

SLOVENIA

**Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Slovenia
Amb. Darja Bavdaž Kuret**

at the

**Launch event of the International Decade for Action "Water for
sustainable Development" 2018-2028
22-23 March 2018, UNGA**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia warmly welcomes today's launch event of the International Decade for Action "Water for sustainable development" the resolution on which we proudly co-sponsored.

Water is a precious resource, essential for both our survival and development. Urbanisation, intensification of agriculture and climate change all lead to increased global water stress. Finding solutions to the resulting growing demand for water will be one of humanity's greatest challenges in this century.

For this reason, Slovenia gives high priority to water-related issues in both domestic and foreign policy. We consider the right to water as a fundamental human right, and as such it is enshrined in the Slovenian Constitution. In keeping with SDG 6, we have also incorporated a sustainable approach to water management in Slovenia's national development strategy and development cooperation, including through the concept of circular economy.

Slovenia, as a Danube River Basin and a Mediterranean coastal state, is well aware of the importance of protecting water resources, the coast and the sea. It is paramount to seek comprehensive global and cross-border solutions in water management, as rivers and river basins do not flow along political borders.

With this in mind, Slovenia firmly believes that cooperative water management can be a key factor in establishing and maintaining peace and security. Slovenia's experience in its immediate neighbourhood, the Western Balkans, highlights an example of water – in this case the Sava River – becoming the force of successful cross-border cooperation and unification after the past conflicts in the region.

Excellencies,

Slovenia was one of the co-convening countries of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace chaired by the former Slovenian President, Dr Danilo Türk, whom we have an honour to welcome here today. Slovenia warmly welcomes the Panel's report and fully subscribes to its call for mobilising political will with regard to water-related issues in favour of international peace and stability. We are particularly pleased that the report is being well received.

Thank you.