impacto a menudo cuantificado en pérdidas y daños condiciona el desarrollo mismo de las comunidades. Nuestra experiencia, por ejemplo, ha demostrado la intrínseca relación entre el nivel de daños y pérdidas y la pobreza. En tal sentido, la no superación de la pobreza exacerba las condiciones de vulnerabilidad y ha hecho menos resiliente a las comunidades frente a eventos de origen natural o inducidos por la acción humana, lo que retroalimenta la situación de fragilidad y pobreza de las poblaciones afectadas.
- En el Perú, por ejemplo, tenemos el fenómeno del Niño, que es un fenómeno meteorológico que consiste en un cambio en los patrones de movimiento de las corrientes marinas en la zona intertropical provocando, en consecuencia, una superposición de aguas cálidas procedentes de la zona del hemisferio norte inmediatamente al norte del ecuador sobre las aguas de emersión muy frías que caracterizan la corriente de Humboldt; esta situación provoca estragos a escala zonal debido a las intensas lluvias, afectando principalmente a América del Sur, tanto en las costas atlánticas como en las del Pacífico, especialmente, en estas últimas.
- Solo para graficar el impacto que en los niveles de crecimiento económico y desarrollo de un país puede tener la ocurrencia de un desastre, basta decir que el fenómeno del

niño de 1998 redujo en poco más de 3 puntos porcentuales el Producto Bruto Interno del Perú.

CONCLUSIONES

- El agua es un elemento clave y fundamental para la sostenibilidad medioambiental y el desarrollo socioeconómico.
- Es importante demostrar que los proyectos de desarrollo y gestión de los recursos hídricos pueden generar ventajas sociales y económicas específicas para las comunidades locales.
- En particular, el desarrollo de los recursos hídricos debería situarse claramente en todos los programas de desarrollo social, económico, rural y urbano.
- El mensaje general para la réplica de cualquier iniciativa es fomentar un enfoque integrado y completo de la gestión del agua. Dicho enfoque debe tener en cuenta, además, los efectos directos e indirectos del cambio climático.
- A nivel global, se debe priorizar la implementación sinérgica y coherente de las metas acordadas como parte del Marco de Sendai y de la Agenda de desarrollo post 2015 (basada en los ODS).
- Reiterar la importancia que la reducción y manejo de riesgo de desastres tiene para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible. En esa línea, los gobiernos y demás actores deben asumir que es mucho más conveniente e inteligente invertir en prevención y gestión del riesgo que únicamente en tareas de recuperación y reconstrucción post desastres.



INTERVENCIÓN DE

S.E. PAULINA FRANCESCHI

REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ADJUNTA

ENCARGADA DE NEGOCIOS A.I.

DE LA REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ

ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

DIÁLOGO INTERACTIVO DE ALTO NIVEL

**Decenio Internacional para la Acción: Progreso
realizado y lecciones aprendidas para el Desarrollo
Sostenible.**

Nueva York, 30 de marzo de 2015

Declaración de Panamá

“Decenio Internacional para la Acción “Water for Life”

Dra. Paulina Franceschi, Representante Permanente Adjunta

30 marzo de 2015

Señor Presidente,

Es alarmante pensar que alrededor de 748 millones de personas en el mundo no tienen acceso a un recurso tan vital como es el agua, recurso que hoy día es amenazado por la conducta humana y el cambio climático. En este sentido nos adherimos al discurso del grupo G77 y China al indicar que el agua es esencial para los esfuerzos de desarrollar el sector agropecuario, industrializar nuestros países y desarrollar nuestras economías. Es crucial Aumentar el acceso a agua potable, disminuir el mal manejo de fuentes de agua y mejorar niveles de higiene y sanidad en la población.

Panamá cuenta con un importante eslabón de la cadena de suministro mundial, como lo es el Canal de Panamá, que depende, para su funcionamiento, de los recursos hídricos. Constituye uno de los motores más importantes de la economía panameña, los aportes representan un 1,8% del PIB de la economía nacional (2014), contribuyendo en gran medida al bienestar social y económico de los panameños

En este sentido queremos compartir hoy con ustedes los resultados y lecciones aprendidas por la Autoridad del Canal de Panamá (ACP) en el manejo de la cuenca hidrográfica del Canal. El Canal depende en gran medida de la Cuenca, territorio que se encuentra rodeado por comunidades a las cuales la ACP ha apoyado en el desarrollo de buenas prácticas para evitar el mal manejo de los recursos hídricos. La Cuenca es un complejo de 334,000 hectáreas, allí se almacena el agua dulce, que hace posible el tránsito interoceánico de aproximadamente el 4% del comercio marítimo mundial. Por ende, **asegurar la sostenibilidad y el uso racional de los recursos de dicha cuenca es una tarea fundamental que debe llevarse a cabo por todas las partes interesadas**; sean gestores del agua, políticos, comunidad científica y los habitantes locales. Una estrategia con **enfoque colaborativo y adaptativo de gestión integrada** ha dado forma al trabajo que la ACP ha desarrollado por quince años en la Cuenca del Canal.

