



Committee: UN Population Fund

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Global Classrooms London Model United Nations Conference 2013 on the topic of 'The Global Water Crisis'. We hope that this conference will be a very educational and enjoyable experience for you all.

The escalating water crisis constitutes a major threat for global progress towards sustainable development in the new millennium. There is growing recognition that the urgent and deepening crisis in water management worldwide is a particularly serious problem in countries of the developing world. Water is essential for all aspects of life, yet one billion people worldwide are denied access to clean water supplies and half of the world's population lacks adequate water purification systems. The supply of safe drinking water is of vital importance because of the high risk of contracting life-threatening diseases from polluted or contaminated water sources and absence or improper use of sanitation facilities. The global consumption of water is doubling every twenty years, and it is estimated that in 2025, if present rates of water consumption are maintained, five billion out of the world's 7.9 billion people will be living in areas where it will be difficult or even impossible to meet basic water requirements for drinking, cooking and sanitation. The impact of this growth will be focused mainly in less developed countries, where currently some 1.2 billion people, the majority of whom are women and children, are living in extreme poverty.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA partners with governments, other agencies and civil society to advance UNFPA's mission. The goals of UNFPA - achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health (including family planning), promoting reproductive rights, reducing maternal mortality and accelerating progress on the ICPD agenda and MDG 5 - are inextricably linked. UNFPA also focuses on improving the lives of youths and women by advocating for human rights and gender equality and by promoting the understanding of population dynamics. Population dynamics, including growth rates, age structure, fertility and mortality and migration have an effect on every aspect of human, social and economic progress.

Delegates should consider the following challenges and how they might be addressed in the committee:

- Meeting basic needs of safe and sufficient water and sanitation, essential for human health, empowering people through participatory water management.
- Securing food supply for food security through efficient and equitable allocation of water
- Protecting integrity of ecosystems
- Sharing water resources for different uses at all levels, including trans-boundary water resources
- Managing risks of security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards.
- Valuing water and related services, taking into account economic, social, environments and cultural values, with equity and basic needs considerations of the poor and most vulnerable populations.
- Involving all stakeholders in ensuring good governance and management of water resources.

Questions for Research:

1. What are the key water issues for your country and region?
2. Do all people have access to safe and reliable water supplies?
3. What actions has your country taken to ensure the quantity and quality of available water supplies?
4. How is reproductive health impacted by water in your country?
5. How is an increasing population, urbanisation or migration impacting upon your country and its water?
6. How is your country tackling rural poverty, population pressures and dwindling water supplies?
7. How is your country securing food security through efficient and equitable allocation of water?
8. How has your country implemented legislation that protects water supplies and ensures equitable access?
9. What action been taken to ensure the right to reliable water access on a national and international level?
10. Is the right to sanitation fully recognised in policy or law?
11. 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 you seeing all of you in July and wish you the best of luck with your research and position papers!

It is highly recommend for you to visit the MMUN website for resources relevant to the topic. We look forward to reading your position papers which you can email to londonmun@gmail.com. Should you have any further queries, questions or need any help at all please feel free to email us at londonmun@gmail.com. All position papers can also be emailed to londonmun@gmail.com which we sincerely look forward to reading.

We anticipate debate to a very high standard and impeccable representation of countries.

Kind regards, Chairs for UNFPA