



Intervention of the World Meteorological Organization to the SDGs in focus session titled **"SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Clean Water and Sanitation"** at the High-Level Political Forum 2023, under the auspices of ECOSOC. 10.00AM Tuesday 11 July 2023, New York.

Distinguished Excellencies, esteemed delegates, ladies, and gentlemen,

The water crisis, exacerbated by climate change, is undeniably one of the most pressing challenges that the world is facing today. More and longer droughts, an increase in frequency and severity of devastating floods, extreme weather and compound events are placing enormous pressure on water resources, making it increasingly difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, water can also be a part of the solution to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and ensure sustainable development. Smart water management can reduce and capture greenhouse gas emissions, increase climate and disaster risk resilience, support ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, and ensure food and energy security, just to name a few.

The World Meteorological Congress has endorsed the WMO Water Declaration to accelerate implementation of SDG 6, reflecting the top priority given to water by the Organization. As the UN specialized agency on weather, climate, and water, the World Meteorological Organization facilitates global observation networks in real-time to enable countries to monitor, predict, and prepare for weather, climate, water, and atmospheric composition changes.

At the UN 2023 Water Conference, WMO committed to implement better water information services for all through the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) and the annual State of Global Water Resources Report, which assesses status of water resources and provide outlooks considering the effects of climatic, environmental, and societal changes on the Earth's freshwater resources. The implementation of HydroSOS worldwide will significantly improve Member States' capability to address the increasing demand for water, manage the impacts of climate change while ensuring sustainable ecosystems.

The second commitment of WMO to the Water Action Agenda addresses the UN Secretary-General's call to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. Therefore, the organization will continue to enhance Earth system observations, monitoring and using best science and research for better forecasting floods, droughts, and other extremes worldwide.

We invite now all UN Member States and other partners to cooperate and prioritize the implementation of these commitments through strengthening the

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services so we can accelerate the implementation of SDG 6.

WMO stands ready to support countries in the implementation of these services in the years to come.

To learn more, we invite you to our side event on Wednesday 19 July from 18:30-20:00 in Conference Room 12.

Thank you very much.