



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



STUDY GUIDE



Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	3
Information about the committee	5
Summit of the Future	7
Topic A: The conservation of marine ecosystems: the role of new generations	9
Introduction	9
1.1 What Is Marine Conservation?	9
1.2 Importance of the Topic	9
1.3 The Role of Youth in Marine Conservation	9
History of the topic	10
2.1. Human impact on marine ecosystem	10
2.2 Marine Conservation Today	11
2.3 Firsts efforts made by the International Community	12
2.4 Existing International Agreements	13
2.5 Role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	14
Recent developments	14
3.1 Techniques Used on the Matter	15
3.2 Law and Treaties	16
Bloc positions	17
Relation with the SDG	18
Questions a resolution should solve	20
Topic B: Tackling water scarcity: present and future threats	21
Introduction	21
1.1 What is Water Scarcity?	21
1.2 Importance of the topic	21
1.3 The role of Youth in Water Scarcity	22
History of the topic	23



2.1 The roots of water scarcity_____	23
2.2 Water scarcity in the past century_____	23
2.3 Water scarcity in modern times_____	24
2.4 What the future holds_____	25
Recent developments_____	25
3.1 Integrated Water Resource Management_____	26
3.2 Frameworks on water scarcity_____	26
3.3 Adaptation to climate change_____	26
3.4 Technological innovations_____	27
3.5 Modern times improvements: water desalination plants, water recycling and water management_____	28
3.6 Water scarcity nowadays: real life case studies_____	29
Block positions_____	30
Relation with the SDGs_____	33
Questions a resolution should solve_____	35
Recommended readings_____	37
Bibliography_____	38



Welcome Letter

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to this year's Catalonia Model United Nations!

We are thrilled to have you join us for this exciting and enriching experience as you embark on your journey as a delegate in the beginner committee of the United Nations Environment Programme. The two topics that are going to be discussed during the sessions are "The conservation of marine ecosystems: the role of new generations" and "Tackling water scarcity: present and future threats".

As you begin your MUN journey, we understand that you may have some questions and uncertainties about what to expect. That's why we have prepared this comprehensive study guide to help you navigate through the MUN process. This study guide has been carefully curated to provide you with the necessary information, tips, and resources to excel in your role as a delegate.

Throughout the study guide, you will find valuable information on how to research and prepare for committee sessions, how to effectively contribute to debates and negotiations, and how to craft persuasive and impactful speeches. Additionally, you will gain insight into the specific topics and resolutions that will be addressed in your committee. Thus, we strongly encourage you to take the time to thoroughly review the study guide and familiarize yourself with its contents. It will serve as a valuable resource to refer back to throughout your MUN journey and will undoubtedly enhance your performance as a delegate.

Bear in mind that all delegates are expected to submit a position paper that outlines the views and policies of their respective nations regarding the topics at hand. After reviewing all, we will share them with the entire committee. Then, you will all know where the other delegates stand. We strongly recommend you submit a position paper, not only because you will be eligible for awards, but also because it will make the debate more fruitful.

Finally, we truly encourage you to fully immerse yourselves into this enriching experience. As your mentors here, we mostly desire that this becomes a fruitful, but also amusing adventure where you are able to master your knowledge and skills, as well as to be heard and listen to your peers.



Should you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Kind regards,

Mariona Poy and Aina Haerringer

Mariona and Aina are two members of the UAB's MUN association, UNANIMUN. They consider themselves MUN enthusiasts, as they love debating on the world's most relevant and burning topics! Both have participated in national and also in international prestigious MUN's, winning multiple awards. However, what they cherish the most about MUN's is making new friendships and finding a good time during and in between sessions! They both attended C'MUN 2021 as delegates and made sure to be chairing the best committee, UNEP, at this year's edition!



Information about the committee

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment. It unites 193 Member States in an effort to find solutions to climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, collectively known as the triple planetary crisis. It seeks to inspire, inform, and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations, as through scientific studies, policy support, intergovernmental coordination and public advocacy, UNEP helps humanity to foster climate stability, live in harmony with nature and forge a pollution-free future, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Founded in 1972 after a UN General Assembly resolution ([2997 XXVII](#)), it was conceived to monitor the state of the environment and coordinate responses to the world's greatest environmental challenges. UNEP's creation followed shortly after the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, a gathering that placed the environment on the global agenda for the first time, articulating its link to human well-being and economic growth. Following the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, the General Assembly gave UNEP the mandate to set the global environmental agenda, promote the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system and serve as an authoritative advocate for the environment.

UNEP is part of the UN Secretariat and responds to the UN General Assembly. It has its own governing bodies based in Nairobi, Kenya: the UN Environment Assembly (the world's highest-level decision-making body for the environment) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. These bodies set the direction and outline priorities for global environmental policies through resolutions. Concretely, the Assembly adopts resolutions and approves UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, while the Committee oversees their implementation.

UNEP's primary goal is to catalyze action on the environment and promote solutions to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. UNEP's work helps humanity to live more in harmony with nature and move beyond the unsustainable consumption and production practices that are pushing the planet to



breaking point. This is essential for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's blueprint for long-term peace and prosperity.

In the five decades since its founding, UNEP's convening power, rigorous scientific research and public advocacy have helped to boldly advance the global environmental agenda.

A core part of UNEP's work is to monitor the state of the planet and ensure that environmental policymaking is grounded in science. UNEP's scientific publications provide credible science and insights that allow political leaders to make informed decisions on a range of environmental issues.

In order to accomplish its mission, UNEP produces cutting-edge science which helps to spur policy action. It supports countries as they develop and implement legislation that safeguards the planet while leading on global environmental accords, and also advocates for environmental action through global communications campaigns.

All in all, UNEP works closely with its 193 Member States and representatives from UN entities, civil society, businesses, academia, the private sector, the financial sector, philanthropies, and other major groups to address environmental challenges.

UNEP's success depends on the financial contributions made by Member States and other partners, as it relies on voluntary contributions for over 95 percent of its operations. It receives two main types of funding: core contributions, which give UNEP the flexibility it needs to implement its programme of work in a balanced and efficient way, and earmarked contributions, which are allocated for specific projects, themes or countries.



Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments including to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives. Building on the SDG Summit in 2023, Member States will consider ways to lay the foundations for more effective global cooperation that can deal with today's challenges as well as new threats in the future.

Chapter IV of the document emphasizes the crucial role of youth and future generations in shaping policies and actions across various global domains. It outlines a multifaceted approach to ensure meaningful youth engagement and quality education, promote health and well-being, address youth, peace, and security issues, harness technology and innovation, and tackle the triple planetary crisis while considering sustainable development and the welfare of future generations.

The chapter begins by highlighting the importance of setting international standards for meaningful youth engagement and implementing recommendations from key UN bodies such as the Security Council and the General Assembly. It stresses the need for consistent funding and resources to support youth advisory structures and initiatives, avoiding dependency on ad-hoc funding. Furthermore, it calls for the full and equitable participation of youth in decision-making processes, emphasizing the integration of diverse perspectives and the dismantling of barriers hindering youth engagement.

Education is recognized as a fundamental right, with an emphasis on gender-transformative education, comprehensive sexuality education, inclusivity, digital literacy, and financial literacy. These initiatives aim to provide universal access to quality education and bridge gaps in knowledge and skills among youth.

The chapter also addresses health and well-being concerns, particularly mental health and gender-transformative health issues. It advocates for unimpeded access to health services, autonomy for young women and girls, and measures to promote holistic support and treatment for youth with disabilities and neurodiverse persons.



In the realm of peace and security, the chapter emphasizes the implementation of frameworks like the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda. It calls for meaningful youth engagement in conflict prevention, peacebuilding efforts, and protection of human rights defenders, particularly in conflict and crisis settings.

Technology and innovation are seen as critical enablers for youth engagement and sustainable development. The chapter underscores the importance of digital connectivity, access to emerging technologies, online safety, and privacy protection for youth, while also highlighting the need for gender equality in STEM fields.

Furthermore, the chapter delves into the triple planetary crisis, emphasizing the interconnected nature of environmental, social, and economic challenges. It advocates for integrated strategies, sustainable development goals, and indigenous rights protection to ensure a healthy environment and social inclusion, with a special focus on marginalized youth.

Lastly, the chapter addresses the rights and responsibilities concerning future generations. It calls for long-term accountability, foresight mechanisms, the appointment of a Special Envoy on Future Generations, and the establishment of a Future Generations Day to ensure intergenerational equity and prioritize the well-being of future generations in policymaking and global initiatives.



Topic A: The conservation of marine ecosystems: the role of new generations

Introduction

Marine conservation is the concerted effort to protect and preserve the delicate ecosystems of our oceans, seas, and coastal areas. It encompasses a wide range of strategies and actions aimed at maintaining the health and biodiversity of marine environments. Let's explore the key aspects of marine conservation.

1.1 What Is Marine Conservation?

Marine conservation involves the sustainable management of marine resources, reduction of human impact on marine ecosystems, and the restoration of damaged habitats. It is a multidisciplinary field that combines scientific research, policy development, and community engagement.

1.2 Importance of the Topic

1. **Biodiversity Preservation:** Marine ecosystems are home to an incredible diversity of species, from microscopic plankton to majestic whales. Conserving these ecosystems ensures the survival of countless marine organisms and maintains ecological balance.
2. **Climate Regulation:** Oceans play a crucial role in regulating global climate patterns. They absorb carbon dioxide and help mitigate climate change. Protecting marine ecosystems contributes to a stable climate.
3. **Economic Value:** Marine resources support industries such as fisheries, tourism, and shipping. Sustainable practices ensure long-term economic benefits.

1.3 The Role of Youth in Marine Conservation

Young people are vital agents of change in marine conservation efforts. Here's why:



1. **Awareness and Education:** Youth can raise awareness about marine issues, educate their peers, and advocate for sustainable practices. Schools, universities, and community programs play a crucial role in educating the next generation.
2. **Advocacy and Activism:** Youth-led movements and campaigns amplify the urgency of marine conservation. By advocating for policy changes, they influence decision-makers and promote responsible behavior.
3. **Innovation and Creativity:** New generations bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions. Whether through technology, art, or community initiatives, youth contribute to positive change.

History of the topic

2.1. Human impact on marine ecosystem

Human activities have significantly impacted marine ecosystems, leading to ecological changes and threats to biodiversity. Let's explore some key aspects of human impact:

a. Overfishing:

Advances in fishing technology and larger ships have led to the overexploitation of fish stocks worldwide. Unsustainable fishing practices not only reduce fish populations but also cause widespread damage to marine habitats.

Techniques like dredging and trawling harm organisms living on the seafloor and result in bycatch – the unintended capture of non-target species.

b. Pollution:

Our oceans have been used as dumping grounds for sewage, industrial runoff, and chemicals. Despite policy changes, marine pollution remains a major problem: Oil spills, accidental or intentional, contribute to marine pollution, as well as bioaccumulation of toxic chemicals, which affects marine organisms across trophic levels.

c. Eutrophication:



Excess nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus) from land-based sources enter marine ecosystems. This leads to algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and habitat degradation.

d. Introduced Species:

Shipping introduces non-native species, disrupting native ecosystems. Moreover, these invasive species become overabundant and transform marine habitats.

e. Ocean Acidification:

Oceans absorb about one-third of human-produced carbon dioxide. Increased CO₂ levels lead to ocean acidification, affecting marine life. Acidification is the process of increasing acidity in a substance or environment. Examples include ocean acidification from CO₂ absorption, soil acidification from agricultural practices, acid rain from industrial emissions, aquatic acidification in lakes and rivers, and biological acidification in metabolic processes or diseases.

f. Plastic Pollution:

Plastic pollution in marine ecosystems has far-reaching consequences, including harm to marine life through ingestion and entanglement, disruption of food chains, degradation of habitats, chemical pollution, and economic impacts on industries reliant on marine resources. These effects highlight the urgent need for global action to mitigate plastic pollution and safeguard marine ecosystems and human well-being.

