Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Committee Staff

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<tr>
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Agenda

I. The Role of Access to Clean Water in Eradicating Poverty
II. Sustainable Cities and Transportation: A Bridge to Development
III. Promoting Resilient Communities

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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<td>Adopted without a vote</td>
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<td>21 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 1 abstention</td>
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Summary Report

The United Nations Development Programme held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

I. The Role of Access to Clean Water in Eradicating Poverty
II. Sustainable Cities and Transportation: A Bridge to Development
III. Promoting Resilient Communities

The session was attended by representatives of 23 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, III, beginning discussion on the topic of “The Role of Access to Clean Water in Eradicating Poverty.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of subtopics including educating communities on water management technologies, gender equality and access to adequate sanitation. Delegates discussed innovative funding partnerships and private-public partnerships, recommended initiatives for strengthened regional collaboration and developed a digital platform to collect information from different stakeholders on water management policies. The committee was very eager in the debate on the topic. Cooperation and dedication was at the forefront of their actions, which was visible throughout the committee sessions.

On Wednesday, three draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, all of which had amendments. The committee adopted three resolutions following voting procedure, two of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including education, best practices on water management, adequate sanitation infrastructure, as well as the use of digital platforms to compile data on water resources. The delegates also included recommendations on policies to improve water management and to support marginalized communities using UNDP regional hubs and country offices. The committee worked hard to have the largest possible support for all draft resolutions, and the session ended on a very professional and collaborative note.
The United Nations Development Programme,

Recalling General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2015), in which a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets were established,

Reaffirming the SDG targets and indicators as the basis for progress in increasing access to clean water towards the eradication of poverty, in particular SDG 6, which works to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,

Acknowledging the commitments made by GA resolution 64/292 on “The human right to water and sanitation, recognizing the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation” (2010), which emphasized how water is essential for the full enjoyment of life, and GA resolution 70/169 on “The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” (2015), which affirmed the importance of ensuring safe access to drinking water for all,

Supporting the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, which measures global progress on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programmes and evaluates the achievement of the SDG targets and indicators,

Taking into consideration the findings that a lack of financial data often impedes water-related decision-making, as per the research findings of the 2017 Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS),

Fully aware that an inclusive approach accounting for vulnerable communities and those directly affected by water-related issues is a necessary consideration when formulating new policy initiatives that promote access to safe and sustainable clean water and sanitation,

Recognizing that at present there is no one cohesive, easily accessible, global database on water policy initiatives and programmes with the intention of providing an informational exchange to assist local and international actors,

1. Endorses the development of partnerships between United Nations (UN) Member States, private sector actors, and local communities to increase access to clean water in order to eradicate poverty by:

   a. Supporting increased consultation with actors in local communities including small businesses, academia, and civil society organizations, to ensure initiatives that resolve water-related issues are specific and targeted directly to their individualized needs;

   b. Suggesting UN Member States and UN Development Programme (UNDP) regional offices continue to meet regularly to discuss water-related programmes and initiatives and how to better publicize them with partners of UN-Water and the UNDP such as:

      i. The Human Rights Council’s Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation;

      ii. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water;

      iii. The United Nations Global Compact, and;

      iv. The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council;

   c. Encouraging UN Member States to promote investment friendly environments for private sector actors to increase the accessibility of resources, knowledge, and funding for local community-based water-related initiatives;
2. Suggests the Interagency Expert Group on SDG Indicators work with UN Member States and the UN Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to better diagnose, analyse, and monitor regional water development issues and needs by:

   a. Collaborating with UNDP Regional Offices in Africa, Arab States, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean on the collection, analysis, and publication of data specific to the lack of access to clean water and sanitation;

   b. Analysing the effectiveness of various water policy initiatives to increase the proportion of people with access to clean water and sanitation, including all services related to sanitation, drinking water, wastewater, and natural water resources, in order to assess more effective methodologies so that they can be implemented on a wider level;

   c. Ensuring that investment programmes from UNDP Member States are used to meet the specific and targeted water and sanitation needs of local communities, so that approaches to water-related issues can be resolved sustainably with expert consultation;

