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# **MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

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**Submitted To: World Health Organization**

**Topic: Access to Clean Water**

**Submitted By: The People's Republic of China**

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Without access to clean water, people around the world face detrimental health risks due to limited sanitation, the spread of disease, scarce food supply, and the slowed development from inadequate hydration. As the World Health Organization, it must be our priority to reduce these risks by increasing the availability of potable water for every nation. To address this, the WHO and other international organization must not simply donate clean water creating a cycle of dependence, but rather address the varying, complex causes of water shortages. According to Dr. Dajun Shen of Renmin University of China, nations suffer from three types of water shortages involving a lack of engineering to collect and efficiently distribute water, a lack of clean water due to sanitation and pollution, and a lack of natural water sources within the region. In order for the WHO to improve health conditions, they must address each of these shortages to provide holistic and global health improvements. The People's Republic of China firmly believes that nations must address these global causes by increasing conservation and efficiency, decreasing pollution through government action and enforcement, and developing new technology for the distribution of water.

The primary goal of every nation should be to efficiently utilize the available water and conserve usage by both industries and individuals. Prioritizing the needs of citizens, governments must first focus on optimizing water usage by industries such as agriculture and power. This wide scale reduction requires investment by nations and outside organizations to improve technology and awareness with simultaneous government involvement to enforce positive change. Nations can model these programs after China who invested approximately \$79 million into water conservation in 2015 and partnered with the World Bank to implement the Water Conservation Project. Reaching out to international organizations like the World Bank allows China to gain the resources and knowledge needed to improve conditions. With the invested

money, China funded irrigation systems, land leveling, drainage systems, crop pattern adjustments, cultivation techniques, and institutional development for water and soil conservation. Other nations must improve agricultural conditions to optimize water usage, and the international community should volunteer to fund these improvements for universal health and development benefits.

Beyond agriculture, nations should take regulatory action to conserve water usage within fuel and production industries. China supports the creation new laws and regulations that not only encourage the conservation of water at current industrial plants, but also limit the production of new facilities having the potential for high water consumption. For example, governments might require nations to produce proof that there is enough water for the plant to be built or limit the number of new plants added each year based on water usage. Within previously built plants, nations should consider incentives for water conservation and improved technology to limit usage. The nation of China recommends the development of five-year plans to gradually increase monitoring and regulation; this provides suitable time for businesses to reduce their water consumption, install new technology, and plan growth around water regulation. As the international community respects the sovereignty of each nation, it is the responsibility of individual governments to take these actions; however, China encourages consultation between law makers and nations that have successfully developed conservation strategies.

While the majority of this increased efficiency and reduced consumption should affect agriculture and production, individual citizens can take some change to improve access. This begins with education on water conservation and water purification techniques to individual citizens. Through public service announcements and other informational campaigns, citizens gain the knowledge to optimize the small supply of water they do have. These informational

programs must be implemented or overseen by participating nations to specify information to the conditions of the region and to allow governments to inform their citizens as they wish. This system creates improvements within water conditions without forcing nations to ration this resource.

With regards to nations suffering from pollution and water contamination, China proposes that nations continue and increase regulatory action to decrease contamination levels, specifically regarding groundwater. These measures may be included in the five-year plans previously mentioned, which give the nation ample time to adjust to standards and improvements. To emphasize the importance of this issue, nations may also implement plans modelled after China's National Groundwater Pollution Prevention and Control Plan. Ideally these standards will be determined by each nation's current conditions aiming for improvement. Nations with lower water and soil quality to begin with will not reach the same levels as regions with already clean conditions. These standards should also divide projects and plans based on the urgency and readiness of projects. The most pressing programs and the ones easy to implement should be prioritized by lawmakers. Additionally, nations must understand that this is a long-term effort towards sanitation. Environmental impacts are not immediate; however, continuous improvement will gradually improve the quality of water. If nations ignore this issue, water conditions will further decline leaving our growing population with shrinking water supplies.

Supplementing the regulations, individual nations and the international community must continue developing technology to meet the water demand of the growing population. Demand will only continue to increase leaving more and more people with neglected health. To prevent this crisis, must encourage their scientists and engineers to develop new technology for processes such as cloud seeding, desalination, rainwater harvesting, and more. With 56 countries

implementing cloud seeding programs and China investing over \$150 million dollars into implementation, weather modification technology should be paramount to nations struggling with a lack of water. In addition, coastal nations could consider improving and redesigning desalination equipment. China began construction of desalination plants in late 2016 on various islands such as Yongxing Island. If researchers can develop more affordable and efficient desalination techniques, there may be more opportunities for nations to access. Technology improvements for both large scale and individual water purification can greatly benefit nations with contaminated resources and widespread disease. While a lack of water is detrimental, access to contaminated water can be just as harmful. With new techniques for the use and purification of water, the health of people will greatly improve benefit economics and nations as a whole.

China supports this new technological wave to be a collaborative effort throughout the world regarding both funding and actual implementation. For funding, and willing nations, international organizations, or private entities that wish to contribute funds to this development are encouraged to do so. With monetary compensation and incentives, entities will be more likely to participate in this progressive and influential scientific movement. Along with global financing, China suggests the collaboration of research and development between nations and organizations to optimize this process and accelerate the improvements. The sooner the technology can be developed, the sooner more people will have access this basic necessity to improve their health and opportunities. The nation of China hopes that with the improvement of technology, they can face the various causes of water shortages for not only their citizens, but for people all over the world.

Because of the extensive government influence with all of these improvements, nations must prioritize these regulations at all levels of government. From local governments monitoring

farmer's water usage to national governments funding largescale reform, the entire system must participate to create sustainable change. These nations should also draw upon the international support through the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and other organizations to share successful efforts. This collaborative work is the final key to improving conditions. With full governmental support, nations can successfully improve these conditions for citizens.

While the issue of clean water is an intricate, widespread dilemma, it must be the priority of nations across the world to improve conditions by increasing conservation, environmental protections, and technological progress. If the world waits longer to address this, more disease will spread, more people will die, and more opportunities will be lost. Nations must take action now to address this global struggle and guarantee this fundamental research for individuals everywhere.

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