Documentation of the Simulation of the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

Conference B

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development
2. Protecting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Conflict Areas

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (In favor - Against - Abstention)
UNESCO/1/1	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	Adopted without a vote
UNESCO/1/2	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Protecting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Conflict Areas
2. Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

The session was attended by representatives of 38 Member States and no Observers. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of 2, 1, beginning discussion on the topic of “Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 4 proposals covering a wide range of subtopics, including, but not limited to: education, climate change, equal accessibility, international collaboration, infrastructure, and shared databases for information regarding water pollution. The delegates encouraged each other to find consensus and build their negotiations to promote their working papers positively. By Tuesday evening, the delegates had successfully merged 4 working papers down to 2 working papers.

On Wednesday, 2 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, with no amendments. The committee adopted 2 resolutions following the voting procedure, both received unanimous support from the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including sanitation, educational programs, the impact of climate change, equal accessibility, transboundary conflicts, and the impact of water scarcity on women and girls. The work of the delegates throughout the week was inspired by the collaboration and encouragement to build consensus through negotiations before the working papers were approved as draft resolutions.

Code: UNESCO/1/1
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Considering that by 2030 the health and livelihoods of 4.8 billion people could be at risk due to lack of water quality monitoring according to UN-Water's *Progress on Ambient Water Quality* report (2024),

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) and General Assembly resolution 70/169 (2016), which affirm the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation,

Aware of United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), which calls upon Member States to transform the world using the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

Mindful of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 (clean water and sanitation),

Further recalling the SDG targets 6.2 (universal access to sanitation and hygiene), SDG 6.4 (sustainable water use and freshwater availability) and 6.5 (integrated water resource management) to ensure global water security and management, which exhibits the need for continued investment and education in water infrastructure, capacity building, and public awareness to achieve global water accessibility,

Guided by Article 11 of *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966), which recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family, including continuous improvement of living conditions,

Acknowledging the content in General Comment 15, made by Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which affirms access to clean and sustainable water is a fundamental human right and establishes the responsibility of Member States to improve access to water without discrimination and achieve long-term water security through education, technological innovation, and international partnerships,

Guided by Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the *Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses* (UNWC) (1997), which affirm the principles of equitable and reasonable utilization of shared watercourses,

Fully believing its 25th anniversary of *Beijing Declaration* report titled as *Taking Stock of Progress Towards Gender Equality in Water Domain*, which mentioned that the principles to the human rights to water and sanitation should cover availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and acceptability,

Highlighting both the specific challenges women may face in regards to obtaining clean water as well as the 13 million disabled individuals who lack access to sanitary water entirely,

Underlining the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (The Water Convention) (1992) and its Protocol on Water and Health, which emphasizes the importance of resolving transboundary water distribution disputes, managing them more efficiently, and requesting information transparency, public awareness, education, and training,

Recalling the outcomes of the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* (1992) that led to the creation of Agenda 21, a global action plan for sustainable development,

Considering the value of Indigenous knowledge and traditional water conservation techniques in building locally effective, culturally grounded, and sustainable water strategies,

Noting with satisfaction the implementation of annual conferences on knowledge sharing about desalination, such as the 2024 *International Desalination and Reuse Association* (IDRA), supported by ECOSOC, reuniting Member States and private companies to sustain precious discussions nurturing a better future,

Reiterating the role of the Global Network on Water and Development Information for Arid Lands (G-WADI), enhancing the ability to oversee water resources in dry and semi-dry regions, which climate change often impacts water and sanitation systems,

Fully aware of the difficulties involved in the desalination process, including excessive energy consumption, environmental impacts, and cost barriers, as well as the need to increase sustainable practices in the procedure,

Encouraged by the success of sustainable desalination plants and water management projects such as Oman's Sur desalination plant, which is run using solar power, and the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project in the Republic of Korea,

Emphasizing the importance of global access to data on water resource management, which has been promoted by the success of the Mekong River Commission's data monitoring network in promoting the accessibility of transboundary water data,

Keeping in mind the objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Water Data Portal, which recognizes the importance of transboundary communication by sharing water management knowledge and data in the agricultural sector in relation to the goals of the UN-Water SDG 6 Global Accelerator Framework (GAF),

Recognizing the efficient data collection of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme's (IHP) HydroSHEDS and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater (GEMS/Water) databases, with its secondary and associated products, such as HydroATLAS and HydroWASTE,

Cognizant of its Open Hydrology publication, specifically pillar one "Open Data," which calls for the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability (FAIR) of data, and noting that transboundary water management is data-driven yet lacks guidance on data exchange standards,

Considering the success of existing water tracking satellite technology, such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-on (GRACE-FO) in identifying changes in water patterns throughout the world's surface and its potential equitable use in water resources management,

Fully alarmed that the yearly total cost to water service providers caused by Non-Revenue Water worldwide can be conservatively estimated at $141 billion,

