

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Intervention by the Delegation of the State of Palestine during the 3rd session of the meetings of the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (24 May 2013) :

Water and Sanitation

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Group 77 and China.

Allow me to express the delegation of the State of Palestine's appreciation for your efforts and the Secretariat in leading and steering the work of the Group.

All religions emphasized the importance of water. It is stated in the Quran: "*We made from water every living thing*".

If we want to preserve life, we must deal with the issue of water with more seriousness. Assessment of the situation today indicates that hundreds of millions of humans are deprived of their basic rights, including their right to water and sanitation. Without working to ensure the right of everyone to water, in a fair and equitable manner, then what kind of agriculture, food security, or sanitation are we going to talk about, not to mention eradication of poverty and achieving development and its sustainability?

We believe that setting a special goal for water is vital and very important and we have to work together so that this goal is simplified and achievable. This requires from the outset efforts to secure the basic right of human beings to water without complications or provisos, as we are constantly faced with, in order to make a difference in the life of the individual, whether in a village in Africa, Latin America or Asia. And, this must include the Palestinian farmer who faces natural and non-natural challenges due to continuous depletion of his natural resources as a result of the Israeli military occupation.

To crystallize this goal and achieve it, we stress the importance of political will and its embodiment in regional and international cooperation within the framework of clear and effective mechanisms that work harmoniously and are able to deal with the challenges and that aim to secure this right on the basis of justice and fairness and respect of the principle of peoples' permanent sovereignty over their natural resources.