

Mr. Chairman,

First, let me express a word of appreciation especially for the way you, your Bureau and the Secretariat prepared this session, and how effectively you facilitate our political debate.

In addition to what was said by Ireland also on our behalf, I wish to call your attention to two essential issues regarding water and sanitation, namely

- The transboundary aspects of various watercourses: the joint responsibility for such shared natural resources by the riparian states is a critical issue in many regions of the world. This is relevant both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

I am the representative of a country, Hungary which is in a very specific situation since 95% of our waters flow in from other countries and finally all of our waters are passed on to downstream countries and eventually to the Black Sea. In this regard the comprehensive National Sanitation Plan for the next eleven years is essential.

- The second point is the market instruments. The development and use of such instruments are of paramount importance both for the sustainable use of water resources and the solution of the sanitation problems. As primarily countries themselves are responsible for coping with their water and sanitation tasks, the use of relevant market and financial instruments “at home” is crucial. We are now extensively using such instruments in Hungary, including proper water and sanitation pricing, water and soil pollution fines and load charges.

Therefore, I recommend to pay due attention to the above issues when we make preparations for the next session of the CSD.

Moreover, I wish to articulate such further priorities as

- links not only between water, sanitation and human settlements but also with thematic clusters which will be later on our agenda, namely: energy and transport in context of human settlements; climate change and biodiversity in relation to water, etc.,
- water-related extreme events, such as droughts and floods, and the need to enhance international co-operation on these problems.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.