Durante más de una década, en la tarea de establecer un manejo integrado del recurso hídrico de la cuenca del Canal, permítame mencionar las tres principales lecciones aprendidas:

- (i) **una estructura local de gobernanza de cuenca, liderada por una Comisión Interinstitucional de la Cuenca Hidrografica del Canal de Panama e integrada por instituciones gubernamentales y sociedad civil para coordinar esfuerzos y recursos, asesor y capacitar, para el desarrollo sostenible de la cuenca, mostrando la**

voluntad política para establecer la gobernanza de los recursos hídricos; una estructura de participación comunitaria donde las comunidades se organizaron en 30 comités locales de microcuencas; y la instalación de 6 Consejos Consultivos de Subcuencas para permitir un espacio más amplio de participación de actores y desarrollar capacidades locales para un efectivo manejo de la cuenca. En estos consejos consultivos participan comités locales, representantes de sectores con presencia en cada territorio (industria, comercio, sociedad civil y otras), representantes de instituciones públicas y autoridades locales. La lección a resaltar es que la mejor práctica es implementar planes de gestión integrada a nivel de subcuenca, y construir sobre los éxitos pequeños.

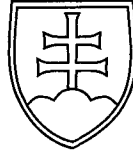
- (ii) El diseño de evaluaciones participativas y la ejecución de planes de acción de subcuencas a corto plazo con el fin de apoyar la apropiación de la estructura participativa de la cuenta del Canal, para ello se apoyó a los comités locales y consejos consultivos en el diseño de evaluaciones participativas de las subcuencas y de planes de acción inmediata a corto plazo para abordar asuntos prioritarios relacionados con el desarrollo local. Estos planes fueron adoptados por las instituciones gubernamentales para su ejecución con fondos estatales. Tales acciones a corto plazo resultaron ser críticas como parte del proceso para establecer una sólida relación de confianza entre las comunidades, actores gubernamentales y el Canal de Panamá. Ello implicó el uso de un conjunto específico de indicadores ambientales diseñados para determinar si las acciones están logrando sus metas. Y la realización de proyectos de agua y saneamiento, mejores métodos de cultivo y prácticas de cría de ganado, la manipulación segura de productos agroquímicos, educación ambiental y participación de los actores locales.
- (iii) El diseño de un plan de desarrollo sostenible y gestión integrada del recurso hídrico de la Cuenca del Canal a largo plazo, direccionado por el CICH y luego de un amplio proceso de consultas se estableció el primer Plan de Desarrollo Sostenible y Gestión de los Recursos Hídricos en la Cuenca del Canal de Panamá. El Plan incluyó una serie de proyectos de desarrollo y de conservación en cinco áreas estratégicas: (i) la consolidación y aplicación de planes de ordenamiento territorial y desarrollo urbano, (ii) la transformación y el fortalecimiento de la producción sostenible, (iii) la conservación, protección, recuperación y monitoreo de los sistemas naturales y los recursos hídricos, (IV) mejora de la gobernanza, la transparencia, la rendición de cuentas y fortalecimiento de la comunidad, y (v) desarrollo de infraestructura. Se fijaron planes anuales de operaciones para las 5 regiones de la cuenca, así como planes de inversión anual, y cerca de 140 perfiles de proyectos. Los miembros de la CICH coordinan los esfuerzos necesarios para la asignación anual de fondos provenientes de fuentes diferentes. Se estableció un mecanismo de supervisión y evaluación para garantizar la mejora continua y el logro de los escenarios del plan, así como un mecanismo de rendición de cuentas

para informar al público sobre los avances de los planes de ejecución y las lecciones aprendidas

Señor Presidente,

Concluyo agradeciendo por la oportunidad de dar a conocer una experiencia exitosa en el manejo de recursos y fuentes de agua. Alentamos a los Estados Miembros a que trabajemos juntos en medidas que contribuyan a la conservación del agua para que de esta manera las generaciones futuras puedan disfrutar de este recurso tan vital que muchos dan por asegurado. El éxito es posible cuando las intervenciones se adaptan y ejecutan con base en la experiencia local y la gente. Cambiar conductas e instituciones y construir confianza es un proceso lento requiere tiempo y esfuerzo persistente.

