



Committee: Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN)
Topic: The Global Water Crisis

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Global Classrooms London Model United Nations Conference 2013 on the topic of 'Global Water Crisis'. We hope that this conference will be a very interesting and enjoyable experience for you all. The global water crisis isn't just about simple supply and demand - it's an issue related to women's rights, global development and preventable deaths therefore it is vital that the UN productively tackles this issue, as solving the water crisis holds the potential for an immense step towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

The Economic and Financial Committee deals with topics related to the global economy and financial systems and the Global Water Crisis is one of these topics. In many of the poorest countries, the provision of decent, accessible public services – delivered by a qualified and properly paid workforce – is threatened by huge debt burdens and damaging policies demanded by creditors.

- 900 million people lack access to safe drinking water
- More than 2.6 billion people have no basic sanitation
- As a result 1.5 million children under 5 die
- 443 million school days are lost as a result of water and sanitation related diseases
- Diarrhoea is the third largest killer of children under 5
- in developing countries, public services can mean the difference between life and death.

When compiling the resolution, our committee will be specifically looking for solutions addressing the key areas. One of these main aspects is tackling the issue surrounding the debt crisis. The debt crisis has its origins in the 1970s and 1980s, when rich governments and companies lent huge sums to developing countries, often knowingly to corrupt regimes and to serve their own political or commercial ends.

Today, debt drains poor countries of resources that could otherwise be spent on vital public services. You should also consider how this prevents governments to invest in public services such as extending healthcare, education and most importantly the sanitation of water.

Alongside thinking of solutions to the debt crisis, we would strongly advise delegates to look into previous UN resolutions surrounding this issue. Currently, one strategy taken to tackle this issue is by cancelling the debts owed by developing countries. In countries which debts have been cancelled, the impact on public services has been very positive as it has allowed governments to invest into services like water sanitation.

Despite this effort the Global Water Crisis is still apparent. To ensure your resolutions are successful, you must recognise the flaws in previous resolutions and the new resolutions must be transparent and have no loopholes.

To assist you whilst conducting your research and writing your position papers, we recommend that you take the following points into consideration:

- How much debt is my country in?
- Has my country provided loans to other countries?
- Should the MEDCs have any responsibilities in aiding countries that inherited their debt?
- How has my country supported debt relief actions in the past?
- Does my country currently have the resources to aid nations in need?
- What should be done in order for countries to pay off their debt so that money can be used towards needed social programs in different countries?
- Should some countries with debt situations considered more severe be addressed before others, or is there an all-encompassing solution that can be considered?
- What implementations should the United Nations consider in order for countries to keep their debt within maintainable limits?
- Which international agreements is your country a signatory to?
- Will you meet the MDG targets by 2015?

We would also urge you to address other issues relevant to your country alongside the ones mentioned above and issues more specific to your country. Also consider the logistical aspects of any resolutions that you come up with. We look forward to reading your position papers which should be emailed to londonmun@gmail.com. Please label them 'Country + Committee'

We look forward to seeing all of you in July and wish you the best of luck with your research and position papers!