



UN WATER

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I. Letters from the DIAs

Letter From Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Shahbano Haroon (she/her), and I am a sophomore studying economics and political science. I am extremely excited to be chairing this committee and to meet everyone at this year's BearMUN.

I am originally from Karachi, Pakistan where I've had the opportunity to do MUN in high school and be exposed to the importance of global affairs and international relations. Since then, I have loved participating in MUN as both a staffer and a delegate and have had many wonderful experiences having met some of my best friends in the club. I am also on the Secretariat for the UCBMUN collegiate conference and am involved in the Pakistan Student Association at Berkeley. I am a huge music nerd and the only thing I love more than sleeping is watching tv shows.

I am especially excited about UN Water due to the issues water scarcity has caused back in Pakistan. Due to climate change and the contamination of water, water scarcity continues to be a pressing issue around the world. Access to pure water is a basic right that all humans around the world deserve. As delegates in this committee, I hope you all thoroughly discuss the issue of water scarcity and how the water crisis can be curbed.

Although this is a novice committee, I do hope to be able to see creative ideas that cover a variety of topics in relation to water scarcity and contamination, and hope that you are all able to focus more on the substance of your resolutions over the 'people politics' that often accompany debate. As such, I feel this is an incredibly interesting and timely topic to debate and I am excited to see the innovative solutions delegates come up with. I am excited to hear all of your perspectives on this topic so close to my heart and I hope you all are too.

Best Wishes,

Shahbano Haroon



A Guide to MUN

General Assembly committees of Model United Nations conferences consist of delegates debating specific topics as their pre-assigned countries. Throughout debate speeches are given debating the best solutions for the topic at hand, and delegates seek to work together with others who share common ideas, forming what are called “blocs”, which eventually author resolution papers (UN Policy) together to try and resolve the global issue at hand. In order for debate to be conducive and equitable, and to more greatly resemble the real life United Nations, Model United Nations utilizes **parliamentary procedure**, or rules governing how debate must flow within committee. The dias (the co-chairs and any vice chairs) will help enforce these established rules and will call on delegates to take in points or motions. The following section will go over the basics of parliamentary procedure so the delegates are able to handle debate in an organized and equitable way.

Points: Points are used by delegates to communicate with the dias on something outside of substantive debate. Generally speaking, the three most important points are the point of order, point of personal privilege, and point of inquiry.

- *Point of Order:* A Point of Order is used when you believe the chair did something *procedurally wrong*, such as mistaking the ordering of motions from most to least disruptive. A point of order can be used at any time, except when another delegate is speaking, and will immediately be ruled upon by the dias.
- *Point of Personal Privilege:* A Point of Personal Order can be used when you are experiencing discomfort, such as being unable to hear another person’s speech or the room being too hot. Similar to the point of order, please do not use the point of personal privilege during another person’s speech.
- *Point of Inquiry:* A Point of Inquiry can be used to ask a question, and thus would generally be asked as a question (ie: “Point of inquiry, when does the next committee session begin”). While these can be done at any time except during another person’s speech, points of inquiry will generally be reserved until the dias asks if there are “any points or motions on the floor”. Points of inquiry can include both logistical questions, as well as more substantive questions, though the dias may not directly answer some more substantive questions by delegates.

Motions: Motions are used by delegates to communicate with the chair on how they would like the flow of debate to go, and thus, this section will go over both possible motions as well as the general timeline of the committee. The dias may rule certain motions ‘dilatatory’, meaning that the dias is refusing to entertain the motion at this time; reasons for a motion being ruled dilatatory may include timing reasons, repetitiveness, or wanting to see a different type of debate.

During specific times of debate, the dias will ask if there are “any points or motions on the floor”. At this time, delegates may give any motions they’d like to suggest, which the dias will take a limited



amount of. After accepting motions, the dias will allow for voting on the motions, in order from “most disruptive to least disruptive”, with the first motion passed by a majority of delegates going into effect.

The order of disruptive motions will generally be as follows:

- Motion to Open/Close/Suspend/Resume Debate
- Any motion for an extension
- Motion to move into voting bloc
- Motion for unmoderated caucuses (in order of longest time to shortest time)
- Motion for moderated caucuses (in order of most speakers to least speakers, followed by overall time, followed by order of submission)

Details about the motions are as follows:

1. *Motion to Open/Resume/Suspend/Close debate*

- The motion to open debate will be used at the beginning of any debate to mark the beginning of the committee; any motions made prior to the passing of this motion will be ruled dilatory by the dias. The motion to open debate will generally be accepted following the initial attendance role call of delegates.
- The motion to close debate should be used to signify the end of committee, and should be used during the last committee session.
- The motions to resume debate and suspend debate are respectively similar to the motion to open and close debate, but will be used in-between committee sessions.

