



J-UNEP

Access to Clean Water

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1-Letter from Secretary-Generals

Most distinguished participants,

It is our privilege to serve you as Secretaries-General of this year's ATAMUN and we are thrilled to announce our upcoming conference, ATAMUN'24.

Since the first committees were made and the first conference was shaped, our conference strives to amplify the voices of the global youth on our beloved planet, we aim to unite the fragmented cultural aspects of humanity. Our essential objective is to embrace the diverse ideas put forth by the youth without imposing judgment based on individual perspectives.

After many years of participation in Model United Nations and accumulating valuable experience, we now find ourselves organizing a conference. Our journey within the MUN community has provided insights into the dedicated efforts of the MUN team working tirelessly every year, in order to make the conference better than the previous years and to continue this tradition, we are pleased to declare our commitment to uphold and enhance this year's oncoming conference.

We are working continuously to make our upcoming conference an admirable attendance for everyone taking place. Our magnificent academic team has chosen topics for 2 joint Crisis committees, 3 junior committees, and 7 various committees, which we believe will make certain delegates enhance themselves and also kindle a heightened interest in global affairs. We aim to encourage participants to contribute their problem-solving skills and explore solutions from unconventional perspectives. Additionally, our exceptional organizing team is planning enjoyable events, ensuring a harmonious blend of fun and the creation of unforgettable memories.

Finally, to wrap things up, as Secretaries-General of this splendid conference, we extend a warm welcome to participants of ATAMUN'24.

Yours sincerely,

Salih Gülbenim

Zeynep Mina Yolaçan.

2-Introduction to the Committee: United Nation

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Committee stands as a beacon of international cooperation in addressing pressing environmental challenges.

As one of the principal organs of the United Nations dedicated to environmental issues, the UNEP Committee serves as a platform for nations to collaborate, exchange ideas, and formulate strategies aimed at safeguarding our planet for present and future generations. With a mandate encompassing a wide array of environmental concerns, from climate change and biodiversity loss to pollution and sustainable development, the UNEP Committee plays a pivotal role in shaping global environmental policy and action. Through diplomatic negotiations, scientific research, and grassroots initiatives, delegates in the UNEP Committee work tirelessly to find innovative solutions to the complex environmental issues facing our world today.

As we convene to deliberate on matters of utmost importance to the health and well-being of our planet, let us embody the spirit of cooperation and solidarity in our pursuit of a sustainable and resilient future for all.

3-Introduction to the Topic: Access to Clean Water

Clean water, an indispensable element for life, serves as the cornerstone of human health, societal well-being, and environmental sustainability. Amidst the intricate web of global challenges, the provision of safe and accessible water sources stands out as a paramount concern, affecting communities, ecosystems, and economies worldwide. The significance of clean water transcends mere hydration; it is intrinsically linked to public health, sanitation, food security, and economic prosperity.

Despite significant advancements in science, technology, and governance, access to clean water remains a formidable challenge for millions of people around the globe. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, an estimated 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water services, while 4.2 billion people lack access to safely managed sanitation services, highlighting the pervasive nature of the issue. Moreover, the unequal distribution of clean water resources disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized populations, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

The ramifications of inadequate access to clean water are profound and multifaceted. Contaminated water sources pose grave risks to public health, contributing to the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, and dysentery, particularly in regions with inadequate sanitation infrastructure. The burden of waterborne illnesses falls disproportionately on children, the elderly, and individuals with compromised immune systems, leading to significant morbidity and mortality rates, particularly in developing countries.

Furthermore, the scarcity of clean water undermines agricultural productivity and food security, as farmers struggle to irrigate crops and sustain livestock amidst dwindling water supplies. In arid and semi-arid regions, water scarcity exacerbates land degradation, desertification, and biodiversity loss, posing existential threats to ecosystems and the communities reliant upon them for sustenance and livelihoods.

The interplay between water scarcity, climate change, and environmental degradation further complicates the challenge of ensuring access to clean water. Climate variability and extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes, disrupt water cycles, compromise water quality, and exacerbate water stress in vulnerable regions. Moreover, pollution from industrial activities, agricultural runoff, and improper

waste management practices contaminates water sources, rendering them unfit for human consumption and aquatic life.

