



# Ministerio de **Relaciones Exteriores**

Misión Permanente de Guatemala  
ante la Organización de las Naciones  
Unidas (ONU), Nueva York

## COMMENTS OF GUATEMALA

### Consultation meeting of Member States for the development of the Strategy for the entire United Nations system on Water and Sanitation.

January 23, 2024

Thank you for giving me the floor,

1. Guatemala appreciates the convening of this meeting and the updated information shared by UN-Water and UNDESA, regarding the development of this Strategy, oriented to enhance the UN system coordination and delivery of water-related priorities, including those related to financing, technology transfer and capacity building, as mandated by General Assembly Resolution No. 77/334.
2. We value the support that the UN System provides to each country to achieve their National Development Priorities, considering the respective Cooperation Frameworks, the work of the Resident Coordinators and the specific contexts.
3. Without a doubt, the UN System has great potential to provide resources and knowledge, through better coordination on water issues.
4. We celebrate that this strategy includes the perspective of participation of all sectors of society, the creation of partnerships and actions aimed to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable population. It is necessary to reach people on the ground, especially families, whose girls and boys suffer from malnutrition due to poor access to drinking water and sanitation. We value the focus on avoiding duplication of efforts and improve efficiency in the use of resources.
5. We reiterate the importance of technology transfer, aimed to help developing countries to achieve the objectives set for the benefit of our populations.



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6. However, we express our concern regarding the use of concepts such as: “transboundary basins”, “transboundary waters”, “cooperation on transboundary waters”, among others, which we consider do not take enough into account the principle of the sovereignty of each State over its natural resources.
  
7. The Republic of Guatemala is committed with the principle of cooperation and recognizes the importance of the sustainable management of water resources, at the national, regional and global level. However, in accordance with our Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala and the State Policy on International Watercourses, our country considers that the use of international watercourses should be the subject to bilateral international treaties whose negotiation and conclusion corresponds exclusively to the States involved.
  
8. We hope that these comments can be taken into account in the preparation of this strategy and mainly in the work of the UN System in the countries that require it.

Thank you so much.