

COMMITTEE: Human Rights 2

QUESTION OF: Preserving the human right to water (Addressing the systematic freshwater pollution in low-income countries).

SUBMITTED BY: The United States of America (USA)

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Israel, Nigeria

SIGNATORIES: Croatia, Japan

The General assembly,

Recognising that the majority of MEDC nations have access to “Safely-managed water sources” for example the United States having 2.98% lacking this and 1.47% lacking “Safely-managed sanitation” systems and 99% having access to complete plumbing facilities,

Bearing in mind the developed countries have made consistent efforts to support Low-income nations or (LEDCs) through agencies such as (USAID) which has helped improve water quality and access by improving water-treatment facilities and supporting LEDCs through improving infrastructure and water-management,

Emphasising that freshwater pollution is primarily the effect of poor infrastructure and waste-management, rapid population growth and industrial discharges/agricultural run off,

Deeply concerned by the millions of lives lost and affected due to the effects of freshwater pollution with disease and other factors associated with water pollution and contamination such as one LEDC alone (Ethiopia) having 61.5 million not having access to clean water with more than 9000 children dying of this lack of water yearly,

Fully aware of the crucial role pesticides and fertilizers play in the agricultural industry,

1. Encourages the contribution of funds, direct influence and support from developed MEDC nations to provide aid to low-income nations affected by systemic freshwater pollution:
 - a. All nations to donate at least 0.05% of their global GDP to a fund for improving water quality and accessibility, that can be accessed by the country itself and by other countries (taxation on GDP to this fund shall stop after the issue has significantly resolved) the funds will be overseen by an independent national body,
 - i. Requests an exception on 0.05% GDP for countries that are in crisis such as war, famine, natural disasters and economic collapse that last a duration of 6 months,
 - b. All MEDCs to engage in diplomacy with other developed nations to advocate for the effective implantation of making water accessible for Low-income nations and to raise awareness of the issue on a greater scale through campaigns and projects,

- c. Nations which have resolved issues of water-pollution or reduced their impact on citizens, to be urged to share their research and data findings to support other less developed countries;
2. Suggests that all nations that are severely affected by water-pollution should conduct immediate review and evaluation of their own infrastructure, waste-management systems and water-treatment facilities and funds collected from GDP taxation can go towards improving these systems:
 - a. Governments of Low-income countries that are affected by Water-pollution to conduct an immediate investigation into the quality of their infrastructure and water-treatment and sewage systems and vital improvements to be made should be noted,
 - b. New and efficient ways of managing waste in main polluting nations should be researched and implemented in a growing population,
 - c. Money from the fund for water quality and accessibility should be invested in reducing the causes of water-pollution, this including funding for research and development into more sustainable means of reducing the issue as well as funding for improved infrastructure and the addition of increased numbers of water-treatment plants;
3. Reaffirms the continued and new international promotion and education of the sustainable agricultural practices, industrial processes and waste-management systems in low income countries:
 - a. All nations to start governmental outreach programs to educate the public and to raise awareness on the importance of effectively recycling plastic and they should be informed on how this pollutes and contaminates the water and how it affects ecosystems,
 - b. Individuals and communities should be aware of the roles they can play to protect water resources and behaviours to avoid this can be achieved through free governmental training programs,
 - c. For MEDC nations the funding for these outreach and training programs should be funded by the government, whereas for LEDC nations money from the fund should go towards outreach and training programs as money from the fund will be better put to use on countries that won't be able to afford the costs of raising awareness;
4. Urges immediate global and state government intervention on the use of substances which add to freshwater pollution in low-income nations:
 - a. Introduce legislation to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers in agricultural practices and put a limit on the amount of pesticides that can be used in agriculture,
 - b. To reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers in agriculture an indirect tax should be placed on the price of these harmful contaminants to discourage their use and reduce the indirect tax on more safer organic

alternatives such as scented plants etc. This would be an example of an incentive for compliance,

- c. An effective example would be to ban lead piping in public sewage and water-transportation systems. This can be achieved through updating building codes and industry standards in plumbing among other ways,
 - d. Introduce tighter legislative penalties for industrial discharge and the companies that emit it. This can be most effectively implemented through the channels of stakeholder engagement,
 - e. Increase corporation tax on businesses involved in emitting these harmful industrial discharges into freshwater;
5. Further invites other developed nations to deliver humanitarian aid and an emergency response system to water-related disasters in other nations:
- a. This can include sharing Legal expertise and collaborating with other nations to strengthen legal frameworks and sharing legal practices that have been effective in improving water quality and accessibility,
 - b. Technical expertise from other nations can be shared and can assist with LEDCs being able to manage and mitigate freshwater contamination, and local scientists, professionals and governments of developing nations will be informed of how to better reduce the risks of freshwater pollution,
 - c. Medical advice and expertise from developed nations should be given to communities, local hospitals and clinics who deal with water pollution-related diseases in low-income nations;
6. Endorses the UN to continue having meetings and summits concerning the issue of freshwater pollution until the issue has been significantly resolved; the UN should also be constantly establishing new guidelines and policies to prevent the causes of water pollution (Inadequate infrastructure, harmful agricultural practices, poor sewage-management systems, lack of water-treatment facilities).