



Committee: WHO-Africa
Topic: The Global Water Crisis



Dear Delegates,

The Chairs of the WHO-Africa Committee welcome you to the Global Classrooms London Model United Nations Conference 2013 where you will be discussing the topic of the 'Water Crisis'. First time delegates are warmly welcomed and the dias anticipate you have a fruitful and valuable conference in discussing such an important and crucial issue.

Water is becoming an increasing problem and cause for conflict around our globe. 900 million people lack access to safe water and more than 2.6 billion have no basic sanitation.

Access to safe and clean drinking water is a fundamental human right, so why is it that many people in Africa are without it? In numerous areas in Africa, raw sewage flows directly into rivers and lakes leading to contamination and water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid to increase dramatically. Moreover, diarrhoea kills around 4000 children every day which is more than malaria and AIDS combined. Girls under the age of 15 are twice as likely as boys their age to be the family member responsible for fetching water. It is clear that inadequate access to water and sanitation is a major hindrance to the achievement of the MDGs. Delegates... these problems must be addressed.

As delegates of this committee, your main focus will be drafting a resolution which focuses on the major problems and effects of the water crisis with a specific focus on gender. The dias expects delegates to be fully prepared to explore all aspects of the water crisis:

- 1) Water and its relevance to achieving the MDGs including water and food security
- 2) Safe water supplies, hygienic sanitation, health and good water management
- 3) Water, sanitation and hygiene: women/children
- 4) Water and conflict – a potential future issue for Africa
- 5) Water pollution and environmental degradation
- 6) Water and climate change

It is essential that delegates have an understanding that the lack of access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation affect human rights. Furthermore, safe water access is a requirement for social justice and is a vital necessity for achieving development and peace. Despite investment, nearly 300 million people in the Sub Saharan region lack access to a safe supply of water. Almost half of the population of Africa, which is approximately 780 million, suffer from one of the six major water-related diseases.

Whilst debating, delegates should consider exploring different methods and approaches to tackling this issue which will be suited to different nations. Remember... your resolution will include your nation's aspirations but your goal is to work together and ensure resolutions address key global concerns and the needs of other nations. We would also urge you to address other issues relevant to your country alongside the ones mentioned above. Experienced delegates should learn about the other countries in their committee and 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.

We look forward to meeting you in July and good luck!