



*American Model United Nations*  
**Human Rights Council**

## **Report to the The General Assembly on The Right to Safe Water and Sanitation**

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24 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

25  
26 At its seventh session, held on 19 November 2012, the Human Rights Council  
27 considered “The Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation”.

28  
29 Short-term aid for environmental change is encouraged with emphasis on long-term,  
30 sustainable solutions despite environmental disruptions. Many Member States expressed  
31 the implementation of the Purple Pipe Policy as a tool to benefit many Member States,  
32 along with private organizations dedicated to upholding the human right to water.

33  
34 Assorted Member States discussed the need for education within the context for  
35 protecting vulnerable groups and fulfilling Millennium Development Goals. Many  
36 Member States discussed enhancing water sanitation and management through the use of  
37 preexisting United Nations’ programs, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), and  
38 public-private templates that can be applied on a state-by-state basis.

39  
40 Implementation and research on renewable energy sources were suggested for the  
41 purpose of displacing current hydro-power techniques, which consume large amounts of  
42 water. Nanotechnology is another potential option for the cleansing of water that could  
43 be explored.

44  
45 Nearly all Member States believe that both sanitation and accessibility to water is key  
46 to the health of all Member States. This body believes that NGOs, supplemented by  
47 optional United Nations aid, is the best way to deal with this issue. Both short-term and  
48 long-term solutions should be explored.

49  
50 Many Member States discussed the need for and importance of providing safe  
51 drinking water to the countries of the world. Member States who would be considered  
52 underdeveloped would agree to the points of this report, but would like to encourage the  
53 developed Member States of this body to consider giving aid to the members who are  
54 under-developed. Certain Member States would agree with the ideas of education, but  
55 disagreed with the idea of privatization versus public management of water.

56  
57 Additional areas discussed by The Council include the request of the international  
58 community to acknowledge that the allocation of water resources by one state will have  
59 an effect on not only the citizens of that country but also the entire region.  
60 Keeping in mind all issues of state sovereignty, the international community should  
61 respond accordingly.

62  
63 The second chapter also highlights the continued struggle of women and children  
64 especially concerning their role in water consumption. The Council has noted the success  
65 of past programs, but is distressed by the substantial amount of remaining communities  
66 left without access to these most basic life necessities. The panel discussed how  
67 providing accessible drinking water and basic sanitation not only affects the day-to-day  
68 domestic life of a family, but is also a huge factor in disease prevention.

69 **CHAPTER I**

70

71 **Matters Calling for Action by the General Assembly or Brought to Its**

72 **Attention**

73

74 **A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly**

76 i. Draft Resolution I/1

78 *The Human Rights Council,*

80 *Acknowledging* the importance of sustainable sources of safe purified drinking water  
81 worldwide,

82

83 *Noting* the rapid increase in urban water-borne diseases in developing Member States  
84 and the 3.4 million people who die yearly from water related disease,

85

86 *Considering* that the Purple Pipe Policy (P3) has been used in developed Member  
87 States to provide municipal facilities with water without reducing the water available for  
88 urban areas,

89

90 *Recognizing* the success the P3 program has had in the United States and Europe,

91

92 1. *Recommends* that the P3 be instituted in developing Member States which have  
93 capacity and that the excess water synthesized be directed to in-need areas;

94

95 2. *Expresses its hope* that developed Member States will provide aid in the form of  
96 education, technology transfers, and expertise from relevant officials in waste water  
97 treatment;

98

99 3. *Recognizes* the potential for improvement in the following areas, including but not  
100 limited to:

101 (a) Secondary level treatment standardization

102 (b) Pathogen testing methods

103 (c) Recycling of micturition;

104

105 4. *Hopes* that the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will  
106 review and implement this policy with assistance from the Commission On Sustainable  
107 Development (CSD).

108

109

110 *Passed, Yes: 21 / No: 0 / Abstain: 10*

111 **CHAPTER II**

112

113 **Consideration of Right to Safe Water and Sanitation**

114

115 At its fourth meeting, on 18 November 2012, the Council considered agenda topic  
116 one, The Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation. Many issues were  
117 considered, including but not limited to: the possible implementation of an emergency  
118 system, avenues for addressing the global water crisis, the role of non-governmental  
119 organizations (NGO's), and concerns specific to geographic regions.

