

**Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference
Geneva, Palais des Nations, and online, 12 – 13 April 2022**

Statements by Ms. Farida Alakbarova, Azerbaijan

Session 1 and Session 2.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Madam chair,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on an issue that affects the lives of every human being in this planet. Safe drinking water and sanitation are intrinsic to human survival, well-being and dignity.

Currently the most important infrastructure projects of Azerbaijan are on drinking-water and sanitation. Due to the successful implementation of public programs and projects, great results have been achieved in this area. More than ninety six per cent of Baku's population is continuously provided with drinking-water.

Azerbaijan has established water security as the country's main overarching policy objective in the field of water resource management.

The water strategy's primary focus is to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, and Azerbaijan plans to do so through several areas of reform. First, Azerbaijan aims to introduce best available techniques and further improve water use efficiency. Second, adapt its water sector to climate change. Third, it plans to introduce an integrated system of permits for nature users and reform its pricing system for water resources.

Given the transboundary nature of the vast majority of its watercourses, Azerbaijan attaches considerable importance to enhancing transboundary water cooperation with neighbouring states.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, as in all areas, is committed to international law in the management of water resources. For more than 20 years, we have ratified the Water Convention and manage transboundary water management in accordance with the requirements of the Water Convention.

At the same time, I would like to note that the transboundary rivers of Azerbaijan are regularly polluted by upstream countries.

We are focusing on the rational use of water resources, collection and processing of rainwater, introduction of new technologies in the restoration and protection of water resources, water treatment, water supply, wastewater treatment, and the construction and operation of modern pipeline systems.

Thank you for your attention.

Session 3.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Madam chair,

Azerbaijan is based on the principles of innovative management and this trend is the basis of transition to a sustainable green economy. In this regard, sustainable water management becomes one of the most important factors to build an inclusive society and to achieve sustainable management in state.

The main goal of Azerbaijan's water policy is to provide the population and all sectors of the economy with the required amount and quality of water in accordance with international standards, at the same time, it aims to achieve good ecological status, protection of the environment, efficient use of water resources and global water cooperation.

We are committed to implement the SDGs in all our policies.

For the sustainable development of the region, Azerbaijan aims to ensure the country's water safety by improving the efficiency of water management and consumption.

In recent years, a number of important decisions have been adopted in Azerbaijan to achieve the SDG 6 and targets of the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028.

In 2020 by the decree of the President was set up State Water Commission.

The Commission ensures the sustainable management of water resources in the country by coordinating all water sector management activities.

Within the framework of the adopted special programs, important measures are being taken in all areas related to the sustainable management of water resources and efficient use of water, protection of water sources. In addition, a National Water Strategy is being developed.

The establishment of the Commission to coordinate the activities of the relevant bodies in the field of water, the adoption of a Special Action Plan and the development of a National Strategy became important steps for more efficient management of water resources.

I would also note that last year by the order of the President was approved "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-economic Development".

In accordance with the order, the following five national priorities for the country's socio-economic development should be implemented in the next decade.

1. steadily growing competitive economy;
2. a society based on dynamic, inclusive and social justice;
3. Competitive human capital and space for modern innovations;
4. Great return to the liberated territories;
5. Clean environment and green growth country.

These national priorities are also of particular relevance to the fulfillment of the commitments arising from the United Nations “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Azerbaijan focuses on sustainable development and integrated water resources management to achieve social, economic and environmental goals, implement related programs and projects, promote efficient water usage and cooperation at all levels to help achieve internationally agreed goals and targets related to with water resources.

Thank you for attention.