Contemplating the efforts of the SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) Data Portal as a reliable mechanism for compiling and visualizing water-related data across Member States,

Appreciating collaboration with United Nations-affiliated organizations and civil society groups, such as Climate Cardinals, to strengthen multilingual education and local engagement around water issues and accessibility to water resources,

Emphasizing the central role played by the IHP, notably by supporting dedicated research on water management, as well as endorsing various initiatives enhancing common cooperation,

Grateful for the past efforts and frameworks made and established by the World Water Assessment Programme, which improves Member States' capacity to assess and respond to emergency crises of water management,

Acknowledging that the United Global Water Academy program, overseen by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, provides for a better understanding of water governance,

Noting with approval the transformative work expedited by United Nations bodies such as UN-Water pertaining to citizen-inclusive progression on governmental implementation of water initiatives,

1. *Encourages* the establishment of the Developing Efficient Systems for Water Resource Treatment program (DESERT) by global actors such as the United Nations Development Programme as well as the IHP, in order to enhance the use of desalination technology globally by 2040 through:

    a. Implementing a dedicated Desalination Development Fund (DDF) to support the financing, piloting, and scaling of desalination plants;

    b. Suggesting the implementation of Water Contamination Offset Taxes to aid the DDF in congested saltwater harbors, to aid the funding of desalination projects by local authorities;

    c. Establishing a pilot in Least Developed Countries focusing on regions with arid terrains managed by IHP within the next 5 years to determine long-term global implementation;

    d. Empowering Member States to enhance water conservation efforts through the sharing of knowledge and workshops with specialists on water management and plant maintenance, taking inspiration and precedence from programs already existing in Saudi Arabia and Qatar;

    e. Transferring operational knowledge, such as the one around the Al-Khafji solar-powered desalination plant and technical expertise in plant construction, maintenance, and management;

    f. Providing engineering and planning assistance to Member States with limited access to desalination technologies;

    g. Developing training modules and regional workshops for local technicians and water infrastructure professionals;

    h. Promoting joint research and development projects focused on energy-efficient and renewable-powered desalination technologies;

2. *Supports* the integration of sustainable and decentralized water treatment technologies focusing on rainwater harvesting and filtration systems such as sand and UV filters used to purify water, to complement desalination efforts and strengthen the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the DESERT initiative to be implemented within 2 to 3 years and reviewed in the biennial agenda, supported by funding from institutions, international organizations, private sector, and local communities, and applicable in both urban and rural settings including agricultural areas, industries and public infrastructures;

3. *Advises* the conditioning of financing for projects only if its impact on the surrounding ecosystems is minimal compared to the necessity of having a desalination plant, and encourages public-private contributions by financing research projects on sustainable innovation as well as requesting platforms for the exchange of best practices related to cost effective and environmentally responsible desalination systems;

4. *Strongly encourages* Global South cooperation on sustainable water infrastructure and desalination technologies in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Renewable Energy Agency to ensure clean water access in arid and semi-arid regions and the modernization of desalination infrastructure by:

    a. Facilitating the development and transfer of low-cost, solar-powered desalination systems adapted to rural and off-grid communities, drawing on Brazil's experience in the semi-arid Northeast;

    b. Encouraging joint infrastructure projects and technical exchange between Member States in the Global South to expand access to climate-resilient water solutions;

    c. Upgrading at least half of the existing desalination plants, many of which rely on natural gas, to more sustainable energy methods including solar and hydroelectric power;

    d. Promoting the development of new energy sources and energy storage facilities for desalination plants including solar and thermoelectric power as well as facilitating future research around desalination and energy storage designed around the needs of specific Member States and the need for sustainable development by working with existing groups such as the Desalination and Water Purification Research Program (DWPR);

    e. The continuation and expansion of conferences for Member States reliant on desalination technologies for drinkable water to facilitate the ~~e~~xchange of knowledge and technologies surrounding the process such as the International Desalination and Reuse Association;

    f. Supporting research and pilot programs on circular water systems, including wastewater recycling and rainwater harvesting, to reduce dependence on freshwater extraction and mitigate water stress in vulnerable regions;

5. *Expands* research collaborations and data sharing platforms to facilitate evidence-based water policy decisions by:

    a. Improving transboundary water governance in collaboration with Integrated Water Resources Management, calling for more legal mechanisms that promote equitable water sharing agreements and conflict prevention strategies;

    b. Recommending expanding capacity-building initiatives through UNESCO-led training programs on water security planning, desalination, and wastewater reuse technologies;

6. *Calls upon* Member States of UNESCO, other United Nations members, and international governmental organizations to share advanced water purification and recycling technologies in fragile water systems such as wetlands and lake ecosystems by:

    a. Adopting standardized scope emission assessments through transparent carbon emission tracking and using membrane purification to remove contaminants;

    b. Expanding and modernizing the consolidation and extension of supply networks in regions with fragile water systems;

    c. Collaborating with agencies, such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and providing training to Member States to be sustainably self-sufficient;