120

121 **A. Deliberations**

122

123 **i. European Union Bloc**

124

125 The European Union bloc discussed possible environmental changes as a concern  
126 that may cause issues with water and sanitation. It has come to the attention of the  
127 Human Rights Council (HRC) that an emergency system may need to be addressed. It is  
128 essential to ensure sustainable solutions despite possible climate changes that could affect  
129 sanitation and the water supply in Member States. For example, Spain called upon their  
130 temporary solution regarding water ships in 2008. Short-term aid is encouraged with  
131 emphasis on long-term, sustainable solutions despite environmental disruptions.

132

133 Representatives from the European Union discussed the use of the Purple Pipe Policy  
134 (P<sup>3</sup>). This policy utilizes excess water synthesized in waste water treatment to address  
135 needs in urban areas. P<sup>3</sup> would be used to alleviate stress caused by water pollution in  
136 rapidly urbanizing areas. It is of great concern to the delegations of the Human Rights  
137 Council to preserve state sovereignty in these issues. The P<sup>3</sup> system is based on the  
138 United States' method of reclaiming waste water. This procedure has been widely used in  
139 the European Union, and has proven an effective method for providing water to areas in  
140 need. The body recommends that this policy be expanded to areas in need, and  
141 implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

142

143 In addition, representatives discussed streamlining to increase the effectiveness and  
144 the productivity of existing initiatives, and consolidating resources to more effectively  
145 address the issue at hand. The representatives expressed that there is a current redundancy  
146 in the initiatives worldwide and that resources need to be brought together to more  
147 effectively combat this issue. Current NGO's overlap in many ways; therefore, funding  
148 could be allocated more efficiently if the General Assembly reduces these parallels and  
149 increases specificity among current infrastructures.

150

151 **ii. African and Assorted Member States Bloc**

152

153 Ethiopia, Kenya, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Pakistan,  
154 Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Rwanda, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South  
155 Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom met as a group and  
156 discussed issues facing Africa in regards to Water and Sanitation Rights. This group

157 believes that these two issues should be dealt with simultaneously: new water sources  
158 must be established, and both current and new water sources must be sanitized.

159  
160 One of the concerns raised was how to address the issue of providing access to water  
161 to vulnerable populations; these Member States expressed the opinion that wells have the  
162 potential to be an excellent solution. These wells could be installed by existing non-  
163 governmental organizations (NGOs) such as United States Agency for International  
164 Development (USAID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and others mentioned  
165 later in the report. European Member States should provide professionals in this craft to  
166 educate the native people on how to maintain these wells, and as to how to create their  
167 own. This education is key to making water accessible to all people. In the short-term,  
168 however, NGOs are still needed to provide water immediately.

169  
170 Cameroon believes that, other than wells, rainwater collection would provide a readily  
171 accessible water source. Not only is it simple and cost-effective, but collection has  
172 countless uses, including for cleaning and agriculture. Drinking water is the most obvious  
173 use, provided that it is stored in a tank that can be accessed and cleaned when needed.  
174 Since rainwater collectors and storage tanks are easy to build, they can quickly provide  
175 independent water supply for households. Studies in New Guinea have shown that when  
176 individual homes have their own water supply, 56% fewer cases of diarrhea occur than in  
177 homes that get their water from standpipes or community based water sources.

178  
179 Pakistan agrees with Cameroon and suggests that, beyond home collection,  
180 government rainwater collection systems on rooftops of public buildings could act as  
181 reservoirs that distribute the collected water equally during drought. Furthermore, these  
182 governments should push to ensure people have enough water containers to collect and  
183 store water cleanly. This body would coordinate with standing NGOs experienced in this  
184 craft to implement these systems. These sentiments are agreed upon by Kenya and Cote  
185 d'Ivoire.

186  
187 The delegates from Canada are of the opinion that the United Nations should  
188 consider how individual state governments would be monitored; this is to ensure the  
189 cooperation between governments and organizations whose efforts are aimed at  
190 distributing water, whether regional or global. NGOs may work for some Member States,  
191 but may not be met with cooperation by corrupt states. Since NGOs are often met with  
192 violence, Canada feels that it is important to discuss alternative, civil methods of  
193 monitoring.

194  
195 As a means of combating the actions of states deemed corrupt, Nigeria believes that a  
196 party other than the governments in question should monitor the distribution of water.  
197 Nigeria suggests that to better ensure that areas in need of water receive it, a penalty  
198 system as exists to uphold the laws of some Member States. This would mean that while  
199 no country will be forced to distribute their clean water based on need, if they did not  
200 comply, the Member State might lose funding without crippling the Member State or its  
201 projects. Kenya agrees with the concerns expressed by Canada and also agrees with  
202 Nigeria that a third party that remains independent could be a possible solution.

