



American Model United Nations
General Assembly Third Committee

GA Third/II/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Third Committee

The General Assembly Third Committee,

1 *Reaffirming* resolution 64/292 from 28 July 2010,

2 *Recognizing* access to clean drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental human right implicit in the
3 International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,

4 *Recalling* the lack of accessible water resources in many parts of the world, including, but not limited to -
5 island, underdeveloped, rural, and water scarce regions,

6 *Deeply disturbed by* the overt consequences of water shortages on health, education, hunger, and poverty,

7 *Noting* the success of projects such as the Orangi Pilot Project in creating innovative solutions to the lack
8 of clean water and sanitation services,

9 *Noting* the absence of knowledge on proper hygiene and sanitation in developing nations,

10 *Taking into consideration* the costs of increasing access to water and giving communities better sanitation,
11 and the necessity of doing so,

12 *Acknowledging* the success of approaches that have given communities a stake in the companies that provide
13 them clean water,

14 *Further recalling* that rural areas have often been neglected by governments, and that women are dispropor-
15 tionately affected by a lack of clean sanitation,

16 1. *Recommends* that existing United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to
17 focus their operations with regards to water and sanitation into specific categories such as:

18 (a) Research and training;

19 (i) By focusing on the research of new solutions to water and sanitation issues and the implementation
20 of new and existing solutions;

21 (b) Health and social development;

22 (i) By focusing on improving health conditions in Member States, and specifically addressing women's
23 health issues and the social implications of women's lack of access to sanitation services;

24 2. *Encourages* the introduction of atmospheric water generators (AWG), which extracts water from the air
25 to be utilized by communities, regions, or territories to a Member State's discretion:

26 (a) Sustainable practices using portable solar and wind powered generators to provide purified water
27 in rural, unsanitary water accessibility, islands with Trunz Water Systems;

28 3. *Affirming* the resources available from NGOs, such as the American Red Cross, Hope of Life International,
29 Water for Good, Engineers without Borders, etc. that would aid developing Member States in purchasing AWGs
30 and encourages the strengthening of relations of member states with NGOs;

31 4. *Emphasizing* the benefits of involving local communities in the process of providing water through the
32 atmospheric water generators:

33 (a) Empower entrepreneurs to solve the problem locally by encouraging NGOs to fund them with
34 information and financial resources;

35 (b) Bridges nonprofit and for-profit organizations, maximizing income for individuals, but improving
36 health and safety;

37 (c) Recommends that Member States consider encouraging "people power" projects in which;

38 (i) Community members are given administrative duties within companies providing sanitation so-
39 lutions;

40 (d) Encourages financing via companies should be encouraged in communities that have been ignored
41 because of low socio-economic backgrounds and inconvenient geographical regions;

42 5. *Urges* the adoption of education campaigns across developing countries to increase public understanding
43 of water sanitation issues, expanding current United Nations programs in order to reach a larger population:

44 (a) Water education in schools based on the United Nations International Children's Emergency
45 Fund (UNICEF) WASH model (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene);

46 (b) Increased education on the spread of water-borne and diarrheal diseases that come from unclean
47 drinking water and improper sanitation;

48 (c) Education and training of water technicians and research professionals;

49 (d) Community education, particularly in rural areas;

50 6. *Recommends* the creation of a voluntary Clean Water fund:

51 (a) That will be voluntarily donated to based on the gross domestic product and water scarcity
52 status of each Member State;

53 (b) That will be used for the purposes of increased investments into technologies;

54 (i) To make existing technologies more accessible and efficient such as;

55 A. Desalination plants;

56 B. Biofilms microorganism technologies;

57 (ii) To incentivize the invention of new technologies;

58 7. *Encourages* region specific education for at risk communities to address the issue of water contamination
59 and sanitation:

60 (a) The use of programs targeted for communities which cover the multi-faceted methods of water
61 purification;

62 (b) The promotion of sanitation practices to ensure the decrease of risks associated with waterborne
63 diseases and related illness;

64 (c) The particular focus on children and women who are at the most risk;

65 (d) The awareness on water and sanitation issues is vital to success;

66 8. *Calls upon* Member States to regulate non-state actors such as NGOs and domestic organizations to
67 exercise environmental water practices and reduce contamination:

68 (a) The encouragement of organizations and businesses to undertake practices that ensure the greater
69 well being and health of persons;

70 (b) The encouragement of the use of micro-loan NGOs such as water.org to promote the sovereignty
71 of all Member States in the creation of safe, accessible, acceptable, and affordable water and sanitation systems;

72 (i) Recognizes that most NGOs are "hands on" and may infringe on the sovereignty of small de-
73 veloping Member States, especially island Member States. The use of a micro-loan NGO allows
74 the Member State to do with the money what they see fitting, without the introduction of non-
75 government bodies into the Member States;

76 9. *Requests* natural resources be allocated to rural areas by expanding aid to the most vulnerable communities
77 by:

78 (a) Addressing the higher cost of water in rural areas leading to an unsustainable model;

79 (b) Promoting the installation of legal decentralized water distribution systems, which includes rain
80 collection, water recycling, well construction, and pump construction;

81 (c) Creating democratic cooperatives with elected board official to decide the implementation of
82 financing water systems;

83 (d) Urging IGOs (World Bank) and NGOs (UNICEF) to continue to support poor populations and
84 rural areas;

85 (e) Forming community members from the work force to construct the water systems. As a result,
86 rural areas would gain ownership over their water systems;

87 10. *Recommends* water testing in Member States with high risk of pollution both air and water;

88 11. *Recognizes* the lack of proper infrastructure for clean water and sanitation in many Member States, and
89 stressing that water investment indeed does yield at least a 300% return in economy;

90 12. *Encourages* distribution of lead testing kits and if positive for lead, we encourage the refurbishment of
91 water mains;

92 13. *Encourages* water quality control through public awareness education campaigns regarding the dangers
93 of lead poisoning and the signs that it may exist and how to utilize proper regulated connection points to water
94 sources;

95 14. *Encourages* increased sanitary protection zones by:

96 (a) Maintaining sanitary facilities;

97 (b) Establishing clear ownership of facilities;

98 15. *Encourages* collaboration between public and private sector to ensure facilities are maintained to proper
99 health standards.

Passed, Yes: 63 / No: 5 / Abstain: 2