

UNiMUN 2022

Resolution: The Economic And Social Council (ECOSOC)

Question of: Building Peace Through Fair and Sustainable Distribution of Water Resources

Main-submitted by: United States of America

Co-submitted by: United States of Mexico, State of Israel, Commonwealth of Australia

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC),

Recalling the General Assembly's (GA) resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development";

Recalling also the GA's resolution 73/226 of 20 December 2018 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, in which it decided to convene a conference for that purpose from 22 to 24 March 2023, coinciding with World Water Day, in New York;

Emphasizing the sustainable development goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDGs 6, 13, 16;

Emphasizing the international commitment to SDG's 11 and 12 to sustainable communities and responsible consumption;

Alarmed by the growing issue of water scarcity, that is already affecting about 40% of the world's population;

Noting with concern that climate change can increase the global water stress;

Welcoming efforts by nations to help those who need assistance in their efforts to stable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services;

Emphasizing that established transboundary water treaties have led to stable cooperation between various nations;

Acknowledging that downstream countries are affected by the actions of upstream countries;

Alarmed that water-induced intrastate conflicts are increasing due to insufficient water management of the national and local level;

Concerned about the future of Small Island Developing States regarding the rising water levels, increased salification of their fresh water supplies and water-induced migration;

Reminding the international community that water access is a fundamental human right but also a point of necessity for economic growth;

Fully aware that creating sustainable water access will help achieve and produce better outcomes for the communities;

Calling upon the international community to work together to solve the issue of water scarcity;

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC),

- 1) Urges all nations to answer the question of how they are contributing to a water-secured world during the UN 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028) from 22-24 March in New York;
- 2) Recommends all nations with transboundary waters to cooperate with their neighbors to create institutions for the peaceful settlement of conflicts regarding their use and access;
- 3) Suggests the establishment of a water arbitration commission to serve as an unbiased institution to be called upon by the disputing parties in case of transboundary water disagreement which cannot be solved bilaterally;
- 4) Requests the General Assembly to authorize UN Water to act as the coordinating body of all activities of the United Nations concerning the access to and distribution of freshwater resources, therefore:
 - a) Equips it with access to all information necessary to oversee the activities of all UN bodies and organizations related to freshwater access,
 - b) Tasks it to provide feedback on existing initiatives and create new ones in cooperation with affected states that help achieve the goal of access to safe drinking water and sanitation all around the world,
 - c) Requires UN Water to report annually about all its activities to the Secretary General and the General Assembly;
- 5) Calls upon the international community to discuss a legal basis for climate change and water scarcity-related migration from affected states, e.g. Small Island Developing States, with an emphasis on legal basis that would protect immigrants' and displaced persons' rights to equal and fair access to water;
- 6) Calls for more attention to be provided to water infrastructures to support economic growth aiding in renewable energy development and water security while also considering natural preservation and sustainability, recommending the UNEA to issue a report concerning the environmental impact of hydropower in comparison to its economic and social benefits;
- 7) Request the International Monetary Fund to incentivize capacity building, adaptation and resilience strengthening against natural disasters;
- 8) Notes to include the knowledge of local inhabitants, especially indigenous populations, in the process of water management by national policies ensuring their participation and suggests the focus on best practices to utilize local knowledge in comparable settings elsewhere;
- 9) Urges to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer financed by the international community based on the economic capacities of the member states in the form of:
 - a) the investment into research and development of new technologies that can provide alternative means of accessing safe drinking water,
 - b) more effective means of managing scarce water resources, e.g. in agriculture;
- 10) Invites the FAO and IFAD to offer specialized and financial support regarding the efficient expenditure of water in agriculture, while using agrochemicals more cautiously and to establish guidelines to encourage more organic farming and more water precise irrigation;
- 11) Recommends countries to conduct an assessment of water pollution and establish water inspectors;
- 12) Requests a report to be issued by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) concerning the social impact water scarcity has on the continuation

of intergenerational poverty, especially in rural communities and people living in tenement housing.

