

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour of reporting on the associated event on "SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation at the Core of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs".

The objective of this associated event was to share perspectives and good practices at country level on implementation of SDG6 and its targets, major challenges, and lessons learned and to identify opportunities for regional cooperation to support member states.

The associated event was opened with an overview of the regional challenges for Asia-Pacific as the region with world's least fresh water resources endowment of per capita, and facing increasing and conflicting demands for fresh water resources demands for irrigated agriculture and food production, from growing urbanization and intensive industrialization.

The interventions of the panelsists showcased the untapped opportunities in integrated water resources management, integrated river basin management, highlighted the advantage of using centuries of hydrological wisdom as applied in Sri Lanka for example and multiple use of water services (MUS) in Lao PDR, and benefits of engaging local communities and women.

In terms of science and technology in water use, the session was informed about the untapped opportunities for renewable energy generation by using small and medium hydro-power in Tajikistan and Central, water efficiency, rain water harvesting, waste water management, treatment and reuse, as well changing paradigm towards water-less sanitation/dry toilets in India. The interventions underscored the importance of ending open defecation in the region, devising means to enhance the benefits for local community development, and especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups, and as a solid basis

for income generation. It also highlighted that there is a need to support upscaling of all success stories and in terms of finance, capacity building, technology sharing, and partnerships.

Finally the associated event recommended to ESCAP that it has the most potential as the regional council of member states to serve as a trust builder and network catalyzer of action on transboundary water cooperation and the flow of ideas, hypothesis and technological tools as earth observations and satellite imagery for integrated water resources and drought and flood management . Encourage the flow of ideas, offer hypothesis - not to dictate, however, leave to the genius of the member states and to take it to their national circumstances.

Thank you