

NMUN•NY 2016



27 – 31 MARCH 2016

Documentation of the Work of the Economic and Social Council Plenary
(ECOSOC)

Courage
for **peace**



Compassion
in **action**

CONFERENCE B

Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)

Committee Staff

Director	Aly El Salmly
Assistant Director	Chase Mitchell
Chair	Mai El Bordy
Rapporteur	Andre Bertrams

Agenda

- I. Ensuring Universal Access to Water
- II. Education in Post-Conflict Situations
- III. Utilizing Youth Employment for Sustainable Development

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
ECOSOC/RES/1/1	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	37 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 8 abstentions
ECOSOC/RES/1/2	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	44 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 2 abstentions
ECOSOC/RES/1/3	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	41 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions
ECOSOC/RES/1/4	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	27 votes in favor, 9 votes against, 11 abstentions

Summary Report

The Economic and Social Council Plenary held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Ensuring Universal Access to Water
- II. Utilizing Youth Employment for Sustainable Development
- III. Education in Post-Conflict Situations

The session was attended by representatives of 47 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Ensuring Universal Access to Water.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of six proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including financing for infrastructure, food security, and gendered perspectives on access to water for sanitation. On Monday the work of the committee was characterized by a high degree of collaboration and inter-regional discussions. On Tuesday there was a drive to leverage ECOSOC’s mandate in addressing the issues on hand.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, such as climate resilience, revolving funds for infrastructure development, and education on sanitation for vulnerable populations. The work was overall typified by coordinating between different functional programs and truly utilizing ECOSOC’s instruments, such as the Commission for Social Development and the High Level Political Forum, to find solutions to the aforementioned issues.



Code: ECOSOC/RES/1/1

Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council Plenary,*

2
3 *Emphasizing* that water is tied to multiple diverse scopes of many aspects of development, including health, food
4 security, reducing global disease burden, reducing the amount of unpaid labor used to fetch water, and even in the
5 creation and sustainability of the global labor force,

6
7 *Fully aware of* the role that education of water conservation and complexity of water usage plays when developing
8 innovative strategies to curb the misuse of water,

9
10 *Noting with satisfaction* the World Water Council's efforts to create a platform for members of the public and
11 private organizations to discuss effective strategies that curb the amount of wasteful water usage through the 7th
12 World Water Forum (WWF7),

13
14 *Reaffirming* the major points raised during WWF7 concerning major issues on water and sanitation systems,

15
16 *Confident in* the implementation roadmaps established during WWF7 as they represent an opportunity for the global
17 water community to proactively contribute to the operational achievement of the SDGs under the United Nations
18 post-2015 development agenda,

19
20 *Taking note* that many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) already exist for water, including the Global Water
21 Trust, Water for People, and the Water Project,

22
23 *Affirming* that sustainable solutions will require long-term monitoring to ensure its effectiveness,

24
25 *Aware of* the fact agriculture is one of the most endangered sectors in relation to water consumption specifically safe
26 water, as harvest depends on irrigation systems,

27
28 *Noting with concern* that the way water is managed in agriculture has undermined the provision of a wide range of
29 ecosystem services and has dealt damage to people and ecosystems around the world,

30
31 *Recognizing* that women spend up to six hours per day collecting water for their communities and families depriving
32 them of an education,

33
34 *Acknowledging* that women and girls are most affected by water related issues and the lack of opportunity available
35 to them to become involved in water policy,

36
37 *Realizing* that water already holds much salience in the public mind funding should already naturally be flowing to
38 these development objectives,

39
40 *Bearing in mind* that 663 million people around the world lack access to safe water,

- 41
42 1. *Expresses* the need to focus the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on all Freshwater Related Issues,
43 Including Sanitation's global efforts on water access through tracking progress of communities using
44 standardized development indicators, which will make comparing the contributions of different programs more
45 recognizable and allow for the expansion of the annual World Water Development Report to include new and
46 emerging water innovations that have proven effective in providing the public with access to water and NGO
47 initiatives that have consistently provided support to communities in need;

