



Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION
“WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” 2018 – 2028
MARCH, Thursday 22nd, 2018

PRESENTED BY:
H.E. AMBASSADOR MR RUBEN ESCALANTE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr President,

1. I would like to thank you for your efforts in facilitating the Launch of the International Decade for Action on Water, which we consider timely and useful, in continuing to improve cooperation and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also thank the government of Tajikistan for its leadership in this issue.
2. We commend and highlight the efforts that are being developed within the Friends of Water Group here in New York, as well as in the High Level Panel on Water which provide both Member States and the United Nations with a more integral, inclusive and collaborative vision in the development and management of water resources, and in the improvement of services related to water and sanitation.
3. Likewise, we recognize the final report presented by the High Level Panel on Water, which contains a series of recommendations and visions whose intergovernmental discussion at the United Nations is highly recommended to begin preparations that allow us to adequately address current and future global challenges related to water management, and its links not only with SDG 6, but with the entire Sustainable Development Agenda, as well as with the three pillars of our organization's work: peace and security, development and human rights. Finally, we recognize the efforts of Brazil in the organization of the recent 8th World Water Forum, held this week in Brasilia, and we recognize the content of its Declaration of results.

Mr President,

4. El Salvador presented its Voluntary National Review in 2017, in which the SDG6 is established as one of our eight short-term priority objectives and in March 2012, the draft Water Law, not yet approved, was presented to the Legislative Assembly, which recognizes the human right to water and sanitation, prioritizing human consumption. We emphasize that the 2018 Session of the High Level Political Forum will evaluate the implementation of SDG 6, as well as of other

closely related SDGs, such as SDG 12 on sustainable models of production and consumption.

5. El Salvador also registers other relevant advances to be highlighted, which include the participatory preparation of the following instruments: Water Sector Policy, Drinking Water Policy and Sanitation, the first National Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management, which defines the priority measures for guarantee the sustainable use and preservation of this resource; and includes the creation of the Water Information System (SIHI), the water observatory, as well as the creation of the National Inter-institutional Watershed Committee (CINACH), whose work plan is already under implementation.
6. Similarly, the Government of El Salvador has projected within its objectives and strategies in the field of water, increase the rate of operation and maintenance coverage by 15% to 2018, through a reengineering strategy process to improve operational, financial and commercial efficiency.

Mr President,

7. Instruments such as the Action Plan of the High Level Panel on Water should be used as a useful guide to advance actions towards compliance with the 2030 Agenda and a reinforcement of the Paris Agreement, in the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in an integrated manner. El Salvador, like many other countries, has been suffering from the increasing and recurrent impacts of extreme natural phenomena linked to climate change and the El Niño and La Niña phenomena. Therefore, in the report of the High Level Panel, water management has been directly related to the construction of resilient societies and economies and Disaster Risk Reduction.
8. El Salvador considers necessary to collect more and better data related to water, and internally also supports measures to reduce the waste of drinking and non-potable water without forgetting, on the other hand, assistance measures for the economically most vulnerable populations in their access. El Salvador, as the declaration of Brasilia adopted this week mentioned in paragraph 20, calls for cross-border cooperation in the management of water resources under a "win-win" approach in accordance with the relevant instruments, including in our case, in the north of Central America. Similarly, El Salvador calls for closer links of environmental regimes related to water, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, of which there are 7 in my country, for a broader approach to the environmental contributions of water management.
9. Finally, we need innovation, alliances and international cooperation to advance the true application of a global water agenda. These alliances should encourage the efficient management of water resources in the agricultural industry, through the introduction of new technologies, the search for innovative solutions to face the adverse impacts of droughts, making water use more efficient by avoiding wastage and waste. water losses due to the poor condition of the supply networks; and strengthening the institutional framework and the legal framework

related to water resources. For this, it is necessary to create alliances with the national private sector, a true involvement of the population in general, both as consumers and beneficiaries, and to foster true cooperation and shared generation of new technologies at the global level.

10. It is also necessary to invest in the expansion and modernization of the irrigation infrastructure to face droughts, in the promotion of agricultural techniques that make water use more efficient, in the strengthening of management capacities to face the adverse effects of droughts, the expansion and modernization of monitoring networks for the phenomena associated with climate change, in the promotion of a new water culture.

Mr President,

11. El Salvador reiterates its commitment that this launch of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018 - 2028, will contribute to the implementation of the objectives and goals related to water of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to have a greater impact on the implementation of Human Rights related to access to water and sanitation and as a necessary element of conflict prevention and creation of a "Sustainable Peace".

I thank you.