Swiss Statement
International High-Level Conference on the
International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable
Development”, 2018 - 2028

Dushanbe, Tajikistan
20-22 June 2018

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Switzerland would like to thank the President and the government of the Republic of Tajikistan for organizing this conference in the framework of the new 2018 – 2028 Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable development. This conference is an important milestone for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We have to act now. Urgent action is needed to prevent the worst and mitigate the current Global Water Crisis. Inaction comes with a cost that no one will be capable to bear in the future.

Switzerland is committed to act together with all partners and we are glad to notice that this ambition is reflected in the outcome declaration of this important conference.

When listening to yesterday’s intervention of the leaders of the region, we felt deeply inspired by the wind of change that will help in transforming into reality the dream of a region that thinks and acts for the well-being of all its inhabitants. For this to happen, it has been underlined, how crucial it is to manage water through integrated systems and transboundary cooperation, while taking care of the
natural ecosystems that will assure life for the future generations. Switzerland stands firmly in support of this powerful message you have been delivering to the world.

Many instruments and experiences are available for successful **transboundary integrated water resources management** – let us learn from each other.

The task ahead of us is huge – and Business as usual will not bring us back on track. But we need new tools and more knowledge:

We need **transparent and reliable information basis** for sound decisions. We can only manage well, what we know. And we need to improve our water management and governance capacities. We agree with the speaker during the opening session, who said that Water is life, but with poor management, it becomes a threat to life.

We need **new partnerships and innovative approaches** including joint management of transboundary infrastructure. More of the same will not do the job.

And we need **new innovative financial instruments**. We need instruments that are capable to address transboundary and regional approaches. And we need instruments that will help blending public and private funds.

Excellencies, honourable ministers, Ladies and gentlemen, Switzerland stands ready to play its role and is looking forward to cooperate with the international community to reduce the Global Water Crisis and mitigate its impacts while transforming the right to water for all a reality.

Thank you.