2. *Motion to open speakers list*

- This motion would be used at the beginning of the debate to allow speakers to sign up for speeches. The delegate who opens the speakers list will be given the opportunity to be the first speaker. These will generally be the prepared speeches.

3. *Motion for moderated caucuses*

- A moderated caucus is a type of debate that focuses on a specific topic related to the debate. Speeches will be done in succession with a variety of speakers having the opportunity to speak. Motions for moderated caucuses should include the total time of the moderated caucus, the speech time for each individual speaker, and the topic of the caucus (ie: motion for a 5 minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaker time focusing on the topic of WADA).

4. *Motion for unmoderated caucuses*

- An unmoderated caucus (unmod) is a type of debate that is not controlled by the dias, and allows the delegates to freely walk around and discuss potential solutions with fellow delegates for the duration of the unmod. The unmod will generally be



used for creating blocs (groups of delegates that would work together to write a resolution together) and working on the working papers and draft resolutions.

5. *Motion to present working papers/draft resolutions*

- A motion to present working papers/draft resolutions will allow the presentation of the multiple working paper/draft resolution. Generally, each working paper will get the same amount of time to present, and the presentation will be divided between members of the bloc discussing their working paper clauses, and a Q&A section by other delegates. Amending the rules, this novice committee at BearMUN will allocate a specific time for presentation and a specific time for Q&A, with that time being reasonably determined by the committee.

6. *Motion to enter/exit voting bloc*

- Motion to enter the voting bloc will lead to the voting of draft resolutions and seeing whether these draft resolutions pass or not; if passed, no one can enter or exit until the end of the voting period. A delegate can only abstain from voting if they did not say they were “present and voting” during attendance.

Resolution Structure

1. *Sponsors and Signatories*

- Sponsors are delegations who added substance to the resolution
- Signatories are delegations who support the resolution being presented, whether or not they fully support everything in the resolution.

2. *Preambulatory Clauses*

- Preambulatory Clauses are clauses that help establish the context of the situation
- Verbs beginning the clauses should end in “-ing”
- ex: Recognizing the importance of equality in sport competitions both domestically and internationally

3. *Operative Clauses*

- Operative Clauses are clauses that explain the policy solutions that would be used to help solve the problem in more detail
- The clauses should end in “-s” such as “*Calls for*” or “*Establishes*”



II. Background

Committee Background

“Water is a fundamental part of all aspects of life. Water is inextricably linked to the three pillars of sustainable development, and it integrates social, cultural, economic and political values. It is crosscutting and supports the achievement of many SDGs through close linkages with climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality and health, amongst others. With climate change profoundly affecting our economies, societies and environment, water is indeed the biggest deal breaker to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets for sustainable development”

— UN Water Conference 2023 Vision Statement.

Water is a fundamental building block of life itself, and although it makes up the foundation of any running society, over 26% of the world’s population, or over 2 billion people don’t have reliable access to it. And even for those who do, the accessible water might not be clean or safe. Throughout the world, almost every other person—3.6 billion in total—lives without well-managed water sanitation. On the Caribbean Island La Hispaniola, cholera has been endemic for a decade due to improper filtration of drinking water.

Additionally, our current supply of water is being cut short due to our inefficiency to successfully ration and allocate water. If we keep using as much water, Utah’s great salt lake will dry up completely in approximately 5 years. Action needs to be taken, and without dramatic cuts to water consumption this national landmark will be a thing of the past. In some European nations, as much as 50% of drinking water which has led to water shortages and even drinking restrictions in nations like Italy

As noted by the UN, water is the bedrock of society. As our grip on the once-abundant resource weakens through mismanagement and lack of infrastructure, our politics, economy, and governments similarly falter. Never before has the human condition been so clearly desperate for radical change. At the UN Water Conference, it has become clear that the time for covert and carefully planned deals to protect monetary interests has passed. Before we are nations and governments, we are humans, and we have but one interest—survival. The UN calls upon its