3. Calls for the creation of a digital platform to be named the Digital Water Database (DWD) for the exchange of technologies, expertise and best practices between private, public sector, and civil society actors which will:

   a. Be supervised and implemented by the Bureau of Policy and Programme Support under the authority of the UNDP Executive Board;

   b. Publish a report every two years, titled “The Digital Water Database Collaborative Statement” through the UNDP Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, consisting of all observed water-based initiatives, suggestions to improve poor performing initiatives, new innovative technologies, and successful implementations of previously used methodologies in the same and other different regions;

   c. Suggest funding come from UNDP financing programmes engaged in water initiatives such as:

      i. Vertical Funds with the help of the World Bank;
      ii. Financial assistance of Development Banks;
      iii. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, and;
      iv. Financial contributions of Member States dedicated to sustainable development and poverty eradication;

   d. Work towards the following objectives:

      i. Streamlining the current reporting apparatuses on SDG 6;
      ii. Increasing information sharing through the compilation of data and information through DWD among actors engaged in water-related initiatives;
      iii. Allowing regional decision-making bodies to review and analyse other initiatives that can guide and inform future policy decisions;
      iv. Connecting local communities that face common issues regarding access to water and allow them to share their knowledge, expertise and experiences;

   e. Function as an online and publicly accessible database where anyone would be able to search for projects and access information on locations, funders, project outcomes, and evaluation metrics for the purpose of educating the global community on water-related policy initiatives and programmes;

   f. Compile water resource information from:

      i. The GLAAS Annual Report on the accessibility of sanitation and clean drinking water;
      ii. Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) on the SDGs by Member States, including contributions from local communities;
iii. Reports on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives by the WHO, and;

iv. Additional publications by UN-Water and its key international partners;

4. Encourages each participating state or region to designate an institution to supervise data collection processes and monitoring over time and submit their data and information continually to the DWD, on initiatives including but not limited to sanitation, agricultural systems, water distribution systems in rural and urban areas, wastewater, polluted water and rainwater, water scarcity, health services related to water, water-based education programs.
The United Nations Development Programme,

Noting the availability of clean water as a basic human right, as declared in Article 25 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),

Emphasizing the commitments made by Member States towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), and in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,

Underlining SDG 6.1 which aims to achieve equitable access to clean water for all, along with indicator 6.1.1 on the proportion of the population with available safe drinking water services,

Taking into account SDG 6.2 which strives to achieve access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls, as well as indicator 6.2.1, which refers to the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 54/175, on “The Right to Development” (2000) which highlights social progress and better standards of life as is prevalent to the access to clean water,

Fully aware of the great distances travelled by many women and children to access clean water, thus leading to the increased danger of sexual violence and hindering access to education, as noted in UN-Water’s report Gender, Water, and Sanitation,

Further recalling the commitments made by SDG 5 “Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls” and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979), which both highlight the importance of reducing gender inequalities by ensuring adequate access to basic services for women and children, including in relation to sanitation and water supply,

Emphasizing SDG 5.C, which has the objective to enforce policies of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls at all levels, accompanied by indicator 5.C.1, which refers to the proportion of Member States which have systems to track and make public allocations for the respective policies,

Expressing its appreciation of General Assembly resolution 72/178 on “The Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation” (2018), that calls for women to have full involvement in relevant decision making in relation to water, and to create a gender inclusive approach in the solutions to the issue,

Emphasizing the importance of safe, clean, and sustainable access to sanitary facilities within educational institutions, especially those attended by women, children, people with disabilities and minority populations, according to the General Assembly resolution 64/292, on “The Human Right to Water and Sanitation” (2010),

Recognizing the importance of General Assembly resolution 71/222, on “Water for Sustainable Development” (2016), which encourages the environmentally conscious management of water services to achieve SDG 6.6 in order to protect and restore water-related ecosystems,

Fully aware of the work that local organizations, such as the Water Project, have done to eliminate the sanitation gap that exists in developing countries through basic hygiene awareness, behavior change campaigns, water points and natural water facilities so that people in these areas can have better living condition,
Aware of the work done by the World Bank’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Poverty Diagnostic, which connects poverty and access to basic services as a tool to measure the impacts of inadequate WASH on livelihoods and human development,

Deeply concerned that over 80 percent of the world’s wastewater receives no treatment before being deposited back into the ecosystem, contributing to the contamination of water supply, according to the United Nations Environment Assembly’s report Towards a Pollution-Free Planet,

Acknowledging the importance of Member State specific water-related necessities and the unique challenges associated with each Member State’s challenge to obtain stable, safe, and clean sources of water, according to the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water,

Considering that many people live in rural areas that have limited access to developed infrastructure that traditional well-drilling equipment requires, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) guidance note Professional Water Well Drilling,

