



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA2/II/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: International Year of Freshwater 2003

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly

1 *The General Assembly*

2
3 *Recognizing* that 2003 has been designated the International Year of Freshwater,

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5 *Deeply concerned* about water resource issues such as water distribution, increasing
6 water supply costs, and water pollution,

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8 *Noting* that many regions do not possess the basic educational tools required to reverse the
9 trends of freshwater depletion,

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11 *Observing* the need for the improvement of technologies within developing countries in
12 partnership with the Global Community,

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14 *Bearing in mind* the United Nations low projection of population growth, the number of
15 people living in countries in which renewable water is a scarce resource will rise from 131
16 million to 817 million by 2025,

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18 *Reaffirming* that the United Nations Environmental Program's (UNEP) Global
19 Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) Annual Report of 2003 projects approximately 1.7
20 million people die annually as a result of a lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation,

21
22 *Emphasizing* that of the 1.7 million annual deaths projected by the UNEP GEMS Annual
23 Report of 2003, 90 percent are children,

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25 *Noting with deep concern* that 1.2 billion people world-wide are without access to safe
26 drinking water and that 2.4 billion people around the globe lack proper sanitation,

27
28 *Deeply disturbed* that only 58 percent of the population of Sub-Saharan African countries
29 that have access to improved water sources and that in the poorest least developed countries, no
30 improvement in the proportion of the people with access to water was made over the past
31 decade,

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33 *Fully believing* that water is likely to become a growing source of tension and fierce
34 competition between nations will ensue if present trends continue,
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- 36 1. *Welcomes* the pledge of the 2000 Millennium Summit to halve proportion of people
37 unable to reach or afford safe drinking water by 2015;
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- 39 2. *Supports the pledge* of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to halve
40 the proportion of people lacking adequate sanitation by 2005;
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- 42 3. *Encourages* the United Nations Environmental Program's new assessments focused on
43 the area of water sanitation in an increasingly urbanized world;
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- 45 4. *Expresses* its appreciation to the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health
46 Organization for actively contributing to global water supply and sanitation monitoring;
47
- 48 5. *Urges* the global community to promote behavioral changes in water use and
49 sanitation;
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- 51 6. *Expresses* its hope that policies and regulatory frameworks made be put in place for
52 water management that takes into account both public health and ecosystem needs;
53
- 54 7. *Further invites* partnerships between private companies, bilateral donors, development
55 agencies, banks, civil society, and local communities in addressing the concerns of global water
56 scarcity.

Final Vote: 44 in favor / 16 opposed / 14 abstentions