



American Model United Nations
Human Rights Council

HRC/I/1

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

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

1 *Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which outlines the inherent human rights that every
2 person is entitled to,

3 *Emphasizing* the importance of the human right to safe drinking water and effective sanitation systems as
4 outlined in Resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010,

5 *Recalling* Article 2.7 of the United Nations Charter, which states that “nothing contained in the present
6 Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic juris-
7 diction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter...”,

8 *Fully aware* of Member States’ concerns about state sovereignty regarding construction and planning for
9 infrastructure systems,

10 *Concerned* with the lack of access to modern and adequate clean water infrastructure systems, lack of access
11 to the sustainable development goal of safely managed drinking water and sanitation and other rising issues and
12 human rights concerns regarding water sanitation,

13 *Recalling* the existence of previously built water and sanitation systems that can be improved by the imple-
14 mentation of new technologies in Member States already,

15 *Desiring* to adapt to the different regional needs for each Member State,

16 1. *Solemnly affirms* all Member States who expressed lacking sanitation facilities and aiming to work towards
17 improving access to and the standards of such facilities;

18 2. *Calls upon* fellow Member States to support the revitalization of existing water systems that are not
19 meeting standards based on Resolution 64/292 for safe drinking and usage:

20 (a) In Member States in which there are existing water and sanitation systems, Member States will
21 allow the revitalization of systems with new, more effective technologies gifted by fellow nations;

22 (i) Member States with effective strategies for water purification, such as desalination technology,
23 will aid in the construction of these systems in nation states with needs regarding water sanitation;

24 (ii) Aid in the construction of systems will not encroach on Member States state sovereignty and
25 their own goals for their water and sanitation systems;

26 (b) There are differing regional needs regarding access to water sanitation infrastructure;

27 (i) Due to climate issues, needs regarding water access and sanitation will change frequently. There-
28 fore, guidelines for rebuilding infrastructure will change from region to region;

29 (c) Information will be delivered to the states and the regions to properly conduct maintenance
30 and ensure the infrastructure can work as efficiently as possible to inform and educate countries and regions about
31 climate change and how the infrastructure can adapt to improvements;

32 3. *Further invites* Member States to partake in this elective initiative that will not encroach on a state’s
33 determination;

34 4. *Requests* that Member States take seriously the issue of water sanitation, safety and access to drinking
35 water:

36 (a) As Member States work with local governments and NGOs to accomplish their institutional
37 goals for water and sanitation, states should be amenable to the suggestion and acceptance of resources from nations
38 that will aid in the development of rebuilding sanitation system efforts;

39 (i) Emphasis the practice of a Member State's input and control of refined and rebuilt infrastructure;

40 5. *Confirms* the importance of bolstering older water and sanitation systems with the addition of new
41 technologies to the existing systems:

42 (a) New water systems and infrastructure are not constructed in countries with existing systems;

43 (b) Older systems will be improved with the addition of new technologies and not the implementation
44 of an entirely new water and sanitation system.

Passed, Yes: 34 / No: 0 / Abstain: 2