

Review of the issue of equitable and efficient provision of food and water in the case of environmental crisis

The General Assembly,

Mindful that countries worldwide are exposed to a great number of natural disasters directly impacting food production,

Considering that a reduced access to food resources has a great impact on healthcare,

Bearing in mind that unequal access to food and water sources between rural and urban populations are an ever present concern for member states,

Recognizing that NGOs and local communities play a key role in counseling and acting for the equitable distribution of resources nationwide,

Realizing that physical barriers can impact the equitable distribution of foods,

Concerned by the fact that political and economic situations can influence the distribution and allocation of food resources in times of crisis,

Aware that the first millennium development goal pushes for the end of poverty and hunger,

Taking into account that millennium development goal number 7 encourages environmental sustainability,

1. Calls upon member states to establish a clear plan of action regarding food and water management in the case of environmental crises;
2. Calls for the implementation of local, regional and national plans of actions which should be established and shared among member states through a central UN database;
3. Requests local communities and member states to always consider environmental sustainability as a priority in the elaboration of action plans;
4. Encourages the participation and cooperation of all member states in the process of distribution of food and foreign aid in times of crisis;
5. Endorses the participation of NGOs and local communities in the planning, decision making and implementation of plans;
6. Urges national governments to provide proper infrastructures and to prevent interruption in order to guarantee safe, equitable and efficient aid distribution;
7. Emphasizes sustainability and sound environmental practices in the areas of industry and energy, agriculture and trade in order to reduce future occurrences of natural disasters related to climate change.

Review of the Food Security and Agricultural Sustainability

The General Assembly,

Alarmed that soil poverty and widespread deforestation is creating an unsustainable farming industry,

Noting with deep concern that climate change, specifically drought and desertification, is reducing the ability of these countries to maintain their agricultural practices,

Recognizing with concern the damaging and ecological consequences of large-scale chemically-intensive agriculture and many foreign resource operations as being major contributors to the pollution of ground and surface water supplies,

Further recognizing the societal inequalities that disproportionately affect indigenous, rural and peri-urban populations worldwide,

Emphasizing that poor food security is directly causing increased malnutrition and disease rates, specifically victimizing pregnant women, children under 5, HIV/AIDS compromised individuals, and is exacerbated by unconstrained population growth,

Noting with regret that the massive increase in oil prices are reflected in the sudden exponential hike in cost of food import, as well as domestic production,

Fully aware that conflict, massive population displacements and lack of proper infrastructure exacerbates the poor growth of the agricultural industry and prevents aid, food and water distribution,

Recalls that the current WTO policies do not allow governments to implement efficient national agricultural policies designed towards food security,

Bearing in mind that many African countries are moving towards democratic government, which should be looked favorably upon by the international community,

Aware that political and economic instability may disrupt the administration and provision of resources,

Considering that small-scale micro-finance projects may be more open to innovation and development appropriate to geography, political context, and climate,

1. **Affirms** the need to create sustainable agricultural practices, including irrigation, to avoid soil depletion, erosion, desertification, and minimize environmentally detrimental practices;
2. **Requests** that developed countries with ecologically progressive energy sources and projects provide assistance to developing nations, via international organizations, to explore and expand their renewable energy programs in recognition of dwindling oil reserves. These new energy sources would potentially include solar and hydrological, but preferably excluding biofuels with potential harmful impacts of food security;
3. **Calls upon** the international community to reassess the free trade rules and subsidization practices, specifically pertaining to food and agriculture, in order to allow developing countries to strengthen food security and create fair compensation;
4. **Requests** micro-finance funding to provide low-cost technology and small-scale machinery to farmers, allowing more efficient management of their crops while remaining local and sustainable. This type of micro-financing

approach would help alleviate individual stress, decrease clinical malnutrition, increase productivity and further the independence of local communities;

5. Further requests education and assistance in building capacity, security and sustainability for appropriate infrastructure and techniques to improve agricultural practices and food security;

6. Calls for Member States to establish a plan to ensure safe and secure food and water delivery to populations caught in conflict and/or humanitarian crises;

7. Urges that the UN programs and agencies are putting policies in place that are balanced between the sustainability and productivity of agriculture, emphasizing sustainability with regard to both cash crops and local subsistence crops;

8. Further requests that Member States promote the local ownership of natural resources and land through economic and policy instruments that protect and encourage small-scale and co-op ownership;

9. Urges member States to respect and uphold the rights of local indigenous, rural and peri-urban populations within land policies and reforms.