2.2 Marine Conservation Today

Climate change is wreaking havoc on marine ecosystems, with rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and shifting ocean currents causing significant disruptions. These changes spell trouble for marine life, as they struggle to adapt to altered habitats and conditions. For instance, coral reefs, already under stress from bleaching events due to warmer waters, face further challenges as ocean acidification weakens coral structures, making them more susceptible to damage.

Overfishing compounds these issues, exerting immense pressure on marine ecosystems. Unsustainable fishing practices not only decimate fish populations but also degrade habitats, disrupting the delicate balance of marine ecosystems. The depletion of key species can



have cascading effects throughout the food web, leading to imbalances and declines in overall biodiversity.

Habitat destruction further exacerbates the plight of marine ecosystems. Coastal development, pollution from land-based sources, and activities like seabed dredging wreak havoc on fragile marine habitats. Mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes, which serve as vital nurseries and breeding grounds for marine species, are particularly vulnerable to human encroachment and disturbance.

The introduction of invasive species poses yet another challenge to marine ecosystems. Non-native species, whether intentionally or accidentally introduced, can outcompete native species, disrupt ecosystems, and alter habitats. This can have far-reaching consequences, jeopardizing the stability and resilience of marine ecosystems.

And then there's plastic pollution—a pervasive and insidious threat to marine environments. Plastic debris litters coastlines, chokes marine life, and contaminates food webs. From seabirds with stomachs full of plastic to turtles ensnared in discarded fishing nets, the impacts of plastic pollution are stark and sobering. Microplastics, too small to see but pervasive in the marine environment, pose additional risks as they are ingested by marine organisms and accumulate toxins as they move up the food chain.

In sum, the health of marine ecosystems is under siege from a multitude of human-induced threats. Urgent action is needed to address these challenges, protect marine biodiversity, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our oceans.

2.3 Firsts efforts made by the International Community

The international community's efforts to conserve marine ecosystems began gaining traction in the mid-20th century as awareness grew about the environmental threats facing the world's oceans. Some of the early milestones include:

- a. **Formation of International Organizations:** In the 20th century, organizations like the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), started addressing marine conservation issues.



- b. 1972 Stockholm Conference: The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm marked a significant turning point. It raised global awareness about environmental issues, including marine conservation.
- c. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): Adopted in 1982, UNCLOS established a comprehensive legal framework for the management and conservation of ocean resources, including marine biodiversity.
- d. Global Conferences and Summits: Various global conferences, such as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002), further highlighted the importance of marine conservation on the international agenda.

2.4 Existing International Agreements

Several international agreements and treaties specifically address the conservation of marine ecosystems. Some key ones include:

- a. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Adopted in 1992, the CBD aims to conserve biodiversity, including marine biodiversity, and ensure the sustainable use of its components.
- b. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS): Also known as the Bonn Convention, CMS focuses on the conservation of migratory species, many of which inhabit marine ecosystems.
- c. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): While not exclusively focused on marine species, CITES regulates international trade in endangered species, including certain marine species like corals and seahorses.
- d. Regional Agreements: Numerous regional agreements exist, such as the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, which address specific marine conservation challenges in their respective regions.



2.5 Role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

It is essential to highlight UNEP role in marine conservation, as it plays a crucial role in coordinating international efforts to protect marine ecosystems through various initiatives:

- a. **Global Marine Program:** UNEP's Global Marine Program focuses on addressing marine pollution, promoting sustainable marine resource management, and building resilience to climate change in marine ecosystems.
- b. **Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans:** UNEP facilitates the implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans worldwide, which provide a framework for countries to cooperate on marine conservation within specific regional contexts.
- c. **Capacity Building and Awareness:** UNEP works to build the capacity of countries, particularly developing nations, to implement effective marine conservation measures. It also raises awareness about the importance of marine ecosystems and the need for their protection among policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public.

In conclusion, the conservation of marine ecosystems is a complex and pressing global issue that requires concerted efforts from the international community, governments, civil society, and future generations. While significant progress has been made through international agreements and organizations like UNEP, much remains to be done to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our oceans. Engaging and empowering new generations to take an active role in marine conservation efforts will be essential for achieving this goal and safeguarding marine biodiversity for generations to come.

Recent developments

In recent years, there have been significant advancements in marine conservation efforts worldwide. These developments encompass various techniques, approaches, and legal frameworks aimed at protecting marine ecosystems and promoting sustainable ocean management. Here, we'll explore some key recent developments in marine conservation, including techniques used, legal aspects, and global goals.



3.1 Techniques Used on the Matter

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Marine Protected Areas have emerged as crucial tools for conserving marine biodiversity and habitats. Recent developments in this area include the establishment of large-scale MPAs, such as the Ross Sea MPA in Antarctica and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii. These MPAs provide essential refuges for marine species, help restore degraded ecosystems, and support sustainable fisheries management.

Sustainable Fisheries: Efforts to promote sustainable fisheries have gained momentum, with initiatives focusing on reducing overfishing, minimizing bycatch, and implementing ecosystem-based management approaches. Recent developments include the adoption of ecosystem-based fisheries management plans, the expansion of certified sustainable seafood programs like the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), and the use of technology for more precise fisheries monitoring and enforcement.

Sustainable Tourism: Sustainable tourism practices are increasingly being implemented to minimize negative impacts on marine ecosystems while supporting local economies. Recent developments include the promotion of ecotourism activities like snorkeling and diving in marine protected areas, the adoption of codes of conduct for responsible whale watching and dolphin tourism, and the development of sustainable tourism certification schemes for coastal destinations.

Blue Economy: The concept of the Blue Economy, which focuses on sustainable development and economic growth while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems, has gained traction in recent years. Developments in this area include investments in renewable energy projects like offshore wind farms, the expansion of marine aquaculture for food production, and the development of new biotechnologies for marine-based pharmaceuticals and materials.

Ocean Clean-Up Technologies: In response to the growing threat of marine pollution, innovative technologies for ocean clean-up have been developed. Recent developments include the deployment of autonomous drones and robotic systems for detecting and removing marine debris, the invention of biodegradable plastics and alternative packaging



materials, and community-led beach clean-up initiatives supported by digital platforms and social media campaigns.

