



**Nepal's Statement on High level International  
Conference International Decade for Action  
"Water for Sustainable Development"**

**By Secretary of Ministry of Water Supply  
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**Co chairs,  
Excellencies  
Head of Delegations,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

First of all, let me thank the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Nations, for taking the lead in convening and organizing this High level International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028. Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended over here for Nepal.

It is an honour and pleasure to address this important assembly in this beautiful city of Tajikistan, Dushanbe. I bring with me warm greetings and best wishes, and a strong message of solidarity from Nepal for the successful conduct and fruitful discussion on way forward of this high level International conference.

**Dear Fellow Delegates,**

Understood to every one of us, water is a limited resources fundamental to human life. Clean, accessible water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. It is imperative for reducing the global burden of disease and improving the wellbeing, prosperity and productivity of the people. Water is likewise at the core of adjustment to climate change, serving as the crucial link between the climate system, human society and the environment.

But today we are in a situation. Well known to all of us, lack of access to a safe drinking water source, basic sanitation and sound hygiene alongside with water scarcity, water pollution, Increasing water-related disasters, climate change, urbanization, population growth, desertification, and droughts etc. constitute one of the major challenges for the international community, in particular for the developing countries.

Hence, adopted the UN resolution 71/222, to declare 2018-2028 as an International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", by the United Nations General Assembly, I hope that this event will open an incipient chapter in the United Nations' engagement for discovering

the answers for the worldwide challenges of the effective use and conservation of water resources.

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**Talking about Nepal**, we have made progress over the last 28 years through the joint effort of all stakeholders in the coverage of basic water supply and sanitation: the sanitation coverage being 98% at present, while it was 6% in 1990 and achieving the basic water supply coverage of 87% in 2018 from 46% in 1990. Being a land-locked, mountainous and developing country, emerging from conflict and from the devastating earthquakes, the path towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals is not easy. Yet, we are committed to achieve SDG Goals and targets.

Our pursuit of development through the SDGs framework is testified by the fact that Nepal was among the first few countries to produce a preliminary SDGs Report in 2015, even before the formal adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In collaboration with key development stakeholders, Nepal has set the country-specific SDG-related targets to be achieved by 2030. Out of 6 targets for SDG 6, Indicators for 5 targets have been made. We have likewise mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda into our national plans and policies. The 14th national periodic plan, the national budget, and other sectoral plans have been firmly lined up with the SDGs.

Most importantly, access to safe water and sanitation facilities have been recognized as the fundamental rights of the people, by the Constitution of Nepal, that has aided in compelling improvements of WaSH sector. Also, Nepal's commitments in regional and international forums has helped to put maximum impetus towards achieving improvements in water and sanitation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services is in priority of the Government of Nepal. For this, we are taking some initiatives. Policy reforms like Drafting the SDG aligned policies such as *National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Act, Sector Development Plan*, etc. that encourage the public private partnerships in Water and sanitation service as well are being drafted.

Likewise, in order to increase the coverage and sustainability of water supply and sanitation, to address the issue of water scarcity and to distribute arsenic free drinking water, New projects like impounding reservoir, solar lifting water supply systems, Bulk distribution System, etc. are being envisaged that also helps for the realization of SDG goals.

Sanitation campaigns such as Nepal WASH campaign, National Sanitation Week , Global Hand-washing Day, Menstrual Hygiene Management day, etc. are being conducted in lead of the Government of Nepal that has played a great role in increasing the sanitation coverage in Nepal.

Similarly, country being marching towards the federalism, new institutional set up, as per the federal structure has been started and will be completed very soon to implement the plans and programs of water supply and sanitation, at all levels, federal, provincial and local levels.

Fellow Delegates

Besides all these achievements, we have some challenges that we are facing in the path to SDG Goal 6 and in the implementation of 2030 agenda to sustainable development. Reaching the unreached is the main challenge. Still 13% of the population have no access to basic water supply services and they mainly include Ultra poor, landless and excluded families, etc. Also, Waste water and Faecal Sludge Management has become a great hindrance to the realization of SDG.

Also, besides WaSH sector being placed in high priority by the Nepal Government instituting the dedicated Ministry for building visions and plans to address the WaSH issues, Resource Gap is what has become a great hindrance to the realization of SDG Goals and to the accomplishment of the goals of 2030 agenda. Similarly, the knowledge gap for the efficient and innovative management of waste water and faecal sludge is one of the challenges to the attainment of SDG for the developing countries like Nepal.

Last but not least the Government of Nepal want to assure you all that we are committed for the implementation of the SDG goals and the declaration of the Decade 2018-2028, but for that the cooperation, joint collaboration and partnership of the International community seems equally important in order to reduce the existing financial resource and knowledge gaps , for the accomplishment of Sustainable development, prosperity and security.

Thank You.