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

Courage
for **peace**



Compassion
in **action**

CONFERENCE A

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Committee Staff

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Assistant Director	David Vásquez
Chair	Bhargavesh Gottam
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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/1/1	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/2	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/3	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	Adopted without a vote
ECOSOC/1/4	Ensuring Universal Access to Water	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The Economic and Social Council 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 37 Member States; 1 non-governmental organization also attended the meeting.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II beginning discussion on the topic of “Ensuring Universal Access to Water.” On Monday, delegates engaged in fervent debates and the Council divided itself into three separate groups, focusing on different topics. Delegates had made it their priority to respect ECOSOC’s mandate and ensure the feasibility and practicality of the clauses presented in their working papers. Tuesday’s session coincidentally coincided with the observation of World Water Day, further motivating ECOSOC to find solutions to the topic. By the end of the day, the Dais received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics: water management, database innovation, micro-financing, and capacity-building.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, three of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, all of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including water management, capacity building, provision of water services, and sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. The role of the Dais was focused on providing dynamic moderation, while attending to the necessities and answering the questions of its delegates. This enabled a diplomatic and exemplary working atmosphere inside the Council. Several delegations had the opportunity to deliver speeches on the second topic, “Education in Post-Conflict Situations,” until the end of the afternoon session.



Code: ECOSOC/1/1

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3 *Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and its implementation as having a profound impact on the
4 preservation of a decent life for all,
5
6 *Further recognizing* access to water as a universal human right, as manifested in the adoption of General
7 Assembly resolution 70/169 on the human right to water and sanitation,
8
9 *Acknowledging* the increased strain placed on vulnerable populations, notably women and children, in gaining
10 access to clean, drinkable water,
11
12 *Understanding* the effectiveness of disaster management training as coordinated by the United Nations (UN) Office
13 for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in helping communities prevent contamination of water resources in the
14 event of flooding, earthquakes, and other natural disasters,
15
16 *Encouraging* the implementation of the *Mar del Plata Action Plan*, specifically in regards to the assessment of water
17 resources, the efficient use of water, pollution and policy planning,
18
19 *Deeply concerned* by the issues addressed by the 2015 UN Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework*
20 *Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) to sustainably manage water resources in both developed and
21 developing countries,
22
23 *Conscious* of the objectives established by the *Ramsar Convention* aimed at the conservation and sustainable
24 utilization of wetlands,
25
26 *Recognizing* the *Ramsar Convention* as an integral tool in the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goal
27 (SDG) 6 concerning universal access to water,
28
29 *Viewing with appreciation* the effectiveness of the European Environment Agency Water Data Center as a model for
30 regional cooperation in regards to accurate water-related data collection and sharing through interactive datasets,
31 maps, and other indicators,
32
33 *Understanding* the benefits of the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Freshwater Related Issues, Including
34 Sanitation's (UN-Water) Key Water Indicator Portal (KWIP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN
35 Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) in
36 assessing global water trends through data collection,
37
38 *Acknowledging* the longstanding relationship of collaboration between the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
39 and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1946 in mutually proposing agenda
40 items to be discussed,
41
42 *Noting with satisfaction* the work of UNESCO-International Institute for Infrastructure, Hydraulic and
43 Environmental Engineering (UNESCO-IHE) Institute for Water Education in increasing awareness of water
44 management strategies and capacity building,
45
46 *Emphasizing* UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) plan regarding educating youth about
47 water sustainability in underdeveloped countries,
48

49 *Expressing* appreciation for the efforts of UNESCO's ESD program in providing resource policy and management
50 training, and oversight of the rural masses in equipping people to deal with water governance challenges on a more
51 local level,
52

53 1. *Recommends* each regional commission of ECOSOC to establish a water management database and information
54 system, including the Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the
55 Pacific, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and
56 the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which would:
57

58 a. Incorporate information on water pollution, water exploitation, water distribution, water quality, waste
59 water treatment, water used for agricultural purposes;
60

61 b. Stress accurate reporting from Member States in order to most efficiently manage water resources;
62

63 c. Enhance transparency and information sharing of water collection and management data between
64 Member States;
65

66 2. *Further suggests* the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water body of the UN Statistical
67 Commission act as an intermediary between the Regional Commissions, KWIP, and the JMP by submitting
68 global reports incorporating all regional assessments of water data collection;
69

