

**THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S INPUTS
FOR THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE CONCEPT PAPERS AND PANELS**

(a) Water for people: the human rights to water and sanitation, including for those in vulnerable situations, for healthy societies and economies;

Strengthening coordination in water resources management at all levels (local, regional, national, and international) requires greater effort and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders. This includes the active participation of local communities, Indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector (including small and medium-sized enterprises), as well as women and youth. Involving government authorities, experts, and the public in these discussions helps accelerate the practical application of new technologies and research findings.

Particular attention should be given to safeguarding the interests of, and engaging, communities living in areas with challenging climatic and hydrological conditions in developing effective solutions. Such conditions may be determined by the average annual amount of precipitation (arid and semi-arid zones), climatic events (floods, inundations, droughts), extreme temperatures (including in polar regions), and other factors. Identifying population groups by other criteria is not considered relevant in the context of ensuring equitable access to water resources.

(b) Water for prosperity: valuing water, water-energy-food nexus, advancing integrated and sustainable water resource management, wastewater and water-use efficiency across sectors, and economic and social development;

We view ensuring public access to water resources primarily through the lens of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all their dimensions — economic, environmental, and social. At the heart of this effort lies the sustainable management of water resources. Sustainable economic development is a key driver of social well-being, including in the area of water availability.

To address water supply challenges, it is essential to develop efficient water management practices and to promote the widespread use of modern, technologically neutral solutions based on the best available technologies. These efforts should focus on water conservation in industry, municipal services, and agriculture, as well as on the protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems.

Monitoring and forecasting the quantity and quality of available water resources across different regions is a vital task, along with assessing their potential for use. This calls for expanding monitoring systems for surface and groundwater, particularly in underexplored areas with development potential, conducting

experimental and theoretical research to improve water resource modeling, and developing long-term forecasts of socio-economic conditions and regional water availability.

The use of modern digital technologies makes it possible to optimize operations, improve responsiveness, and increase decision-making efficiency in water resource management. Introducing artificial intelligence — as a tool for processing large datasets, accelerating data analysis, and improving workflow efficiency — must be approached responsibly.

Irrigated agriculture remains one of the most water-intensive sectors of the economy. Drawing on decades of experience and adopting new technological solutions are key to improving irrigation methods and increasing efficiency.

Today, the integration of geographic information systems, remote sensing, global navigation satellite systems, and artificial intelligence in water-intensive sectors — particularly in agriculture — enables the creation and implementation of innovative projects for real-time management. These technologies enhance resilience and efficiency amid growing water scarcity.

Special attention should be given to the deployment of automated reservoir management systems, which allow for rapid responses to changes in hydrological conditions — including floods — and simplify decision-making on reservoir operations.

It is also crucial to set ambitious yet technologically feasible goals for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment. Excessively strict regulatory requirements (for example, demanding that treated wastewater meet fishery-grade standards) may be impractical and could lead to unfair competition or inaccurate reporting.

A systematic approach to supporting domestic manufacturers — including state support at various stages of development and production in the water treatment sector — is both reasonable and necessary. Such an approach attracts investment in new, efficient technologies and ensures that the industry has the equipment it needs to improve water quality and water-use efficiency in line with SDG-6.

(c) Water for planet: climate, biodiversity, desertification, environment, source to sea, resilience and disaster risk reduction;

We believe it is important to highlight the need to reassess the water-holding and absorption capacity of reservoirs.

Climate change is having a profound impact on hydrological processes. Governments face the critical challenge of ensuring preparedness for rapid and effective responses to emerging risks and challenges, including the development

adaptation measures. In Russia, particular threats in this context include rain-induced floods, spring high waters, as well as periods of low water and drought.

Adaptation measures in hydrological monitoring should focus on expanding and improving the density of observation networks — especially in regions where climate change is expected to increase the likelihood of hazardous hydrological events. They should also include the development and adaptation of modern hydrological modeling and forecasting methods, early warning systems, decision-support tools for water management, and the integration of regional, institutional, and corporate monitoring networks.

In the field of water resource management, priority should be given to improving regulatory, legal, and scientific frameworks — including incorporating the hydrological impacts of climate change into integrated water resource management practices. Adaptation measures to reduce flood risks should combine both engineering and non-engineering approaches. Engineering solutions include the construction of reservoirs, levees, and diversion channels; straightening, deepening, and widening riverbeds to increase flow capacity; and artificially raising low-lying areas; enhancing , including through the use of “green” solutions. Promising initiatives also include rewetting and restoring drained or depleted peatlands.

Non-engineering measures include regulating land use in river floodplains and catchment areas; restricting or prohibiting economic activities that could worsen flood risks; zoning and planning for potential population relocation; relocating infrastructure and assets from flood-prone areas; and limiting construction within flood zones unless supported by appropriate engineering safeguards for residential buildings, major industrial facilities, or high-value assets. The development of insurance systems is also an important component of flood risk management.

It is advisable to prioritize flood protection efforts based on projected changes in extreme runoff, while also promoting the adoption of water-saving technologies in regions expected to face more frequent or prolonged droughts. Drought adaptation measures may include reserving water in reservoirs, integrated use of multiple water sources (including groundwater, sub-channel, and recycled water), and reducing water losses during transport and distribution.

(d) Water for cooperation: transboundary and international water cooperation, including scientific cooperation, and inclusive governance;

We advocate for constructive dialogue on water-related issues at all levels within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and existing intergovernmental forums. We consider regional and bilateral agreements to be the most effective formats for international cooperation in the field of water resources.

We note the positive experience of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, which, since 2016, has

officially become a global legal framework for cooperation on transboundary water resources. We welcome the accession of new Parties to the Convention.

We consistently oppose linking water issues to peace and security. We believe that natural resources are neutral by nature — their presence or absence should not be regarded as a cause of conflict or a threat to peace and security. We consider the use of the term “water security” to be inappropriate, as it implies an attempt to frame access to water resources as a potential source of conflict.

In this regard, we call for a balanced and cautious approach to attempts to establish causal links between water resources and conflicts. These matters do not fall within the scope of the 2030 Agenda, require context-specific analysis, and should be addressed separately in the appropriate formats.

(e) Water in multilateral processes: Sustainable Development Goal 6, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond, and global water initiatives;

We believe that the existing international institutions, structures, and legal mechanisms — such as the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the conferences held within the framework of the UN’s thematic “Water Action” Decades, as well as various global and regional international treaties and their respective bodies — provide a reliable and fully sufficient framework for effective collective action in the water sector.

We consider it inappropriate to raise the issue of reforming the “global water architecture,” establishing within the UN system a separate intergovernmental body on water resources management, or developing any new international legal mechanism.

Establishing new “sectoral” structures for specific thematic areas of sustainable development, including the water sector, would only result in additional bureaucracy, greater financial burdens on the existing system, fragmentation of its coherence, and a reduction in overall effectiveness.