Affirming the importance of the community’s ability to operate and maintain wells and water sources since traditional wells require more technological knowledge to repair, as highlighted by UNICEF’s instruction handbook on Understanding Groundwater and Drills,

Encouraging the implementation of safe and sanitary water facilities in local schools by programs such as the United Nations (UN) Joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene, and Sanitation for the purpose of increasing female retention rates and utilizing educational buildings as a hub for water and sanitary sites for respective disenfranchised municipalities,

1. Invites all Member States, civil society organizations, international organizations, and private sector partners to ensure their WASH programs align with SDG Targets 6.1.1 on “Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services” and 6.2.1 on “Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water” and their respective indicators by:
   a. Expanding the use of safely managed water services, as implemented by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s Urban Water Management Programme, which has worked to create a comprehensive approach, which includes sustainable water management practices, upgrading urban water infrastructure for slums, and best practice sharing to increase the access to water;
   b. Increasing the use of responsibly managed sanitation services, through programs that implement innovative mechanisms for sanitation, which provide necessary funding to the development of bathroom-based infrastructures to marginalized communities;

2. Further invites the expansion of the distribution of technologies for sustainable sanitation systems through partnerships with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and other relevant regional organizations to support in reaching SDG targets, such as nylon straw technology to eliminate common pathogenic bacteria from small amounts of contaminated water, with an emphasis on:
   a. Engaging rural and isolated communities in the development of these projects;
   b. Training local populations, including women and girls, on the maintenance of these systems;

3. Further encouraging regional offices in cooperation with the governments of Member States to track allocations to water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, similar to the Secretary General’s Interagency Task Force on Gender and Water through the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UN-Water, which was responsible for gender inclusive practices in water during the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as per SDG target 5.C.1, and includes:
   a. Increasing the access to clean water by focusing on UNDP regional service centers to improve sanitation and hygiene for all by providing for the needs of women and those requiring support;
b. Full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making through water management programs;

4. **Recommends** increased partnership between Member States, regional bodies, private and civil society organizations to water-based program assessment through:

   a. Implementing regional-level data through the UNDP Regional Initiative by using analytics, modeled after the World Bank WASH Poverty Diagnostic, which creates data-driven recommendations for the use of policy makers, stakeholders, and donors with indicators;

   b. Reporting on the position of access to clean water to identify areas of specific vulnerability and immediate need through initiatives such as the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative;

5. **Encourages** action through multi-sector partnerships and private-public partnerships, such as national cooperation agencies and other relevant organizations that facilitate the implementation of water related goals to make progress in the fulfillment of SDG 6, particularly by ensuring the availability and sustainable management and sanitation of water sources, through initiatives to improve water-use efficiency, such as the reduction of leakage and water-saving by introducing volumetric tariffs;

6. **Recommends** the creation of strengthened partnerships between Member States and grassroots organizations to elevate the roles of schools in localized municipalities and villages by:

   a. Urging the creation of private-public-partnerships in order to promote holistic and all-inclusive approaches to accessible and sustainable clean water in local schools;

   b. Supporting partnerships between organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, the Water Project in order to expand fields of operation in eligible communities with the goal of implementing multifaceted strategies;

   c. Working to resolve health and nutritional water-related issues by strengthening infrastructure to support the development of water sanitation in municipal communities;

   d. Incentivizing participation in local populations through charity-organization grant opportunities, or the purpose of educating community members in water-related safety procedures, oriented towards urban technology and watershed management and or contamination;

7. **Suggests** policy makers engage in community-based initiatives that enable members of impoverished communities, particularly women and girls, in order to better highlight female sanitary and hygienic complications resulting from insufficient access to water and sanitation facilities as well as ensuring culturally appropriate utilization for respective communities alongside the Joint Program on Gender, Hygiene, and Sanitation through UN-Women and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council by:

   a. Educating all members of local communities on the importance of clean and accessible water and the role of the community in maintaining it;

   b. Educating communities on the relationship and proper use of menstrual hygiene and access to sources of clean water with the goal of promoting sanitary cleansing practices and appropriate disposals of used menstrual products to prevent further contamination of water in local communities;