203

204 Sri Lanka expresses concern with Nigeria's suggestions, believing they are a violation  
205 of national sovereignty in giving up control of resources to other states or parties. Sri  
206 Lanka further believes the proposed penalty tax is not productive and seems to penalize  
207 states rather than giving them incentive to provide clean water.

208

209 Another concern voiced by multiple Member States was that, while systems are in  
210 place to help our countries improve their water resources, many countries are still not  
211 making progress. An effort must be made to determine why this is.

212

213 Morocco stresses the importance of the allocation of water in rural areas not only for  
214 consumption, but for agriculture as well. This Council is willing to work with NGOs to  
215 discover with practical solutions to this problem. Overall, the access to water is a large  
216 problem in Africa, but The Council is optimistic that the issue can be resolved.

217

218 The Council believes that just as important to sanitation is access. Studies have  
219 reviewed the reduction in disease associated with different combinations of monetary  
220 investments in water quantity, water quality, sanitation, and the promotion of hygiene.  
221 These studies suggest that the largest reductions in diarrhea morbidity (approximately  
222 30%) come from investing in either sanitation only, water and sanitation, or hygiene only.  
223 The lowest reductions, 15-20%, came from investing in water quantity only or a  
224 combination of water quality and quantity without complementary investments in hygiene  
225 or in sanitation. From these results alone, The Council can see the importance of  
226 educating the population of hygiene and sanitation measures in addition to simply  
227 increasing access to water.

228

229 A cost-effective and easy way to provide sanitation is through sanitation tablets.  
230 Unfortunately, this is not sustainable long-term. Once again, education is key in the long-  
231 term. The communities in question should be taught how to maintain sanitary conditions.

232

233 Furthermore, water treatment plants would be a very effective way to maintain long-  
234 term sanitation. The delegate from Pakistan stresses that Pakistan lacks infrastructure,  
235 particularly plumbing, which leads to sanitation problems for previously clean water and  
236 the use of unhealthy spaces as disposal areas. Pakistan would suggest educating the  
237 concerned peoples on gravity flow systems of water lines and plumbing when available to  
238 take away from costs of building. The gravity flow methodology creates stronger water  
239 lines that are longer lasting. If countries have plumbing and water lines, sanitation would  
240 improve and the people would have access to clean water not polluted by improper waste  
241 procedures. Many Member States agree with this sentiment. Kenya further stresses that  
242 education is a very important factor in improving sanitation.

243

244 Cote d'Ivoire believes that sanitation can be best addressed through the following  
245 short-term solutions. Extinguishable purification products can be used: namely, water  
246 purification tablets and bleach (in proportional, appropriate and closely-monitored  
247 amounts). The latter method would likely require education in addition to the material  
248 resources to ensure that villagers do not accidentally poison themselves. Tanzania adds

249 that solar purification of water in bottles would be effective. Level one recyclable bottles  
250 can serve as purification systems if filled with water and left in the sun for 6 hours: the  
251 sun exposure kills most potential toxins, making it safe to drink. This system is called the  
252 Sustainable Organic and Low-Impact Dairying (SOLID) project and is recommended by  
253 the World Health Organization (WHO). Tanzania also suggests using less filtered water  
254 for toilets and showering, instead using adequately filtered water for drinking. Villagers  
255 should also be educated on the separation of water: namely, to use certain sources for  
256 hygienic purposes and other sources for consumption . This would save both time and  
257 money. Kenya and many other Member States in this group agree with these thoughts. In  
258 particular, Cote d'Ivoire emphasizes that the separation of water would allow water  
259 sources to be maximized and would minimize the amount of water that needs to be  
260 treated.

261

262 A long-term solution that could be more permanent was discussed, this would be by  
263 using existing accessible structures. Ultra Violet (UV) Water Purification plants are  
264 energy efficient and environmentally friendly. The process is similar to pasteurization and  
265 removes most bacterial impurities. In the long-term, the costs to both build and maintain  
266 the plants are much more cost-friendly than the short-term solutions combined. As  
267 previously mentioned, wells could also be used to procure ground water.

268

269 Another effective way to create better sanitation is through education. Villagers  
270 should be educated on how to build and maintain the structures implemented in their  
271 villages for water purification. This will not only help them repair their own structures,  
272 but also build them in the future to further help their communities. Basic sanitation  
273 concepts that prevent spread of disease, such as washing one's hands, should be taught.  
274 This would prevent the spread of controllable diseases and factors. A special target should  
275 be placed on women and children when educating the public, as they are a heavily  
276 affected group. Pakistan agrees with the ideas about education and further emphasizes a  
277 push towards encouraging training and awareness on sanitation as a part of the curriculum  
278 in schools. The body also agrees that media is another way to advise the global  
279 community on healthy practices.