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Resolution 1.3

8 March 2009

SPONSORS: Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Denmark, Greece, France, Germany, Tunisia, Pakistan

SIGNATORIES: Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Peru

Water as a human right

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not specifically designate water as a universal human right,

Recalling that Article 22 of the Declaration of Human rights entitles everyone to the right to social security through national effort and international co-operation, and Article 25 affirms the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care, among other social services,

Realizing that access to sanitary water resources is a prerequisite for the above rights acknowledged by the international community,

Alarmed by the inability of many nations to achieve water security for their citizens and the overwhelming morbidity and mortality originating from poor water quality,

Keeping in mind that many developed nations have achieved a relatively acceptable standard of water security,

Recognizing the current efforts of many countries to encourage better water management at a global level and the contributions of UN committees such as the UN Water Assessment Programme and the Water Poverty Index,

Bearing in mind that the decade of 2005-2015 has been named the “International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life'” with the purpose of achieving internationally-agreed water-related goals according to Agenda 21, the UN Millennium Declaration and the JPOI as well as those of the 12th and 13th sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Deeply disturbed by the current lack of collaboration between nations leading to effective coordinated solution strategies,

Desiring further coordination of international efforts and efficient use of international development assistance funding,

Believing in actively promoting human rights, democracy and gender equality by encouraging all local people to participate in the planning of local water and sanitation projects,

Recognizing that ensuring access to sufficient, safe water as a human right is important to making it a legal entitlement and therefore a reality for every human being,

1. *Calls for* the international recognition of water as a fundamental human right;

1.1 Nations are subject to inspection, prosecution and implementation of sanctions regarding this human right;

2. *Calls for* the development of an International Standardized Metric System for Water Quality and Quantity;

2.1 Determination of the number of Litres of water that is a human right;

2.2 Determination of levels of adequate water cleanliness;

2.3 Determination of the amount of water required for each nation, based on demographic and resources data;

2.4 Clarification of actions which can be taken to ensure that water resources are used reasonably at the national level;

3. *Calls for* the establishment of an International Knowledge Transfer Program;

3.1 Sharing information such as research findings, impact assessment tools and indices through online forums and other initiatives for the mutual benefit of all countries;

3.2 Build upon the strengths of already established bilateral relationships and keeping geographic proximity as well as historical considerations in mind;

3.3 An annual conference will take place to further ensure knowledge transfer and to discuss progress;

4. *Calls for* the creation of a single Monitoring Body for water management and services to oversee the implementation of and adherence to established rules and guidelines;

4.1 Consists of rotating officials for each region elected by all member states of that region;

4.2 Has the power to recommend international legal action through The Hague court;

5. *Calls for* the refinement of current Sustainable Infrastructure Development and means for Capacity Building in Developing Countries, in the spirit of collaboration and reliance on local community expertise through a bottom-up approach;

5.1 Establishing a Mentorship Initiative, where nations with successful water management programs can serve as role models to nations which are willing to achieve this status;

5.2 Encouraging every country to engage in a Needs Identification Initiative and then reach out to other countries for collaboration;

5.3 Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building will focus specifically on women and children, recognizing that these individuals carry the greatest burden of water insecurity;

5.3.1. This will be accomplished through the use of a quota system for the participation of women in infrastructure development projects;

5.4 Encourages each nation to focus on local control of water points, while distribution and system management will adhere to national policies and monitored by the monitoring body stated in clause 4;

5.5 Implementing educational programs promoting awareness and responsible use of water resources and infrastructure is a key part of this process;

6. *Implores* Member States to further reinforce their efforts in dealing with access and sanitation.

6.1 By promoting water as a public trust

6.2 By collaborating with the existing UN agencies and NGOs involved in development of water security initiatives

6.3 By improving the coordination of the aid provided by developed countries through existing programs, such as the Joint Monetary Program (JMP) and GLAAS

7. *Calls for* usage limitations (“caps”) on water consumption

7.1 Usage limitation is based on environmentally sustainable local water sources depletion/replenishment rates, as established by research outlined in section 3

7.2 Implementation of Water Replenishment programs: including reforestation among other initiatives

8. *Calls for* Joint implementation of set rules and guidelines by all member states.