3.2 Law and Treaties

International agreements and frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change include targets and indicators relevant to marine conservation. Recent developments include the incorporation of specific targets related to marine biodiversity conservation (SDG 14), sustainable fisheries management, and the reduction of marine pollution into national and regional policy agendas.

By the other hand, regional agreements and conventions, such as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, play a crucial role in addressing marine conservation challenges at the regional level. Recent developments include the adoption of new protocols and action plans for combating marine pollution, conserving marine habitats, and promoting sustainable fisheries.

Efforts to strengthen the enforcement of existing marine conservation laws and treaties have been prioritized in recent years. Developments in this area include the use of satellite surveillance and remote sensing technologies for monitoring illegal fishing activities, the establishment of joint patrols and task forces to combat IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing, and the implementation of stricter penalties and sanctions for violators of marine conservation regulations.

In conclusion, recent developments in marine conservation encompass a wide range of techniques, approaches, and legal mechanisms aimed at protecting and sustainably managing ocean ecosystems. From the establishment of marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries management practices to the promotion of sustainable tourism and the development of innovative ocean clean-up technologies, efforts are underway to address the numerous threats facing our oceans. By working together at local, regional, and global levels and leveraging the latest advancements in science, technology, and policy, we can ensure a



healthy and vibrant future for our marine environments and the countless species that depend on them.

Bloc positions

In the complex landscape of global marine governance, distinct regional blocs emerge, each with its own set of priorities and positions.

The High-Income Coastal Nations Bloc, represented by countries like the United States, Japan, Australia, and Germany, advocates for comprehensive marine conservation policies. They champion the establishment of large Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard coastal ecosystems and biodiversity. Moreover, they prioritize sustainable fisheries management, seeking to balance economic interests with the long-term health of marine resources. Recognizing the urgent need to address climate change impacts, they also push for investments in research and technology to mitigate these effects on oceans.

In contrast, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Bloc, encompassing nations such as the Maldives, Fiji, Seychelles, and Jamaica, focuses on the existential threat posed by climate change. They urgently call for global action, highlighting the risks of rising sea levels and extreme weather events to their coastal communities. These nations stress the importance of financial and technological assistance to bolster their capacity for marine conservation and adaptation efforts. Additionally, they advocate strongly for the protection of critical ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves, essential for their coastal resilience.

Meanwhile, the Landlocked Nations Bloc, consisting of countries like Mongolia, Bolivia, Zambia, and Afghanistan, underscores the significance of freshwater conservation. They emphasize the interconnectedness between their inland water bodies and downstream marine ecosystems. These nations call for international support to address pollution in shared waterways and advocate for sustainable land use practices. They also push for integrated water management strategies that consider the interests of both landlocked and coastal nations.

In another sphere, the Economically Developing Coastal Nations Bloc, including Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Vietnam, seeks to harness the economic potential of marine resources sustainably. They prioritize the development of a "blue economy," balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship. These nations advocate for



capacity-building and technology transfer to engage in responsible marine activities while seeking financial assistance for conservation measures.

Polar regions are represented by the Arctic and Antarctic Nations Bloc, comprising countries like Canada, Norway, Russia (Arctic), and Argentina, New Zealand (Antarctic). These nations highlight the unique vulnerabilities of polar marine ecosystems to climate change, emphasizing the need for international cooperation. They advocate for regulations on shipping activities to protect fragile polar environments and promote scientific collaboration to address specific challenges faced by Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems.

Lastly, the Transboundary Coastal Regions Bloc, exemplified by the European Union and West African Coastal States like Senegal and Ivory Coast, underscores the importance of regional cooperation. These nations emphasize joint efforts in addressing shared challenges such as overfishing and pollution. They advocate for the establishment of transboundary conservation initiatives, collaborative monitoring programs, and information sharing to tackle common threats across interconnected regions.

Relation with the SDG

The conservation of marine ecosystems is closely linked to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations.

SDG 1: No Poverty

While SDG 1 primarily focuses on eradicating poverty, it also recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability in achieving poverty reduction. Marine conservation efforts, such as sustainable fisheries management and the promotion of blue economy initiatives, can create employment opportunities, generate income for coastal communities, and enhance food security, thus contributing to poverty alleviation.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Marine ecosystems play a critical role in providing food and livelihoods for millions of people worldwide, particularly in coastal communities. Sustainable fisheries management practices and the conservation of marine biodiversity are essential for



ensuring the long-term availability of fish stocks and other marine resources, thus supporting SDG 2 objectives.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 12 emphasizes the need to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Marine conservation initiatives, such as reducing plastic pollution, promoting sustainable seafood consumption, and minimizing waste generation, align with SDG 12 objectives by encouraging responsible use of marine resources and reducing the environmental footprint of human activities.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Climate change poses significant threats to marine ecosystems, including ocean acidification, rising sea levels, and changes in ocean currents and temperature patterns. Addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures is crucial for safeguarding marine biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Marine conservation efforts can contribute to SDG 13 by protecting carbon sinks like mangroves and seagrasses, which help mitigate climate change impacts, and promoting the use of renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

SDG 14 specifically focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. Efforts to establish marine protected areas, promote sustainable fisheries management, reduce marine pollution, and address the impacts of climate change directly contribute to achieving SDG 14. By conserving marine biodiversity and ecosystems, countries can ensure the long-term health and productivity of oceans, which are essential for supporting livelihoods, food security, and economic prosperity.

In conclusion, the conservation of marine ecosystems is integral to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 14 and its interconnectedness with goals related to poverty eradication, hunger alleviation, climate action, and sustainable consumption and production. By prioritizing marine conservation efforts and integrating them



into broader sustainable development agendas, countries can work towards achieving a more equitable, resilient, and environmentally sustainable future for all.