48

- 49 2. *Urges* NGOs that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council Plenary on NGOs to provide
50 quadrennial development reports that focus on:
51
- 52 a. Cost effective water saving technologies applicable to pro-poor development strategies;
 - 53
 - 54 b. Better recognition of region specific micro level innovations pertaining to water conservation;
 - 55
 - 56 c. Results-based development, through the usage of standardized development metrics that would be
57 accessible to other NGO's to help facilitate the coordination of efforts;
 - 58
 - 59 d. Increasing accountability through non-self-reporting audits on standardized comparable indicators;
 - 60
- 61 3. *Recommends* the establishment of an annual meeting addressing financing for access to water to provide
62 solutions for necessities when attempting to develop infrastructure and implement technology innovations,
63 overlapping responsibilities between United Nations bodies, the lack of public awareness and participation
64 concerning the universal access to water and regional water access concerns published in the annual World
65 Water Report;
- 66
- 67 4. *Encourages* the implementation of educational programs that instruct farmers on current best practices in water
68 conservation pertaining to agricultural farming, with such programs being driven by NGOs, which would
69 implement water conservation practices into areas with pre-existing educational infrastructure with a focus on
70 improvement in soil productivity, agriculture conservation, control of surface water runoff through water
71 harvesting and improved irrigation;
- 72
- 73 5. *Endorses* the creation of local and national systems for the efficient use of water and agriculture by allocating
74 financing towards better water utilization technologies for agricultural purposes in the short-term and
75 monitoring these investments in order to make sure they are effectively implementing water conservation while
76 facilitating agricultural development in the long-term;
- 77
- 78 6. *Promotes* the implementation of specialized models of agricultural development based on training farmers and
79 industrials on re-investing their growing incomes in order to bolster incentives for developing more profitable
80 water conservation methods and enable them to become self-sustainable exporters and agro-entrepreneurs;
- 81
- 82 7. *Encourages* the agriculture industry within Member States to reduce its water footprint by promoting innovative
83 water infrastructure such as "back to water" systems through the development of science and technology such
84 as the rainwater reuse system;
- 85
- 86 8. *Calls upon* NGO's such as People and Water and the Asia Arsenic Network along with Member States to assist
87 in the creation of deeper wells in areas with heavier topsoil pollution;
- 88
- 89 9. *Recommends* Member States include women and vulnerable populations in all levels of water policy by
90 granting them a more active role in leadership positions;
- 91
- 92 10. *Urges* NGOs to cooperate with member states to implement the creation of new technologies through
93 organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme in order to provide potable water
94 infrastructure in arid areas and thus incorporating jobs into rural communities; incorporating windmill water
95 generators can immediately provide water to dry agricultural regions of the world;
- 96
- 97 11. *Endorses* the influence of NGO's in the implementation and use of the Moringa Oleifera seeds to combat water
98 pollution within developing countries by following the example of Egypt;
- 99
- 100 12. *Requests* that Member States work with nonprofit microfinance organizations, such as Water.org, in the
101 construction of water infrastructure, including water wells localized around community centers that will allow
102 women to gain easier access to potable water.



Code: ECOSOC/RES/1/2

Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Ensuring the Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council Plenary,*

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3 *Guided by* Articles 55 and 62 of the *Charter of the United Nations* calling for the promotion of higher standards of
4 living for all, including access to sufficient and safe water, education and health, and calling for the Economic and
5 Social Council (ECOSOC) to promote human rights respectively,

6
7 *Further guided by* Principle 1 of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, which recognized that
8 human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development,

9
10 *Concerned by* the issues related to the pollution and degradation of water resources, as stated within *Agenda 21*,
11 especially with regards to pollution caused by industry, as this affects the access to clean water for all people,

12
13 *Realizing* the General Assembly resolution 70/1, which recognized the importance of United Nations system
14 coherence through the identification of supervisory bodies the establishment of specific and effective indicators to
15 monitor progress for each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), as they can only be achieved through ensuring
16 universal access to water,

17
18 *Having considered* the Paris Principles as outlined in the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, including the
19 importance of a results focus and mutual accountability between donors and recipients, to maximize the impact of
20 funds designated for ensuring access to water,

21
22 *Recognizing* the report by Special Rapporteur El Hadji Guisse as well as SDGs 5, 6, and 10, particularly Target 6.b,
23 which calls for greater support to and strengthening of the participation of local communities for improving water
24 and sanitation management, and the important role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in
25 efforts for water,

26
27 *Further recognizing* SDG 9, which promotes sustainable industry, especially in regards to mitigating the negative
28 effects of industrial pollution as it affects water quality and thus hindering an adequate standard of living for all,

29
30 *Acknowledging* the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, which called for greater efforts to promote the transfer of
31 sustainable technologies for water resource management,

32
33 *Reiterating* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The Future We Want,” as
34 it states the importance of sustainable uses of water, with emphasis on the agricultural sector especially in
35 developing regions, to promote improved irrigation practices which will ensure water access for all generations,

36
37 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 64/292, adopted without opposition, as it recognizes the human right to
38 access safe and clean drinking water and sanitation,

