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Globalization and interdependence: science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

Letter dated 25 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the co-organizers of the virtual event celebrating the seventh International Day of Women and Girls in Science, held on 11 February 2022, I have the honour to transmit the outcome document signed by 53 Member States, the African Union and the European Union (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 22 (a).

(Signed) Francisco **Duarte Lopes**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 25 March 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Outcome document of the seventh International Day of Women and Girls in Science, on the theme “Equity, diversity and inclusion: water unites us”, New York, 11 February 2022

We, the Permanent Representatives of States Members of the United Nations and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, having met virtually at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 February 2022,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [70/212](#) of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly proclaimed 11 February the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, and in which, for the first time, the Assembly recognized women and girls in science as agents of change,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [76/213](#) of 17 December 2021 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, Assembly resolution [71/222](#) of 21 December 2016, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, as well as Assembly resolution [75/212](#) of 21 December 2020 on the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review on the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, and Assembly resolution [76/153](#) of 16 December 2021, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right and recognized that right as an essential element for human life, health and dignity,

Reaffirming Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and all subsequent resolutions,

Taking note of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Glasgow, Scotland, dated 13 November 2021, and the Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints,

Taking note also of the Generation Equality Forum, co-hosted by Mexico and France in 2021, in particular its Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, created in partnership with civil society, Governments, women activists, youth, international organizations and the private sector to catalyse action, drive investment and deliver concrete, game-changing results for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Looking forward to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held from 14 to 25 March 2022, at which the priority theme of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes will be considered,

Looking forward also to the high-level symposium on water, to be held in Portugal on 27 June 2022 in the margins of the second United Nations Ocean Conference from 27 June to 1 July 2022, and the second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, to be held in Dushanbe from 6 to 9 June 2022, as well as the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the International Decade for Action in 2023,

Welcoming the celebration of the seventh International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the partnership between the Royal Academy of Science International Trust and Member States, United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations in supporting, promoting and empowering all women and girls in science,

Welcoming also Cansu Global and the Cansu Global capital fund, established by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust to, respectively, contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and its targets and to provide follow-up to the present outcome document, as well as the Cansu Science, Innovation, Transformation and Education International Platform initiative and other Royal Academy of Science International Trust initiatives aimed at supporting, promoting and empowering all women and girls in science,

Building on the outcome documents endorsed by Member States at the previous International Day of Women and Girls in Science assemblies in 2018, 2019 and 2020,

Building also on the outcome document of the Women Water Forum held in Dushanbe on 19 June 2018 on the theme “Women for water: bridging voices to action”,

Deeply concerned about the increasing global water challenges and the limited progress in achieving universal and equitable access to water and sanitation for basic domestic and productive needs, including menstrual hygiene management, and their impact on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Noting with concern that, while some progress has been achieved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the underrepresentation of women and girls and their challenges in achieving full integration in water-related sciences still persist, and that women continue to be underrepresented in, among other things, policymaking, implementation of United Nations instruments, financing, capacity strengthening, skills provision, research and development, regional integration, access to economic resources and political participation, leadership and decision-making at all levels,

Recognizing that the promotion of a human rights-based approach to water, including equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as non-discrimination, is indispensable to the achievement of sustainable development, and that equity in science, technology and innovation should encompass the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner,

Acknowledging the importance of enhancing an intersectional and multi-stakeholder approach that directly involves all women and girls, as actors, including those from university associations and business representatives, in science, technology and innovation, while collaborating actively with relevant international and regional organizations,

Recognizing that gender-responsive investment in science-based and green technology-based solutions and programmes for water is a process, not a project, requiring constant political will and support for gender equality in science, technology and innovation to foster socioeconomic sustainable development, decent job creation and enhanced well-being,

We, who are setting out an ambitious and transformational vision of the role of all women and girls in all fields of science in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Urge Member States to empower and invest in the education of girls in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics from early stages, including primary education onwards, and to empower women at higher education institutions

and public research organizations as essential actors of the science, technology and innovation ecosystems in order to build a solid and relevant human capital base and enhance research and development;

Also urge Member States to engage women and girls in science in national, regional and international dialogue involving all innovation system actors, focusing on the relationship between water innovation and research, economic growth and society at large and exploring the move from science, technology and innovation policy to policy for equity, diversity and inclusion in science, technology and innovation;

Commit to supporting and encouraging the full, equal and meaningful involvement and participation of women and girls in science, technology and innovation for water security, management and sustainable development, and acknowledge their contributions and potential as agents of change;

Encourage Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to cooperate with the Cansu Science, Innovation, Transformation and Education International Platform initiative, Cansu Global and the Cansu Global capital fund in view of supporting the full achievement of equal access to and participation of women and girls in science, as well as accelerating the implementation of solutions that address challenges in a holistic and forward-looking way, especially in the water sector;

Also encourage Member States to involve women and girls with disabilities in science and to enable them as agents of change and beneficiaries in all stages of the sustainable development cycle, programmes and decision-making;

Recommend that Member States include women scientists and experts from different disciplines in viewing water challenges and defining synergies and complementarities for holistic water for sustainable development solutions and gender-responsive programmes from an intercultural perspective;

Invite Member States to include science-based water strategies in national economic and infrastructure plans and place equity, diversity and inclusion at the centre of water policies, programmes, services and integrated water resources management to ensure that water remains available, accessible and affordable for all, including for all women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

Call upon Member States to consider sustainable financing from all sources for women and girls in science, namely in support of their research, and its open publication, on Sustainable Development Goal 6 and related global challenges, making information accessible to all, including in Braille, in order to leave no one behind;

Also call upon Member States to invest in equity, diversity and inclusion in water sciences for inclusive green growth in national, regional and international development agendas, including new research infrastructures and centres of excellence, in order to foster research and development;

Urge Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for training efforts for women in science on diplomacy for peace and security to ensure increased representation of women in science at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions, and also urge the United Nations and its agencies, funds and programmes to expand the role and contribution of all women in science, including those with disabilities, at Headquarters and in the field;

Encourage Member States to increase the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women in science in decision-making at all levels in the public sector, including in diplomacy and foreign policy;

Recognize the role of the media, communication and the arts in strengthening the role of women and girls in science, in particular as related to water and the environment;

Encourage the forthcoming conferences of the United Nations, as well as other global forums and efforts for sustainability, to take into consideration the critical roles of women and girls in science, technology and innovation in explaining and responding to global challenges, including as related to water.

(Signed) Elisenda **Vives Balmaña**

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