



# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA2/II/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: International Year of Freshwater 2003

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly

1 *The General Assembly*

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3 *Recalling* Resolution 58/217, which called for the proclamation of the International Decade for  
4 Action “Water for Life” 2005 - 2015, the international community should have a greater focus on water  
5 - related issues at all levels and the implementation of water-related programs and projects,  
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7 *Further noting* its Resolution 55/196 of December 2000, which declared 2003 the Year of  
8 Freshwater,  
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10 *Recognizing* Agenda 21, specifically Chapter 18, which called for the integration of water resources  
11 development,  
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13 *Acknowledging* that lack of access to freshwater is detrimental to the environment, the health of  
14 the population, and the productivity of both of these resources, and therefore impedes development,  
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16 *Realizing* that water is needed for all aspects of life, drinking, sanitation, and health; also noting  
17 the Statement of African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) entitled “Water is life - Without  
18 water there can be no future,” adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 2002 at the World  
19 Summit on Sustainable Development,  
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21 *Taking note* of the contributions made toward water by several NGOs and the international  
22 community,  
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24 1. *Requests* Member States to establish regional programs of action on water to provide a  
25 framework for concrete action in addressing key water-related concerns within the boundaries of the  
26 International Decade for Action that will commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2005 under the  
27 auspices of regional bodies such as: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission  
28 for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic  
29 and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission  
30 for Western Asia (ESCWA);  
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32 2. Calls upon the JWP, a collaboration between the Who and UNICEF, to define the standards  
33 of unacceptable contamination of drinking water, and once defined, encourages the UN to provide the  
34 necessary support for nations to work towards those standards.  
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36 3. *Calls upon* the international community and donor countries to make donations toward the

37 programs of action geared at addressing water related issues;

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39 4. *Emphasizes* the guidelines set by Agenda 21, specifically chapter 18, regarding protection of  
40 the quality and supply of fresh water resources;

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42 5. *Calls upon* the UNDP to work with member states to emphasize investing in education  
43 towards training their citizens on the following:

44 a. strengthening water management skills

45 b. efficiently monitoring and reporting on the quality of water

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47 6. *Take measures* aimed at ensuring that all states have access to technology necessary to realizing  
48 the fresh water Millennium Goals for 2015, such as desalinization, purification, waste water treatment  
49 and more efficient irrigation methods;

50 a. Ensure that the financing required to modernize water programs in developing  
51 countries does not come at the expense of other aid offerings,

52 b. Exchange information pertaining to all aspects of the proposed program areas and  
53 suggestions for implementation as set forth in Chapter 18 of Agenda 21;

54 c. Urges the developing countries to meet their previously agreed upon ODA  
55 commitments, resulting from the Monterey Consensus, to meet freshwater goals

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57 7. *Calls upon* all international creditors to preclude water related programs from the  
58 macroeconomic stipulations that accompany debt packages thereby leaving states the ability to choose  
59 their best course of action in ensuring this fundamental right;

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61 8. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by private companies in helping realize  
62 freshwater goals, yet reaffirms that cost recovery objectives should not become a barrier to access to safe  
63 water by impoverished people;

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65 9. *Requests* the Secretary General submit a report to the General Assembly in its 60th Session,  
66 evaluating the progress made in the International Year of Freshwater 2003.

Final Vote: 67 in favor / 6 opposed / 20 abstentions