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The Law of Transboundary Aquifers

STATEMENT BY

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Mr Chairman

Italy wishes to commend once again the International Law Commission (ILC) for the conclusion of its project of draft articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers and to pay tribute to the excellent work carried out by Ambassador Yamada in this regard.

We also thank the Secretariat for the Reports prepared on this topic.

The preservation and best management of water resources is an essential challenge for humanity, for several reasons that I do not need to discuss here today but which are broadly shared by the International Community as a whole. There is need to continue with collective efforts in this direction.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the fact that several States have resorted to the articles in their treaty relationships and commend them on the achievements they have reached.

In this regard, I wish to draw the attention of delegations and to welcome the Draft Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters adopted on the 30 November 2012 by the sixth Meeting of the Parties of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes held in Rome, which is an important case of application at the multilateral level of the basic principles enshrined in the 2008 Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers of the ILC; and let me also mention the entry into force on 13 February 2013 of the amendments to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes which allow accession to the Convention also by Members States of the United Nations which are not parties to the UNECE.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we should like to note the positive contribution given on a scientific and technical level by the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme and we hope that all States that need and wish to obtain technical assistance and cooperation will be in a position to receive it.

Italy stands ready to cooperate with all Member States in the drafting of the resolution on this important topic and hopes to work constructively with all interested delegations in finding appropriate solutions that would achieve the required balance between different views and ensure that some progress on this issue is made.