280

281 The Council also came to the conclusion that hygienic facilities should be provided  
282 for people to excrete safely and hygienically. Moreover, communities also need to be  
283 educated on how to install the toilets. This is largely because a predominant problem is  
284 the lack of knowledge concerning their installation. This body notes that there is an  
285 organization called the World Toilet Organization that focuses on safe excretion and on  
286 creating places for rural communities to excrete bodily fluids safely. Another option is the  
287 Global Sanitation Fund. The Global Sanitation Fund focuses on African countries that  
288 need proper sanitation and give millions of United States' dollars to assist in this matter.  
289 The World Bank is also very involved in this.

290

291 Providing communities with soap to wash their hands is another very effective way to  
292 improve sanitation. The body notes that Public-Private Partnership for Hand-washing  
293 With Soap has been proven to be effective in Senegal. They received technical assistance  
294 from international partnerships housed at the World Bank, such as the Water and



295 Sanitation Program's Global Scaling Up Hand-washing Project. A similar program could  
296 be implemented.

297

298 South Sudan, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone feel that their Member States would benefit  
299 from public water rights; allowing private distribution companies into our respective  
300 Member States would create a much stronger infrastructure for water distribution as well  
301 as sanitation commissions. These Member States believe that having the United Nations  
302 create guidelines and oversight to prevent monopolies and or price gouging would make  
303 this implementation successful.

304

305 South Sudan, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone also feel it should be required that any  
306 private entity investing in the water infrastructure of Member States must hire a majority  
307 of their employees from the host Member State. The companies must also reinvest a  
308 certain amount of their profits back into that Member State in either the water market and  
309 or another industry that would benefit the people and stimulate the economy. Allowing  
310 these companies entrance would help educate the people in disease recognition and the  
311 creation of technologies to combat it. These companies could create a much better  
312 solution for us in the long-term because they establish infrastructure. They could also fuel  
313 local economies by hiring private security to defend their industry. This solution could not  
314 only increase accessibility of water in remote regions but also expand developing  
315 economies.

316

317 The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia suggested that the bodies entertaining  
318 public/private partnerships should consider the possibility of corruption that may occur  
319 when a private distribution company is in control of a developing nation's precious water  
320 supply. Although foreign investments and NGO support are essential, the Former  
321 Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would feel more comfortable considering the  
322 recruitment of water purification and management companies by the local governments as  
323 contractors or partners of the process; the Member State also urges the parties debating  
324 this issue to take these factors into account.

325

326 Pakistan agrees on the use of private distribution for water: should these private  
327 sector companies be brought in, they ought to hire from within Member States. Pakistan  
328 also stresses that this method could be a better long-term solution than the  
329 implementation of NGOs. However, Pakistan would like to add that the United Nations  
330 can only create guidelines as are necessary and does not have much oversight. Therefore,  
331 Pakistan would benefit from less involvement from the United Nations beyond initial  
332 support and would prefer to regulate these companies with their own restrictions.

333

334 Canada expressed that while special attention should be given to the recognition of  
335 state sovereignty, there would possibly be the need for some sort of intervention from  
336 some greater authority (African Union, United Nations, et cetera) with regards to more  
337 corrupt governments in order to ensure that resources provided by third parties are  
338 efficiently and appropriately distributed. Otherwise, Canada does agree with many of the  
339 ideas that were presented and will support efforts to educate the people and make use of  
340 their existing water sources. Access to clean drinking water is a human right that Canada

341 feels is universal.

342

343 Congo expressed issues with water management. More specifically, these issues are  
344 connected to power cuts, waste from factories, population increase, and bad sewage  
345 networks. Only 11% of Congo's rural population has access to drinking water. The  
346 Congolese government has no formal water policy in place. The delegation from Congo  
347 feel that governments need to support action with sewage systems in rural areas.

348

349 Togo and Ethiopia are submitting the following information on possible NGOs, other  
350 organizations, and possible solutions that the General Assembly could look into  
351 supporting. The Member States contributing to this chapter of the report agree with Togo  
352 and Ethiopia's findings.

353

#### 354 1. Water.org

355

356 a. This program works with a number of different categories of communities, people  
357 and groups and is demand-driven. The local communities would have to request their  
358 presence and assistance. What follows is further details about Water.org:

359

360 i. Local Partners know how to best solve their problems. Becoming partners with  
361 some of these local organizations creates empowerment and a sense of leadership. Job  
362 opportunities are also created for the indigenous people in the communities and more  
363 importantly providing access to resources like water for people in these local  
364 communities. Since Water.org is not tied to any single partner organization and is  
365 constantly searching for funds, Togo and Ethiopia suggest that the United Nations assists  
366 in funding the project since it is more specific to the affected communities and to  
367 vulnerable groups.