7. *Strongly encourages* Member States to share their technologies and resources in regards to the agricultural sector with other Member States through adopting technology to detect water leaks and providing rapid response with automatic systems to turn off the water at the source of the leak to reduce water loss, considering the water saved by the said system is greater than the water consumed by the technology, such as AI, used for this purpose;

8. *Recommends* the development and enlargement of innovative water technologies through a dedicated UNESCO-led platform that would:

    a. Facilitate technology transfer and capacity building in climate-resilient infrastructures, especially in developing countries, to align with SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;

    b. Establish regional technology hubs under UNESCO guidance to facilitate training, knowledge transfer, and partnerships with research institutions and the private sector;

9. *Invites* the World Meteorological Organization to create a set of data exchange standards in the field of transboundary water management by hosting a forum with Member States and other relevant stakeholders in order to ensure openness in data exchange and to increase the amount of usable data that is available to all professionals;

10. *Calls upon* the IHP to support the implementation of the *Mekong River Commission* (MRCs) autonomous cooperative water governance model in other transboundary regions such as the Indus, Nile, Zambezi, and Amazon basins by establishing open access data-sharing platforms, modeled by the MRC's transboundary database to enhance data-driven policies in other regions that:

    a. Promotes the replication of key MRC mechanisms, such as the Procedures for Notification, basin-wide data-sharing systems, and expert groups to contribute to technical work that can only be effectively realized with the participation of all Member States;

    b. Includes gender-responsive training guided by the MRCs Gender Response Plan 2021-2025 to equip women in transboundary areas with the skills needed to engage in water governance models;

    c. Ensures the sustainability and longevity of transboundary water resources through the review of the UN-Water program in the biennial agenda;

11. *Recommends* the creation of the Water Resources Database (WRD), which streamlines existing databases, such as the SDG 6 Data Portal, UNEP's GEMS/Water database, and IHP's HydroSHEDS technology under one singular website managed by IHP experts with a simple configuration, accessible directly from UNESCO and UN-Water websites homepages, with new elements such as:

    a. Improvements to the HydroSHEDS maps with live updates and animations to help experts predict floods and droughts more efficiently and share this information directly with communities consulting the website;

    b. State-of-the-art technology to collect, analyze water resources data, and improve efficiency;

    c. Indigenous knowledge gathered by members of indigenous communities through partnerships with UNESCO World Heritage specific to each precise region, on sustainable water usage practices and land conservation;

d. Accessible online workshops and courses on efficient exploitation of watersheds in industries like agriculture and industry offered by local experts and involved NGOs in the concerned regions;

e. The development of interactive mapping systems with live updates and redirection routes that are cognizant of unsafe situations, such as disasters and crime scenes, will function as a mechanism by which communities can avoid dangerous situations;

f. A summit division of UNESCO's *World Water Forum*, with activities based on data from the region where the forum takes place on water pollution, availability, and consumption, open to individuals, journalists, and Member States, to give visibility to the database and the water of the concerned region;

g. An interactive and collaborative open data portal, where all programmes, projects, policies, or studies regarding water management by private, public, or nonprofit organizations are shared and accessible to the international community to implement into their own regions;

h. Basic guides for the implementation of water management systems that can be developed as an open data portal for the community to cooperate;

i. Following the guidance of the Personal Data Protection and Privacy set by the United Nations;

12. *Recommends* the facilitation of open usage of existing weather monitoring technology through the WRD by:

    a. Urging Member States to offer open access to data captured on state-owned satellite imagery through a data hub called the Open Satellite Initiative, aiding world responses to incoming climate shifts;

    b. Using WRD technology to automatically recognize patterns in satellite imagery around the world to ensure the recognition of distinct or concerning water movements and adapt to fit the needs of differing regional features;

13. *Urges* Member States to acknowledge the importance of efficient data sharing for the purpose of information transparency that touch upon education, raising awareness, consumer rights, and convenience of monitoring water management by:

    a. Establishing policy models that support the public, state, and local authorities to receive relevant water data, including the process of assessment, planning, research, implementation, and public engagement;

    b. Providing necessary technical or financial support by encouraging fundings from NGOs and private sectors for data sharing;

    c. Cooperating with the international or regional organization regarding the data collecting, sharing, and opening, in order to tackle the dispute of transboundary rivers and lakes;

    d. Encouraging the allocation of funding from non-profit organizations and NGOs towards educational initiatives and campaigns targeted at citizens, particularly in affluent areas, to underline the key importance of water and spread information on the value of water, specifically within rural regions, focused on providing accessible sources of information regarding the maintenance of implemented water technologies such as filtrations systems;

