

Strengthen Integrated Water Resources Management, Promote the Implementation of Water-related Goals of United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Dear Chair,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to attend the International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, in Dushanbe, the beautiful city in central Asia, and to exchange ideas with you regarding the implementation of the water related goals of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, I would like to express warm congratulations on the convening of the conference and my heartfelt gratitude to the UNDESA, UN-Water and other partners and the Government of the Tajikistan.

Due to the large population and scarce water, and uneven temporal and spatial distribution of water resources, China meets with great challenges in water saving, water management, water conservancy and water resources development. In recent years, like other countries in the world, China is facing problems like water shortage, frequent water disaster, water ecosystem deterioration and water pollution, etc. in the context of industrialization, urbanization, and climate change. Water conservation and water security are given strategic priority in Chinese government decision, and also the necessary countermeasures to address water issues in the context of climate change and economic development.

Firstly, we strive to firmly establish the ecological culture concept of respecting the nature and protecting the nature, and coordinate the relationship between water resources development and protection. Strengthen the protection of important ecological reserves, water conservation areas, river headwaters, promote ecological restoration of ecological vulnerable rivers; Implement the waterfront function management institutions and strictly control the occupation of waterfront in construction projects; Implement the water pollution control action plan, and establish the joint mechanism of water pollution prevention and control; Establish the national groundwater monitoring system for dual control of the total utilization amount and water level of groundwater; The construction of a batch of major water-saving and water supply projects of overall and strategic importance will be sped up to provide strong support for the sustainable and healthy socio-economic development.

Secondly, we give priority to the people's needs and livelihood improvement. About millions of various water supply projects have been built during 2005-2015 with total investment of 281.7 billion Yuan, including 0.77million concentrated water supply

projects and 16.18 million distributed water supply projects, which provide abundant, clean and safe drinking water for a total of 0.52 billion rural residents and 47 million teachers and students in rural villages. During 2016-2020, a total amount of 131.7 billion RMB will be invested for the reinforcement and improvement for drinking water safety in rural areas.

Thirdly, Implementing the most stringent water resource management system and accelerate the transformation of economic development mode and water utilization pattern. Strictly implement total water consumption volume control. By 2020, the total annual water consumption in China will be kept within 670 billion cubic meters. Monitoring and warning mechanism of water resources carrying capacity will be established. (2) Strictly control the water use intensity. The management on water quota and plan will be strengthened and the water conservation requirement for various sectors will be explicitly defined. The water consumption per unit of GDP and industrial added value will be reduced by 23% and 20% respectively comparing to those in 2015. The effective utilization coefficient of farmland irrigation water will rise to above 0.55. (3) Pollution load restrictions of Water functional zones. By 2020, water quality in water functional zones of main rivers and lakes will be improved obviously, and water quality in water supply source areas for cities and towns will reach standards completely.

Fourthly, we strive to promote the river chief system and establish management and protection mechanism for river and lake with explicitly defined responsibilities. We put in place a four-tier "river chief system" at provincial, municipal, county and township levels for river and lake management completely. Its core is the administrative chief accountability system, and its main tasks are water resources protection, water pollution control, water environment improvement and water ecology restoration. There are more than 0.3 million river chiefs in total in the nation, among them, 383 provincial-level river chief. In some provinces, there are more than 0.7 million village-level river chief. The river-lake management and protection mechanism will be formed with defined responsibilities, orderly coordination, strict supervision and effective management, and sound protection, so as to provide insurance for river health maintenance and sustainable utilization of the river and lake functions.

we adhere to the two-hands force in water resources management from the government and market to pursuit the new mechanism for water resources management. Government plays key roles in guidance and supervision, and the market plays decisive roles in resources allocation. We progressively complete the water right transactions platform and mechanism and establish the incentive mechanism for water saving. We implement water-saving management by contract, increase investment from public finance and support from financial credit, and encourage and attract more social capital invested in water conservancy construction and water resources conservation and protection.

I am from the Yellow River Conservancy Commission. Here I would like to present a brief introduction on water resources management in Yellow River Basin.

Yellow River is the mother river of China. It originates from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau which is named as the roof of the world. The total length of Yellow River mainstream amounts to 5,464 kilometers with the catchment area of 795,000 square kilometers, and the annual mean runoff is of 53.5 billion cubic meters. Yellow River is a river with complicated natural conditions and very special river regime. It mainly features as less

water and more sand, and unharmonious relationship between sand and water. Water resources shortage, sedimentation in the river channel, food threat and other factors restrict the sustainable social and economic development in the river basin and relevant areas.

China has been making unremitting efforts for harnessing the Yellow River. The engineering measures, including embankments, reservoirs, flood storage and detention areas and river training works, preliminarily leads to the flood control engineering system of Lower Yellow River, namely "flood storage by reservoirs in upper reaches, flood discharge through river channel in lower reaches, flood diversion and detention along the two banks". The system has totally ended the situation of "two breaches in three years" in history in Lower Yellow River, and achieved no breaches for 70 consecutive years in summer and autumn flood seasons. Based on the completed water resources conservancy projects, the water resources of Yellow River, accounting for 2% of the total national river runoff, supports 15% cultivated land, 12% population and 14% GDP of the whole nation, ensures water supply for more than 60 middle and large cities, and guarantees the safety of water use and food production for 0.15 billion people in the Yellow River Basin and irrigation areas along Lower Yellow River. Water and soil conservation measures such as terrace, warping dam, forestry, and conversion of cropland to forest are taken to effectively mitigate water and soil loss, reduce river sedimentation in Lower Yellow River, and improve ecological environment.

In recent years, the water resources regime has notable changes due to the impacts of multiple factors such as climate change, human activities and rapid socio-economic development, resulting in new challenges in water resources management. We will fully implement the most stringent water resources management and river chief system to maintain Yellow River health, and support the sustainable socio-economic development of the river basin and related regions, based on the innovative, harmonious, green, open and sharing development concept, as well as water conservancy policy for new period.

Ladies and gentlemen! Promoting the implementation of water-related SDG goals has tied us together. Ministry of Water Resources of China stands ready to strengthen extensive exchanges and in-depth cooperation with relevant government agencies and international organizations around the world. Let's join hands to promote sustainable development and the well-being of all mankind.