Excellencies, distinguished participants;

- At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and Water Action Decade, it’s clear that SDG 6 is alarmingly off-track. We are falling further behind, particularly in regions and countries where the needs are greatest.
- The SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023 provides a response at this critical junction.
- It is a “blueprint for acceleration.” The focus is two-fold:
  1. How to put SDG 6 progress on track
  2. How the United Nations can support.
- The report was prepared by UN-Water – the United Nations coordination mechanism for water and sanitation which consists of 35 UN entities and 45 international partners.

**First, “How to put SDG 6 on Track”:**

- The report provides a “blueprint” for acceleration.
- The main findings and recommendations are structured around the five “SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework”’accelerators’. This Framework was launched at the 2020 HLPF as part of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Decade of Action.
  1. Starting with finance- we need to “Pour in more funds.”
     a. Better enabling environments can attract new investment. Existing finances must be used more efficiently and effectively.
     b. Reforms to the global development finance architecture can increase funding and fiscal space for governments to invest in water and sanitation.
  2. On data and information – we must “Fill the gaps”.
     a. National monitoring, reporting and data dissemination systems must be strengthened to cover all SDG 6 indicators, combining datasets from all stakeholders.
     b. Earth Observation technologies and improved data practices, such as standardization and disaggregation, can improve decision-making and reduce inequalities.
3. On capacity development – we need to “Invest in the workforce”.
   a. Education and employers should promote water and sanitation ‘literacy’ in curricula and actively attract, train and retain workers, especially women and youth.
   b. National-level workforce assessments are needed to determine current in-demand and future skills.

4. “Boost innovation”
   a. We must speed and scale up innovations to better utilize technology and customize to local contexts- to get them where they are needed most.

5. Lastly, to improve governance we need to “Maximize cooperation”.
   a. Collaboration across sectors and borders magnifies the effectiveness of water and sanitation management.

Excellencies, Distinguished participants,

- With just seven years until 2030, swift and purposeful action is needed now. By applying these accelerators, SDG 6 can be put on-track.
- However, rising to this new level of ambition will require dramatically stepping up efforts. The United Nations system has a unique role to play.

This brings us to the second part, “How the United Nations can support”:

- The report shares ideas on how the UN system can support SDG 6 acceleration and implementation of the Water Action agenda and gamechanger initiatives.
  1. **Mainstream water and sanitation in all relevant intergovernmental processes**, such as climate change, health, biodiversity, food systems, energy and disaster risk reduction.
  2. **Regular intergovernmental meetings and conferences** can ensure progress is measured and momentum maintained at the top of the global political agenda.
  3. **Convene United Nations leadership at the highest level**, such as meetings of United Nations executive heads can increase dialogue and decision-making.
  4. **More effective country-level coordination interface**. The interaction between United Nations entities working on water and the United Nations development system, through the resident coordinator system, can be enhanced and upscaled to support country-level SDG 6 acceleration.
  5. A dedicated **United Nations system-wide water and sanitation strategy** can help leverage the full capacities of the UN-System.
  6. **United Nations agencies’ water and sanitation programmes** can be strengthened to address gaps and respond to emerging needs.
7. The addition of a **United Nations coordination office** can augment capacity to deliver results on water and sanitation. This office could serve the UN-Water inter-agency mechanism.

- To conclude, we invite you to the **SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event** on 17th July for an in-depth discussion on the Report.
- Thank you for your attention.