14. *Encourage*s implementing a monitoring system supported by United States research organizations NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide Member States' local government agencies with climate data, training programs and further enhance predicting technology to identify regions of drought, contamination and water scarcity with independent oversight guided by UN-Water agency to ensure reliable and transparent information;

15. *Supports* the development of a global initiative within the framework of the IHP taking inspiration from Qatari research institutions and the Saudi Water Authority to support Member States in the adoption of an online UNESCO knowledge sharing platform to better disseminate toolkits, case studies, and open access technological solutions focused on improving water efficiency through:

    a. Recognizing that technological advancements can be monitored through programs similar to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

    b. Exchanging best practices among Member States that have successfully implemented smart water monitoring systems, including pressure sensors and satellite-based leak detection;

    c. Technical training in collaboration with regional universities to strengthen expertise in identifying and managing Non-Revenue Water;

    d. Voluntary partnerships with private sector actors and research institutions to support the development and transfer of affordable digital solutions adapted to diverse regional contexts;

    e. Implementation set to begin in 2026, with a full deployment planned over the subsequent five years;

16. *Promotes* Member States to exchange knowledge and technical collaboration through the use of existing technology accessible from developed countries to the service of developing countries in order to support learning programs and increase public awareness by:

    a. Strongly encouraging sufficient funding for educational programs to raise awareness and life skills regarding hygiene for developing countries that endure poor water quality due to open defecation practices, and working to develop the necessary facilities to sustain encouraged hygienic practices;

    b. Calling upon the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to provide more funding in educational institutions for smart growth development and green urban planning in both developed and developing countries, in order to provide resources for future architects and environmental planners for sustainable water management;

    c. Increasing the number of environmental educational programs in urban areas that provide hands-on experiences and benefits to communities that are unfamiliar with the ecological importance of water and the importance of sustainable urban growth;

    d. Installing multi-faceted, early warning systems in regions across the international community systems can take shape in the form of emergency siren systems, accessible weather-pattern warning systems, and the development of supplemental materials that give rural populations increased awareness in times of crisis;

    e. Collaborating with programs such as the United Kingdom's 20FIFTY sustainable water stewardship educational program to ensure business sectors understand and comply with international frameworks to support SDGs;

f. The exchange of best practices among Member States that have successfully implemented smart water monitoring systems, including pressure sensors and satellite-based leak detection;

g. Technical training in collaboration with regional universities to strengthen expertise in identifying and managing Non-Revenue Water;

17. *Invites* the creation of the WRD Education Program, which utilises the information from the WRD database to set up a sustainability course that allows students to conduct research and further enhance their understanding of the development, production, and use of clean water through the collaboration of governments, universities, and NGOs by:

    a. Ensuring that the WRD online resources, such as interactive maps and drought and flood predictions, are accessible in many languages and remote regions;

    b. Spreading and globalizing information within the WRD so that all communities, regardless of their status, have equal access;

    c. Offering community outreach programs and workshops for target populations that lack digitized infrastructure, ultimately providing a physical alternative initiative to help guide them to clean water sources;

    d. Facilitating the practice of data sharing between Member States in an effort to ultimately cultivate region-specific strategies and solutions;

    e. Launching a Global Indigenous Water Education Initiative (GIWEI) to fund multilingual content, train local educators, and finally share open-access resources through digital platforms, like NGO Climate Cardinals, which includes more than 4,000 Indigenous and numerous local and rural communities, therefore focusing specifically on disadvantaged communities and their unique relationship with water, unlike broader civic or educational programs;

18. *Recognizing* that women, girls, those with disabilities, and individuals with low socioeconomic status are substantially less likely to obtain access to education and may require individualized needs, available through endorsing digital learning programs to promote access to water governance education, to be inclusive of remote and developing countries by:

    a. Emphasizing the need for all educational initiatives to be inclusive to all individuals and cognizant of their unique necessities;

    b. Encouraging the implementation of a curriculum pertaining to hygienic, reproductive, and menstrual health of women and girls in order to illuminate how gender plays a central role in the future of high-quality water for generations to come;

    c. Suggests educational initiatives to contain specialized curricula addressing those with disabilities to enable them to fully benefit from these programs;

    d. Promoting accessibility of digital learning programs, such the United Global Water Academy, to extend them through the usage of mobile content to make it more attainable and to ensure active participation in the areas with limited technological infrastructure;

19. *Strongly encourages* the creation of the *Students for Water Management* (SFWM), a transnational partnership with Member States' universities that is needed to promote water management research and education ensuring generational engagement in water management through:

a. Rolling an educational research program that is open to all Member States for participation and funding including utilizing nonprofit and private funding and requesting all participating Member States supply equal funding to the international program at large;

b. Encouraging Member States to form multi-national university-partnered programs among states with similar water source backgrounds, allowing for involvement of the student-based community and locals in educational sessions;

c. Monitoring drinking water availability in alignment with each respective Member States by promoting dedicated research to address specific local drinking water accessibility, which is monitored primarily by university students under faculty guidance;