70 3. *Recommends* UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education to utilize data made available by UN-Water's KWIP
71 to suggest methods of management of water resources in order to inform the population about regional solutions
72 to protect water resources, such as:
73

74 a. Identifying youth populations to be trained and mobilized to deal with water management and
75 sanitation;
76

77 b. Creating educational institutions dedicated to training people to deal with disaster management;
78

79 4. *Further recommends* collaboration between UNICEF and the *Ramsar Convention's* Programme on
80 communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness and its oversight panel in order to
81 more effectively implement the *Ramsar Convention*;
82

83 5. *Recommends* increased behavioral training and response strategies through local and equal participation in
84 water governance by using UNESCO's ESD model.



Code: ECOSOC/1/2

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* the human right to water and sanitation as articulated in General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/169, as
4 well as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation, which recognizes that water and
5 sanitation are integrally linked,

6
7 *Fully aware* of the obstacles to universal access to water, including gender inequality and the rural-urban disparity,

8
9 *Acknowledging* the need for greater harmonization among regional bodies to allow successful educational programs
10 to be open to other countries in the area,

11
12 *Appreciating* the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life,” from 2005 to 2015 and the efforts by the United
13 Nations (UN) Water and Gender Task Force on incorporating a gender-specific perspective into the discussions of
14 water and sanitation, and recognizing the further need for action,

15
16 *Recalling* GA resolution 61/192, which declared 2008 the International Year of Sanitation,

17
18 *Deeply concerned* that 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation, and that the absence of sanitation will
19 continue to affect vulnerable groups, especially women, who experience gender-based barriers and are most exposed
20 to the health risks of poor access to water and sanitation,

21
22 *Recognizing* the vital role that technology and innovation can play in sustainable development and in facilitating
23 efforts to address global challenges, such as enhancing access to water and sanitation,

24
25 *Further recognizing* that international support can help developing countries benefit from best practices in these
26 fields,

27
28 *Concerned* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information, expertise, and technology in order
29 to assure effective sanitation and access to water,

30
31 *Recalling* the GA resolution 68/157, which encourage international assistance and cooperation in economic and
32 technical terms for appropriate sanitation systems,

- 33
34 1. *Recommends* that the GA proclaim “The International Decade for Sanitation,” starting on 1 January 2017 and
35 ending on 31 December 2027, in order to bring international attention to the need for adequate sanitation to
36 ensure and achieve its universal availability;
- 37
38 2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to review and consider the results of the International Decade for Action, “Water
39 for Life,” and to put mechanisms in place to organize the cooperation between all relevant UN bodies,
40 specialized agencies, regional commissions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Member States in
41 order to observe the upcoming Decade;
- 42
43 3. *Proposes* that Member States assist other states, when requested, in providing technology such as rainfall
44 filtration for those areas that receive excess rain, wells for those areas that have vast amounts of ground water,
45 and tree taps for those areas with heavy forestation, in order to increase communities’ access to water;
- 46
47 4. *Establishes* the permanent Sustainable Worldwide Access to Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH) task force,
48 composed of experts from civil society, academia, and relevant UN agencies, to facilitate international efforts to
49 implement efficient and sustainable measures through technology, especially in developing countries, as an
50 entity that:

- 51 a. Suggests guidelines containing methods on how to implement sanitation systems in developing
52 countries or regions without access to sanitation by developing a best practices guide;
53
- 54 b. Recommends ways to improve sanitation infrastructure with the help of newly established guidelines
55 and special training by these experts to regional and national authorities to further disseminate
56 information to the population;
57
- 58 c. Provides further support to start public awareness campaigns on hygiene and the consumption of
59 water, with a special focus on water waste, proper use and maintenance of toilets, and effective hand-
60 washing practices;
61
- 62 d. Stresses the gender-based perspective on this issue by targeting the specific needs of women, in order
63 to engage them to participate in the process of ensuring access to water and sanitation and empower
64 them with the means to better their situation;
65
- 66 e. Suggests a collaborative partnership between the permanent SWASH task force and already existing
67 temporary the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation
68 (UN-Water) task forces in order to allocate some of its resources and share their knowledge on
69 technology regarding water pollution management as well as raise awareness of the benefits of these
70 measures;
71
- 72 f. Reports biannually to this committee;
73
- 74 5. *Recommends* SWASH to follow up on the actions of the UN-Water Task Force on Water and Gender led
75 between 2003 and 2009 in order to promote gender equality in efforts to secure access and innovation regarding
76 water resources by, for example, engaging female governmental ministers in policy dialogues or encouraging
77 UN-Water experts, gender specialists, and networks to work together at the national level;
78
- 79 6. *Stresses* the importance of partnerships between regional specific communities and local actors to achieve the
80 aforementioned goals, including but not limited to municipalities, NGOs, and the private sector, on adequate
81 solutions to ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation services.



