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

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expecting the creation of continued relationships between developing and developed countries for the exchange of resources and solutions,

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

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

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

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

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

   (d) Establish a prioritization scale for the distribution of technological resources that will consider situations such as extreme geographical isolation, geographical complexities, rurality and conflict, which contribute to each country’s unique needs and may exacerbate water crises;
2. Emphasizes the cooperation amongst Member State representatives and those from UNICEF, WHO and other non-governmental organizations in order to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

   (a) Encouraging the creation of an open worldwide database (RC COLA Database) of water sanitation technologies;

      (i) Countries with greater technological resources can share and collect data from each other furthering connectedness;

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

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

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

      (i) Areas that may not be able to afford these technologies are able to access them through cooperation with corporations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

      (iii) The creation and sanitation of waste water to reduce pollutants of water ways;
Condemning major companies that continue to pollute in considerable waterways according to a metric that;

(i) Collects data on major waterways near companies to accurately measure the polluting power of companies;

(ii) Assigns a polluting value from 0 to 100 with 0 as the best and 100 as the worst;

A. 4 sections worth 25 points each, Solid Waste, Liquid Waste, Gaseous Waste, Waste Placement, with options to get points back for attempts at waste mitigation;

B. 1 point relates to a percent of every company on the scale with the worst receiving 25 points and the best receiving 0. This allows the scale to update frequently;

(c) Further condemns commercial overuse of water resources in areas that are lacking in access to water;

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

(a) Establishing global standards for water access, sanitation and purity;

(b) Recommending the implementation of water sanitation and purification systems within areas that have an available source of water;

(i) At the local level, utilize SODIS (Solar Disinfection) to sanitize water;

(ii) At regional level, utilize reverse osmosis/membrane filtration;

(iii) Additionally, promote the use of low-cost water purification such as chlorine tablets;

(c) Ensures water access through infrastructural reforms specifically targeting the issue of transporting and holding healthy drinking water for communities that don’t have regional access;

(d) Further recommending the creation of water hubs in areas without an available water source;

(i) Hubs will provide water access within walking distance of 30 minutes for local villages;

(ii) Water will be transported from existing purification sites outlined previously or other sources through UN trucks/available transport;

(iii) Hubs will offer education and training for purification workers from communities;

(iv) Hubs will also offer illustrated literature (e.g. pamphlets) detailing best sanitation and health practices;

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

(a) Replacing/repairing lead pipes in previous infrastructure to rebuild previous facilities destroyed and converting infrastructure into usable facilities;

(b) Increase access to plumbing systems/toilets to eliminate fecal based diseases and deaths;

(c) Encourages Member States with more developed water system facilities to consider providing technological expertise to other nations with less developed systems.