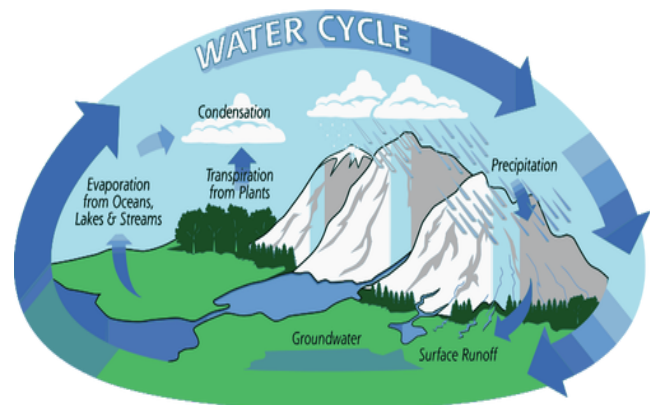
member nations to recognize that in facing a worldwide water crisis, we are all powerless; we must all work diligently, cooperatively, and urgently to find solutions to this global crisis.

Water Stress and Scarcity

Freshwater is an important renewable resource, providing a base for a country's natural resources as well as being renewable through precipitation and groundwater. However, as more and more water is withdrawn from natural reservoirs for human use, these environments and resource wells begin to deplete. Projections continue to predict a worsening situation, with water stress globally projected to be near 40-90% throughout the equator belt in 2040. Many of these countries are either developed or have major access to water. So where is the water going? Why is stress predicted to rise?

The responses to these inquiries are undeniably intertwined with the climate crisis. As the worldwide climate undergoes changes, even developed nations experience the depletion of water reservoirs. Droughts become more frequent, and the availability of water diminishes.

Climate change significantly affects the water cycle, which is essential for the replenishment of water reserves. As the planet warms, evaporation and precipitation rates increase, resulting in severe floods in some regions and severe droughts in others. Although some may think these impacts should offset one another, the reality of climate change leaves both regions devastated. The effects of water stress and climate change are real, and they manifest in many different ways across the globe. For instance, Australia has long been suffering intense droughts. Recently, these have led to immense fires ravaging the country. In 2019, these fires rendered over 8.4 million hectares of land useless in just a few weeks. These fires are connected to drought and climate change, and, largely because of government failure to put in place adequate measures for water retention, many towns affected by wildfires have little to no access to water.





However, water stress manifests in different ways. Rapid floods devastated Pakistan throughout the monsoon season of 2022, placing over 11 million children in need of immediate life support and leading to the deaths of thousands. Tens of millions were displaced or pushed into poverty. And millions more have now resorted to drinking unsanitary water because the floods have destroyed their water filtration or sanitation facilities. The list of water-linked diseases that now ravage Pakistani children includes acute malnutrition, cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea.

On January 5th, 2023, a record heat wave swept Europe, breaking a 200-year old record for January. Though the wave did assuage fears of a freezing winter, it was not a good omen for the summer; Germany alone has suffered multiple record breaking heat waves in the past five years, and continues to be the third most susceptible nation to climate trauma worldwide. All across Mediterranean Europe, 2023's summer saw the highest temperatures recorded to date. The issue of climate change is a universalizing one, and one that does not fail to make itself prevalent in almost every global issue. It is especially prevalent in the topic of water conservation, in which it links directly to the people's access to clean, potable water.

Reasons for this water crisis

Some reasons why the world is facing a water crisis include water inefficiency, overconsumption of water, and mismanagement of sanitation infrastructure when needed. Water withdrawal is faster than it can be renewed leading to water stress in the first place. The disparity between water consumption and water renewability is steadily increasing, and this has already led to increased water stress in equator nations such as Qatar, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.

Agriculture remains the largest reason for withdrawal of freshwater from natural reservoirs, accounting for 69% of withdrawals, and irrigation alone accounts for 40%. While most agricultural water use is efficient, it accounts for such a large portion of withdrawals that any possible improvements are valuable and should be made. Additionally, populations continue to grow, with the world recently reaching 8 billion people. This type of population growth is not projected to stop, and thus water needs will continue to rise.



However, another aspect of water use, the domestic aspect, which accounts for about 15% of global use, is far more wasteful. In America alone, over one trillion gallons of water are wasted in just the domestic sector. This waste can come from excessive showering, dishwashing, laundering, or other common household uses.

Finally, there is the issue of sanitation infrastructure. While some countries may have access to clean water, their water infrastructure may be poor in certain areas. In Haiti, there is a severe lack of sanitation infrastructure in impoverished communities, which has led to the cholera epidemic. Sanitation infrastructure can look like anything from proper filtration to centralized water distribution systems and a standard of quality. The important thing is to make sure clean water is distributed to all.

