Thank you, Mr. Liljert {Leye-LYERT}, for giving me the floor. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and colleagues, I am honored to be here today representing the United States as USAID’s Global Water Coordinator.

I would like to begin by thanking the Government of the Republic of Singapore for co-chairing Interactive Dialogue 5 with the United States at the historic UN Water Conference in March. It is wonderful to be here today with Her Excellency Grace Fu {f-OO} of Singapore.

The United States is committed to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which is grounded in our dedication to the inherent dignity of every human being. Nowhere is this truer than with respect to SDG 6, safe water and sanitation.

As part of the Water Action Agenda, the United States announced a $49 billion commitment in domestic and global actions.

These actions are wide ranging and include.
- Accelerating foreign assistance for water security and sanitation in 22 high priority countries.
- And supporting NASA’s Surface Water Ocean Topography mission, or SWOT {swat}, which will establish a global survey of Earth’s surface water at an unprecedented level of resolution, providing valuable new data for decision making.

One thing these actions have in common is innovation.

But innovative approaches do not succeed in a vacuum.

These tools must be valued, used, and maintained, so their benefits last for generations.

So what do we need for water and sanitation innovation to have a real impact on people and the planet?

First, for innovations to work over the long term and advance us on the road to global water security, we must make our decisions based on local context.
- What good is a new water filtration system whose parts are not available and affordable in local markets, or that is too complicated for anyone in the community to repair?
- What good is a novel nature-based solution to water that doesn’t reflect traditional water governance, or build on hundreds of years of local expertise in keeping ecosystems healthy?

Secondly, there must be a policy regime in place to ensure the quality, affordability, and appropriateness of any new water or sanitation technology.
• As we move from basic to safely managed drinking water and sanitation, standards, regulations, and professional certifications must be in place.

• And they must be enforced consistently by national governments, and responsive to local context.

• This includes construction standards, water quality standards, and performance standards.

• Third, we must develop and support strong markets.
  ◦ Strong markets nurture and guide innovators.
  ◦ Strong market regulation can create incentives for local manufacturing and distribution that ultimately cut costs while creating jobs.
  ◦ It can also reduce import tariffs on key materials, such as plastics for latrines. This ultimately reduces costs and bolsters local markets.

• Finally, we must collaborate and learn from each other, in alignment with national government priorities
  ◦ We need multi-stakeholder platforms that include voices from outside the water and sanitation sectors, including civil society led by and for marginalized groups.

• The UN Water Conference was a great example of bringing together the many voices that are needed for a system that can support innovation to achieve SDG6.

• But it isn’t enough.

• This is why the United States supports the timely appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water.

• A Special Envoy can drive accountability for all Member States to achieve their SDG6 goals.

• A Special Envoy can also continue to keep water high on the political action agenda, help mainstream water in existing political processes, and potentially create an intergovernmental SDG6 process as well.

• The United States is committed to participating in ongoing dialogue about how to institutionalize water in the UN system.

• Thank you for your time and for your commitment to achieving a water-secure world.