368

369 ii. Ethiopia and Togo agreed that for this to be successful, communities themselves must  
370 be empowered. It is therefore important to engage the communities at every stage of the  
371 project: from planning, to building, to financing, and maintaining that this project is  
372 ongoing regardless of whether it is funded entirely by a grant or involves WaterCredit  
373 (small loans for water and sanitation).

374

#### 375 2. Utilizing Appropriate Technology

376

377 a. Togo suggests educating the communities involved so they may better understand  
378 the technologies used and the implementations used specific to their area and situation.  
379 Furthermore, the technologies of wells building. This is a cost-effective means of putting  
380 into consideration the fact that the wells they build range between 4000-7000 dollars. The  
381 Council advises that wells are a cost-effective means of creating a clean water resource  
382 for both areas.

383

#### 384 3. Intensive Training and Education of Communities.

385

386 a. The local committees formed would be educated on hygiene and sanitation

387 therefore creating motivation for them to further educate members within their  
388 communities.

389

#### 390 4. Measuring and Monitoring Success

391

392 a. Ethiopia and Togo are aware that measuring and monitoring the success of new  
393 initiatives involves rigorous monitoring and evaluations. It is therefore the  
394 recommendation of the Council that the local committees involved provide quarterly  
395 reports about the progress of these initiatives. As Water.org is already implemented in  
396 large parts both in Eastern and Western Africa, these Member States would like to urge  
397 other African countries to consider Water.org as an option/resource for sustainable  
398 education and production of water systems.

399

#### 400 5. The WaterCredit Initiative

401

402 a. By increasing small loans to individuals and communities in developing countries  
403 like Togo and Ethiopia who do not have access to traditional credit markets, this program  
404 empowers people to immediately address their own water needs and gives the community  
405 a sense of responsibility and pertains to the country's sovereignty.

406

407 i. Although there was clarification on this topic as to the role of this NGO in  
408 financially assisting developing countries, the was concerned with the use of the phrase  
409 “small loans to individuals and communities... who do not have access to traditional  
410 credit markets...” The Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia requests that the body  
411 taking this report into consideration will clearly define how and what exactly is meant by  
412 individual loans and how precisely the initiative—or the United Nations—plans to  
413 accurately monitor the use of such funds to avoid abuse of the loans by individuals or  
414 communities and therefore prevent corruption.

415

#### 416 6. USAID:

417

418 a. USAID has several programs in Africa that assist in the provision of water supply  
419 and hygiene (WASH) assistance through more than 24 regional country missions and 3  
420 regional missions. This organization works with host governments and institutions to  
421 create a new WASH portfolio that includes:

422

423 i. Improving sanitation in schools in eleven countries creating a safe, healthy  
424 environment where children can learn.

425

426 ii. Put a main focus on the vulnerable members of society. This includes the  
427 women and children and one way USAID aids them is by improving household sanitation  
428 and hygiene by providing them with education and improved conditions of living.

429

430 iii. Nearly \$10 million dollars in funding is allocated for household level water,  
431 sanitation and hygiene interventions such as promoting safe storage of water and water  
432 treatment at the point of use.

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iv. Nineteen USAID missions are providing targeted support in expansion of sanitation services with activities ranging from creating demand for sanitation and training entrepreneurs to meet this demand to advising on the safe disposal of waste. Further programs programs include:

1. Home Improvement Project (HIP) with the aim of reducing diarrhea disease and increase child survival through sustainable improvements in key hygiene behaviors like using hand washing soap, safe feces disposal and sage storage and treatment of drinking water at the household level. ([www.hip.watsan.net](http://www.hip.watsan.net))

2. West Africa Water Initiative (WAWI) based on the vision of the Conrad H. Hilton Foundation is a \$45 million public-private partnership that grew from experience with World Vision and other NGO partners. WAWI is also engaged in Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and integrated water resources management activities that have benefited several people in West Africa. ([www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/water/wawi.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/wawi.html))

3. Sustainable Water and Sanitation for Africa (SUWASA). This is a new \$20 million program by USAID to promote innovative reform and financing approaches to provision of water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

4. Water Operations Partnerships (AWOPs) which shares best practices and builds utility capacity African-Led Initiatives. Ethiopia agrees that African Led initiatives are very critical in ensuring sustainability of reform and growth. Both Togo and Ethiopia are aware that USAID is supporting the African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW) in providing political leadership and policy direction in the provision, use and management of water resources. Ethiopia also has knowledge of the fact that USAID is assisting the new African through operator to operator partnerships across the continent.

