

## Meeting of Permanent Representatives (+1) of the Group of Friends of Water

30 November 2017, 13:15 pm – 14:45 pm

Conference Room 11, UN Headquarters, New York

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations about the working-level dialogues on water, improving the coordination and integration of the work of the United Nations:

- Hungary had been committed to the **Agenda 2030** from the very beginning and we would like to keep the **ambition level high for the implementation of the SDGs**.
- As the motto of the Budapest Water Summit pictured it very well: **Water connects!** Water resources management and sanitation are linked to all areas of sustainable development, which is why the **implementation of the Agenda 2030 will depend on achieving SDG 6**, as well as the interlinked goals and targets.
- I am very honored that on behalf of Hungary, I could **co-moderate the working level dialogues** with Tajikistan on the implementation of water related goals and targets under the sustainable development pillar. **Today, I would like to brief you about the key outcome messages of the process.**
- We have found during our dialogue meetings on 22 March (World Water Day) and on 30 May that **addressing challenges related to the integration and coordination of the work of the United Nations on the water-related goals and targets is highly timely.**
- A number of divisions still prevail among some key actors; however the spirit of discussions has been very constructive and we have **reached a momentum that merits further looking at common ground.**
- Our most important findings as **included in the summary circulated by the PGA:**
  - **Conduct a review** of ongoing activities of the UN Agencies and mechanisms with the aim of **identifying potential gaps, overlaps and areas for enhanced cooperation.**
  - **Strengthen UN-Water and its mandate**, to better interact with Member States.
  - Explore the **added value and drawbacks of platforms, including the Water Decade providing coherent policy guidance and oversee monitoring and follow-up.**
  - Catalyse the **use of existing initiatives and frameworks** that could integrate relevant activities, and resources by **sharing experience and best practices, mobilize new sources of funding and build capacity**, at national and local level.
  - Ensure greater integration of water-related goals and targets into the broader **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** framework.
  - Use the **National Voluntary Reviews within HLPF** to ensure that countries address water challenges.
  - Invite the UN Regional Economic Commissions to host discussions on water resources and share best practices and lessons learned.
  - Explore linkages with the ongoing **reform of the UN Development system.**
- **I trust that these points are actionable and present avenues for follow-up. We heard a lot of support for the discussions to continue.**

- I believe the preparations of the **Water Decade**, the **ongoing reform of the UN development system** and the **in-depth review of SDG 6 by the HLPF in July 2018** are all important opportunities for that!
- The Secretary General's report on the **reform of the UN Development system underlined significant gaps that data had shown in coverage first and foremost of SDG 6.**
- As a member of the Steering Committee of the **Friends of Water**, I look forward to continue working towards solutions with all Member States and stakeholders in the **Group** by looking at convergences so that **water can find its best place at the UN development system.**
- Last but not least, I would like to recall the side event Hungary had co-organized with Denmark on the margin of the high-level week in September about **closing the investment gap on water infrastructure.** As the lead of the financing work stream of the High Level Panel on Water, H.E. Mr János Áder, President of Hungary delivered a keynote speech about the current state of investment needs in the water arena. High level speakers from Member States' governments, the international financial institutions, utilities and the private sector illustrated the benefits of forging partnerships. The major **takeaway** was the centrality of investment in sustainable water resources management including wastewater treatment and the provision of adequate sanitation services, that trigger synergies for the achievement of the rest of the SDGs. If we don't **act fast** and if we don't **act together**, it's not only the deterioration of the current state that we will have to face, but also the cost of lost investment opportunities.