8. **Recommends** the use of sustainable human-powered well-drilling practices which furthers a community’s ability to partner with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for clean water procurement that will increase:

   a. Assistance in creating community-owned and operated wells through micro-financing;
The involvement of community members in creating new means of income through renting the drill between communities and by providing training to members of the communities on their maintenance and operation, as these drills are:

i. Manually operated devices which do not require electricity, that ensure the availability of a constant water source to communities;

ii. Small and portable enough to reach villages without road access, thus reaching some of the most isolated and rural communities;

iii. Able to promote health through more widespread access to clean water and improves the quality of life overall of the people that previously had to consume contaminated groundwater.
The United Nations Development Programme,

Guided by Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which calls for the right to an adequate standard of living,

Reaffirming the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) responsibility to promote “higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development” as a prerequisite of peace, embodying Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945),

Considering Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 3, 4, 6, and 10, focusing on poverty, good health, education, water and sanitation, and inequalities, and the recent launch of the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 by the President of the 72nd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly,

Recognizing the need for a deeper understanding of issues surrounding accessibility to clean water to effectively use clean water as a method to eradicate poverty across the global community by efficiently using the appropriate UN bodies,

Expressing grave concern that, as mentioned in the 2017 Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report drafted by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization, 884 million people do not have access to basic drinking water services,

Encouraged by the reach of the UNDP offices within the borders of 177 Member States,

Alarmed by recent reports released by the “United Nations World Water Development Report 2017: Facts and Figures,” stating that more than 70 percent of world water consumption is due to agriculture,

Noting the successes of UNDP water programs such as the Clean Water Initiative in Member States such as Uganda, Kenya, and Guatemala, which brought clean water to more than one million individuals, and the UN-Water program which are critical in the UN efforts towards clean water around the globe,

Conscious of the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Water for Good and Pure Water for the World and their importance on solving the inequalities within the access to clean water around the globe,

Emphasizing the importance of urban planning along the guidelines set by the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and with the consultation of the UN Human Settlement Programme which emphasize the importance of sustainable infrastructure during the development of cities, including water services,

Further recognizing that the urbanization of global population and the increasing intensity of agriculture are emerging challenges to clean water access due to the increasing use and misuse of the resource, as stated by the UN World Water Development Report 2015,

Supporting General Assembly resolution 72/178 focused on “The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation” to monitor the correct distribution of resources and avoid discrimination, for the ongoing realization of achieving these goals and to intensify global partnerships,

Alarmed by the fact that 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services and that 361,000 children under the age of five die every year from water-related illnesses, as stated in the 2017 report of the JMP,
Noting with satisfaction the results of the World Health Organization Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Fit Programme as a risk-based framework with a set of tools for undertaking WASH improvements,

Bearing in mind that water and education are intimately connected, considering that 31% of schools lack basic water and sanitation and also that each year 443 million school days are lost due to an absence of access to clean water, as stated by WASH in Schools monitoring 2015,

1. **Expresses its support** to allocate an increased proportion of the UNDP’s annual budgetary streams to water-related initiatives in order to effectively respond to individualized needs of local communities;

2. **Recommends** that dialogue is employed to communicate with local communities, such that both the UNDP and local communities have open lines of communication by:
   a. Urging local communities, when possible, to approach the UNDP offices within Member States to voice their needs in an efficient manner in order to find solutions to clean water issues and give the local communities a louder voice;
   b. Having the UNDP be proactive in approaching communities which are water scarce or at risk of becoming water scarce to communicate the importance of the work of the UNDP and the resources at its disposal;

3. **Stresses the importance of** the development of water infrastructure according to the needs of specific communities through UNDP sponsored projects such as the Community Water Initiative to allow the expertise of the UNDP to help guide the policy making process on water;

4. **Encourages** the repair and refurbishment of existing facilities in areas where disasters and obsolescence of infrastructure are an issue in access to clean water;

5. **Affirms** the efforts of private organizations such as Water For Good or Pure Water for the World because of the advantages the private sector has in terms of innovative technologies, flexibility, faster responses, and research and development areas for specific topics whilst maintaining a more hands on approach;

6. **Requests** the UNDP offices to send consultants to areas that are seeking assistance, in order to accurately assess their needs within water services and convey those needs back to the UNDP where experts will work towards solutions with the local communities;

7. **Recommends** increasing the frequency and geographic scope of water specific forums such as the annual World Water Summit, the International Hydrological Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (IHP-LAC) National Committees, and the UN-wide World Water Development Report, with the goals of:
   a. Discussing and sharing knowledge of how issues of water access apply to the issue of poverty;
   b. Informing on best practices for diverse geographic areas;
   c. Providing a forum for developing solutions and building collaboration;

