

**Stocktaking of SDG Action during the 71st session of the UN General Assembly
convened by the President of the General Assembly**

8 September 2017, 10am-1pm

ECOSOC Chamber

Remarks by Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations:

- Hungary had been committed to the **Agenda 2030** from the very beginning and we are grateful for your leadership Mr President (of the General Assembly) for your **global push** to keep a **high ambition level 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 largely depend on achieving SDG 6**, as well as all interlinked goals and targets.
- I am very honored that on behalf of Hungary, I could **co-moderate** the **working level dialogue** with Tajikistan on the implementation of water related SDGs 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.**
- Let me present the most important findings as suggested by participants *for the way ahead, as included in the summary circulated by the PGA on 4 August*:
 - **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.** (I believe UN-Water has the ability to do that review.)
 - **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 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**. (That is the link to the process of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, QCPR as well).
- **I trust that these points are actionable and present avenues for follow-up. We heard a lot of support for the discussions to continue, so the real question is rather the format.**
- Many Member States stressed the need to continue the dialogue under the auspices of the General Assembly or ECOSOC, while some delegations suggested bringing the key messages to work streams related to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the 2030 Agenda.
- The **in-depth review of SDG 6 by the HLPF in 2018** is a great opportunity 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 right place at the UN development system.**