Questions a resolution should solve

- How to promote and incentivize sustainable practices, such as responsible fishing, eco-friendly tourism, and reduction of single-use plastics, among the new generation?
- How to enhance ocean literacy among the new generation to foster a deeper understanding of marine ecosystems and the importance of conservation?
- What specific mechanisms and programs will be established to actively involve young people in marine conservation efforts, ensuring their voices are heard and contributions are valued?
- How to support capacity building for the new generation, providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively participate in marine conservation initiatives?
- How to leverage technology and innovation to engage and empower the new generation in monitoring, research, and implementation of conservation measures?
- How to contribute to the development of a blue economy that provides economic opportunities for the new generation while ensuring sustainability and conservation principles?
- How to address the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and promote resilience-building measures, with a focus on involving the new generation in adaptation and mitigation efforts?
- How to secure adequate funding and resources to implement youth-focused marine conservation programs, ensuring their sustainability and long-term impact?
- What monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to assess the effectiveness of the resolution in engaging the new generation and achieving measurable outcomes in marine conservation?



Topic B: Tackling water scarcity: present and future threats

Introduction

Water is a precious resource; we need fresh water to survive. Currently, only 2.5% of the Earth's water is fresh, yet, due to climate change, this percentage is expected to decrease significantly. And if you add climate change to a growing global population, rapid urbanization and unsustainable water management practices, water scarcity becomes the most pressing challenge of our time. A challenge where nations have to fight to ensure they too have access to clean and safe water. Hence, the UNEP stands as a vital platform for international collaboration and policy development to address this highly critical issue.

1.1 What is Water Scarcity?

Water scarcity is defined as the imbalance between water demand and available freshwater resources. In short, scarcity occurs when there isn't enough clean water to meet the needs of people and ecosystems. Water scarcity poses a grave threat to human health, food security, economic prosperity, and ecosystem stability. While the planet is primarily covered by water, only a small fraction of it is freshwater suitable for human consumption and agricultural use. This finite resource is unevenly distributed geographically, exacerbating disparities in access and exacerbating tensions between nations sharing transboundary water sources.

1.2 Importance of the topic

Currently, over 2 billion people worldwide live in regions facing high water stress, with projections indicating that this number will escalate in the coming decades. Regions such as the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia are particularly vulnerable, experiencing prolonged droughts and contamination of water sources due to pollution and industrial activities. Moreover, marginalized communities are amongst the most vulnerable when it comes to water scarcity. They face barriers to accessing clean water and sanitation services, which leads to a perpetuating of the cycles of poverty and of inequality. In addition, without adequate access to water, communities struggle to meet their basic needs, and adapt to the



adverse effects of climate change, further exacerbating social tensions and conflicts over scarce resources.

Looking ahead, the prognosis for global water security remains grim unless urgent action is taken to mitigate present challenges and anticipate future threats. Climate change exacerbates water variability, leading to more frequent and intense droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather patterns. Rapid urbanization and population growth strain water infrastructure and sanitation systems, exacerbating water stress in urban areas and placing unprecedented demands on freshwater resources. Additionally, competing demands for water across sectors such as agriculture, industry, and energy production intensify pressures on already limited water supplies, necessitating innovative solutions and transformative policies to ensure equitable access and sustainable management.

1.3 The role of Youth in Water Scarcity

The youth play a crucial role in tackling water scarcity through various means listed below:

1. **Awareness:** Young people can raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and sustainable water management practices within their communities and globally, they can advocate for policy changes and initiatives to address water scarcity issues.
2. **Education:** Educating young people about water conservation and sustainability from an early age can instill lifelong habits that contribute to addressing water scarcity. Youth organizations and schools can organize workshops, seminars, and educational campaigns on water-related issues.
3. **Behavioral Change:** The youth can lead by example by adopting water-saving behaviors in their daily lives, such as taking shorter showers, fixing leaks, using water-efficient appliances, and reducing plastic waste that contributes to water pollution.

In conclusion, tackling water scarcity demands efforts at all levels, guided by the principles of equity, sustainability, and resilience. As delegates of the **UNEP** committee, it is important to recognize the interconnectedness of water scarcity with broader environmental, social, and



economic challenges and to prioritize collaborative action towards achieving water security for all.

History of the topic

2.1 The roots of water scarcity

Water scarcity has been a persistent challenge throughout human history, but its complexity and urgency have intensified in recent decades. From ancient civilizations to modern societies, the management and allocation of water resources have always played a very significant role in shaping economies and cultures. This history outlines the evolution of efforts to address water scarcity, from early innovations to contemporary strategies.

Since the beginning of early civilization, human societies have relied on water for survival and development. Ancient civilizations such as the Mesopotamians or Egyptians demonstrated remarkable ingenuity in harnessing water through aqueducts and reservoirs. The Egyptians, one of the most remarkable civilizations of ancient times, were only able to grow their pharaonic empire thanks to the river Nile, what they saw as sacred of life.

Later on, the colonial era witnessed the imposition of Western water management practices in colonized territories, most times prioritizing the needs of colonial powers over local communities. Hydraulic engineering projects, such as dams, canals and irrigation schemes, were implemented to enhance agricultural production and facilitate resource extraction. While these interventions brought short-term benefits, they also disrupted ecosystems, displaced indigenous peoples and exacerbated disparities in water access and rights.

2.2 Water scarcity in the past century

The 20th century saw unprecedented advancements in water infrastructure and technology, fueling rapid economic development and rapid urbanization. Modern dams, desalination plants, and groundwater pumping have completely revolutionized water supply systems, as they have enabled cities to expand and industries to grow. However, the exploitation of water resources has led to environmental degradation, often contaminating the surface waters. Moreover, marginalized communities continuously face exclusion from water services; further perpetuating social inequalities.



In response to growing concerns over water scarcity and environmental degradation, with the late 20th century also came the -needed- emergence of water governance frameworks and international cooperation mechanisms. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and the subsequent establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme underscored the importance of addressing water-related challenges within the broader context of sustainable development. Additionally, landmark agreements such as the 1992 Rio Declaration and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol recognized the interconnectedness of water, climate, and biodiversity, laying the groundwork for integrated approaches to water management.

However, despite international efforts to set common ground for a solution on water scarcity, the issue remains pressing.