20. *Ensures* the establishment of United Nations-mandated educational programmes by 2040 in rural areas to provide education on sanitation and guidance on sanitary water access through the provision of educational guidelines that will be adjusted to cultural contexts by regional governments;

21. *Collaborates* with IHP and FAO's Water Productivity Open-access Portal to consider the creation of a knowledge platform on sustainable agriculture and water-efficient practices, focusing on regions facing water scarcity and semi-arid conditions to improve agricultural water productivity through global expansion and real-time data, implemented through:

    a. Development of localized farmer education hubs and open access educational materials in different languages in coordination with organizations such as Climate Cardinals, to inform local communities and empower them through culturally adapted, relevant content;

    b. Training Member States and stakeholders through missions to interpret and utilize satellite imagery and remote sensing data to monitor water use in agriculture for better water management decisions;

    c. Capacity-building workshops facilitated by experts affiliated with IHP projects in irrigation and regional agricultural research centers, to empower small-scale farmers to find sustainable solutions, with seasonal planning calendars tailored to local crop cycles;

    d. Providing accessible data on water productivity indicators such as evapotranspiration and crop water use, to inform Member States how to integrate global hydrological data into national water planning initiatives;

22. *Urges* Member States to fortify collaboration through regional binding agreements such as the *Danube River Protection Convention* (1994), the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (1992), and the *Protocol on Water and Health* (1999), which guarantee adherence to environmental standards by:

    a. Integrating infrastructure such as tubes with emitters in the ground and soil moisture sensors to facilitate drip irrigation and prevent soil erosion; improving the overall health of the crops;

    b. Maintaining water quality, fair water distribution, and pollution control in transboundary waters and preventing water contamination due to agricultural runoff, industrial discharge, lead pipes, and untreated sewage monitored by UN-Water;

23. *Recommends* UNEP in the next two years to add traditional and existing practices to the Green Infrastructure Guide, such as:

a. Preserving cultural rainwater harvesting techniques that improve local water security and support groundwater recharge, ensuring a more reliable water supply for communities;

b. Integrating traditional methods of water conservation that reduce runoff and maximize infiltration, promoting sustainable agriculture, and protecting against soil erosion;

c. Incorporating community-driven water management strategies that empower local communities to manage their water resources effectively and sustainably, fostering resilience against climate impacts;

d. Inspecting water pipe systems regularly to meet international standards and mitigate harmful losses of water through unintended leakage and usage;

24. *Further recommends* to collaborate with the United Nations inter-water agency mechanism, by following the model outlined in the Early Warnings for All act to launch a global initiative to increase public awareness and education surrounding the importance of clean, accessible water sources and to promote emergency response services related to climate disasters in rural/underdeveloped areas;

25. *Strongly advises* the creation and commitment to a United Nations “Blue Fund”, which mobilizes public and private sector finance to support the development and deployment of allocated funds and new, innovative technologies such as:

    a. Implementing low-cost purification systems, new irrigation techniques, and effective waste-water management systems all related to ensuring clean, safe, accessible water;

    b. Allowing for accountability and transparency regarding water sustainability operations globally and the development of historical cooperative agreements that see direct improvement for global health, education, and economic advancement.

Code: UNESCO/1/2
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Prompted by the creation of the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Water Security Framework* (UWSF) along with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Policy forum, which currently acts to resolve and mediate tensions of transboundary conflicts impacted through water scarcity, sanitation, hygiene and pollution issues, climate action and geographical borders,

Reiterating UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which promotes sustainable water management practices to ensure water availability and quality for future generations, including the advancement of scientific research and information which encourages cross-border collaboration on water management,

Drawing attention to successful partnerships, such as the *Indus Water Treaty* (1960) between Pakistan and India and the 2017 *Agreement and Binational Commission for Integrated Management of Water Resources*, in promoting peaceful distribution of transboundary water resources and the critical role the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) plays in mitigating conflicts by sustaining diplomatic dialogue,

Stressing the dialogue established by the United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) and their work on Integrated Water Resources Management,

Affirming the efforts by the programme Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to help communities access safe sanitation practices and clean water to address the lack of access and to work toward completing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation),

Emphasizing the importance of water as a human right as established by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292 in 2010 and the role that technology plays in furthering this goal,

Keeping in mind the efforts done by the 2030 Water Resources Group, which advances global water security to fight the inequalities between developed countries and developing countries in access to drinking water because of different natural resources and economic backgrounds,

Reaffirming the significance of sustaining future development projects that ensure water governance strategies incentivising green taxonomy, in cooperation with a voluntary funding group, that protects communal water security,

Fully aware of the importance of advanced, sustainable water in agricultural and industry systems to conserve water resources in preparation for future shortages and encouraging ecological balance,

Noticing the lack of infrastructure for efficient integrated water resources management, especially in developing Member States, such as monitoring systems and water supply plans as four out of five people lack the basic water services in rural areas according to UNESCO,