5. USAID/The Coca-Cola Company Water and Development Alliance (WADA). We are aware that WADA plays a role in increasing access to water supply and sanitation services for those that are impoverished and protecting high value watersheds and water sources. With \$20 million of funding to date, WADA is addressing water needs in countries like Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

Additionally, Ethiopia is aware of the fact that the source of USAID's funding comes from US taxpayers money which is approved by congress in United States to aid these developing countries in Africa.

Another organization that can be looked into and specific to South Africa is AWARD. AWARD is commonly known as Association for Water and Rural Development. It is an NGO in South Africa that works on water supply in the broader context of managing water resources and their utility with a focus on learning about water security issues in the Sand River Catchment area.

479 AWARD has two programs that can be useful in implementing wise utility of these  
480 water resources and managing them. These include; Save the Sand Program and Securing  
481 Water to Enhance Local Livelihoods (SWELL) program. Togo and Ethiopia were both  
482 convinced that it will be useful to especially implement the SWELL program in majority  
483 of the South African countries. SWELL partners with several local and national  
484 government institutions to play several roles like: assess the use in planning of water  
485 resources in the Sand River Catchment (SRC), state of water services infrastructure,  
486 people's livelihood context in SRC, and opportunities supplementary resources like rain  
487 water harvesting, etc. SWELL also involves the communities in identifying their priority  
488 water needs, plan and implement different water projects most of which were developed  
489 in 2005/6, and identify capacity requirements for management of these water resources  
490 and maintenance of these water services programs. From here, they develop a monitoring  
491 and evaluation program for sustainability.

492

493 Other organizations were identified as good resources many of these African  
494 countries to utilize in regards to making sure there is access to water and good sanitation  
495 provided to all populations especially the vulnerable populations like women and  
496 children. These include; Red Cross, UNICEF and several others.

497

498 Overall, the African Nations believe that water is a crucial issue and needs to be dealt  
499 with accordingly. The Council believes that access must be provided for all, sanitation  
500 must be improved, and education must be provided. If these three key issues can be  
501 addressed, then the essential human right of water will be legitimized in Africa and the  
502 continent can move forward.

503

### 504 **iii. East Asian, Latin American, and Assorted Member States Bloc**

505

506 Singapore, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, The Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Yemen, Brazil,  
507 Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Argentina, and Panama came together to discuss the  
508 human right to water and sanitation. The human right to water and sanitation is integral  
509 for all societies, and mankind as a whole. Any diminished access to drinking water or  
510 sanitation has fundamentally crippling effects for any society, and creates a perpetual  
511 cycle of poverty and sickness. Water contamination by pollution and communicable  
512 diseases lead to several waterborne illnesses. As a moral authority, it is the obligation of  
513 this Council to uphold all rights concerning greater access to water and sanitation, and  
514 what can be done to strengthen those International Human Rights.

515

516 Member States spoke about their obligations to pursue this goal. Member states  
517 expressed their concern for existing, education-based programs with regards to sanitation.  
518 The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam voiced their concerns and frustrations with not being  
519 able to realize their deepest convictions due to their inability to build their own capacity.  
520 The committee agreed that the purpose of education is to develop an understanding of the  
521 appropriate use and access to water and sanitation, that would eventually lead to states  
522 being able to further build their capacities. The normalization of positive sanitation  
523 practices will ultimately lead to greater overall wellness. Greater education in the fields  
524 of water and sanitation will ultimately lead countries to realize their greatest convictions,

525 as well as the associated Millennium Development Goals, particularly goal number 7,  
526 which is to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without increased access to water and  
527 basic sanitation.

528  
529 Member States of the HRC recommended hygiene education programs, within the  
530 purview of the United Nations and the state itself was discussed, both as a preventable  
531 and a sustainable means to habitually increase sanitation levels. There are preexisting  
532 programs that have been developed to foster the education of water and sanitation. One  
533 nation has an International Water Week that focuses on developments in new technology  
534 and stresses the importance of water usage to promote sustainability, notably the UNICEF  
535 initiative, Global Hand Washing Day. Individual governments, with the support of the  
536 international community, are highly encouraged to undertake their own hygiene and  
537 sanitation-based initiatives. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea voiced the need for more  
538 equitable education levels between both urban and rural areas. Several members of the  
539 committee cited the community led Total Sanitation Project that is piloted by UNICEF.  
540 The Total Sanitation Project has proven to be successful in over 20 countries particularly  
541 the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