Code: ECOSOC/1/3

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council,*
2
3 *Guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN),*
4
5 *Bearing in mind* the commitment and responsibility of Member States towards the promotion and protection of all
6 universal human rights,
7
8 *Referring to* the adoption of the General Comment No. 15 in 2002 by the Committee on Economic, Social and
9 Cultural Rights, which states specifically that having access to water is an inviolable right,
10
11 *Reconfirming* the human right to water and sanitation and Member States' duty to realize such rights as stated in
12 General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/169 on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,
13
14 *Recognizing* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which aims to ensure universal access to water and sanitation,
15 indivisibly joining water and sanitation as a basis for sustainable development,
16
17 *Recalling* the efforts of the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation
18 (UN-Water) and the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) in collecting data,
19 conducting research, and advocating for reform in water management and infrastructure,
20
21 *Recalling* the importance of international cooperation and assistance in providing financial resources through GA
22 resolution 64/292 on the human right to water and sanitation,
23
24 *Fully aware* of the growing crisis of water access due to climate change and the increased need for international and
25 regional cooperation,
26
27 *Recognizing* international conventions such as the Addis Ababa Development Conference and the Financing for
28 Development Conference in providing a forum to discuss financing initiatives and solutions to water management,
29
30 *Taking note* of the 2008 World Bank report that identified demand-driven water supply approaches as being less
31 capital intensive, having lower administrative costs, fewer system breakdowns, and less water waste,
32
33 *Noting* the benefits of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in reducing costs and increasing the quality of water
34 provided to urban populations,
35
36 *Bearing in mind* that demand-driven approaches to water distribution have a higher success rate than supply-driven
37 approaches,
38
39 *Reaffirming* the belief that regional funding sources, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian
40 Development Bank, and African Development Bank, as well as international funding sources provided by the New
41 Development Bank, foster equitable growth through micro-financing and mutual gains and achieve lasting
42 development and sustainability through demand-driven approaches,
43
44 *Underlining* successful partnerships such as the Jamshedpur Utilities and Services Company (JUSCO) in India,
45 which was able to reduce water loss in some areas by 20% and improve metering rates by 30%, allowing for a more
46 efficient, cost-effective, and higher quality water distribution system for consumers and providers alike,
47
48 *Recalling* the influential successes of the Greater Buenos Aires PPP in the 1990s in Argentina, which succeeded in
49 solving the capital city's water-rationing program within the first year, and expanded the public water system and
50 bill collection to over a million household within the first four years,

51 *Highlighting* similar successes with the Queenstown concession in South Africa to Water and Sanitation Services
52 South Africa (WSSA) and the Casablanca Concession in Morocco to the National Office for Drinking Water Supply
53 (ONEP) in extending water access, reducing cost of operation and improving water quality,
54

55 *Noting with interest* that the majority of PPPs are located in developing countries and involve private partners from
56 developing countries as well,
57

58 *Recalling* that urban populations in developing countries represent the majority of underserved people in the world,
59

60 *Noticing* with satisfaction the success reached by regional transboundary water agreements such as the Indus Basin
61 Irrigation System (IBIS), Water and Environmental Management in the Aral Sea Basin, and the Strategic Action
62 Program for the Binational Basin of the Bermejo River,
63

64 *Highlighting* the importance of transboundary water agreements to increase cooperation between Member States,
65

66 *Recalling* the *Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses*,
67

68 *Emphasizing* GA resolution 54/175 on human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation and its request
69 of Member States to develop comprehensive plans and strategies, including financial ones, to achieve progressively
70 the full realization of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including in
71 currently unserved and underserved areas,
72

73 *Having examined* the benefits of regional cooperation in effectively assessing issues facing rural communities,
74

