

*PERMANENT MISSION OF*



**PARAGUAY**

*TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

*Statement of the Republic of Paraguay on behalf of the Group of  
the Landlocked Developing Countries*

*Launch of the International Decade for Action "Water for  
Sustainable Development" 2018-2028*

*Ambassador Julio Cesar Arriola*

*Permanent Representative*

*New York, 22 March 2018*

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*Intervención de la República del Paraguay en representación del  
Grupo de los Países en Desarrollo sin Litoral*

*Lanzamiento de la Década Internacional para la Acción "Agua  
para el Desarrollo Sostenible" 2018-2028*

*Embajador Julio César Arriola*

*Representante Permanente*

*Nueva York, 22 de marzo de 2018*

*(favor cotejar con la alocución)*

Mister President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

First of all, the Group would like to express its gratitude to the High-Level Panel on Water, for preparing the report “Making Every Drop Count: An Agenda on Water Action” and proposing the specific recommendations and new initiatives for action.

At the same time, we would like to commend the Republic of Tajikistan, a distinguished member state of the LLDCs Group, for its excellent work leading the Group of Friends of Water and for organizing the upcoming Dushanbe International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, on 20 to 21 June 2018.

The Group would like to underscore the importance of SDG 6 and to recognize that water is a cross-cutting issue with linkages to many other SDGs, including those on poverty, agriculture, food security, energy, health, the environment, healthy ecosystems, disaster risk management and climate change.

LLDCs are the most water stressed countries by virtue of their geographical location. Many LLDCs are located in dry regions where hyper-arid, semi-arid and arid conditions prevail. Water challenges are exacerbated by the effects of climate change prevalent in the LLDCs, such as desertification, drought and land degradation, as well as water-related natural hazards.

Agriculture remains the main economic activity of many LLDCs, offering the most feasible strategy to promote economic development and means for poverty reduction and enhancement of food security. Unless the challenge of water scarcity and impacts of climate change, drought and desertification are seriously addressed, achieving the full potential of the agricultural sector in LLDCs could prove difficult.

Many LLDCs are also mountainous countries, in particular in Central Asia, where water resources are dependent on mountains and mountain ice, glaciers and snow. The melting of glaciers is likely to aggravate the existing problems in these countries and pose additional risks to water availability, energy, food security, land degradation, amongst others.

Mister President,

The sharing of experiences is an important element of cooperation and should be supported by the international community. Given that water management is a transboundary issue, greater cooperation at all levels, but in particular at the regional level, is critical to address water-related challenges.

The challenges faced by LLDCs clearly highlight the need to adopt and implement integrated approaches to water resources management, and we believe that this approach will positively contribute to realizing the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm that water-related issues should be treated in a balanced and holistic manner, and for this to happen many forms of increased cooperation should take place, including sharing of scientific and technological knowledge, provision of financial resources by the international community, technology transfer and capacity building.

Thank you