



*(Please check against delivery)*

**A High-level Event to launch of the International Decade for Action -  
“Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028**

**New York, 22 March 2018**

**Remarks by the Delegation of Georgia**

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you for convening this high-level event. We are happy to be among the co-sponsors of the GA resolution A/71/222 – proclaiming the new International Decade for Action - “Water for Sustainable Development”. What unites us is a strong conviction that with the joint efforts we will ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda recognizes safe drinking water and effective sanitation as a driver of progress on many of the SDGs, including health for women, children and families across the world. The availability of safe water and sanitation remains to be a great challenge in many parts of the world, while at least 2 billion persons still lack drinking water and 2.3 billion people are deprived of basic sanitation facilities.

We welcome and support international initiatives, which are aimed at promoting smarter use of water resources and improving the quality of life for citizens.

Mr. President,

Georgia has embarked on an ambitious journey to elaborate practical tools and strategies to this end. A new draft “Law on Water Resources Management” represents an essential component of the national efforts aimed at ensuring gradual implementation of integrated management of water resources in Georgia.

In 2010, with the support of the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) the National Policy Dialogue on the Integrated Water Resources Management was launched. Its specific objective is to improve access to safe water and ensure its sustainable management.

Despite these achievements, the accessibility and quality of water resources and flood impacts still remain pressing issues in my country.

We believe that cooperation at all levels is important to achieve water-related goals. UN has an important role in contributing to an enabling environment for knowledge sharing and supporting advancement of water-related technologies, as well as promoting partnerships among countries and other international stakeholders.

We should not forget that the human right to water and sanitation is essential to ensure the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights.

I thank you.

\* \* \*