8. **Further Recommends** that Member States cooperate to develop strategies that will reduce inefficient agricultural water usage worldwide by:
   a. Continuing the collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that encourages sustainable water usage in agriculture using the networks and relationships the FAO has facilitated on a global scale;
b. Promoting research and development of efficient and sustainable irrigation techniques, especially drip irrigation, to prevent the unnecessary loss of water in the irrigation process;

9. Urges that Member States prepare for the rapid growth of urban areas in order to meet the water needs of all people by:
   a. Committing to the NUA to use as a roadmap in city development;
   b. Utilizing the expertise in urban planning of the UN Human Settlements Program to ensure efficient water systems are in place;

10. Approves of the increase in funding, subject to budgetary availability, of already existing water programs in order to ensure that these programs are more effective in addressing the water needs of Member States in a sustainable way, such as:
   a. Coordinating with the UN-Water program to expand the existing programs in water scarce communities;
   b. Continuing the work of the UNDP’s Clean Water Initiative to secure funding for programs for Member States in need;

11. Recommends the creation of an informal network for a more structured cooperation between all stakeholders involved in water access issues, which will consist of:
   a. Promoting the participation of UNDP regional offices in Member States which will:
      i. Act as a liaison between the actors in this network;
      ii. And oversee and coordinate work done within the network;
   b. Adopting multilevel cooperation including commercial enterprises, governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific institutes, and international organizations for addressing water issues;
   c. Encouraging collaboration between stakeholders to come to efficient, comprehensive and sustainable solutions by sharing expertise, project plans and results, and collaborate on developing new practices regarding water access;
   d. A group of Global Water Experts (GWE) who are experts on a wide variety of topics on clean water access in order to exchange ideas, technology, and techniques in order to solve unique problems facing clean water access around the world;

12. Invites the international community to collaborate on particular issues of water access and usage, and to promote mutual trust and cooperation of all parties, specifically from the following actors:
   a. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and International Organizations, which can:
      i. Concentrate on targeted and cohesive data access;
      ii. Share expertise and past results to acknowledge which actions have been successful;
      iii. Petition for donations to help develop solutions regarding water access;
      iv. Work together to provide technical assistance and funding;
   b. Private Sector to:
      i. Provide funding, investments, and consultancy to be able to develop a more focused approach on water issues;
ii. Advertise and advocate for the importance of clean water globally;

iii. Offer employees and experts that will help implement the most innovative technologies;

13. Calls on Member States to implement water purification practices, when possible, which can be used to improve the quality of accessible water in both drinking and agriculture by:

a. Purifying water from viruses, bacteria, and protozoa converting into clean, drinking water, through means such as solar stills, water purification straws, graphene filters, and purification tablets;

b. Installing interceptors to enhance the collection of wastewater and treatment facilities to reach acceptable water-quality for eventual use in irrigation practices;

14. Encourages Member States look towards raising awareness of water issues across all multilateral fora by utilizing programs such as the World Health Organization’s (WHO) WASH FIT, which includes the objective of providing practical approaches for the improvement of water and implementing sanitation and hygiene services to ensure safe water usage in healthcare facilities and schools;

15. Suggests Member States to use existing information institutions and databases to access research information on water issues, including:

a. International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) that focuses on international scientific cooperation in water research, water resource management, education, and capacity-building;

b. SDG Knowledge Hub, which provides a platform for SDG-related news, policy briefs and articles to promote the exchange of knowledge;

16. Encourages Member States to participate in the process of developing education programs that inform on sustainable water practices to ensure that:

a. The knowledge base used in creating education programs is diverse and reflects the variety of situations that affect water access;

b. Member States consent to programs which will work towards increasing the access to clean water, according to the specific needs of each individual Member State;

17. Recommends Member States to focus on education alongside the implementation of infrastructure through:

a. Trainings of stakeholders, educational programs for the community, social media campaigns, radio podcasts, reporting global, regional and national statistics, for the purpose of educating on the importance of water infrastructure and clean water access;

b. A school curriculum that pursues the following goals regarding education:

   i. Raising awareness of the importance of access to clean water;

   ii. Promoting the proper use of water and safe sanitation practices;

   iii. Drawing attention to the issue of water loss;

   iv. Calling attention to the impact of improper water infrastructure;

   v. Recognizing the benefits of using wastewater treatment plants for sanitation.