542  
543 Member States expressed their concern for vulnerable groups, namely women and  
544 children, and the detrimental effects on the vulnerable demographics that a lack of access  
545 to water and sanitation causes. There was a general concern for the inequitable  
546 distribution of water and sanitation between urban and rural areas. Due to the inequitable  
547 distribution of water, education specific to the regional conditions should be addressed. In  
548 particular, rural regions should be educated about practices to sterilize water to make  
549 potable water for human consumption. The Council also discussed that preventing  
550 pollution in urban areas it starts at the individual level. Citizens of urban areas need to be  
551 educated about the dangers of defecating openly, and that open defecation is not  
552 acceptable as it contaminates the water, which further adds to pollution and hinders  
553 economic growth.

554  
555 Therefore, the HRC recognizes the need for implementable solutions. These  
556 solutions are adaptable templates that can be voluntarily used by all states. These  
557 particular programs are important because they can help this body fulfill Millennium  
558 Development Goals, specifically goal number 7 that relates directly to the human right to  
559 safe drinking water and sanitation. Additionally, it is of particular concern that there is  
560 available clean drinking water to vulnerable populations, such as both urban and rural  
561 inhabitants and women. This is in accordance to Millennium Goals 3 and 5, as unsanitary  
562 drinking water and a lack of access can have a severe impact on prenatal health and on  
563 vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

564  
565 There are various programs that can be implemented to improve water resource  
566 management capacity, one of which is entitled the Sustainable Cities Program; a United  
567 Nations-based consulting and capacity building program successfully carried out by the  
568 UN Human Settlement Project and the UN Environmental Program in cities in Sri Lanka,  
569 Zimbabwe, Peru, and others. This is four-phased plan, consisting of initial assessment of  
570 issues, strategy and action planning, implementation of demonstrative projects, and re-

571 evaluation of said programs and their continued replication throughout the country. This  
572 proposed plan is an entirely voluntary program that is considerate of local, municipal, and  
573 federal needs and has set beginning and end dates. The goals of this program are to  
574 increase good governance with significant transparency and accountability of water  
575 management and sanitation, a reduction in environmental deterioration, and to increase  
576 the role of stakeholders in managing their own water resources.

577  
578 Phase One is essentially an evaluation by the United Nations and technical experts on  
579 the state of the water management system. The East Asian bloc recommends, however,  
580 that this program have its purview expanded to include smaller municipalities and  
581 villages as well, and to amend issues of gender and urban-rural water inequalities.

582  
583 Phase Two would involve strategic and action planning through seminars with  
584 relevant actors and officials, and would involved critical evaluations as well. At this  
585 point, technical resources would be provided by the United Nations and program sponsors  
586 at heavily subsidized costs. The goal of this step is to develop capacity and the necessary  
587 knowledge for management implementation.

588  
589 Phase Three is the implementation of the action plan developed. This action plan  
590 includes various specific water resource conservation and sanitation-related practices and  
591 specific projects to showcase this, such as mass installations of eco-toilets, or self  
592 biodegrading toilets, metered water practices and installation, establishments of specific  
593 water management districts with community based resource management boards, and  
594 many others. These projects are used as an experiment in a smaller capacity before their  
595 use in the larger country.

596  
597 Afterward, these projects are then reevaluated in Phase Four, where they are then  
598 replicated throughout the country. At this point, the country has enough capacity built up  
599 to undertake full nation projects.

600  
601 There are many other programs that can be implemented within Member States. One  
602 example can be found in Singapore through the New Water initiative, a public-private  
603 partnership to improve water quality with the help of private industry and consulting.  
604 Many other programs can also be undertaken through NGO interactions. NGOs provide a  
605 non-government based solution that may be able to directly reach local populations or can  
606 cooperate with state actors to improve water sanitation and management more directly  
607 without as much bureaucracy. NGOs such as Jewish Heart for Africa and Engineers  
608 Without Borders can help to accomplish effective water resource protection and  
609 management.

610  
611 The Member States of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru  
612 and Portugal would like to respectfully dissent from the East Asian bloc on the opinion  
613 regarding the utilization of existing programs regarding water sanitation. These Member  
614 States recommend that, instead of maintaining previously installed programs to combat  
615 these issues, a new initiative should be introduced in order to address the issues of water  
616 allocation, sanitation, and education.

617

618 The Republic of Argentina feels that while public management of water may be  
619 suitable for some Member States, it is by no means the only way to distribute water  
620 equally and efficiently. We in no way support public distribution of water as the only or  
621 best solution for any Member States to consider the privatization of water and sanitation  
622 as an option.