75 *Drawing attention to* the UN Capital Development Fund's (UNCDF) Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for
76 Development report, which emphasizes the goal of providing microfinancing facilities to empower people directly
77 affected by improper water management and sanitation,
78

79 *Taking into consideration* the effectiveness of microfinance in empowering local communities as stakeholders in
80 their own sustainable development,
81

82 *Emphasizing* the creation of community-managed water initiatives such as Taza Suu, in their contributions in
83 lowering the level of technical complexity in regards to the management, procurement, storage, and distribution of
84 water,
85

86 *Recognizing* that tenure agreements make use of different types of natural resources, and how they relate to each
87 other to reset formal or informal rules and agreements,
88

89 1. *Encourages* Member States to enhance public-private agreements between municipal authorities and private
90 organizations for the purposes of managing and constructing large-scale water systems:
91

92 a. To facilitate the collection of recovery costs;
93

94 b. To increase the rate of metering and connecting households to the public water system;
95

96 2. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider the importance of regional plans and agreements for transboundary
97 water sharing to:
98

99 a. Set short-term strategies for furthering sustainable irrigation and sanitation, including expertise
100 and infrastructure based on self-reliance by:
101

102 i. Promoting local innovative behavior and micro-entrepreneurs;
103

104 ii. Actively encouraging bilateral dialogue between local communities and other entities and
105 stakeholders;
106

b. Reach long-term goals in terms of equitable drinking water distribution by:

- 107 i. Consulting data collected by the UN Statistical Commission, UNData, the World Bank
108 and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
109 (GLAAS), to address effectively weaknesses in implementation;
110 ii. Providing the findings of said data to all relevant actors and stakeholders involved in
111 sustainable use of drinking water sources;
112
113 c. Improve the cost-effectiveness of funds already allocated by the Global Environment Facility to
114 tackle environmental global issues, such as the international waters projects;
115
116 d. Aid relationships between signatories and promote cooperation among all Member States;
117
118 3. *Calls for* institutions, such as the UN Statistical Commission, UNdata, the World Bank, and GLAAS to provide
119 expertise, to consult and to work with local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and citizens
120 towards the collection of detailed regional and local data on the parameters, criteria, and dimensions of local
121 deprivations that water management faces, such as, but not limited to:
122
123 a. Household incomes;
124
125 b. Water consumption trends;
126
127 c. Expenditure patterns of local governments on public water and wastewater services and
128 infrastructure;
129
130 d. Studies of effective systems and the factors that contributed to their success;
131
132 e. Assessment studies on water bodies such as pollutant sources, microbiological indicators,
133 hydrological variables, and acidity and basicity of aqueous solution for the purpose of global
134 database sharing for information exchange on existing technologies and strategies of water and
135 sanitation systems, which would:
136
137 i. Be used to educate local municipalities and entities whose duty is the maintenance,
138 repairing, and expansion of water delivery systems;
139 ii. Help avoid nonessential duplication of those successful systems already in place;
140 iii. Ensure that the future financing of these entities undertaken in a cost-effective and
141 timely manner;
142
143 4. *Recommends* the discussion and involvement of NGOs at the local level and realizes the impact that they can
144 have in implementing PPPs and non-profit microfinancing initiatives;
145
146 5. *Endorses* the adoption of demand-driven water supply approaches by NGOs, local communities and other
147 agents working specifically in end-user water access, given the impressive record in improving efficiency, cost-
148 effectiveness, and access to water of these approaches;
149
150 6. *Encourages* Member States to support the development of tenure agreements in order to ensure sovereignty
151 while empowering South-South relations in shared water basins, rivers, and other inland drinking water sources
152 that would:
153
154 a. Establish new and recognize internationally accepted principles and internationally accepted
155 standards for responsible practices;
156
157 b. Be open for use by industrialized and developing countries alike;
158
159 7. *Recommends* that the budget construction of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects by governments
160 and international organizations is executed with the assistance of professionals in engineering, monetary, and
161 system occupations to estimate the financial costs of installing, maintaining and operating small scale water
162 systems;

- 163 8. *Draws attention* to innovative funding mechanisms to complement the existing structures of finance for WASH
164 projects;
165
- 166 9. *Encourages* all Members States to increase their cooperation with NGOs in order to raise awareness on the
167 deplorable situation of people lacking daily access to drinking water, by collaboratively developing awareness
168 campaigns by using social media in order to increase the spread of information about this topic;
169
- 170 10. *Encourages* UN-Water to fully utilize technology to ensure that people around the world can access data about
171 water conditions;
172
- 173 11. *Further recommends* the international community to consider this issue as crucial and therefore to maintain it in
174 future agendas.



