



Permanent Mission of the
International Union for Conservation of Nature
to the United Nations

**Preparatory meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to
Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6:
*Ensure availability and sustainable management of
water and sanitation for all***

Statement delivered by the Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, Dr Sofie Jaffe

New York, 9 July 2025

Thank you Mr President,

The International Union for Conservation of Nature would like to express its gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting today and to the co-hosts of the 2026 UN Water Conference for your inclusive leadership in this process. We support the proposed themes for the 2026 water conference, and would like to highlight the following essential issues to be taken into consideration.

The dialogue under Water for Cooperation should have as its centre the aim to identify actions to enhance cross sectoral and transboundary water cooperation, including during stress and drought periods. and map water security risks, including water quality to identify solutions that can strengthen peaceful cooperation on shared water resources.

IUCN is proud to be part of the Freshwater challenge, a voluntary partnership to accelerate delivery of national plans and strategies to restore and conserve freshwater ecosystems. With over 50 countries already having joined the challenge, we would hope to see the challenge featuring centrally in the Water Conference.

Furthermore, we consider it essential that the outcomes of the 2026 water conference should be taken forward through an open and transparent multilateral process with the aim to establish a global framework for enhanced and robust international cooperation on water.

IUCN has longstanding work on improving water governance, transboundary and cross-sectoral water cooperation and water security and we stands ready with our extensive network of experts and members to support the preparatory process for the 2026 Water Conference and look forward to collaborative engagement on this, including at the upcoming World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

Thank you