Historical Advancements for Water

In 2015, the world pledged to adhere to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to “work tirelessly” for the achievement of the 30 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the hopes of achieving a human privilege basis by 2030. As we inch closer to that deadline, our situation seems more and more desperate. The COVID-19 pandemic truly exposed the fragility of our global society through its ability to shut down the global system in a matter of months. Climate change is not getting any better, and efforts to ameliorate the situation are either mismanaged or unambitious. Droughts and natural disasters are ravaging the globe, leading to high rates of inflation and political tension in Europe and Asia.

As of 2021, more than 300 million people worldwide rely on desalinated water, with desalination capacity exceeding 100 million cubic meters per day. Moreover, precision agriculture, driven by data analytics and efficient irrigation practices, has helped reduce water wastage in farming. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), these practices have contributed to a 20% reduction in water use in agriculture globally, with crop yields increasing by 20% over the last two decades. These historical and contemporary developments underscore our ongoing commitment to combat water scarcity using innovation and technology.

III. Proposed Solutions

Possible Solutions

It is clear that the wastage of water is a pressing issue and there is little to no legislation on the matter. South and Southeast Asia contain 60% of the global population while only having 36% of its water resources. 50% of all water we use outdoors is lost due to wind, evaporation, and runoff due to inefficient irrigation practices.

Farms around the world use up 70% of all of all water consumed annually. Of that 70%, 40% is lost by farmers due to inefficient irrigation systems and water management. Drip irrigation is a possible method to help combat the lack of efficient water management by providing the exact amount of water and nutrients needed for farms. Drip irrigation can reduce a farm's water usage by 60% but also increase a farmer's crop yield by 90%. These systems are quite expensive and can cost around 3,000 per acre to install.



Additionally, delegates might want to look into water infrastructure, especially in major cities. In Indonesia it is estimated that as much as 39% of the capital city's water is wasted due to pipe leaks. 40% of the 10 million residents do not have reliable access to piped water. Many cities are faced with insufficient funds to successfully replace any damaged infrastructure. These systems are not well maintained and cause city's all around the world a great loss of water and an unclean water supply.



IV. Questions to Consider

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are the primary factors contributing to water scarcity in different regions, and how can they be addressed?
2. What strategies can be implemented to improve water resource management, especially in areas prone to water scarcity?
3. How can long-term water resource planning and infrastructure development help mitigate the impacts of water scarcity in the future?

V. Blocs

Bloc positions

Middle East

The Middle East is faced with many constant droughts, being the world's most water deprived region. The lack of renewable water is a huge problem affecting most of the population in the middle east. It is estimated that a total of 6% of the Middle East's GDP will be affected by this crisis.

North Africa

North Africa has experienced vast population growth over the past decades. In addition to the already existing dry climate surrounding the Sahara. North Africa is one of the most affected regions in the world. With countries such as Tunisia that used to be considered to have high water sanitation, now these countries have fallen to have many problems with a lack of water sanitation.

South of Africa



The south of Africa has been faced with many major droughts. These droughts have heavily harmed agriculture, fishery, and livestock departments. This lack of water in the region is causing a severe shortage of food and is majorly impacting the economy.

South America

Increased due to the effects of La Niña, South America is being faced with a severe lack of water. Farmers hope that in the coming months the effects of la nina will decline providing more water to the continent. The lack of water has also been majorly impacting the economies of many countries. For example, Argentina's total GDP went down by 2% as a result of water shortages.

Europe

This summer Europe experienced heavy amounts of constant heat and suffered a massive drought. European countries are at an all time low for water supply and are slowly starting to run out of water. There have been massive declines in freshwater in the continent's major aquifers. Although Europe currently has a sufficient amount of water, it is easy for this problem to escalate even further causing struggles in many countries.

North America

North America is also currently facing many massive droughts that are sucking the already limited water supply out. For example many areas in the South of America are facing a lack of sufficient water supply.

South East Asia

Asia is also seeing many cuts in water supply. In fact this water scarcity has already started conflicts between countries such as India and Bangladesh. Because of poor water management Asia's water supplies will continue to worsen.

Oceania



Oceania in particular Australia is also highly impacted by this crisis. Australia is on the brink of a major water crisis that would bring many insecurities to the country relating to agriculture and water sanitation. This region is also faced with one of the biggest amounts of unsafe water.



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