Code: ECOSOC/1/4

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Topic: Ensuring Universal Access to Water

1 *The Economic and Social Council,*

2
3 *Recalling* General Assembly (GA) resolutions 64/292, 68/157, and 70/169, which recognize the human right to
4 water and to sanitation as fundamental for the full enjoyment of life,

5
6 *Concerned by* the fact that 15% of the global population is forced to practice open defecation, resulting in
7 contamination of water bodies and leading to water-borne diseases, while 663 million people lack access to safe
8 water,

9
10 *Noting with concern* that 2.4 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation,

11
12 *Cognizant of* the United Nations' (UN) prediction that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will suffer from
13 water shortages due to population pressures, climate change, and other challenges, especially in the developing
14 world and the particularly arid Middle East,

15
16 *Emphasizing* the importance of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as a way to ensure universal access to clean
17 water,

18
19 *Expressing its satisfaction* of the vision and mission of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Global
20 Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) as a leading organization and a monitoring mechanism in developing
21 insights, networking, and creating collaborative sustainability solutions for local private activities,

22
23 *Appreciating* the activity of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as a network created to foster an integrated
24 approach to water resources management,

25
26 *Believing* in the influence of the Nature Conservancy, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that ensures efficient
27 allocation of funds to prevent water pollution,

28
29 *Having examined* the role of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as an operating branch of the UN that
30 supports the peacebuilding and humanitarian initiatives around the world and promotes efficient government
31 management of infrastructure,

32
33 *Underscoring* the explicit provisions concerning the right to water and sanitation for vulnerable groups in the
34 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, the *Convention on the*
35 *Rights of the Child (CRC)*, and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*,

36
37 *Recalling* the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach proposed by the UN Department of
38 Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) that strives for efficient, equitable and sustainable development and
39 management of the world's limited water resources and for coping with conflicting demands,

40
41 *Welcoming* all UN bodies, agencies and organizations committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal
42 (SDG) 6 adopted by resolution 70/1 that builds upon the principles of the Millennium Development Goals as
43 delineated by GA resolution 66/288,

44
45 *Expressing its appreciation* for the World Water Council (WWC) for hosting the World Water Forum that serves as
46 a platform that brings together government officials, UN agencies, the private sector, and civil society groups to
47 address water issues,

48

49 *Convinced* that a closer cooperation between, and training of, public and private local actors is crucial in more
50 efficiently allocating funds to water-related activities, and thus achieving universal access to water, through the
51 cooperation of UN bodies as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN
52 Environmental Programme (UNEP),

53
54 *Determined* that all persons should enjoy the right to water and sanitation on the basis of non-discrimination and
55 equality,

- 56
57 1. *Considers* the capacity of local agents as the most imperative in improving the status of water and sanitation in
58 their communities through infrastructure and education;
- 59
60 2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of all major stakeholders, including both men and women from
61 all income levels and vulnerable populations, to participate in data collection of water and sanitation services, in
62 decision making processes related to improving or building WASH infrastructure, and in knowledge exchange;
- 63
64 3. *Urges* governments to consider the decentralization of water and sanitation services, including management of
65 facilities, water distribution systems, data collection, promotion of knowledge concerning the efficient use of
66 water, and the importance of hygiene:
- 67
68 a. To increase local, municipal, rural involvement in planning, building, training and operation of
69 facilities for water management and wastewater;
- 70
71 b. To ensure efficiency and regional equity;
- 72
73 c. To promote the activities of UNOPS as a body of leading experts in supervising projects for
74 monitoring and management programs of the private sector;
- 75
76 4. *Recommends* an increase of local government's budget for water and sanitation monitoring and maintenance as
77 well as a closer partnership between public and private sectors, especially NGOs currently managing funds
78 dedicated to water:
- 79
80 a. Employing personnel for regular water quality surveillance to check for microbiological
81 contamination of water sources;
- 82
83 b. More efficiently using the resources of NGOs in order to prevent waters from being flooded with
84 soil run-off, chemicals and other debris;
- 85
86 5. Suggests the adoption and application of all provisions of the *UN Convention against Corruption* (UNCAC) by
87 relevant Member States including, but not limited to:
- 88
89 a. The establishment, adequate funding, and proper staffing of independent anti-corruption bodies;
- 90
91 b. Fostering international cooperation in terms of training, information sharing, research, and materials;
- 92
93 6. Invites Member States to improve water monitoring systems by using the GEMI specifically for local planning
94 in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector to:
- 95
96 a. Compile, analyze and interpret WASH information more effectively;
- 97
98 b. Target and prioritize sector planning and decision making more effectively;
- 99
100 c. Disseminate transparently collected data, progress, and plans to all relevant stakeholders;
- 101
102 d. Organize more workshops to facilitate cooperation between States and sharing knowledge and
103 experience;
- 104

