

**Remarks by
HE Abdillahi Bidhan Warsame
Minister of Energy and Water Resources,
Federal Republic of Somalia**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor to join you at the 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, and particularly to deliver **this statement during the high-level special session on “Our Waters, Our Future: Transboundary Water Cooperation to Power Climate Resilience.”**

In Somalia, we have experienced drought and dry weather conditions for 19 of the first 20 years of this century—a fivefold increase in frequency compared to the last century. When not facing drought, we deal with floods.

Somalia faces growing needs for climate adaptation in transboundary water resources and the management of much-needed investments in water infrastructure, all while addressing the challenges posed by climate change and rapid population growth.

Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are interconnected by trade, culture, traditions, and shared water resources, yet all suffer from water scarcity and climate change impacts mainly flood and drought. Contemporary thinking on transboundary water resources emphasizes the differences in needs and development approaches between upstream and downstream areas.

From the highlands to the ocean, Ethiopia and Somalia share significant water resources, though much is lost, polluted, or underutilized.

Somalia is currently focused on turning water into a driver for peace and development rather than conflict:

I. Turning Water into a Driver for Development

- Increase unit size and cooperate across borders at the village, district, basin, and international levels—to achieve improved allocation and efficiency in use.
- **Invest in the Water Sector:** promote climate-smart agriculture, infrastructure, knowledge, technology, and water reuse.
- **Trade and Share Water Benefits:** Focus on sharing the benefits derived from water, such as hydro-power, food, communication, and urban development, rather than the water itself.

II. Regional development yields better outcomes than isolated efforts. Some building blocks for our new water future can include:

- **Win-Win Solutions:** Foster development across the region that benefits everyone whether upstream and downstream
- **Investments in Efficiency:** Enhance allocation and usage efficiency to boost production.
- **Bilateral Cooperation:** Support each other and promote trade in water-generated benefits.
- **Promote Regional Stability, Growth, and Well-Being:** Joint efforts in these areas can lead to sustainable regional development.

III. Achieving a water future characterized by regional development, benefit-sharing, and win-win solutions takes time. Three initial steps may include:

1. **Discussion of Alternative Water Futures:** Consider various scenarios, such as focusing solely on national development versus regional cooperation and the need for water-driven investments and growth.
2. **Trust-Building Initiatives:** Foster trust through information exchange and undertake shared studies on critical issues.
3. **Development of a Roadmap:** Create a plan for building a new water future that embraces these principles.

Thank you for the opportunity to share Somalia's commitments and vision for a sustainable transboundary water management future.