

Statement to the UN Water Conference from Albania

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Ladies and gentlemen distinguished delegates.

It is an honor and an obligation for all of us to participate and contribute to this conference, as the largest global effort to bring much-needed attention to water.

This resource is priceless to all of us, but sometimes underrated. Water for Albania has a special importance since we strongly depend our development of economy of and social life on water. Our most important sectors, such as energy, agriculture, and tourism, depend closely on this precious resource.

We share our rivers with the four neighbouring countries that surrounds us. These resources are connecting bridges that unites us for the management of many common interests' activities at the cross-border level.

But we all know that water can be also turn In to a potential source of conflict if we do not respond to the nature of water, **to be everywhere and for everyone**. All the topics of this conference are so inclusive that they best represent everyone's problems and challenges, but also the vision and hope that we can do better together. We come today to this conference with a wonderful news about the last wild river in Europe, Vjosa, which this month it was declared the first water national water park, now internationally well known as a brand not only for Albania but for the whole Europe.

The Albanian government has shown concrete efforts and its willingness to join and contribute to international initiatives that improve the management of water resources for the country and the Balkan region. We are sure that the results of this conference will have an important role in improving policies and afford challenges.

Think out the box is the right approach to strengthen the role of everyone who can play a role in the management of water resources. We are sure together we can be the change.