623

#### 624 **iv. Former Soviet Nations and the Balkans**

625

626 When considering the allocation of water resources within developing countries and  
627 states that share or have limited access to such resources, the international community  
628 must realize that the allocation of water resources by one state will have effects on not  
629 only the citizens of that Member State but also the regional community.

630

631 Of utmost importance is the consideration of fresh water sources namely lakes,  
632 rivers, oasis, etc. which are the subjects of territorial disputes or which cross or are  
633 divided by international borders. In accordance with Resolution 63/124 (15 January  
634 2009), these resources must be allocated in such a way that the benefits provided by all  
635 infrastructural improvements in one state will not inhibit the potential benefits of another.

636

637 The secondary concern is the desire to provide such benefits equally among the rural  
638 and urban populations of each state and to ensure that any infrastructure aimed at  
639 improving the lives of one do not detract from the standing benefits already enjoyed by  
640 the other.

641

642 Lastly, each nation and region must realize that certain government projects aimed at  
643 reallocation of water sources or other infrastructural improvements concerning these  
644 resources are prone to violate the livelihoods and lifestyles of native and aboriginal  
645 peoples. Therefore each independent state and the international community must proceed  
646 in accordance with resolution 47/135 (18 December 1992) to insure that these ethno-  
647 national, religious, or other minority groups receive due compensation and aid in case of  
648 cultural/traditional disruptions.

649

650 The continuation of government programs relevant to these projects must be  
651 supplemented by:

652

653 1. Foreign investments

654

655 2. Consolidation and cooperation among NGOs and humanitarian organizations

656

657 3. Creation of a specific and carefully organized system of regions of cooperation  
658 according to their proximity to vital fresh water sources or shared ethnography-cultural-  
659 religious backgrounds

660

661 4. The involvement of an existing body to monitor and facilitate cooperation and progress  
662 within specific individual states.



663

664       When any state is experiencing difficulties, is proceeding slowly, or is under duress,  
665 it is the duty of the designated region states to assist or otherwise cooperate with the  
666 former upon their request, keeping in mind that the stability of resource reallocation and  
667 other projects will benefit or hinder the regional interests. In addition, when any region is  
668 experiencing these same problems, the international community will respond accordingly  
669 with respect for all issues of sovereignty.

670

#### 671 **v. Armenia, Bulgaria, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

672

673       Women and children are disproportionately disadvantaged by the difficulties faced  
674 when gaining access to vital water sources. Vital water sources refer to both sanitary  
675 potable water and the use of unpolluted water for agricultural and domestic use. Having  
676 recently obtained the Millennium Development Goal of substantially reducing the  
677 number of people without safe drinking water and being on track to reach the goals for  
678 2015, it nevertheless is essential to note that after the attainment of these goals, over 800  
679 million will still be without potable water and 1.8 billion will not have access to basic  
680 sanitation. HRC/RES/18/1 notes that this problem is punctuated by the high rate of  
681 mortality among children under the age of five due to diarrhea as a result of the lack of  
682 basic sanitation. This resolution also underlines that water and sanitation related diseases  
683 are main factors in preventing children from receiving education with a loss of 443  
684 million school days. The provisions made in Article 14 (2) made by CEDAW on the  
685 state's responsibility to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation, especially the  
686 negative influences on women due to discrimination and marginalization, urge all states  
687 to take measures towards ending discrimination against women with emphasis on those  
688 living in rural areas while keeping existing initiatives in mind. Since women and children  
689 are the primary group affected by difficulties in accessing safe water and sanitation, it is  
690 important to recognize their role that their education accomplishing the aims of Goal # 7  
691 of the Millennium Goals.

692

#### 693 **vi. Middle Eastern Bloc**

694

695       The Middle Eastern States would encourage further research and application of  
696 renewable energy sources that are alternative to hydro-power. Renewable energy sources  
697 could include wind power, biomass-based plants, PV plants, and solar heat.

698

699       The rapid urbanization of many Middle Eastern States has led to the pollution of  
700 water sources, mainly as an effect of untreated sewage. Middle Eastern Member States  
701 would look favorably upon further research and application of the use of nanotechnology  
702 to cleanse water.

703

704

705 **CHAPTER III**

706

707 **Adoption of the Report**

708

709       At its meeting on 20 November 2012, the draft report of the Human Rights Council  
710 on the right to safe water and sanitation was made available for consideration. The  
711 Council considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus  
712 with zero abstentions.