In response to these complex challenges, concerted efforts are underway to address the issue of clean water access through a combination of policy interventions, technological innovations, community-based initiatives, and international cooperation. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030, providing a comprehensive framework for action.

Key strategies for achieving SDG 6 include investments in water infrastructure, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion programs; strengthening water governance and regulatory frameworks; enhancing water resource management and conservation practices; promoting water-use efficiency and recycling initiatives; and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for collective action.

As we navigate the complexities of the clean water crisis, it is imperative to adopt a holistic and integrated approach that addresses the root causes of water insecurity while safeguarding the rights and dignity of all individuals. By prioritizing equitable access to clean water, we can unlock vast potential for human development, economic growth, and environmental sustainability, paving the way for a more resilient and prosperous future for generations to come.

Key features of the Strategies on SDG:

1. **Comprehensiveness:** The SDGs cover a wide range of interconnected issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice, and strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals.
2. **Universality:** The SDGs apply to all countries, regardless of their level of development, recognizing that global challenges require collective action and cooperation among all nations.
3. **Integration:** The goals are designed to be integrated and indivisible, recognizing that progress in one area often depends on progress in others. For example, achieving gender equality (Goal 5) is closely linked to reducing poverty (Goal 1) and improving education (Goal 4).
4. **Ambition:** The SDGs are ambitious in scope, aiming to eradicate extreme poverty, end hunger, achieve gender equality, ensure access to clean water and sanitation, and combat climate change, among other objectives, within a timeframe of 15 years.
5. **Partnerships:** Achieving the SDGs requires collaboration among governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders at the local, national, and global levels. Partnerships and multi-stakeholder cooperation are emphasized as essential for mobilizing resources, sharing knowledge, and implementing effective solutions.
6. **Measurable Targets:** Each goal is accompanied by specific targets and indicators to track progress and measure outcomes. This helps governments and stakeholders monitor their efforts, identify areas for improvement, and hold themselves accountable for achieving the goals.

7. **Leave No One Behind:** A central principle of the SDGs is to ensure that progress is inclusive and equitable, leaving no one behind. Efforts are directed towards reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and refugees.

4- A Deep Dive to the Topic

a. SDG 6

1. **Access to Clean Water:** The goal aims to ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for everyone. This includes reducing pollution, improving water quality, and increasing water efficiency in various sectors.
2. **Sanitation for All:** SDG 6 also aims to achieve universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, including access to basic sanitation facilities such as toilets and proper waste management systems.
3. **Addressing Water Scarcity:** The goal addresses water scarcity issues by promoting sustainable water management practices, water harvesting, and water reuse initiatives to ensure the availability of water resources for all.
4. **Improving Water Quality:** SDG 6 emphasizes the importance of improving water quality by reducing pollution, protecting ecosystems, and restoring water-related ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, and wetlands.
5. **Promoting Water Efficiency:** Efforts to promote water efficiency in industries, agriculture, and households are integral to achieving SDG 6. This involves implementing water-saving technologies, improving irrigation practices, and raising awareness about responsible water use.
6. **Addressing Water-related Disasters:** SDG 6 also addresses the impacts of water-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and waterborne diseases. It seeks to enhance resilience to such disasters through better infrastructure, early warning systems, and disaster risk reduction measures.
7. **Inclusivity and Equity:** A key aspect of SDG 6 is ensuring that access to clean water and sanitation is equitable and inclusive, with a particular focus on reaching vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women, children, and people living in rural areas or informal settlements.

b. Challenges Faced

1. **Water Scarcity:** Many regions around the world face water scarcity due to factors such as climate change, population growth, and inefficient water management practices. Competition for limited water resources can exacerbate tensions and conflicts between communities and even nations.