MONWHO 2009

Resolution 1.4

SPONSORS: Sierra Leone, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, Angola, Iraq, Jordan, UAE, Swaziland

SIGNATORIES: Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Algeria, Guinea, Sudan, Cameroon, Zambia, Gabon, Mali, Mozambique, South Africa; Lesotho, Niger, Senegal, Angola

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Addressing water access and sanitation issues

Recalling the disparities in water access and distribution between rural and urban areas,

Noting with deep concern the centralization of water programs and resources in urban settings,

Noting with regret a problematic focus of donor nations on short-term goals while dismissing long-term accountability,

Recognizing that there are incontrovertible educational deficits in pollution, water hygiene and sanitation issues causing increasing rates of disease in our populations,

Taking into account ongoing efforts to use regional resources to create population benefit,

Aware of potential resulting ecological problems,

Recognizing the interrelation of conflict and water and the need to work towards water for peace,

Bearing in mind that many challenges will be faced in forging communication between independent nations,

Affirming that knowledge of techniques of water conservation preservation and access by the impact of armed conflict in certain regions on access to clean water,

1. **Recommends** integrating a bottom-up approach, in which district water supply projects and sanitation services are implemented using national quality standards but managed locally with a need for discourse at the geographic and regional level recognizing the shared dependency on water basins;
 2. **Encourages** each nation to focus on improved regulation and control of water resource distribution and management, and **urges** that the distribution of water occur primarily through water points that are regulated at the local level, but that adhere to national policies and reporting to regional bodies;
 3. **Endorses** discourse and innovation for sustainable collection and distribution of water along with technical training by local engineers and experts.
 - a. Emphasizes the need to rebuild the skills deficit and knowledge gaps by training and retaining professionals willing to work by; providing incentives for new graduates to remain in sponsoring countries, creating attractive positions within public sector for these professionals and employing professionals for a national assessment of water availability and quality;
 4. **Supports** the equitable and sustainable development of fresh water basins to guarantee effective management of local water resources.
 - a. This calls for improvement to sustainable, environmental water system infrastructure in the form of improving sewage systems;
 - b. investing in environmentally sound water technologies for water sanitation;
 - c. focusing on water access for rural populations, and cleaning existing polluted water with focus on environmental regulation on industry and air quality;
 5. **Urges** nations, with the support of the WHO, to examine the implications of privatizing water versus the creation of water as a public trust;
 6. **Urges** implementing an educational program promoting awareness and social responsibility to urban and rural population on the grounds of water protection and sustainable water use and using local groups and community leaders to facilitate this information to increase cooperation and adherence to the policies;
 7. **Resolves** to have all conflicting fractions recognize the neutrality of water resources so that no armed forces and political groups and businesses use water and sanitation as a political tool in addition to facilitating conflict resolution to improve access and distribution of water resources;
 8. **Requests that** the WHO create an international fund where financial assistance from the global community can be channelled specifically towards creating and maintaining access to clean, safe water for all nations;
 9. **Notes** that it would be useful to create a publicly accessible website to maintain awareness of the various projects, NGOs, and GOs involved water-related projects, including the techniques, location, sustainability, to increase transparency, efficiency, and collaboration;
 10. **Requests** that individual countries review appropriate and local means for treatment, reuse, recycling, and reduction of industrial, domestic, and agricultural waste.
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MONWHO 2009

Resolution 1.5

Sponsors: Thailand, Vietnam, China, India, Singapore, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Jordan
Signatories: Nepal, Malaysia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Peru, Israel, Poland, Paraguay, Mexico, Pakistan, Tunisia, Romania, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, MSF

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Water Preservation, Industrial Pollution of Common Water Sources, and Clean Energy Technology

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging the direct impact of water pollution on diverse aspects of human health,

Understanding the importance of integrating strong economic growth with sound environmental policies,

Cognizant of the need for policies affecting industrial regulation to be implemented universally,

Aware that major river systems and aquifers supply more than one country, resulting in cross-border negative externalities from pollution,

Noting with deep concern the effect that climate change has on the availability of water in a variety of regions due to an increase in extreme weather events and changing precipitation patterns,

Noting further that the partnership between clean energy technologies, water distribution, and cleanliness technologies has not been explored and developed in formal discussion,

Recognizing that no country in the world will be spared by the effects of climate change, and that it will affect all people,

Cognizant of the fact that developing nations with growing economies require differential targets for climate change,

Affirming that knowledge of techniques for water conservation, preservation, access, and pollution reduction should be shared across borders,

1. **Urges** the creation of regional commissions to develop regulations regarding industrial pollution standards, water preservation, and efficient exploitation of local water systems in the context of industrial activity, and foreign direct investment occurring within the framework of free trade agreements;

2. **Recommends** the implementation of a survey to identify areas of most concern regarding water source pollution, to be updated periodically;

a) suggests the information from the survey be made publicly available and distributed to inform and empower civil society;

b) urges the information be used to guide national, regional, and international policy priorities;

