



American Model United Nations
Human Rights Council

HRC/I/2

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

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

1 *Recognizing* that access to clean water and sanitation are basic and vital human rights that should be upheld
2 for all citizens,

3 *Bearing in mind* Article 1.3 of the United Nations Charter, which states that, to achieve international
4 cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in
5 promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to
6 race, sex, language or religion,

7 *Reaffirming* the sixth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of achieving universal access to clean drinking
8 water and hygienic sanitation services by 2030,

9 *Viewing with appreciation* the United Nations organizations already working to fulfill similar goals,

10 *Recognizing* that lack of access to clean water is greater in states and regions that are geographically isolated
11 and in regions with conflict,

12 *Addressing* the presence and prevalence of the issue of climate change,

13 *Emphasizing* the need for sovereignty of each Member State in the Human Rights Council (HRC), both
14 developed and developing,

15 *Fully aware* that transparency and accountability in all processes regarding distribution of resources promote
16 trust and cooperation between member states,

17 *Noting* the importance of technology and development in achieving this goal,

18 *Deeply concerned* that more than 785 million people still lack access to basic water services,

19 *Alarmed by* the statistic that worldwide, 60% of deaths from diarrheal illness are attributable to unsafe
20 water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene,

21 *Acknowledging* the necessity of continued research in identifying areas with the greatest deficiencies as
22 conditions are constantly changing,

23 *Expecting* the creation of continued relationships between developing and developed countries for the ex-
24 change of resources and solutions,

25 1. *Recommends* the creation of an oversight body that will work with the WHO's existing WASH Strategy
26 to continue to provide clean water and sanitation technology to areas in greatest need. This body will:

27 (a) Accept appointed representatives from any Member State who may wish to participate;

28 (b) Provide training to appointed representatives of Member States to facilitate collaboration with
29 governmental bodies which will ensure the efficient and equitable distribution of provided water and sanitation
30 technologies;

31 (c) Pursue research to improve body recommendations and assess country need through;

32 (i) Partnership with the impartial parties of WHO and UNICEF to conduct evaluations within
33 member nations and determine relative levels of need;

34 (d) Establish a prioritization scale for the distribution of technological resources that will consider
35 situations such as extreme geographical isolation, geographical complexities, rurality and conflict, which contribute
36 to each country's unique needs and may exacerbate water crises;

37 2. *Emphasizes* the cooperation amongst Member State representatives and those from UNICEF, WHO and
38 other non-governmental organizations in order to:

39 (a) Pinpoint the specific needs of each member nation;

40 (b) Document such information in an annual report drafted by regional heads from UNICEF and
41 WHO in conjunction with Member State representatives to be presented to the United Nations Human Rights
42 Council annually;

43 3. *Urges* Member States to focus on accountability in the equitable distribution of water and sanitation
44 technologies to areas of determined need. This includes:

45 (a) Establishing the sustainability of implemented infrastructure and foundational programs that
46 allocate technological resources to the entire population of Member States;

47 (b) Encouraging Member States to accurately report any data they find surrounding accessibility to
48 clean water;

49 (c) Advising member nations to respect the prioritization scale established in conjunction with
50 UNICEF and the WHO;

51 4. *Establishes* RC COLA (Researching Conditions and Collaboration for Ongoing Lateral Association) to
52 encourage the sharing of information and technologies as they pertain to water access and sanitation by:

53 (a) Encouraging the creation of an open worldwide database (RC COLA Database) of water sani-
54 tation technologies;

55 (i) Countries with greater technological resources can share and collect data from each other fur-
56 thering connectedness;

57 (ii) Countries with fewer technological resources prosper from technologies put forward by each
58 country;

59 (iii) Information will be stored on UNdata and monitored by the Development Data Section of
60 the Development Data and Outreach Branch within the Statistics Division of the Department of
61 Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) of the UN Secretariat;

62 (b) Suggesting that countries cooperate with water sanitation corporations so that they may test
63 new technologies in areas that lack clean water;

64 (i) Areas that may not be able to afford these technologies are able to access them through cooper-
65 ation with corporations;

66 (ii) Companies mutually benefit from this cooperation as they can test their products in the field;

67 (iii) Emphasizes the importance of assessing the needs of island nations in cleaning up contaminated
68 water supply through sharing water purification technology;

69 (c) Utilizing the metric mentioned in clause 4b to hold companies accountable to promote further
70 collaboration by;

71 (i) Assigning the metric to companies within the RC Database;

72 (ii) Pushing for companies to improve their scores by publicly displaying scores;

73 5. *Calls upon* the Member States of the United Nations to reduce their footprint in the following areas in
74 order to mitigate the climate change crisis that more heavily reduces the access to water by:

75 (a) Acknowledging the goals outlined in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement;

76 (i) Specifically reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow the warming effects that dry many
77 already low water areas of the planet;

78 (ii) Addressing water pollutants by reducing the disposal of waste into bodies of water and other
79 watersheds;

80 (iii) The creation and sanitation of waste water to reduce pollutants of water ways;

- 81 (b) Condemning major companies that continue to pollute in considerable waterways according to
82 a metric that;
- 83 (i) Collects data on major waterways near companies to accurately measure the polluting power of
84 companies;
- 85 (ii) Assigns a polluting value from 0 to 100 with 0 as the best and 100 as the worst;
- 86 A. 4 sections worth 25 points each, Solid Waste, Liquid Waste, Gaseous Waste, Waste Placement,
87 with options to get points back for attempts at waste mitigation;
- 88 B. 1 point relates to a percent of every company on the scale with the worst receiving 25 points and
89 the best receiving 0. This allows the scale to update frequently;
- 90 (c) Further condemns commercial overuse of water resources in areas that are lacking in access to
91 water;

92 6. *Establishes* MTN DEW (Mass Technology Networks Delivering Equality of Water) to create a framework
93 of modular water sanitation and access technologies and strategies that can be scaled to suit the needs of areas
94 without water by:

- 95 (a) Establishing global standards for water access, sanitation and purity;
- 96 (b) Recommending the implementation of water sanitation and purification systems within areas
97 that have an available source of water;
- 98 (i) At the local level, utilize SODIS (Solar Disinfection) to sanitize water;
- 99 (ii) At regional level, utilize reverse osmosis/membrane filtration;
- 100 (iii) Additionally, promote the use of low-cost water purification such as chlorine tablets;
- 101 (c) Ensures water access through infrastructural reforms specifically targeting the issue of transport-
102 ing and holding healthy drinking water for communities that don't have regional access;
- 103 (d) Further recommending the creation of water hubs in areas without an available water source;
- 104 (i) Hubs will provide water access within walking distance of 30 minutes for local villages;
- 105 (ii) Water will be transported from existing purification sites outlined previously or other sources
106 through UN trucks/available transport;
- 107 (iii) Hubs will offer education and training for purification workers from communities;
- 108 (iv) Hubs will also offer illustrated literature (e.g. pamphlets) detailing best sanitation and health
109 practices;

110 7. *Encourages* governments to invest in plumbing infrastructure to reduce open defecation which is critical
111 to public health and sanitation by:

- 112 (a) Replacing/repairing lead pipes in previous infrastructure to rebuild previous facilities destroyed
113 and converting infrastructure into usable facilities;
- 114 (b) Increase access to plumbing systems/toilets to eliminate fecal based diseases and deaths;
- 115 (c) Encourages Member States with more developed water system facilities to consider providing
116 technological expertise to other nations with less developed systems.

Passed, Yes: 27 / No: 5 / Abstain: 4