2.3 Water scarcity in modern times

Water scarcity is becoming one of the most serious challenges for humans in modern times, exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, climate change, and unsustainable water practices. According to the United Nations, over 2 billion people worldwide live in regions facing high water stress, with projections indicating that this number will rise due to increasing demand and less water supplies. Moreover, marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples and rural populations, bear the brunt of water scarcity, facing barriers to accessing clean water and sanitation services. Too, women and children are usually most affected and vulnerable to lack of fresh water.

In response to these challenges, the international community has intensified efforts to promote water security and resilience. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals even include a dedicated target, SDG 6, to ensure universal access to water and sanitation by 2030. Additionally, initiatives such as the 2030 Water Resources Group and the High-Level Panel on Water have mobilized governments, businesses, and civil society to accelerate progress towards water-related targets.

However, not only governments and organizations are taking the lead on water scarcity. The youth are increasingly taking action on the subject of water scarcity through grassroots initiatives, advocacy campaigns and innovative projects. Youth-led organizations and movements are raising awareness about water conservation, promoting sustainable water



practices, and mobilizing communities to address water-related challenges. From organizing clean-up drives and water-saving campaigns to implementing water filtration projects in underserved areas, young people are playing a vital role in driving positive change and fostering social responsibility towards tackling water scarcity.

2.4 What the future holds

Looking ahead, the future of global water security is full of uncertainty. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and melting glaciers pose significant challenges to water availability and quality, particularly in vulnerable regions.

In response to these future threats, adaptation strategies must prioritize resilience, equity and sustainability. Integrated water resource management approaches, incorporating principles of ecosystem conservation, community participation, and technological innovation, are essential for building adaptive capacity and enhancing water security. Moreover, investments in infrastructure, governance systems, and capacity-building initiatives are crucial for mitigating risks and promoting inclusive development.

Recent developments

In recent years, efforts to tackle water scarcity have intensified in response to escalating challenges posed by population growth, urbanization and climate change. Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector have collaborated to implement innovative solutions, policies and initiatives aimed at securing water resources and promoting sustainability. The goal is to achieve water security for all, water security “encompasses the measures and strategies implemented to ensure reliable access to clean and safe water for human well-being, socio-economic development, and environmental sustainability. It involves ensuring that water resources are available and managed in a sustainable, equitable, and resilient manner to meet the needs of present and future generations. Water security addresses not only the quantity but also the quality, reliability, accessibility, and sustainability of water resources”.

So, this overview shows some of the notable developments in addressing water scarcity, and in trying to reach a step further in achieving water security, highlighting examples of successful interventions and ongoing challenges.



3.1 Integrated Water Resource Management

First, Integrated Water Resource Management has emerged as a holistic approach to addressing water scarcity, focusing on sustainable development, allocation, and management of water resources. By considering the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of water use, IWRM seeks to balance competing demands and promote resilience in the face of uncertainty. A good example for that is **Australia's** National Water Initiative, as it is a comprehensive framework for water management that emphasizes the principles of IWRM. Established in 2004, the NWI promotes water efficiency, trade, and environmental sustainability through measures such as water pricing, allocation planning, and investment in infrastructure. By fostering collaboration between governments, stakeholders, and communities, the NWI has improved water security and resilience in Australia's arid regions.

3.2 Frameworks on water scarcity

There have also been plenty of institutional reforms, as effective water governance is essential for addressing water scarcity and ensuring equitable access to water resources. In recent years, countries have implemented institutional reforms and policy measures to strengthen water governance frameworks, enhance stakeholder participation, and improve accountability in water management. A good example for it is the **South Africa's** National Water Act, enacted in 1998, is a pioneering piece of legislation that has transformed water governance in the country. The Act establishes a decentralized system of water management, allocating water rights based on principles of equity, sustainability, and public participation. Through mechanisms such as catchment management agencies and water user associations, the Act has improved water allocation, efficiency, and conservation, benefiting both rural and urban communities.

3.3 Adaptation to climate change

Climate Change adaptation strategies are also highly important and sought, as Climate change poses significant challenges to water security, exacerbating water variability, and intensifying extreme weather events. In response, countries are implementing adaptation strategies to enhance resilience, reduce vulnerability, and mitigate the impacts of climate change on water resources.



An example for it is The **Republic of Colombia**, a country that employs climate resilience and adaptation strategies to address water scarcity. Colombia, despite being endowed with abundant water resources, faces challenges related to water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, deforestation, and land degradation. To mitigate these challenges and build resilience to water-related risks, Colombia has implemented various adaptation measures: One notable strategy is the promotion of watershed management and conservation initiatives. Colombia recognizes the critical role of healthy ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and watersheds, in regulating water availability and quality. The country has implemented programs to protect and restore these ecosystems, including reforestation efforts, conservation incentives for landowners, and the establishment of protected areas. By safeguarding watersheds, Colombia enhances water security and resilience to climate variability. Additionally, Colombia has invested in infrastructure projects to improve water storage and distribution systems. Dams, reservoirs, and irrigation schemes are constructed to capture and store rainfall during wet seasons, ensuring water availability during dry periods. Moreover, Colombia utilizes innovative water management techniques, such as rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and soil conservation practices, to optimize water use and reduce vulnerability to droughts. Overall, Colombia's proactive approach to climate resilience and adaptation underscores its commitment to addressing water scarcity and building resilience to climate change. Through a combination of ecosystem-based approaches, infrastructure investments, community engagement, and policy integration, Colombia seeks to ensure water security and sustainability for present and future generations.

3.4 Technological innovations

Technological innovations are becoming more and more popular to fight water scarcity. Advancements in technology and innovation are driving transformative changes in water management, offering new tools and solutions for addressing water scarcity. From remote sensing and data analytics to decentralized water treatment systems, technological innovations are improving water efficiency, enhancing monitoring capabilities, and enabling decentralized water supply solutions. An example for it is The **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, a country that utilizes technological innovations and smart solutions to combat water scarcity.



Facing significant challenges due to its arid climate and limited freshwater resources, Saudi Arabia has implemented innovative approaches to address water scarcity and promote sustainable water management. One notable initiative is the use of advanced desalination technology to augment freshwater supplies. Saudi Arabia is one of the world's leading producers of desalinated water, with large-scale desalination plants along its coastline. These plants use reverse osmosis and other cutting-edge techniques to convert seawater into freshwater, providing a reliable source of drinking water for cities and industries. Overall, Saudi Arabia's proactive approach to embracing technological innovations and smart solutions demonstrates its commitment to addressing water scarcity and ensuring sustainable water management for future generations.

