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**Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science,  
technology and innovation**

Statement by

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the UN in Geneva  
Mr. Bahtijors Hasans on**

***Ensuring safe water and sanitation for all: a solution through science, technology,  
and innovation***

**at the 26 session of Commission on the Science and Technology for Development**

**28 March 2023  
Palais des Nations**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad that one of the two priority themes at this CSTD session is related to clean water and sanitation for all that is of high priority for Latvian government. Moreover, it's great that our discussion follows right after the historic UN 2023 World Water conference in New York.

The importance of this topic is underlined by the fact that the access to water and sanitation is a basic human right.

Unfortunately, one in four people around the world are still denied this right as they lack access to safe drinking water.

It is our common responsibility to work together, including within the CSTD, to accelerate progress towards achievement of SDG6 and the whole 2030 Agenda.

I would like to use this opportunity to provide a few examples of how Latvia is addressing the challenge of our water governance and providing clean water to all.

Latvia is blessed to be among the countries with fresh water supply exceeding current demand. However, we live by the Baltic Sea which is among the most polluted seas in the world.

We recognize our responsibility to do our best to limit its further pollution and work for solutions to make it clean. Therefore, to achieve this goal, Latvian government has introduced mission "Sea 2030". The overarching goal of the mission is to create a systemic framework to ensure improvement of the water quality in the Baltic sea. In order to implement the mission, government stimulates innovation, commercialization of science and cooperation between all the relevant stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels.

Latvia currently holds the rotating two-year Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission presidency and implementation of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan for healthy and resilient Baltic Sea ecosystem is a key priority. Source-to-Sea approach is crucial for that.

It is our ambition in cooperation with other countries around the Baltic sea to create a digital twin of the Baltic sea to monitor and reduce its pollution.

In order to deliver on the mission “Sea 2030”, our research institutions are actively engaged in developing technologies to improve water management system and to make it more accessible for everyone.

In Latvia the leader in this area is Riga Technical University. Recently, the university has created a digital twin for river Ogre that can forecast floods 24 hours in advance. This solution already brings benefits to the local community. In perspective we have to integrate the solution in national flood risk information system.

Riga Technical University has also developed a mobile pipe flushing device that at the time of water pipeline maintenance works allows in a cost-efficient way to gather relevant data for further analysis.

At the moment the University is working on ultra-thin membrane for the use in water filtration that will reduce energy consumption and make the water processing more affordable for the developing countries.

While working on delivering clean water for all, we also keep in mind our common climate goals. In order to reduce carbon footprint of wastewater management, Latvian wastewater management companies are installing solar power plants that make their operations greener and more cost-efficient.

Dear colleagues,

One of the key enablers for the implementation of STI solutions in water treatment and sanitation systems is quality education, therefore Latvia is active participant in various European Union educational and practical training projects.

Latvia is committed to sharing knowledge and technology with our partner countries. Latvian clean technology cluster “Cleantech Latvia” has implemented capacity building projects in the area of water supply and sewerage in Central Asian countries. Through our work we are contributing to the Team Europe Initiative on Water-Energy-Climate Change in Central Asia. Latvia is looking forward to expand its cooperation in this area to Africa.

Latvia stands ready to share our experience with other countries to address the global water challenges and drive forward the work for SDG6.

Last but not least, I would like to use the opportunity to inform you that tomorrow at 8.30 in this very room Latvia will organize a panel discussion on Protecting information integrity in the age of artificial intelligence. It will be my pleasure to welcome you at the discussion tomorrow. Coffee and croissants will be served before the event.

Thank you for your attention!