- 105 e. Create more awareness to build national interest for water sector monitoring;
106
- 107 7. *Further invites* Member States committed to bilateral and multilateral aid for Water Supply and Sanitation
108 (WSS) to prioritize not just the construction of new water and sanitation infrastructure, but rather:
109
- 110 a. The improvement of existing water and sanitation infrastructure to make it resilient to time, climate
111 change and other threats;
112
- 113 b. The rehabilitation of non-operational water points to remain operational over a long period of time;
114
- 115 c. The improvement in methods of transporting water and improving existing mechanisms within a
116 region by:
117
- 118 i. Detecting existing pipelines that have burst or have been contaminated;
119 ii. Installing new pipelines that connect water reserves and communities;
120 iii. Recruiting experts on the fields of engineering to make pipelines resilient to any and all
121 challenges;
122
- 123 8. *Endorses* transboundary cooperation between countries sharing water bodies, river basins, and natural water
124 resources such as aquifers, to implement joint projects that focus on their preservation and efficient usage;
125
- 126 9. *Requests* Member States, with the assistance of such bodies as the WHO, the UN Inter-Agency Coordination
127 Mechanism for all Freshwater Related Issues, Including Sanitation (UN-Water) and Global Water Partnership,
128 to implement sanitation and hygiene promotional campaigns to prevent the transmission of diseases by
129 highlighting:
130
- 131 a. The fact that open defecation can lead to waterborne diseases and contamination of water bodies;
132
- 133 b. Safe hygiene practices in the vicinity of latrines, especially the importance of handwashing to
134 break the fecal-oral route of disease transmission;
135
- 136 c. The importance of menstrual hygiene;
137
- 138 d. Privacy as a key element in sanitary facilities;
139
- 140 10. *Recommends* that UNESCO and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education assist Member States in
141 implementing educational programs based on localized community-specific data of existing conditions, to teach
142 local communities efficient ways to deliver and properly use water and enhance sanitation within their given
143 conditions in ways such as:
144
- 145 a. Building the capacity of women, men, and children to realize their rights and improve their well-
146 being through proper WASH knowledge;
147
- 148 b. Preparing poor and marginalized communities to safeguard their own water and sanitation-related
149 human rights in conditions of shock, stress, and uncertainty;
150
- 151 c. Developing methods to determine future patterns of migration and statehood that enable more
152 effective adaptation to changing environments;
153
- 154 d. Employing adequately trained and skilled workers such as engineers, chemists, mechanics, and
155 hygienists to impart technical and ecological know-how to and collaborate with local agents and
156 residents;
157
- 158 e. Innovating information and communications technology (ICT) and new social technologies to
159 facilitate the aforementioned methods;
160

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- f. Developing ties between Member States, UNESCO-IHE Institution for Water and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to work at equipping farmers with knowledge on the efficient use of water for agriculture by:
 - i. Raising awareness of the potential uses of rainwater harvesting as a suitable instrument to improve the management of resources in the agricultural sector;
 - ii. Spreading knowledge of sustainable ways to protect water quality, such as filter strips;
 - iii. Fostering the implementation of small-scale irrigation systems based on cooperation between local farmers, especially in the sub-Saharan areas;
 - iv. Informing about the importance of soil moisture conservation through different techniques, such as mulching;
 - v. Integrating farm-resources management, on-farm water productive techniques and, improved irrigation-management;
11. *Emphasizes* the importance of sound handling of wastewater as delineated by UNEP and UN-Water and calls for innovative solutions in the wastewater sector to produce quality renewable water and energy for hydropower from sludge disposal, as well as treating wastewater before discharge for irrigation.