3.5 Modern times improvements: water desalination plants, water recycling and water management

One notable improvement lies in the integration of water desalination plants into the overall water supply infrastructure. In the past, desalination was often considered a last resort due to its high energy requirements and potential environmental impacts. However, as concerns over freshwater availability have intensified, desalination has become a more accepted and integrated part of water supply strategies in many regions. Governments and communities have worked to address concerns such as energy efficiency and environmental impact through improved plant designs, better siting decisions, and enhanced monitoring and mitigation measures.

Similarly, water recycling has gained prominence as a key component of sustainable water management strategies. Rather than viewing wastewater as a mere waste product, there has been a paradigm shift toward recognizing it as a valuable resource that can be treated and reused for various purposes, including irrigation, industrial processes, and even potable water supplies in some cases. This shift has been accompanied by investments in wastewater treatment infrastructure and the development of regulations and standards to ensure the safety and reliability of recycled water supplies.

Moreover, there has been a concerted effort to improve water reserves management through better data collection, monitoring, and planning. Climate change and shifting precipitation patterns have made water resource management increasingly complex and uncertain. In response, water managers and policymakers have adopted more adaptive and integrated



approaches to managing water reserves, incorporating factors such as ecosystem needs, groundwater recharge, and the potential for extreme weather events. Collaborative efforts among stakeholders at various levels, including government agencies, water utilities, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, have helped foster a more holistic and resilient approach to water reserves management.

In summary, by adopting more integrated, adaptive, and nature-based approaches, societies are better positioned to address the challenges of water scarcity and quality in the face of climate change and growing demand. Recent developments in tackling water scarcity reflect a growing recognition of the urgent need for coordinated action and innovative solutions. From integrated water resource management to climate resilience strategies and technological innovations, countries and stakeholders are increasingly embracing holistic approaches to water management that promote sustainability, equity, and resilience.

However, at the same time, the world is getting drier. Recent events cannot only be in reference to technological advancements. Hence, here is a short list of catastrophic events that are happening in the world right now, to have an idea of how much water scarcity is already a challenge.

3.6 Water scarcity nowadays: real life case studies

Countries sharing the Nile River, such as Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia, have faced tensions and disputes over water allocation, exacerbated by factors such as population growth, agricultural expansion, and the construction of large-scale infrastructure projects. The Horn of Africa experienced a severe drought, leading to food insecurity, displacement, and humanitarian crises in countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, highlighting the vulnerability of the region to climate-related water stress. The Gaza Strip faces chronic water shortages due to over-extraction of groundwater, contamination, and restrictions on access to water resources, resulting in humanitarian challenges and environmental degradation. India is experiencing much water stress and scarcity due to factors such as over-extraction of groundwater, pollution, and erratic rainfall. Parts of Canada, particularly in the western provinces, are facing water scarcity issues exacerbated by climate change, including reduced snowpack, droughts, and competing demands for water resources from agriculture, industry, and urban areas.



Australia has been grappling with water scarcity exacerbated by prolonged droughts, declining water availability in rivers and reservoirs, and conflicts over water allocation between agricultural, urban, and environmental needs. The Bahamas faces challenges related to water scarcity, particularly on the islands with limited freshwater resources, where reliance on desalination and rainwater harvesting is crucial for meeting water demands. That is only a short example of a list that could be much longer.

Challenges persist, including the impacts of climate change, transboundary water conflicts, and inequitable access to water resources. Moving forward, sustained political commitment, international cooperation, and transformative action will be essential for addressing these challenges and achieving water security for all.

Here are some key facts listed by UNICEF on water scarcity, to see current and future data on the topic, and to have an idea on how relevant the issue of water scarcity is:

1. Four billion people (almost two thirds of the world's population) experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year.
2. Over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate.
3. Half of the world's population could be living in areas facing water scarcity by as early as 2025.
4. Some 700 million people could be displaced by intense water scarcity by 2030.
5. By 2040, roughly 1 in 4 children worldwide will be living in areas of extremely high water stress.

Block positions

The following part aims to point out where different members stand on the topic of water scarcity. In the United Nations Environment Programme committee, member states have diverse perspectives and interests regarding the issue. Understanding these positions is crucial for effective negotiation and collaboration. However, it is important to keep in mind that every state can reasonably change positions regarding specific topics, hence, **critical thinking is highly needed**.

a) Water-rich Block



Water-rich nations, like Canada, Norway, Fiji or Russia for instance, could find common ground. They advocate for measures to enhance water efficiency, conservation, and ecosystem protection to ensure the long-term availability and quality of freshwater sources. These countries prioritize investments in water infrastructure, technology, and innovation to optimize water use and minimize waste. Additionally, they emphasize the importance of transboundary cooperation, data sharing, and knowledge exchange to address regional water challenges and promote global water security.

b) Water-scarce Block

On the other hand, water-scarce nations like Egypt, South Africa or Kenya highlight the urgent need for international support, technology transfer, and financial assistance to address water scarcity challenges. They emphasize the disproportionate impact of water scarcity on vulnerable populations and ecosystems and advocate for equitable access to water resources, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions. These countries prioritize investments in water infrastructure, desalination, and water reuse technologies to augment water supplies and enhance resilience to climate change impacts. Additionally, they stress the importance of regional cooperation, conflict resolution mechanisms, and sustainable water management practices to ensure water security and promote socio-economic development.

