



**GOBIERNO de
GUATEMALA**
DR. ALEJANDRO GIAMMATTEI



**MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES**
MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA ANTE
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The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the letter No. DESA-22/02166, requesting inputs for the concept notes of the interactive dialogues of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028.

In that regard, the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations has the honor to enclose herewith the general inputs for its inclusion in the material of the dialogues, which may be published on the Conference website.

The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations the assurances of its consideration.

New York, November 28, 2020



**Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Office of the Under-Secretary General
United Nations
New York**



**Contribution of Guatemala to the Concept Notes
of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the
Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water
for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028**

1. Water has essential repercussions in the human existence but also in human rights, which includes the right to life, health, food and a healthy environment, among others. In addition, it is essential to live with dignity, therefore, its conservation is a task of every State, for its present and future generations.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has proved that adequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation is critical to prevent and contain disease. In this context, it is worrying that climate change is increasing the risk of disasters, droughts and impacting the water cycle.
3. Added to this, it is necessary to highlight the essential importance of water resources for productive activities and its close link to development, including sustainable food security and nutrition.
4. The international community must continue its efforts, particularly those aimed at building capacities, financing, innovation, access to technologies, improving infrastructure in rural and urban areas, as well as supporting favorable institutional frameworks to develop national policies aimed at the efficient use and protection of this resource for the benefit of the population of each country.
5. The implementation of the priorities set out in the Decade of Action for Water must be prioritized, which contribute to the fulfillment of national development priorities, through coordination and capacity building at the national and local levels.
6. Regarding the general principle of cooperation between States, it is important to respect the internal legislation of each country, considering that water is a State’s asset that must be administered and used by the competent national bodies for the benefit of their population. For this reason, we emphasize that the use of international watercourses must be the subject of international bilateral treaties whose negotiation and celebration correspond exclusively to the States involved.