39
40 *Cognizant* of the issues surrounding poor regulatory environments for entrepreneurship and innovation in
41 developing countries, as recognized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the barriers this places for the creation
42 and implementation of innovative methods for ensuring access to water,

43
44 *Remembering* the international commitments made in the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and in the
45 *Paris Agreement* adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention
46 on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the effects of global climate change on water access and quality,

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48 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/198 as it states the importance of technology for agriculture as means
49 to promote sustainability and increase agricultural productivity,

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Emphasizing the unique issues developing regions face, especially in Africa as stated within “Africa Water Vision for 2025: Equitable and Sustainable Use of Water for Socioeconomic Development,” especially in regards to the lack of data collection in its important role in addressing the areas of most concern and high risk for water pollution, considering that water pollution and contamination are a direct barrier to adequate access to potable water,

Affirming the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitment for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa as it addresses developing countries’ specific concerns for financing water infrastructure,

Bearing in mind Article 9 of the Law of Transboundary Aquifers, which recognizes the importance of establishing and strengthening regional organizations for the management of transboundary aquifers, as they are not delineated by national borders and thus must be effectively managed to mitigate potential degradation,

Alarmed by the fact that women spend 16 million hours each day fetching water and the particular difficulties faced by vulnerable populations, especially in rural areas, in achieving access to sufficient and safe water, which can subsequently impact education and contributions to a country’s economy,

Noting with approval the accomplishments of new technologies as best practices, such as Pump Aid, which builds cost effective and accessible Elephant pumps and toilets, and Wind Operated Water, which provides 3,000 liters of water a day to deprived regions,

Expressing deep concern that, if the effects of climate change on access to water are not addressed, almost half the global population is expected to be living in areas of high water stress by 2030, including between 75 million and 250 million people in Africa,

Expressing particular concern that water scarcity caused by desertification, unsustainable agricultural practices and other forms of land degradation is expected to cause mass displacement of between 24 million and 700 million people in arid and semi-arid regions due to a severe lack of clean and accessible water,

Taking into account that the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimates that, even though about 60% of the world’s water resources are transboundary lakes and river basins, 748 million people still lack access safe drinking water,

1. *Requests* the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to provide technical expertise in agriculture to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in order to improve UNESCO training programs that encourage the use of sharing best practices, especially in rural areas for subsistence farmers, to promote more sustainable agricultural practices, as a means to eliminate water pollution and encourage improved irrigation systems;
2. *Recommends* the cooperation and coordination of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFAD, under the auspices of the ECOSOC Coordination and Management meetings, with regards to research in the fields of drought resistant crops to reduce the amount of water needed and thus ensuring the preservation of water resources;
3. *Suggests* that the United Nations Capital Development Fund assist in implementing market mechanisms, such as water pollutant allowance trading systems, to build on the best practices gathered from the implementation of carbon trading mechanisms, within already existing water development programs to foster revenue and transparency, to find the least costly solution to mitigate industrial water pollution as it affects the human right to an adequate standard of living;
4. *Encourages* multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, with the administrative support of the ECOSOC Commission for Social Development (CSD) Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives to provide technical and financial assistance for the establishment of community water cooperatives in accordance with local needs and conditions:
 - a. With the goal to provide access to water to the local community;

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- b. Implementing the best practices from credit unions and utility cooperatives, by ensuring all customers are automatically equal shareholders in the cooperative;
 - c. Re-investing all potential profits in infrastructure or as rebates to customers;
5. *Further encourages* the ECOSOC Committee for Development Policy to provide policy recommendations to regional developmental organizations to enhance their technical and logistical assistance to local governments to improve their ability to promote greater access to water for all populations, including by:
- a. Implementing and enforcing, through multi-stakeholder partnerships, regulations and non-binding policies for corporate social responsibility regarding the private sector, including:
 - i. Providing access to gender-specific and sensitive restroom facilities;
 - ii. Ensuring safety from sexual and gender-based violence in these facilities;
 - b. Working with NGOs and civil society for the promotion of greater access to water for all populations, including by:
 - i. Immediately implementing short-term solutions, such as water pumps and sanitary toilets;
 - ii. Developing long-term technologically advanced infrastructure, with the aim of laying the foundation for sustainable access to water, in particular taking into account the development of energy infrastructure;
 - c. Providing operational training to promote self-reliance and to avoid increasing dependency on foreign aid;
6. *Further recommends* the United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene program to coordinate with the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve its training and education initiatives for vulnerable populations and especially rural peoples, by including a greater focus on:
- a. Sanitation and the risks of open defecation practices;
 - b. Sustainable and water-efficient agriculture;
 - c. The social and environmental effects of climate change and desertification on access to water;
 - d. Sustainable household use of water and the avoidance of the use of polluted water;
7. *Further recommends* that the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange utilize the ECOSOC regional commissions as partners in using community knowledge for adapting the technologies and model policies it receives to local needs and conditions, in order to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation in climate-sensitive technology transfer and the sharing of best practices for the management of water resources and access to water;
8. *Further calls upon* the Committee for Social Perspectives on Development to collaborate with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on policy recommendations to United Nations bodies on how to integrate disaster and climate resilience into the development and retrofitting of water infrastructure;
9. *Recommends* the strengthening of the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism on all Freshwater Related Issues (UN-Water) as a supervisory and evaluation mechanism for efforts for the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDGs 6 and 10, by:
- a. Integrating the SDGs Country Results Frameworks;

