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Statement

by

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at

High-Level Roundtable on

Water Security

Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit

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12:00 – 14:00 (Cairo time)

Excellencies, Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change threatens our survival, and it does so mostly by threatening our water security. Impacts of climate change and especially water-related disasters know no borders. 60% of global freshwater flow is in transboundary basins.

Cooperation between countries is therefore essential for climate change adaptation and mitigation and for water security. Transboundary cooperation helps countries to reduce uncertainties by exchanging data, share cost of actions, identify more effective adaptation priorities and avoid mal-adaptation.

Thus, both water and transboundary cooperation should be strongly embedded in climate change policies and actions. I **strongly encourage countries to include water and transboundary cooperation, where appropriate, into their climate policies, such as National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions, and their implementation.**

I also praise Egypt for having put water high on the agenda of this COP and **call upon all of you to ensure that water and transboundary cooperation are reflected in the outcome of your negotiations, in particular on the global goal on adaptation, these two weeks.**

UNECE will continue supporting transboundary cooperation. The

Water Convention provides a unique global legal and intergovernmental framework for cooperation in climate change adaptation, including flood and drought management, in transboundary basins. In the past 20 years, the Convention has supported countries and basins around the world by promoting the sharing of knowledge and experience, developing guidance and executing projects on-the-ground to develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies and plans. Since the global opening of the Convention, more than 130 countries have participated in its activities. 6 countries from Africa joined it and 20 more are in the process of accession. **I call upon all countries sharing transboundary waters to join the Convention.**

Water, climate and transboundary cooperation will be also in the centre of the discussions at the 2023 UN Water Conference, co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, to be held in New York in March next year - only the second United Nations conference on water since 1977. Considering how important water is for climate change, we must make that conference a success. It should result in concrete actions and commitments, including on transboundary water cooperation. **I hope many of your countries will participate at the highest level and mobilize concrete commitments on water and climate, in particular on transboundary cooperation.**

Thank you for your attention.