Expressing grave concern that 70% of the world’s freshwater is used in agriculture and much of it becomes wastewater due to poor agricultural practices, and that according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations (FAO), one third of all food produced globally is wasted (around 1.3 billion tons each year), and that it is clear that wasting food also means wasting a vital resources,

Recalling the work done by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which aids in funding a program dedicated to water financing that helps with capacity building and helps governments implement sustainable water management practices,

Deeply concerned by the fact that more than two billion people around the world experience water scarcity and that this problem is growing exponentially as a direct result of climate change, published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water and released at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference in New York,

Acknowledging the mandates of UNESCO in addressing SDG 6.4 (progress on water use efficiency), SDG 6.5 (integrated water resource management), SDG 6.2 (adequate and equitable access to sanitation and hygiene) and SDG 5.5 (women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership) to promote progress towards equitable and gender-responsive water management and governance,

Recognizing the Human Rights Council's (HRC) resolution 12/8 adopted on 12 October 2009 and resolution *7/22* adopted on 28 March 2008, which shares that Member States have an obligation to address and rectify discrimination with regard to sanitation and access to drinking water,

Taking into consideration the *United Nations Water Action Agenda* by 2030 that emphasizes the importance of accelerated impacts and improved outcomes for programs and projects related to SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation),

Guided by the importance of promoting climate-smart irrigation techniques, such as drip and alternate wetting and drying (AWD) irrigation, to improve water efficiency in transboundary agriculture, demonstrated by an 8.9 percent increase in crop yields in the Mekong River Delta according to the Mekong River Commission (MRC),

Cognizant of the role of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in advancing digital education on water and sanitation through SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) training modules, and emphasizing the need to enhance these resources by addressing gender disparities in WASH knowledge, particularly regarding potable water access and domestic water use in rural communities,

Considering the FAO's *Rome Declaration and Plan of Action* (1996) that emphasizes the importance of cross-border collaboration to address water scarcity issues,

Determined to adopt a multifaceted approach to water management to address water related challenges and ensure the availability of clean and safe water for present and future generations,

Concerned that 40% of the global population resides around transboundary water sources and that only 28% of transboundary water resources have operational arrangements covering shared rivers, lakes, and other aquifers, according to UN-Water,

Highlighting that women spend 40 billion hours annually collecting water, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), prohibiting them from development and educational opportunities, with an emphasis on the water and agricultural sector,

Noting the success of UNESCO's IHP regional workshops and physical exercises across five different regions to empower rural women and girls in local water governance and transboundary water resource management,

Aware of the critical role of women and girls in rural communities and transboundary regions in water management and governance, and stressing the need for gender inclusive training programs to enhance their skills, knowledge, and leadership,

Highlighting the implementation of Floating Treatment Wetlands in large water bodies and urban waterways to effectively remove pollutants, including excess nutrients, from stormwater and wastewater, and reduce algal blooms and dead zones,

Taking note of the importance of the protection of natural world heritage sites as part of sustainable water resources management, as according to UNESCO, about two-thirds of natural sites are crucial sources of water,

Appreciating the success of previous initiatives such as the MyH20 initiative, which has provided water quality testing services to over 1000 rural villages and provided over 5.7 million liters of fresh water to rural villagers, and the critical nature of maintaining intergovernmental transparency about levels of water pollution,

Underlining the importance of green infrastructure such as parks, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, and wetland restoration for sustainable water development and management,

Encouraging Member States to work with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the funding provided through their Greener Cities Partnership to strengthen legal frameworks to create more sustainable cities, building resilience to climate change and rising populations, including developing water resource management plans to address urban expansion,

Reaffirms the need to encourage Member States to develop water treatment plants in major cities, seeking technological cooperation and the creation of new job positions,

Promoting the need to create a shared database as a common background for Member States to share and identify new sustainable water management technologies and systems,

Conscious that 80% of municipal wastewater is discharged into water bodies untreated, carrying thousands of contaminants, as demonstrated by studies of the International Water Management Institute,

Recognizes the importance of the Green Climate Fund, which allocated 2.2 billion USD to 162 different projects, and the Water Justice Fund, providing resources to national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Community Based Organizations (CBOs),

Appreciating the World Health Organization’s (WHO) accelerating efforts in WASH initiatives and in the area of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), particularly regarding access to and availability of quality and filtered water,

Alarmed by the severe impact of water contamination globally due to agricultural runoff, industrial discharge, untreated sewage, and the widespread use of lead pipes, which pose significant threats to human health, biodiversity, and sustainable development, highlighted by 1.7 billion people having access to an unsafe drinking water source according to the WHO,

Valuing the successful implementation of prior initiatives such as the Jal Jeevan mission in addressing the disproportionate resource allocation within developing regions and minority groups,