Muchas gracias



**Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations
New York**

STATEMENT

by

**Ambassador H. E. Mr. František Ružička
Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations**

**High-Level Interactive Dialogue
International Decade for Action – “Water for Life”
Progress Achieved and Lessons Learned
for Sustainable Development**

New York, 30 March 2015

-Check against delivery-

Distinguished Secretary General,
President of the General Assembly,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Let me express my gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for organizing this high-level interactive dialogue devoted to discussions on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade for Action including the lessons learned and best practices.
- I align my statement with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.
- We are approaching the end of the Decade and are on the eve to set-up the Post-2015 agenda. Without water there is no life, thus it is natural, that its importance will be reflected in the post-2015 agenda. We need to discuss on lessons learned and focus on future actions on water related issues.
- Slovakia naturally highly appreciates the fact that the issues related to water are adequately reflected in the **new sustainable development agenda**.
- Dealing effectively with **water and sanitation** is fundamental to fighting **poverty**. Despite the progress we have achieved so far, 750 mil. people live without access to water. 37% of those people live in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Water is important for almost every goal we are talking about. Let me take a few: **Education**. Over half of the developing world's primary schools don't have access to water and sanitation facilities. 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases.
- **Healthcare**: Nearly 1 out of every 5 deaths under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water-related disease. Diarrhea caused by inadequate drinking water, sanitation, and hand hygiene kills an estimated 842,000 people every year globally, or approximately 2,300 people per day¹.
- **Economic development**: According to the World Health Organization, for every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, there is an economic return of between \$3 and \$34.
- **Security**: absence of effective management of water resources can endanger stability and security in some regions. Universal access to safe water will increase global security.
- A few areas where Slovakia offers its assistance.

¹Tropical Medicine and International Health. 19, no. 8 (2014): 894 - 905. Burden of disease from inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene in low- and middle-income settings: a retrospective analysis of data from 145 countries.

- **Water purification**: Slovakia has good experience with **water purification** and is keen to share its approaches in this area with other countries. We developed a close cooperation with **Western Balkan** countries by providing development assistance in the form of technical cooperation based on knowledge sharing and capacity building for water management and purification systems.
- **Natural disasters, flood management**: As a consequence of demographic and economic pressures together with **climate change** many countries are likely to experience water problems, including **flood issues**. Slovakia is committed to **prevention and aims at reducing damage caused by floods** by creating efficient system of prevention.
- **Regional cooperation in Danube river basin**. Trans-boundary water co-operation provides an effective means for addressing water management challenges at the regional and national levels also by involving the private sector.
- At the EU level, Slovakia supports intensifying the cooperation of **countries in the Danube Region** by common problem solutions as well as by more effective use of existing water resources. In the framework of the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region**, Slovakia, together with Hungary, is the leading country for coordinating the environmentally focused activities of the Danube Region Countries.
- **Energy**. Slovakia supports the concepts of **regional cooperation** between neighbours and effective use of potential water sources. The trans-boundary waters are shared between two or more countries and are one of the most important and vulnerable freshwater resources on the planet.
- We have to promote **innovative and effective solutions** to address **sustainable global and regional water challenges**. How we will cope with this challenge depends on key decision-makers in water solutions from across governments, regional institutions, international organizations, research and science, academics and private sector.
- Distinguished Secretary General, Distinguished President of the GA, water is a **powerful tool for cooperation** across borders, sectors and communities. Addressing issues relate to water we may help reaching many other goals. We need to ensure that water is a source of partnership not of conflict.

Thank you.

30 March 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Opening of “Water for Life Voices” Exhibition**

Delivered by H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, on behalf of H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the General Assembly

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased, on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, to join you today for the opening of this unique and inspiring exhibition.

Today, we are assessing the important progress made through the International Decade of Action on “Water for Life” and sharing good practices that can contribute towards achieving a new transformative development agenda.

As we do so, the “Water for Life Voices” exhibition provides us with a tangible reminder of our collective efforts to address global water challenges, and our inherent responsibility to do more.

The voices represented in this exhibition speak of progress; they speak of pride; and they speak of hope.

These voices help us recall that the journey from the Millennium Development Goals to the post-2015 development agenda has included many notable achievements; while also serving as a reminder that more work needs to be done.

Excellencies,

As we open this exhibit, we are also provided with a visual reminder that water is critical for the future of people, and the planet.

Water impacts nearly every aspect of our lives; human health and well-being, agriculture and ecosystems, transport and cities, households and industries.

Collectively, we have already recognized that water is instrumental for sustainable development. We must now ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation are adequately addressed in the new development agenda.

I thank you for your attention.