2. **Lack of Infrastructure:** Inadequate infrastructure for water supply and sanitation, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, hinders access to clean water. This includes a lack of piped water systems, sanitation facilities, and treatment plants.
3. **Water Pollution:** Pollution from industrial, agricultural, and domestic sources contaminates water sources, making them unsafe for drinking and other purposes. Addressing water pollution requires comprehensive regulatory frameworks, pollution control measures, and public awareness campaigns.
4. **Climate Change:** Climate change impacts water availability and quality, leading to more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and storms. These events can damage water infrastructure, disrupt water supplies, and exacerbate water-related challenges in vulnerable communities.
5. **Financial Constraints:** Financing the development and maintenance of water infrastructure, treatment facilities, and sanitation services can be a significant barrier, particularly for low-income countries and marginalized communities. Limited financial resources and competing priorities may impede investment in water-related projects.
6. **Political and Social Factors:** Political instability, corruption, and lack of governance can hinder effective water management and equitable distribution of resources. Social inequalities, gender discrimination, and cultural barriers may also impact access to clean water, particularly for marginalized groups.
7. **Population Growth and Urbanization:** Rapid population growth and urbanization strain existing water resources and infrastructure, leading to increased demand for water and sanitation services. Managing urban water supply, sanitation, and wastewater treatment becomes increasingly challenging as cities expand.
8. **Technological Limitations:** Access to advanced water treatment technologies and expertise may be limited in certain regions, particularly in remote or underserved areas. Developing and implementing appropriate technologies that are suitable for local conditions and resources is essential.

5-Past Attempts to Solve the Issue

1. **United Nations Water Conferences:** The United Nations has convened several high-level water conferences to raise awareness about water-related challenges and promote international cooperation. The United Nations Water Conferences in Mar del Plata (1977) and Dublin (1992) were particularly influential in shaping global water management policies and strategies.
2. **The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):** The MDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2000, included a target to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015. This goal spurred global efforts to improve access to clean water, leading to significant progress in many parts of the world.

3. **The International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' (2005-2015):** Declared by the United Nations General Assembly, this initiative aimed to accelerate efforts towards achieving the water-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals. It provided a platform for raising awareness, mobilizing resources, and promoting sustainable water management practices.
4. **The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD):** Held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, the WSSD emphasized the importance of water and sanitation as essential components of sustainable development. The summit resulted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which included commitments to improve access to clean water and sanitation.
5. **The International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development' (2018-2028):** Declared by the United Nations General Assembly, this decade-long initiative aims to focus attention on the importance of water for sustainable development and to accelerate progress towards achieving water-related goals, including SDG 6.
6. **Regional Agreements and Initiatives:** Regional organizations and agreements, such as the European Union's Water Framework Directive and the African Union's Africa Water Vision 2025, have played important roles in addressing water challenges and promoting cooperation among countries within their respective regions.
7. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Public-private partnerships have been established to leverage the resources and expertise of governments, businesses, and civil society organizations to improve access to clean water and sanitation services. These partnerships often involve innovative financing mechanisms and technology transfer initiatives.
8. **National Water Policies and Strategies:** Many countries have developed national water policies and strategies to guide water management and investment decisions, promote water conservation and efficiency, and ensure equitable access to clean water and sanitation for all citizens.
9. **The World Water Forum:** Organized by the World Water Council, the World Water Forum is a triennial event that brings together stakeholders from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss water-related challenges and solutions. The forum provides a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches to water management.
10. **The Global Water Partnership (GWP):** Established in 1996, the GWP is a multi-stakeholder platform that promotes integrated water resources management and facilitates cooperation among countries and organizations to address water challenges. The partnership works at both global and regional levels to support capacity building, knowledge sharing, and policy dialogue.
11. **The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP):** The WWAP, coordinated by UNESCO, produces the World Water Development Report (WWDR) every few years to provide a comprehensive assessment of global water resources and the challenges facing the water sector. The report offers recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to improve water management and ensure sustainable access to clean water for all.

12. **The Stockholm Water Prize:** Established in 1991, the Stockholm Water Prize is awarded annually to individuals, organizations, or institutions that have made outstanding contributions to the conservation, protection, and management of water resources. The prize recognizes innovative solutions, leadership, and advocacy efforts in the water sector.
13. **The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector:** The WASH sector encompasses a range of initiatives and programs aimed at improving access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services, particularly in low-income and marginalized communities. Organizations such as UNICEF, WaterAid, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are actively involved in implementing WASH projects around the world.
14. **The Human Right to Water and Sanitation:** The recognition of the human right to water and sanitation by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 has provided a strong foundation for advocacy and action to ensure that everyone has access to clean water and sanitation services. Governments are encouraged to adopt policies and strategies that prioritize the realization of this fundamental right.