Recalling the establishment of UNESCO’s Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (2013) project, which has strengthened transboundary water cooperation,

Noting the success of the United Nations Environmental Programme’s (UNEP) Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater (GEMS/Water) initiative, a cross-border information sharing database that

collects and analyzes data on water availability, depletion, and quality to assess its global trends in climate vulnerable transboundary regions,

Further promoting the inclusion of NGOs in financially supporting the management of water resources and the development of sustainable practices in areas without proper management,

Underlines the 2030 Water Resource Group for the implementation of an international financing mechanism to support Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in their efforts to manage water sustainably, funded by progressive contributions from further developed nations,

1. *Recognizes* the efforts of the UNESCO Global Policy forum and the creation of a UNESCO *Water Security Framework* (UWSF), which encourages the continuation of an open and inclusive global forum that is open to Member States, non-Member States, Small Developing Countries (SDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) to establish regulatory frameworks that address water sustainability, hygiene practices and equitable access to water across transboundary borders, water sanitation and the prevention of water scarcity to further:

    a. Facilitate dialogue and agreements between states that are concerned over shared water resources by organizing regular multilateral meetings, providing technical and legal help to assist in treaty negotiations on issues of water resource scarcity, conflict, pollution, and climate change;

    b. Encourage Member States, non-Member States, SDCs, and LLDCs, to support early warning systems and mediation to prevent water related conflicts by developing regional alert mechanisms for drought overuse, training local authorities in conflict de-escalation, and deploying expert teams in cases of rising tensions between states;

2. *Engage* in transboundary diagnostic analysis, such as UNESCO's IHP, using available data on shared water resources under the commission's purview;

3. *Proposes* the establishment of consultation bodies, funded by the PBC and NGOs, that monitor geopolitical tensions and advise regional usage accordingly by suggesting the democratic nomination of local citizens within rural communities, tasked with communicating and collaborating with regions neighboring transboundary bodies of water and consultation bodies;

4. *Requests* NGOs such as the Blue Peace Initiative to fund the education and management of citizens partaking in regional monitoring of transboundary water bodies about pollution and sanitation levels;

5. *Advocates for* the development of Training for Inclusive Development in Environmental Sustainability (TIDES), a gender-inclusive water management training program, in collaboration with the IHP, to empower women and girls through education and leadership pathways in local water governance by:

    a. Expanding the number of IHP regional capacity building hubs to better focus on transboundary and rural areas, delivering in-person workshops, which promote integrated water resources management curricula and practical exercises;

    b. Partnering with local women’s agencies and unions to identify participants, co-design culturally relevant and region specific concerns, and ensure the program’s accessibility;

    c. Providing career development pathways, including mentorship programs, fieldwork placements with basin organizations or local water authorities, to support long-term professional advancement for women in the water sector;

    d. Ensuring avenues to pursue tertiary or higher education opportunities in water management and governance through local academic institutions or partner universities;

6. *Recommends* Member States to work with WASH to implement basic sanitation facilities that are accessible to all genders in schools to meet SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) by 2030;

7. *Requests* the expansion of the UNITAR digital modules related to the current foundations of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), to include a ninth module on Gender WASH Knowledge Disparity, to better disseminate important information regarding gender WASH differences, sourcing potable water, and water use for rural households;

8. *Appeals for* the participation of the Green Climate Fund and the Water Justice Fund, for the promotion of women-owned and female-led solutions concerning the water crisis, climate challenges, and human rights to water and sanitation, creating more leadership opportunities in local communities and promoting gender justice;

9. *Establishes* the World Water Resource Fund (WWRF), a voluntary funding group building agricultural infrastructure and providing innovative technology for LDCs, incentivizing green taxonomy and prioritizing sustainable development, which Member States could contribute to for the purpose of funding initiatives proposed in the resolution;

10. *Supports* scaling up local community irrigation techniques to promote water efficiency in rural and transboundary agriculture in line with the *United Nations Water Action Agenda* by developing new agricultural technology and innovating existing techniques, including drip irrigation, AWD, drought resistant farming, and training local farmers and agricultural workers in the principles and practical application of new and water secure farming techniques;

11. *Recommends* facilitating an annual conference through the World Water Forum to promote cross-border information sharing from local farming and agronomic communities in rural and transboundary regions with global irrigation experts from the IHP;

12. *Welcomes* the creation of technology that can be used to provide greater access to clean water, including those being developed by regional programs such as the FAO's Water Scarcity Program's water monitoring systems and localized adaptive techniques;

13. *Authorizes* Member States to take steps to implement new water supply plans and monitor systems in Member States that lack Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and drinkable water by including systems of water drainage, filtration, and purification, and ensuring IWRM management is a shared responsibility of the Member States involved;

14. *Promotes* the reuse of wastewater from agriculture, industry and food sectors through the adoption of advanced technologies, including solar powered desalination as seen in the United Arab Emirates, and implementing national food waste reduction strategies, such as food redistribution platforms and mobile apps as in the Food Trade Initiative (2016) in France, in line with SDG 12.3 (global food loss and waste) to halve global food waste by 2030;

