Permanent Mission of Israel
UNITED NATIONS

UN 2023 Water Conference
Israel's proposals on possible themes of the interactive dialogues

1. The Use of Reclaimed Water for Agriculture

Water is a critical resource for agricultural production and plays an important role in food security. According to the World Bank Group due to population growth, urbanization, and climate change, competition for water resources is expected to increase, with a particular impact on agriculture. Reclaimed water, converted municipal or industrial or wastewater, offer a dependable and reliable solution to the growing water challenges especially in the agriculture sector.

Israel, for example, has used recycled water for agricultural irrigation since the 1970s. Today, Israel recycles 94% of its wastewater. A staggering 85% of this water is used in agriculture each year. A large number of countries already safely and effectively implement the use of recycled water as a management strategy for agricultural production. Instead of being a major problem, sewage is becoming a major and reliable resource of water. Raising awareness to the benefits of reclaimed water use for agriculture and sharing knowledge and best practices can assist Members States and other relevant stakeholders with implementing such strategies at the national and local level, increase agricultural productivity, promote agriculture sector job creation and improve food security and access to nutritious food.

2. Water in Desert Conditions

Many areas of the world are experiencing an increase in water scarcity caused by climate change, increased human demand, water overuse and more. Almost one-fifth of the world's population live in areas of physical scarcity, and a growing number of people, especially those living in desert areas, are facing water scarcity risks. SDG 6.4 aims at targeting water scarcity setting to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030.

Among the solutions to water scarcity in desert conditions are better water management, improved technologies to increase efficiency, decease waste, conservation, investments by governments, the private sector and communities in basic water infrastructure, and cooperation among communities sharing water sources. With many governments lacking adequate equipment and resources to deal with serious water challenges, a thematic discussion could be useful to share knowledge and solutions, success stories and best practices. This discussion can bring together Member States, development agencies, water experts, engineers and civil society representatives that can offer lasting solutions to water challenges in desert conditions

3. **Water Regulation**

On 28 July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights. A strong regulatory system is central in ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation. As such, a thematic discussion on water regulation can bring together Member States, legislators, regulatory experts, academia, etc. to provide insights on successful water regulations and promote global action on clear water regulation.

4. **Water Pipeline Systems Treatment and Optimization - Reducing Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Loss.**

Water pipelines are a main source of water supply. Careful management of the water network is vital to efficiently deliver water to consumers. And while the global need for water increases, improving pumping system performance is a central component in preventing water leaks and reduce utility operating costs. Water pipeline systems can be optimized in many ways, including the initial design phase, including the selection of the pump itself and the consideration of any improvement needs during operation (e.g. fault detection, leak sealing, virus detection within the pipes, etc.). Addressing pipeline systems management and performance can help generate necessary knowledge to improve water supply, reduce water waste and secure access to clean water around the world. Taking the right actions and using innovative technologies of detection and leak sealing has helped Israel to decrease its water loss to approximately 5 percent, compared to 45 percent and more in most parts of the world.