- 161 b. Adopting the indicators for SDG 6 proposed by the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for
162 Water Supply and Sanitation and by the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and
163 Drinking Water;
- 164
- 165 c. Increasing coordination with the ECOSOC Commission on Statistics through reports from UN-Water
166 for collecting and analyzing the data related to the SDGs;
- 167
- 168 10. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme’s GEM program, which facilitates the development and
169 maintenance of data collection facilities, to strengthen existing public databases on the water access needs of
170 developing countries, by improving data collection, in order to achieve greater effectiveness of water resource
171 development programs;
- 172
- 173 11. *Further Invites* infrastructure development programs under multilateral development banks, such as the
174 Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility under the New Partnership for Africa’s Development managed
175 through the African Development Bank, to include relevant NGOs, as identified by the ECOSOC Committee on
176 NGOs, within their initiatives, in order to ensure financing of local infrastructure to promote universal access to
177 water at the household level for all peoples;
- 178
- 179 12. *Further supports* a financial incentive program as agreed to between donors and recipients, as part of the
180 funding contract, to reward governments and organizations that complete water development projects under
181 budget, while ensuring an independent, non-arbitrary oversight to evaluate the cost-efficiency of the project in
182 order to improve the efficient use of funds for promoting access to water;
- 183
- 184 13. *Calls upon* the ECOSOC Commission on Science, Technology and Development to promote greater utilization
185 of tech transfer mechanisms for the transfer of sustainable water technologies to developing countries, in order
186 to improve the efficient use and distribution of water resources to all in the long-term;
- 187
- 188 14. *Decides* that, in order to ensure access to water for all and empower all populations to promote their own water
189 security, all actions taken in regards to the contents of this resolution must consider:
- 190
- 191 a. The needs of all vulnerable populations, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, youth,
192 the indigenous, refugees, internally displaced persons, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities;
- 193
- 194 b. Focusing on employing local populations, particularly impoverished and vulnerable populations;
- 195
- 196 c. Integrating local vulnerable populations in the decision-making processes and water infrastructure
197 management and use;
- 198
- 199 15. *Directs* the CSD to research the impact that integrating the right to access to water and sanitation into national
200 legislation and policies has and could have on the realization of universal access to water, in addition to
201 researching the human rights issues surrounding the use of water as political leverage in conflicts.



Code: ECOSOC/RES/1/3

Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council Plenary,*
2
3 *Affirming* Chapter 7 of *Agenda 21*, specifically Target 4 on the promotion of integrated provisions of environmental
4 infrastructure to include water, sanitation, drainage, and solid waste management,
5
6 *Recognizing* the success of the International Decade for Action: “Water for Life” that provided frameworks and
7 activities to successfully implement regarding water infrastructure,
8
9 *Emphasizing* the targets set forth by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, to ensure access to water and
10 sanitation for all, highlighting the need to achieve this by 2030 while understanding that proper infrastructure is
11 crucial to long term macroeconomic stability and growth,
12
13 *Fully aware* of SDG 15, which strives to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of water within ecosystems
14 and to combat desertification,
15
16 *Affirming* the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, which details the importance of gender inclusion into
17 public investment programs, specifically in economic infrastructure including water and sanitation,
18
19 *Emphasizing* the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, specifically Article 24 (2), which ensures all segments of
20 society are informed, and have access to sanitation education, and are supported in basic knowledge of health,
21
22 *Noting the success* of Pakistan’s Punjab Municipal Development Fund to implement projects, such as the Clean
23 Drinking Water for All initiative, which installs water purification plants regionally to provide access to clean,
24 potable water,
25
26 *Bearing in mind* the importance of adaptability in infrastructure and policy regarding water, as noted in the outcome
27 document of the 2015 United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on all Freshwater Related Issues (UN-Water)
28 Annual International Zaragoza Conference,
29
30 *Recognizing* the important stages of monitoring, system assessments, management and communication included in
31 the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Water Safety Plan,
32
33 *Observing* the successful but underfunded United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Adaptive Community
34 Water Initiative that detailed the strong need for local management and community initiatives to promote knowledge
35 in water management policy frameworks,
36
37 *Taking into consideration* the work done to extend accuracy of seasonal forecasts for the evaluation of uncertainties
38 in climate-change projections through World Climate Research Programme, sponsored by the World Meteorological
39 Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission under the United Nations Educational,
40 Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
41
42 *Expresses its appreciation* of United Nations consultative non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working within
43 water infrastructure, such as the World Toilet Organization’s Sanishop, which trains rural artisans to build sanitation
44 infrastructure such as toilets, using locally available resources, as well as connecting them to rural markets and
45 micro-financing opportunities,
46
47 *Referring* to the WHO Guidelines for the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta, and Greywater, Volume 2, which calls
48 upon Member States to implement policies effectively regulating and leveraging the use of wastewater in
49 agriculture,