15. *Invites* forums and institutions to have a key role in the protection of water in the LDCs, entrusting the ADB with promoting sustainable industrial development, including through the financing of infrastructure and the encouragement of eco-friendly technologies;

16. *Recommends* the integration of real-time data sharing and satellite monitoring technologies from UNEP's GEMS/Water and IHP's HydroSheds into UNESCO's Governance of Groundwater Resources in

Transboundary Aquifers Project (2013), to better engage global data experts, monitor hydrological stressors, inform evidence based policy decisions, and support climate-smart agricultural planning in both national and regional contexts, particularly to mitigate water scarcity impacts on food security;

17. *Advises* Member States to work with UN-Habitat for funding to improve climate resilient infrastructure like waste treatment plants and watersheds that provide hydrological power;

18. *Invites* Member States to consider the creation of local organizations, modeled by the framework of the Pakistan Council for Research of Water Resources, whose goal is to evaluate how water is being utilized in areas of large agriculture;

19. *Urges* UNEP to conduct audits of rural areas and places of large agriculture that claim to use sustainable practices and ensure that they are used effectively, making suggestions to improve areas that do not use sustainable practices regarding water, and providing resources and education services on better practices;

20. *Suggests* the implementation of regionally sustainable water sampling technologies, particularly focused within lower-income and rural areas susceptible to waterborne illnesses, by calling upon the WHO and NGOs for investment in supplying low cost water filtration systems such as Ceramic Water Filters;

21. *Further encourages* the expansion of the United Nations' Early Warnings for All Initiative throughout at risk communities to prevent widespread loss of life in the face of climate disasters through:

    a. Expanding physical infrastructure designed to warn residents of impending climate disasters through alarms as well as issuing these warnings over local, statewide broadcasting networks such as television and radio to ensure maximum coverage and awareness;

    b. Establishing a Water Quality Index to weather applications and web pages so the public can be aware of the safety of their local water supplies, utilizing previous information collected through the GEMS/Freshwater Program;

    c. Promoting educational programs in rural, at risk areas of LDCs to educate the population on the role of climate change in creating these disasters and what they can do to both stay safe and help prevent future disasters;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to participate in funding through monetary and non-monetary contributions by collaborating with NGOs to share expertise and knowledge in precise domains such as irrigation techniques and urban water saving infrastructure;

23. *Welcomes* the adoption of comprehensive assessments to guide urban expansion to regulate water usage, treatment, and disposal in rapidly growing urban areas, further emphasizes the importance of evaluating industrial and urban development to establish sustainable water consumption standards and enforce usage limits, and encourages the implementation of centralized water treatment systems incorporating processes such as storage, disinfection, filtration, sedimentation, and flocculation to ensure access to clean and non-polluted water sources;

24. *Emphasizes* the development of water consciousness programs in urban areas, including educational initiatives for youth on efficient water use and the promotion of non-polluting practices among households and businesses through systems such as septic solutions, supported by data driven insights from programs like UNEP;

25. *Supports* the implementation of Floating Treatment Wetlands in large water bodies and urban waterways as a sustainable method to reduce water contamination and promote biodiversity, drawing inspiration from the successful installation in Neknampur Lake, Hyderabad, India;

26. *Invites* the creation of a Water Recycling Index under the guidance of UNESCO, evaluating Member States based on their commitment to and performance in sustainable water management and recycling;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to expand water recycling infrastructure by supporting agriculture through efficient irrigation systems, wastewater reuse, and rainwater harvesting, as well as encouraging policy improvements that prioritize investments in climate-resilient infrastructure;

28. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with FAO and other programs to develop or improve National Adaptation Plans, with technical assistance provided to evaluate and address weaknesses in agricultural water use and climate adaptation strategies by helping farmers to use water more efficiently in agriculture through training, new technology, and better farming methods as well as sharing information and knowledge between Member States about successful ways to save water and adapt to climate change in farming;

29. *Further supports* the promotion and dissemination of hydrological studies and agricultural water usage data collection conducted in rural areas regarding water use efficiency and sustainability, and encourages partnerships between Member States to replicate best practices that can improve water resource planning and allocation;

30. *Strongly encourages* the creation of a common database where the percentage of certain chemicals in wastewater can be measured, monitored, and analyzed to promote clean water management solutions between Member States through water sampling analysis and water-safe agriculture practices related to agricultural efficiency and productivity;

31. *Advises* Member States to improve transboundary water governance frameworks as an integral part of sustainable water resources management, particularly in natural World Heritage Sites that serve as crucial sources of freshwater by fostering stronger cooperation between UNESCO, national authorities, and local stakeholders by increasing frameworks around conflict-prone transboundary bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, basins, and aquifers.