c) Global South Block

Countries from the global south assert that water scarcity disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, particularly in regions with limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities. They emphasize the urgent need for international support, technology transfer, and financial assistance to address water scarcity and build resilience to climate change impacts. Developing countries advocate for equitable distribution of water resources, prioritizing the needs of marginalized communities, and ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation services for all. They stress the importance of capacity-building initiatives, knowledge-sharing platforms, and sustainable development assistance to enhance water management practices and promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

d) Western Block



At the same time, western countries prioritize technological innovations, market-based approaches, and investment in water infrastructure to address water scarcity and promote sustainable water management practices. They advocate for the development and deployment of advanced water treatment technologies, such as desalination, water recycling, and smart irrigation systems, to optimize water use and minimize waste. Developed countries emphasize the importance of public-private partnerships, regulatory frameworks, and economic incentives to incentivize water conservation, efficiency, and stewardship. They highlight the role of research and development, innovation, and knowledge exchange in driving progress towards water security and resilience to climate change impacts. Developed nations also stress the need for international cooperation, capacity-building initiatives, and collaborative partnerships to leverage expertise, resources, and best practices in addressing water scarcity at the global level.

e) Global South Block

Countries in the Global South emphasize the need for international support, technology transfer, and financial assistance to address water scarcity. They advocate for equitable access to water resources, capacity-building initiatives, and sustainable development assistance to enhance resilience to climate change impacts. These countries prioritize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, highlighting historical inequities and the disproportionate burden of water scarcity on vulnerable populations.

f) Middle Eastern and Gulf States Block

Middle Eastern and Gulf states prioritize water security as a national security issue and advocate for regional cooperation, dialogue, and joint management of transboundary water resources. They emphasize the importance of desalination, water reuse, and efficiency measures to mitigate water scarcity challenges. These countries seek to leverage their hydrocarbon wealth to invest in water infrastructure, technology, and innovation, positioning themselves as regional leaders in water management and conservation efforts.

g) Small Island States Block

Small Island States highlight the vulnerability of island nations to climate change impacts, including sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, and extreme weather events. They advocate for international assistance, financial support, and capacity-building initiatives to build resilience



and adapt to water scarcity. These countries prioritize ecosystem-based approaches, sustainable development, and renewable energy solutions to address water-related challenges and ensure the sustainability of their fragile island ecosystems.

h) Latin American Block

Latin American countries emphasize regional cooperation, integrated water management, and sustainable development approaches to address water scarcity. They advocate for the preservation of freshwater ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and indigenous rights in water governance processes. These countries prioritize social equity, environmental justice, and participatory decision-making in water resource management, recognizing the interconnectedness of water with social, economic, and cultural factors.

Understanding these block positions is essential for delegates in the UNEP committee to navigate negotiations, build alliances, and advance consensus on strategies to tackle water scarcity and promote sustainable water management practices at the international level. By engaging constructively with diverse perspectives and interests, delegates can work towards effective solutions that address the present and future threats of water scarcity while fostering cooperation and solidarity among member states.

Relation with the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges and promoting sustainable development. Among the 17 SDGs, Goal 6 is specifically important for our debate on water scarcity, as it focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This goal underscores the critical importance of tackling water scarcity as a fundamental component of sustainable development. The relationship between addressing water scarcity and the SDGs is multifaceted and interconnected, as outlined below:

SDG 1: Poverty

Tackling water scarcity is closely intertwined with several other SDGs, reflecting the interconnected nature of sustainable development. SDG 1, for example, tackles the issue of poverty. Clean water is essential for poverty reduction and economic development. By



providing communities with reliable water sources for drinking, sanitation, and agriculture, efforts to address water scarcity can contribute to poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 2, zero hunger, is also very interconnected with the topic. Agriculture accounts for the largest share of global water use, making water availability critical for food security and nutrition. The third SDG, around good health and general well-being, entails that access to clean water and sanitation is essential for preventing waterborne diseases and promoting public health. Improving water quality and hygiene practices can reduce the incidence of water-related illnesses, leading to improved health outcomes and well-being.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

This SDG directly addresses the issue of water scarcity by emphasizing the need for universal access to clean water and sanitation. By ensuring equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation facilities, it aims to alleviate the burden of water scarcity on vulnerable populations, particularly in developing countries. To achieve this goal a few things are required, such as investments in infrastructure, governance, and capacity-building initiatives to improve water quality, efficiency and accessibility.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 7, affordable and clean energy, is very much directly related to water scarcity, as it can impact energy production, particularly in hydropower-dependent regions. Diversifying energy sources and investing in renewable energy technologies can mitigate the vulnerability of water-dependent energy systems to water scarcity. SDG 13 is mainly about one of the biggest common threat we face: Climate Change. Climate change exacerbates water scarcity by altering precipitation patterns and intensifying extreme weather events. Mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts are essential for safeguarding water resources and building resilience to future water-related challenges.

In conclusion, the relationship between tackling water scarcity and the SDGs underscores the centrality of water to sustainable development. By prioritizing access to clean water and sanitation, promoting integrated approaches, and leveraging synergies across SDGs,



countries can advance progress towards achieving multiple development objectives while safeguarding water resources for present and future generations. In the UNEP committee, **delegates have a unique opportunity** to advocate for policies and initiatives that advance water security and contribute to the realization of the SDGs' vision of a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable world.

Questions a resolution should solve

After having debated on the topic of water scarcity, delegates come together to draft a resolution. Here you will find some key questions that we consider a good resolution should address. It is important to keep in mind that everything that is written on a resolution has to have been debated first. So, we encourage you to read the questions and to address them during moderated sessions!

- How can the youth contribute positively to tackling water scarcity?
- How can we distribute the earth's fresh water fairly?
- What are the existing water management policies and practices, and how effective have they been in addressing water scarcity?
- Which techniques can be used to save water?
- How can we ensure that everyone has enough water to have a dignified life?
- How can we address socio-economic disparities in access to clean water and ensure equitable distribution of water resources?
- How can we ensure that water is reused?
- What educational initiatives and outreach programs can be developed to raise awareness about water scarcity and empower communities to take action?
- What are new sources of water?
- How can children and women be more protected from water scarcity?
- How should all states globally invest into water scarcity research and infrastructure fairly: who pays?



- How can traditional knowledge and indigenous practices be incorporated into modern water management approaches to enhance resilience and sustainability?
- How can we monitor and assess the effectiveness of water conservation measures and adapt strategies based on changing environmental conditions and community needs?



Recommended readings

The Conservation of Marine Ecosystems: The Role of New Generations

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Tackling Water Scarcity: Present and Future Threats

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