

20-Jun-18



Event: HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”
2018-2028

Date and Time: 20.06.2018

Venue: Dushanbe

UN Women Participants:

a. Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director ai Europe and Central Asia

Length and context of Remarks: 2 minutes

PREAMBLE

Excellency Mr. Kohir Rasulzoda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of the National Organizing Committee

Excellency Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Excellencies;

Ladies and gentlemen;

1. I would like to begin by thanking the Government of Tajikistan for continuing to host the High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”. It is an honour for me to be here.

2. At the previous international water conference in Dushanbe, in 2015, UN Women and our partners, including women's groups, made a clear call to states to ensure that their citizens live a healthy and productive life in harmony with the nature.
3. We urged states to STEP IT UP and implement a clear road map to turn gender equality promises for water use and management into concrete actions.
4. The principle of equality, perhaps more than any technical recommendation, carries with it the promise of a more water-secure world for all.
5. The reality, however, is that those who are affected the most, generally have the least opportunity to influence how water resources are used and managed.
6. During the previous Decade "Water for Life" 2005-2015, which had a specific objective to increase women's meaningful engagement in water-related development efforts, we have all recognized that women's effective participation brings multiple benefits.
7. Including women in the design and planning stages creates local ownership and effectively addresses the needs of the community and benefits the whole society.

8. Women's participation in decision-making processes also brings sustainable solutions to water-related issues, using indigenous knowledge to prevent expensive mistakes.
9. Social inclusion in water governance at all levels, in particular of women as change agents, is a corner stone of Integrated Water Resources Management
10. But we have seen limited progress over the past 25 years.
11. We're calling for urgent action to ensure women's effective and meaningful engagement in **decision-making** in the water sector.
12. To ensure this engagement, we need special measures to promote more women in leadership positions at all levels. These special measures should also take into account that women from excluded groups are effectively engaged in decision making.
13. We should not wait for another decade and there is no plan B.
14. Thank you.