



Remarks at the 9th General Assembly of the World Water Council

Mr. Zhiyu Zhong, Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Water Resources of China



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Dear President Loïc Fauchon,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning/afternoon!

I am delighted to come to Paris for the 9th General Assembly of the World Water Council (WWC). On behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China (MWR), I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to WWC for the warm invitation and thoughtful arrangements, and extend our congratulations on the convening of the General Assembly!

Under the strong leadership of President Fauchon, and thanks to the joint efforts of all members, WWC has long committed itself to addressing global water issues. As one of the most influential water international organizations in the world, WWC has made important contributions to promoting water cooperation and exchanges across the globe and facilitating the achievement of water security worldwide. Since 2009 when MWR formally joined WWC, we have enjoyed an enduring amicable partnership in water resources management, with the scope and content of our cooperation expanded and deepened over the years. On behalf of the Chinese government, MWR has sent delegations to the World Water Forums, hosted sessions on various themes, and shared water governance experiences and programs with the rest of the world. With the support of WWC and its members, Chinese member organizations have been elected to the Board of Governors for multiple times. In particular, since 2018, Chinese experts have been invited to co-chair the WWC Working Group on Water Security, whereby they have organized policy and academic exchanges in water security for constant enhancement of WWC's global influence. In addition to hosting numerous BoG meetings of WWC, MWR has also issued reports on world water security and compiled popular science books for children on water security jointly with WWC, and put forward comments and recommendations on global water security and sustainable development along with all other members present here.

Over the recent years, the impact of climate change has brought along severe challenges to global water security. This year, in particular, has witnessed extreme weather events such as severe droughts, rainstorms and floods, and rare heat waves sweeping over the world. Africa, South Asia and the Yangtze River Basin in China were all hit by extreme droughts or floods, and Europe by the worst drought in 500 years. At the same time, water security challenges such as the degradation of water ecosystems, water scarcity resulting from climate change, underinvestment in water and sanitation, and the COVID-19 pandemic are also sounding the alarm to all countries.

As China has entered a new stage of development, it will fully implement the new development concept of "innovation, coordination, green, open and sharing". Among others, we will adhere to the integrated protection and systematic management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grass, and sand, accelerate the building of a beautiful China, and achieve high-quality economic and social development. Always regarding water security as a top priority, the Chinese government practices the principles

of “prioritizing water conservation, seeking spatial equilibrium, implementing systematic governance and achieving government-market synergy”. Through effective implementation of this water governance concept, MWR has made substantial progress in building the capacity to ensure national water security on all fronts. As a next step, China will continue with its efforts to improve the capacity for prevention of flood and drought disasters, conservation and intensive use of water resources, optimal allocation of water resources, and protection and management of the ecology of major rivers and lakes. In this regard, we hope to improve the basin-specific systems of flood control projects, carry out the crucial project of national water network, restore the ecology and environment of rivers and lakes, promote the construction of smart water conservancy projects, develop sound water-saving mechanisms and policies, improve our institutions and mechanisms, enhance the rule of law, and provide a strong water security guarantee for all-round economic and social development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The water challenges confronting the world are real, acute and persistent. Addressing such challenges requires our concerted efforts. WWC provides an ideal exchange and cooperation platform for us to jointly advance global water governance. Going forward, MWR will further its cooperation with WWC, and will, as always, lead all Chinese member institutions to actively participate in WWC activities, and make positive contributions to upgrading the global influence of WWC. Meanwhile, we will boost exchanges with all other WWC members present here and the water sectors of all countries around the world. Through such efforts, we hope to implement the *Global Development Initiative*, promote green development, address the challenges of climate change, facilitate harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, accelerate the attainment of the water-related goals of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and ensure global economic recovery and common prosperity of humankind through the sustainable utilization of water resources.

Last but not least, I would like to wish the 9th General Assembly a complete success!

Thank you!