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Bearing in mind the successful implementation in China of the WHO Water Safety Plan and the Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality, which provides core training missions on the improvement to water safety measures,

Recognizing the link between water and food production, seeing as over 70% of the water used in developing countries is implemented for the use of agriculture, as stated by the UNESCO World Water Development Report,

Guided by General Assembly resolution 46/182, which seeks to create an effective approach to ensure effective coordination of humanitarian response between United Agencies and NGOs,

Reiterating the importance of national capacity building for the evaluation of development activities, as stated in General Assembly resolution 69/237,

Guided by General Assembly resolution 64/292 and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' General Comment 15, which define safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right and as essential for the realization of all other human rights,

1. *Recommends* fostering partnerships to implement an increased efficiency and availability of agricultural technology within the 2016 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, "Breaking the silos: Cross-sectoral partnerships for advancing the SDGs," which will:
 - a. Further the productivity of crops in water-deprived areas;
 - b. Promote best practices and resource utilization through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) World Seed Program, which works with Member States to:
 - i. Increase the efficiency in use of nutrients and water;
 - ii. Increase resistance to insect pests and diseases, and provide greater tolerance to drought, flood frost, and higher temperatures associated with climate change;
 - iii. Improve nutritional value and quality;
 - iv. Improve provision of ecosystem services;
 - c. Provide innovative power sources for the storage and preservation of crops, as done in the Promethean Power Systems initiative;
 - d. Support trans-boundary water management projects similar to the Danube River Protection Convention to ensure that surface waters and ground water are managed and used sustainably and equitably;
 - e. Be continued in the Committee for Development Policy (CDP);
2. *Suggests* that data collection and access to early warning systems be discussed at the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), specifically including:
 - a. Extreme weather conditions, such as droughts or floods, to reduce the impact of water scarcity on food production;
 - b. Coordination between Member States and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate access to early warning systems;
 - c. Coordination between international agencies, such as the WMO and UNISDR to encourage information sharing and data collection;
3. *Urges* the CDP to organize a joint forum for all NGO committees under the ECOSOC, specifically the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission for Social Development (CSD), that will:

- 106 a. Empower women and girls through civic engagement in water infrastructure and policy;
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108 b. Draw attention to the economic and education benefits of reallocating the time of women and girls
109 away from water collection through the coordination of research on the role women in water
110 infrastructure;
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112 c. Support initiatives similar to CARE International’s, which enables women with decision-making
113 power at the local, municipal, and state levels;
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115 d. Assist Member States in the formation of gender inclusive governance policies in allocating resources
116 for long-term, sustainable solutions;
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118 e. Submit an annual report to evaluate existing mechanisms, policies, and innovative methods of
119 coordination between the functional commissions within the discussion of water and sanitation;
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- 121 4. *Invites* the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to discuss an expansion of its water, sanitation, and
122 hygiene (WASH) Strategies in order to:
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124 a. More efficiently address the needs of vulnerable populations, such as women, indigenous populations,
125 people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities;
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127 b. Refocus energies by drawing attention to the economic benefits of reallocating the time women and
128 girls spend away from water collection, allowing them to seek education and employment
129 opportunities, through the coordination of research on the role of women in water infrastructure;
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131 c. Assess resource management specifically for vulnerable populations and provide them with access to
132 alternatives for sanitation and hygiene treatments;
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134 d. Promote equity in universal health care;
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- 136 5. *Further invites* WHO to submit a report to the CMM on standardizing the implementation of the WHO
137 Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality and Water Safety Plan to provide monitoring, training, and counseling to
138 water sector professionals;
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- 140 6. *Endorses* the 2017 Organization of American States (OAS) to assist all willing and able Member States in the
141 implementation of national initiatives, modeled after Pakistan’s Punjab Municipal Development Fund;
142
- 143 7. *Encourages* the UNDP to expand its Scaling-Up Micro-Irrigation Systems to other willing and able Member
144 States in order to stimulate rural economies while promoting sustainable water infrastructure;
145
- 146 8. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Water Footprint Network Project to
147 incorporate the United Nations Global Compact’s Water Stewardship Toolbox to maximize accounting
148 resources for the management of water resources in the private sector, as a continuation of the International
149 Decade for Action “Water for Life;”
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- 151 9. *Calls upon* the Partnership Forum to facilitate the expansion of UNEP EcoTown Initiative to other willing and
152 able Member States, in order to establish a global network of cities sharing best practices in sustainable urban
153 planning and water infrastructure development;
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- 155 10. *Encourages* the DCF to highlight innovative solutions regarding the use of wastewater, including the UN-Water
156 Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture Project, as a best practice to be implemented within the agricultural
157 sector in all willing and able Member States;
158
- 159 11. *Recommends* Member States utilize the bottom up approach to water management policy, incorporating local
160 and traditional knowledge into community based water policies to ensure sustainable practices, as guided by the

- 161 UNDP Adaptive Community Water Initiative;
162
163 12. *Calls for* willing and able Member States to work with the UNDP Effective Governance for Small-Scale Rural
164 Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness in a Changing Climate Project, to assist in the capacity building in
165 areas heavily affected by natural disasters;
166
167 13. *Suggests* the Integration Segment review existing frameworks for climate resilience, specifically regarding
168 sustainable water management, utilizing the existing UN-Water Capacity Development to Support National
169 Drought Management Policies as a framework for sustainable water infrastructure in national policy;
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171 14. *Requests* that the CMM open dialogue between the Committee on NGOs and UN-Water to facilitate regional
172 coordination of water-related initiatives as a way to decrease overlap and improve accountability.



Code: ECOSOC/RES/1/4

Committee: Economic and Social Council Plenary

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council Plenary,*

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3 *Guided by Article 3 of the Charter of the United Nations, the principle of human security and aiming at the*
4 *empowerment of humans in recipient countries of development aid to enable self-sustainability,*

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6 *Affirming the importance of international, regional, and local cooperation in funding and sharing of best practices in*
7 *order to improve the universal access to water,*

8
9 *Keeping in mind the complicated nature of establishing initial funding within international aid frameworks due to*
10 *the lack of personnel and resources, the large amounts of administrative work, and a lack of surplus funds in private*
11 *and public budgets,*

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13 *Noting with concern that there is often a lack of funding allocated from national budgets to water, sanitation, and*
14 *hygiene (WASH) projects and programs, making the water access goals of the country unattainable,*

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16 *Bearing in mind that a lack of access to clean water acts as a barrier to the financial and economic growth of*
17 *Member States,*

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19 *Noting the crucial role that Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays in establishing forums for discussion for*
20 *information sharing pertaining to protecting aquatic resources, facilitating infrastructural development, and*
21 *improving water accessibility for vulnerable populations through programs such as the High-Level Political Forum*
22 *(HLPF), the Integration Segment, and the ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meetings,*

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24 *Taking into consideration the importance of providing communities with opportunities to engage in traditional and*
25 *vocational education to ensure inclusion of all members of the population in addressing water-related issues to*
26 *promote efficient, self-sustainable sanitation infrastructure,*

27
28 *Recognizing the work of ECOSOC's non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and their efforts to improve*
29 *access to freshwater resources and adequate sanitation and their resolve in regulating these problems in conjunction*
30 *with the United Nations,*

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32 *Reaffirming the effectiveness of the build-operate-transfer financing model (BOT) together with public-private*
33 *partnerships (PPP) to streamline funds more efficiently,*

34
35 *Acknowledging the necessity of aligning individual national goals similar with Vision 2025, specifically related to*
36 *access to clean, potable water and adequate sanitation,*

37
38 *Recalling commitments by Member States made at the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) related to the topic of*
39 *financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably the role of development banks, data collection and*
40 *follow-up, generating domestic revenues and mobilizing domestic resources,*