3. **Request** the development of Regional Emergency Response commissions comprised of countries sharing common water sources, to address the need for collective action and compensation;

a) recommends compensation be comprised of contributions from companies responsible for polluting accidents, and host governments;

b) suggests the process of determining compensation be facilitated by an independent mediator;

4. Further requests government investment from developed countries be directed toward companies that demonstrate sound environmental practices;

5. Recommends the creation of an international system of certification of corporations based on their compliance with environmental standards, to allow consumers to make informed purchasing decisions;

6. Requests that nations collaborate on short and long term goals regarding clean energy technologies (ie. those that have been shown to be least environmentally damaging) and industry pollution reduction strategies;

a) urges nations to make investments in research and appropriate technologies in renewable energy and industry pollution reduction strategies;

b) calls upon countries with water development experience to provide mentorship in implementing such systems.

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SPONSORS: Angola, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania

SIGNATORIES: Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Timore-Leste, Uganda, Zambia.

Establishing guidelines addressing water security

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions put forward by WHO guidelines for drinking water quality (2006), UN World Water Assessment Programme, and initiatives such as the Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI),

Reaffirming that water is a finite and common resource for all humanity,

Taking into account the disparities in water access and distribution between rural, periurban and urban areas,

Noting the problematic trend towards prioritizing short-term goals while neglecting long-term accountability,

Further recognizing that globally, 1 billion people lack access to improved water supply and 2.6 billion people lack access to improved sanitation,

Noting with deep concern that water-borne illness is the leading cause of preventable death, affecting all nations globally,

Cognizant of the relationship between water, food and major health issues, such as HIV/AIDS,

Recognizing that climate change is responsible for declining rain fall causing drought, decreasing agricultural crop yields and reducing water storage capacity,

Considering the relationship between conflict and water and the need to work towards water for peace,

1. Collaboration

1.1. Calls for the development of an independent international advisory body, and regional advisory bodies, with the common goal of global monitoring of access to quality water,

1.1.1. Resolves that this advisory board will act as an early-warning system for the state of global water;

1.1.2. Further resolves that this advisory board will offer consultation to member nations to meet WHO water quality standards;

1.2. Requests that WHO create an international fund where financial assistance from the global community can be channeled specifically towards creating and maintaining access to safe water for all nations;

1.3. Notes that it would be useful to create a publicly accessible forum to support awareness of and knowledge transfer between the various water-related projects and all involved stakeholders, focusing on techniques, location, sustainability, transparency, efficiency, and collaboration;

1.4. Encourages a focus on improved regulation and control of sanitation services and water resource distribution and management;

1.5. Believing in the distribution of water primarily through water points that are regulated at the local level, adhere to national policies and report to regional bodies;

1.6. Supports discussion between nations who share water basins;

1.7. Urges nations, with the support of WHO, to examine the implications of the privatization of water versus the creation of water as a public trust;

2. *Water technologies and infrastructure*

2.1. Endorses the expansion of sustainable water sanitation and remediation technologies;

2.2. Supports greater public investment in research and innovation for the sustainable collection and distribution of water, as well as greater incentives for the private development of these technologies. Technical training should involve local engineers and experts;

2.3. Calls for member nations to develop and maintain infrastructure in compliance with WHO guidelines for drinking water quality for urban, periurban and rural areas;

2.4. Considers the need for the restructuring, scale-up, and investment of appropriately-scaled water distribution systems (including irrigation schemes, dams, reservoirs, pump water systems);

3. *Rural water security and fresh water resources*

3.1. Calls upon local governments to reorient resources, efforts and expertise on integrated rural water distribution and management, (e.g. perma-cultural methods);

3.2. Supports the equitable and sustainable development of fresh water basins and catchment areas to guarantee effective distribution and management of local water resources;

3.2.1. This calls for improvement to sustainable, environmental water system infrastructure (e.g. improving sewage systems);

3.2.2. Investing in environmentally sound water technologies for water sanitation;

3.2.3. Focusing on water access for rural populations, and cleaning existing polluted water with a focus on environmental regulation on industry and air quality;

4. *Public Health Activities*

4.1. Endorses active community involvement in water distribution, management, and surveillance infrastructure;

4.2. Urges implementing an educational program that promotes awareness and social responsibility amongst all populations on the grounds of water sustainability, and uses local community groups and leaders as facilitators;

5. *Conflict Situations*

5.1. Resolves to have all conflicting factions recognize the neutrality of water resources. No armed forces, political groups or businesses should use water as a political tool. Furthermore, the facilitation of conflict resolution to improve access and distribution of water resources should be emphasized.