

**Second Water Dialogue to take stock of progress made and exchange views on the  
relevance of possible next steps**

*Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters*

*10.00 AM; 30 May 2017*

*Introductory points by H.E. Katalin Annamária Bogyay*

- Your Excellences, Distinguished Colleagues, Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I would like to welcome you to the second water dialogue to take stock of progress made and exchange views on the relevance of possible next steps about improving the integration and coordination of the work of the UN on the water-related goals and targets under its sustainable development pillar, with particular emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- We are here today, because water connects us all. This has been the motto of the Budapest Water Summit, reflecting Hungary's engagement in linking policy makers to all stakeholders, who are active in the international water arena, including on strengthening the science policy interface.
- On this note, let me reflect that Hungary has been in the forefront of raising the profile of water in the scientific community through organizing and co-hosting the World Science Forum. At this year's forum taking place on 7-11th November, in Amman, dedicated sessions will deal with the energy and water nexus. I will lead the panel on Women in Science, where we are going to tackle the water related aspects as well.
- Water is our most critical natural asset, as much as an enabler and inter-connector of development. It is widely present in history, science, arts and in all aspects of everyday life. Water is a game changer and can make a real difference to a sustainable future!

- We had a high level celebration and opening of the first water dialogue on 22 March, on World Water Day here in the same chamber of the UN with H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly and H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, UN Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water. The co-founders of Water.org Matt Damon and Gary White sent a video message.
- The opening was followed by two panel discussions. The first panel considered the implementation of the water related SDGs by addressing challenges and seizing opportunities through strengthening cooperation and partnerships. The second panel addressed the role of the United Nations system in improving the integration and coordination to support the Member States and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up of the water related SDGs.
- After the panel presentations, fifty Members States and three stakeholders took the floor and contributed to the interactive discussion.
- With my fellow co-moderator partner from Tajikistan Mr. Lukmon Isomatov, Head of the Department of External Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, we prepared a draft summary of the discussion that has been sent to Member States by the Office of the President of the General Assembly on 23 May.
- The summary highlights the key messages regarding water as a global challenge. It speaks to the implementation of SDG6 being key to sustainable development.
- While the primary responsibility for the implementation of the water related SDGs and targets, including water resources management, sanitation and hygiene lies with countries themselves, it is clear that most Member States would see the need for further support and guidance in this endeavor. The summary recognizes that further integration and coordination are two sides of the same coin.
- There is a need for clarity on the work of existing water-related mechanisms and funds, especially because many stressed that the current UN System may not be up to the task in terms of governance as it currently stands.

- However, the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs will largely depend on achieving the water related goals and targets under the sustainability pillar. These two dialogues are a window of opportunity to address outstanding issues.
- Our mandate as co-moderators comes from the PGA, to have informal, inclusive, open-ended and interactive dialogues based on the General Assembly resolution of December 2016, entitled “International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028”.
- Today, from the co-moderators’ side, we are eager to hear your views and comments to this first draft summary document, in order to come up with a joint summary of the two discussions after this second dialogue.
- Let us recall that the PGA empowered us to look at the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in their integrity to break the silos, which had been embedded into our concept note. For that aim, countries and stakeholders from the entire international community should work together. Many complex issues are on the table, so we have a duty to look at the convergences and identify areas in which we can make progress.
- With that, I am glad to open the floor for your interventions. There is no established list of speakers, so please indicate by pressing the button, if you wish to speak. Interpretation is provided.