

## **First Meeting of the UN-Water Principals**

### **Written Statement**

**By**

**Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

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Allow me to convey my heartfelt congratulations to UN-Water members and partners for the endorsement of the groundbreaking UN System-Wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation (SWS). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is proud of this remarkable success that will ensure effective mainstreaming of water activities across our collective work and will strengthen and improve our support to Member States across the UN. I wish to reaffirm FAO's assurance to supporting the efficient, effective and coherent implementation of the Strategy.

This Strategy is a platform to enhance our global commitment and urges UN agencies to further strengthen collaboration.

Water and food security are FAO's priorities.

In 2022, we began a new water journey to profile water across the Organization's key governing bodies, and our flagship initiatives on water – which reflect FAO's commitments to the Water Action Agenda - will be included in the Collaborative Implementation Plan.

The National Water Roadmaps Initiative fosters collective action at national level for improved cross-sectoral coordination on water management and governance, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) - a partnership that includes 10 UN agencies - is hosted by FAO and promotes the adaptation of agriculture to water scarcity.



The Global Water Data Portal - a centralized repository of available water-related information - relies on the complementarities of UN agencies.

The Global Dialogue on Water Tenure identifies principles for the responsible governance of water tenure to ensure equitable access to water for all.

FAO support to the implementation of National Drought Plans enables access to finance for integrated drought risk management.

Each of these initiatives will add value to the UN System-Wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation, and are important contributors through the SDG 6 accelerators, namely data, governance and finance.

I invite all UN-Water members and partners to join our water journey on our path towards achieving our collective aspiration of the Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all – leaving no one behind.

QU Dongyu  
FAO Director-General