41
42 *Concerned with projections that state that by 2030, merely 60% percent of global fresh water needs will be met and*
43 *noting that countries will require more support from the United Nations and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative*
44 *status to update their water resource infrastructure through additional investments and oversight of maintenance to*
45 *ensure that these projections are at least met and surpassed,*

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47 *Emphasizing the efficiency of using revolving funds, fund-matching programs, PPPs, and federal-regional financing*
48 *partnerships, such as the United States of America's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, to develop self-sustaining*
49 *drinking water and sanitation projects,*

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Noting the importance of improving and enforcing Member States’ federal legislation pertaining to safeguarding aquatic resources and improving access to clean drinking water therefore protecting communities and individuals,

Recognizing the cooperative framework established by the Clean Water for people initiative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation,

Noting the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on all Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation’s (UN-Water) Gender, Water and Sanitation briefing that highlights the vulnerability of women and children in water related issues,

Deeply concerned that 946 million people still lack access to personal and public sanitation facilities and therefore are forced to practice open defecation,

Alarmed that only 19% of the world has access the resources needed to follow basic sanitary washing practices in accordance, according to the report from the World Health Organization (WHO) titled “Health in 2015: from MDGs to SDGs,”

Noting with satisfaction the positive impact of international programs such as the International Decade for Action: “Water for Life” that promotes the sustainability and management of water as a resource,

Having reviewed programs such as Sanitation for All that employs an equity-based approach to sustainable sanitation in marginalized populations,

1. *Encourages* Member States to adopt clear, personalized investment targets and water infrastructural development goals by committing to the transparent collection of data that demonstrates the level of efficiency of investments in accordance with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) standards;
2. *Reminds* Member States to honor commitments made to the SDGs Fund and to follow the lead of the 30 African Member States that have committed 0.5% of their gross domestic product (GDP) to water, sanitation, and hygiene programs through eThekweni Declaration highlighted at the AAAA;
3. *Urges* states to share best practices in capacity building on revenue generation, public financial management, and development of anti-corruption measures in relation to developing and maintaining sustainable funds for WASH initiatives through:
 - a. The utilization of the HLPF for political leadership and guidance at the international level for development of economic policy;
 - b. The channel of regional economic commissions such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to provide a varied and innovative approach for all different areas;
4. *Encourages* ECOSOC bodies that handle water improvement projects such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to invite Member States to submit voluntary fund matching agreements for programs and projects pertaining to WASH, including:
 - a. Partner countries and NGOs may apply for fund matching for qualifying programs and projects earmarked for WASH;
 - b. Foreign aid agencies of contributing nations may select issue specific programs and projects to match funds with that are in accordance with their international development priorities;
 - c. Programs and projects qualifying for fund matching initiatives will follow transparency and accountability requirements to assure proper use of funds;

