



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



## STATEMENT

by H. E. Ambassador Ion Jinga

Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN  
to the High-level Event for the launch of the  
Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development

23 March 2018, General Assembly Hall

Mr. President,

Distinguished Participants,

I have the pleasure to congratulate the President of the General Assembly and the President of Tajikistan for convening this timely High-level Event for the launch of the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028.

Projections suggest that we may face a 40% shortfall in water availability by 2030. This initiative, co-sponsored by many UN member states, Romania among them, raises awareness about how critical becomes every drop of water for our world.

Many countries and regions in the world are struggling with water scarcity, drought and desertification, or on the contrary, with floods or hurricanes. The "*Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development*" brings the opportunity to make the transformations needed in an area highly important for economic and social development, environment, health and well-being and, last but not least, peace and security.

Transboundary waters are often a means of interconnectivity and offer opportunities for different regional cooperation models. Rivers and river basins do not abide by political borders.

Challenges of water pollution, flood risks or water scarcity are of regional nature and require common solutions, closely linked with energy, climate change and food security.

The launching of the Decade for Action precedes the review of the progress to achieve *Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*, at the High Level Political Forum, 9-18 July 2018.

Romania has a relatively dense network of rivers and is a riparian country to the Danube, the longest transboundary watercourse in Europe. We have acquired a broad experience in water management of river basins, hydro-power generation, irrigation, treatment of wastewater and sanitation.

National efforts and activities related to the integrated water management need to be completed by enhancing partnerships on specific areas of activity and should go hand in hand with the international cooperation.

Romania is Party to the relevant UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki 1992) and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (New York 1997), important instruments for reaching equitable, sustainable and integrated management of trans-boundary water resources.

Romania is co-initiator of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), gathering 9 EU Member States and 5 EU neighbouring countries. It covers numerous areas, from transport interconnectivity to countering organized crime.

Coastal zones are economically and culturally attractive areas, but they are also environmentally vulnerable. Within the project 'Improvement of Integrated Coastal Zone Management' in the Black Sea Region, partners from different administrative and political sectors and NGOs from Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Turkey joined forces to address sustainability issues.

In November 2018, Romania will take over for 1 year the rotating Presidency of the Danube Strategy and will promote, among other main topics, the "Cooperation in the Danube region through the use of clusters, in order to create human and economic value chains".

Romania will also continue to support and actively participate to the Danube – Mekong Cooperation Initiative under the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue.

The ASEM event hosted in 2014 by Romania allowed sharing best practices and identifying ways to cooperate between experts from Danube and Mekong, as well as South Asia regions, on sustainable cooperation mechanisms regarding water-related challenges. The nexus of water, food and energy was seen as a major global trend for the next decades.

During the chairmanship of the European Union Water Initiative for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, 2008-2010, Romania has organized a series of workshops on water management, sanitation, and integrated water management in a transboundary context.

Concluding, I want to stress once more water is a common challenge and opportunity for the countries of all regions of the world. We must work together so can all have access to *water and sanitation*.

Thank you.