

30 March 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,  
President of the 69<sup>th</sup> 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.