- 106 d. Facilitation for matching programs with matching benefactors and cooperation can be achieved by
107 working through ECOSOCs Development Coordination Forum (DCF);
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- 109 e. Coordination between ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and other organizations can be facilitated through
110 the CMMs that happen throughout the year;
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- 112 5. *Recommends* that Member States seek out regional independent annual reporting and auditing organizations,
113 which can be found through the regional working groups of International Organisation of Supreme Audit
114 Institutions, to analyze the success of water access and infrastructural improvement projects and programs to
115 assure that funds allocated are used as efficiently as possible;
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- 117 6. *Encourages* ECOSOC subsidiaries that work on water quality projects, in addition to UNEP and UNDP, to
118 partner with regional development banks to advise them on how to structure loans used by regional and local
119 government officials and contractors to fund water-related projects to ensure that the utility of these funds are
120 maximized as:
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- 122 a. Regional Development Banks should use self-sustaining Water-Improvement Revolving Funds when
123 financing pre-existing and future water programs such as WASH, water-way reclamation and
124 protection, and management plans, and water infrastructural development programs:
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- 126 i. Water-Improvement Revolving Funds are comprised of low-interest loans that are granted to
127 localities for water-related projects;
128 ii. Once the money is repaid, it must be invested into another water-improvement project;
129 iii. The loan is then granted to another locality to fund another project such as constructing
130 wastewater facilities, preventing pollution, and developing infrastructure;
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- 132 b. Projects can be funded by revolving funds or loans based on priorities set by the national, sub-national,
133 or local governing bodies implementing water quality improvement programs or water infrastructure
134 development projects;
135
- 136 c. Member States receiving funds or loans are advised to match any United Nations or development bank
137 loans in order to increase the volume of the loan;
138
- 139 d. Municipal and local infrastructural development projects will be funded by low interest loans or funds;
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- 141 7. *Recommends* that Member States and Development Banks choose to invested in and develop revolving funds
142 for programs that prioritize inclusivity to underserved and marginalized populations, especially women in rural
143 areas, including the World Bank's Gender Private Plan in Sierra Leone and Peru, which was successful in
144 empowering women by improving their personal financial development and independence through job training
145 programs, which taught them how to develop the irrigation infrastructure necessary to bring water to their farms
146 and families;
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- 148 8. *Calls for* the UNEP Environmental Governance Sub-Program to develop and administer legislative advising
149 teams, comprised of lawyers and experts from think tanks and NGOs that are ECOSOC partners such as the
150 Environmental Law Institute and the International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization, that Member
151 States can voluntarily invite to analyze the effectiveness of their federal and regional water-protection legal
152 frameworks and make policy suggestions designed to increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of
153 existing water regulations;
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- 155 9. *Endorses* the utilization of the World Bank along with regional and national development banks to administer
156 appropriate financial strategies and provide categorized funding to each project created;
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- 158 10. *Endorses* initiatives aimed at increasing the allocation of funds and consequently the improvement of the
159 efficiency of financial aid by the coordination of financial contributors through:
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- 161 a. The creation of channels by government agencies to promote cross-sectoral involvement by providing
162 project structure and contribution opportunities following the principle of the Clean Water for people
163 initiative or utilizing the HLPF's;
164
- 165 b. The combination of loan programs among development agencies such as national development banks
166 as part of the DCF;
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- 168 11. *Suggests* that Member States use the resources and forums of discussion provided to them through HLPF to
169 analyze the successful domestic water-related programs of other countries and communities and adopt and
170 implement similar domestic practices and initiatives such as:
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- 172 a. The UNEP GEM Stat program that was designed to share international information on surface and
173 ground water quality data collected from the GEMS/Water Global Network;
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- 175 b. The International Atomic Energy Agency Regional Model Project: Sustainable Development of
176 Ground Water Resources in Southern and Eastern Africa;
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- 178 c. Scaling-up Micro-Irrigation Systems which were utilized in Madagascar and were implemented by the
179 IFAD and the Foundation COOPERNIC that supported the NGO;
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- 181 d. UN-Water's Farmer Participatory Capacity Building Program for Irrigation Management, which
182 enhances smallholder farmers access to efficient irrigation technology;
183
- 184 e. Every Drop Matters, a partnership between the UNDP and the Coca-Cola Company that works to
185 improve water supplies and manage aquatic resources;
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- 187 12. *Urges* countries that have agreed upon the SDGs, especially SDG 6, which contains the pressing matter
188 of participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management, to emphasize it as a high
189 priority issue in economic policy development and implementation;
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- 191 13. *Recommends* Members States collaborate with regional development banks such as the African Development
192 Bank, and engage in bilateral and multilateral capacity building programs with the aim of increasing access to
193 water;
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- 195 14. *Urges* the implementation of national frameworks designed to outline goals related to development with a focus
196 of achieving WASH standards as is suggested in Vision 2025;
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- 198 15. *Endorses* further advancement of initiatives, emulating the International Decade for Action: "Water for Life,"
199 such as educational training for farm communities, technical materials and training for irrigation professionals,
200 and policy guidance for water and waste management in agricultural communities;
201
- 202 16. *Considers* focusing on water accessibility, purification and sanitation while working in collaboration with
203 independent international aid programs such as the Austrian Development Cooperation and the China
204 International Development Research Network in compliance with SDG 10 to:
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- 206 a. Increase social equity and promote poverty reduction through budget support;
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- 208 b. Encourage self-sustaining economic growth within developing countries;
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- 210 17. *Urges* the merging of vocational training for limnologists and the like with hands-on youth employment and
211 established workshops within the water and irrigation programs developed;
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- 213 18. *Calls upon* regional and international NGOs such as WaterAid and World Vision International to:
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- 215 a. Provide funding and initial training to developing countries' citizens for the water sanitation and
216 irrigation systems introduced to create a self-sustainable framework;

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b. Report back to ECOSOC on the progress and effectiveness in each developing country working towards SDG 6 through the United Nations Statistical Commission during its annual committee meeting;

19. *Emphasizes* the essentiality of capacity development with high awareness of local conditions as well as the notion of human security as part of multilateral commitments to efficient execution of development programs and sustainability;
20. *Encourages* all Member States, international organizations, and private associations to work with local governments to finance development projects that take into account the needs and concerns of localities and municipalities, both in urban and rural areas, therefore streamlining the allocation process of the internal resources of the country.