



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
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SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**STATEMENT BY
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- 9 July 2018 -

Mister/Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to have the opportunity to address to you today and to have an exchange of our country experiences and lessons learned.

Water is a basic resource that foster prosperity and stability and contributes to economic development. Furthermore, water is an issue of global interest, with specific challenges for each region and each country.

Romania is aware that the implementation of a sustainable policy in water field is very important. Water supply, sewerage and water quality protection, especially in the context of climate change, represents a priority for Romania.

With the transition to a market economy and a democratic political system, after more than four decades of centralized management, Romania decided to return to the principle of autonomy through decentralization and the transfer of major and concrete responsibilities to local public administrations.

The need to restructure the water sector has become even more stringent once Romania became a member of the EU, having to comply with the European Directives on drinking water quality and on wastewater treatment.

The costs for complying with the EU water legislation were estimated at approximately 15 billion euros, by the end of 2018. Those costs are investment costs for the development of infrastructure for drinking water distribution networks, wastewater collection systems and wastewater treatment plants.

As regards the supply of drinking water, majority of the population is connected to the public drinking water network, but we still have to work in the rural area. The wastewater collection and treatment systems have gradually expanded in the last years.

To ensure universal access to safe drinking water for population until 2030, is necessary to increase the infrastructure investments, as well as educate the population regarding the protection of water resources. In this context, the actions of the Romanian authorities are oriented to the extension of the centralized drinking water supply and sanitation systems, including those within the disadvantaged areas.

By implementing the European and national financial programmes, the level of population access to drinking water services and the level of wastewater collection and treatment in urban areas will gradually increase by 2020 in Romania.

In this regard, the Romanian actions are and will be concentrate on monitoring systems, exchange of good practices, new technologies, information systems regarding water management, as well as ensuring financial resources for programs implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude, by expressing my belief that these discussions regarding the review of SGD 6 implementation will support states in taking measures to ensure better living conditions for all.

Thank you for your attention.