



Loic Fauchon's Speech at the High-level side event UN Conference on water Central Asia: commitments for water action agenda

New-York, 23 March 2023

Excellencies, Ambassadors and representatives of Central Asia countries,

Dear Sulton Rahimzoda, my friend

On my own behalf and on behalf of the World Water Council, I would like to express how I am pleased and honoured to participate to this high-level side-event on the commitments of Central Asia Countries under the auspices of the UN Conference on Water, here in New-York.

I would also like to congratulate the Republic of Tadjikistan for its great lead in the preparation of this UN Water Conference. His Excellency Sulton Rahimzoda, as Special Envoy, has been the permanent voice of water at every event and did not spare his efforts to gather the international community for this important event.

Central Asia is a strategic region in many respects.

Water resources play a key role in achieving sustainable development and peace in Central Asia. And the necessity and current implementation of transboundary cooperation on water issues, is a great showcase for other parts of the world which experience similar situations.

The relationship between many countries of Central Asia and the World water Council are ancient and long-lasting. Especially with our colleagues and friends of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. The ecological disaster which you had to face showed to the world the absolute necessity of continuous dialogue to face our current challenges.

As water is getting scarce, we need hydrodiplomacy and transboundary dialogue, but also dialogue between the different users of water for domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, and dialogue to share water between human needs and Nature needs.

The World Water Council is a platform where such dialogue can take place with its 250 members from governments, universities, NGOs, public and private companies, from more than 50 countries.

Please join us, we need your expertise and know-how.



I also invite you to participate to the upcoming 10th World Water Forum which will take place in May 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. With our Indonesian partners we would like to prepare a strong political process, with Head of States, Minister level, Parliamentarian and Local Authorities segments.

And we are also preparing Regional processes, as we are convinced that it is an efficient level to promote dialogue, and above all joint solutions, commitments and responses.

We already know that there will be a Mediterranean process and an Asia-Pacific Process and maybe an American process.

If you think it possible and useful, Central Asia is welcome to present a proposal under the leadership of one of your recognized organization.

As the 10th World Water Forum is going to take place a year after this conference, it will also be the right place to review the commitments which have been made in New-York and, more globally, have a shared discussion on the outcomes of this UN Conference.

Dear Friends from Central Asia, with your faithful commitments to water and your endeavor to promote water as an international priority, you are more than welcome next year in Bali !