6-International Organizations and Their Roles

- **United Nations (UN):**
 - a) **UN-Water:** UN-Water coordinates the efforts of UN agencies and international organizations working on water-related issues. It facilitates collaboration, provides guidance, and promotes knowledge sharing to improve water management and sanitation practices worldwide.
 - b) **UNICEF:** UNICEF works to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for children and families in underserved communities. It supports the construction of water supply systems, promotes hygiene education, and advocates for equitable access to clean water.
 - c) **World Health Organization (WHO):** WHO provides technical expertise, sets standards, and conducts research on water quality and sanitation to protect public health. It supports countries in monitoring water quality, preventing waterborne diseases, and improving sanitation practices.
 - d) **UNDP:** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implements projects and initiatives to promote sustainable water management, enhance water governance, and strengthen resilience to water-related disasters in developing countries.
- **World Bank:**

The World Bank finances water supply and sanitation projects in developing countries, providing loans, grants, and technical assistance to improve infrastructure, increase access to clean water, and enhance sanitation services. It supports integrated water resource management and climate resilience initiatives.
- **Water.org:** Water.org is a non-profit organization that works to increase access to safe water and sanitation through innovative financing solutions, community empowerment, and partnerships with local organizations and governments.

- **WaterAid:** WaterAid focuses on providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services to communities in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. It supports the construction of water supply systems, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion activities, aiming to improve health outcomes and alleviate poverty.
- **Global Water Partnership (GWP):** GWP promotes integrated water resources management and facilitates dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to address water challenges at the local, national, and regional levels. It supports capacity building, knowledge sharing, and policy advocacy to achieve sustainable water use and management.
- **The Global Water Partnership (GWP):**
GWP works to promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) and sustainable water governance practices. It facilitates dialogue, capacity building, and knowledge sharing among stakeholders to improve water management at the local, national, and regional levels.
- **The International Water Association (IWA):**
IWA is a global network of water professionals, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to advancing the science and practice of water management and sanitation. It organizes conferences, publishes research, and fosters collaboration to address water challenges worldwide.
- **The World Water Council:**
The World Water Council serves as an international platform for water-related issues, bringing together stakeholders from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector to exchange knowledge, promote dialogue, and advocate for water-related policies and solutions.
- **The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW):**
AMCOW is a specialized agency of the African Union that coordinates water-related activities and policies among African countries. It supports capacity building, knowledge sharing, and advocacy efforts to improve water management and sanitation in Africa.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB):**
ADB provides financial assistance, technical expertise, and policy support to countries in the Asia-Pacific region to improve water supply, sanitation, and wastewater management. It invests in infrastructure projects, capacity building initiatives, and policy reforms to enhance access to clean water and sanitation services.
- **The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB):**
IDB supports water and sanitation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, providing financing, technical assistance, and policy advice to improve water infrastructure, enhance service delivery, and strengthen governance in the water sector.
- **The International Finance Corporation (IFC):**
IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, invests in private sector projects that promote access to clean water and sanitation services. It provides financing, advisory services, and risk management solutions to support the development of water infrastructure and utilities.

7-Resolutions Should Cover

- How can we ensure sustainable and reliable access to clean water for all?
- How can we address inequalities in access to clean water, especially for marginalized and vulnerable populations?
- How can we leverage technology and innovation to improve access to clean water?
- How can we build resilience to water-related challenges, including climate change impacts and water scarcity?
- What are the opportunities for collaboration and partnership among stakeholders in addressing water challenges?
- How can we ensure sustainable financing for water infrastructure development and maintenance?
- How can we integrate water management with broader development goals, such as poverty reduction, food security, and environmental sustainability?
- What are the implications of transboundary water issues, such as shared water resources and water-related conflicts, and how can we promote cooperation among riparian states?
- How can we ensure the resilience of water infrastructure and services in the face of natural disasters and emergencies?

8-Further Readings

- https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/en/
- <https://www.unwater.org/>
- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water>](<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water>)
- <https://water.org/>
- <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-6-clean-water-and-sanitation.html>](<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-6-clean-water-and-sanitation.html>)
- <https://www.wateraid.org/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/>
- <https://iwa-network.org/>
- <http://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/water>](<https://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/water>)
- <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/water>](<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/water>)