



# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA2/II/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: International Year of Freshwater 2003

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly

*The General Assembly*

*Recognizing* the coming years will see huge population growth throughout the planet,

*Further recognizing* that the majority of this growth will impact and occur in the underdeveloped countries of the third world,

*Expecting* urbanization to occur worldwide thereby shifting, enlarging, and concentrating the natural demographic and geographic resource needs,

*Aware of* the already significant global fresh water shortages particularly throughout the third world,

*Bearing in mind* the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (UNMD) to “halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water,”

*Noting with approval* the existence of the United Nations World Water Development Programme (UNWWDP) and its continued efforts to improve the world-wide freshwater situation,

*Realizing* the enormous potential of desalination technology to alleviate the freshwater scarcity in many nations,

*Further realizing* the currently high expense of desalination plants and technology,

*Believing* the benefits of desalination technology to positively affect both industrialized and developing nations,

*Affirming* the efforts of independent research organizations such as the European Desalination Society to reduce the cost of desalination and making such technology affordable and available to poorer countries,

*Observing* the majority of the world’s population living in freshwater-needy countries has access to an oceanic coastline,

*Desiring* to see the goals of the UNMD fulfilled within the designated time-frame but also knowing the problems of freshwater scarcity will persist or even increase,

37 1. *Affirms* desalination as both a short-term and long-term method of ameliorating  
38 freshwater scarcity and competition;  
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40 2. *Recommends* the creation of the Global Forum on Desalination (GFD) within the  
41 UNWWDP to promote coordination and cooperation among all interested research organizations  
42 and governments;  
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44 3. *Designates* responsibilities and authority to the GFD to increase the availability of  
45 affordable cost-efficient desalination technology, to explore new techniques of converting the oceans  
46 and other bodies of high-salt water into viable sources of freshwater for generations to come, to  
47 provide, in a charitable manner, assistance and consultation to countries seeking desalination  
48 infrastructure and resource-independence, and ultimately to achieve and surpass the goals of the  
49 UNMD;  
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51 4. *Requests* the Secretariat specifically and enthusiastically promote the possibilities of  
52 desalination as part of a spectrum of ways in which the United Nations might provide freshwater  
53 assistance;  
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55 5. *Appeals* to Member States to give financial assistance directly to the GFD as they see fit  
56 and as are financially capable in order to ensure the success of this organization;  
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58 6. *Expresses* its appreciation that the United Nations is responding to the freshwater  
59 situation before it becomes a crisis.

Final Vote: 58 in favor / 9 opposed / 26 abstentions