

International Decade for Action - "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028"

Launch event - 22 March 2018, UN General Assembly

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

Mr. President,

First of all I would like to thank you for hosting this launch event for the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". This is a timely opportunity for member states, the UN system and other stakeholders to have an open conversation on one of the most pressing and cross-cutting issues regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Brazil fully aligns itself with the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In our national capacity, I would like to add some brief remarks.

We have heard from other statements the great water-related challenges that we need to address. The UN system has been a reliable and consistent source of evidence-based information on issues related to water and sanitation, through initiatives such as the World Water Development Report and the High-Level Panel on Water and its outcome document. What these evidence show us is that water scarcity, lack of adequate sanitation and water pollution, challenges that we are already facing, could get much worse if we do not enhance water management, infrastructure, research and cooperation. And being water such a cross-cutting issue, our failure to achieve the goals and targets related to water and sanitation will greatly hamper our ability to achieve most of other SDGs.

The Water Action Decade is a great opportunity for us to enhance the positive momentum by raising awareness, sharing best-practices and promoting cooperation. It is important that,

under the framework of the International Decade, we pursue initiatives and activities that lead to positive, concrete impacts on the national and local levels.

One example of such initiatives is the 8th World Water Forum, which Brazil is hosting this week in our capital, Brasília. The Forum is a multistakeholder event, bringing together more than 10 thousand participants from over 80 countries, representing national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia. Given the very nature of water-related issues, this kind of multistakeholder interaction is fundamental to advance viable solutions for the challenges we have. We are confident that the 8th World Water Forum will bring about important results that will contribute to the success of the Water Action Decade and to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is our ultimate goal here.

Mr. President, you may count on Brazil's standing support for the success of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development". We look forward to continuing working with other member states and UN entities in advancing the water agenda throughout the upcoming decade.

Thank you.