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WORLD AFFAIRS**



**Position Paper Compilation
for the
United Nations Environmental Programme**

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Delegation from Argentina

Position Paper for the Environmental Programme

The topic the Delegation of Argentina is presenting before the Environmental Programme is Increasing Lack of Water Resources. Argentina recognizes the benefits of association with other strong forces in order to promote environmental success and looks forward to discussing solutions at the forthcoming conference.

Increasing Lack of Water Resources

Around the globe, 3.6-4 million people live in areas that are affected by water scarcity at least one month each year. Argentina is fortunate to have the Rio de la Plata River Basin located in Buenos Aires, supplying water for more than 85% of its population. However, the farther one lives from Buenos Aires and the Río de la Plata, the more scarce the water resources become. Citizens living in San Juan or La Rioja depend on rainfall, which is becoming heavily polluted. With water resources from the Rio de la Plata, Argentina is able to supply limited amounts of water to neighboring countries with the limitations that come with transporting water. Additionally, Argentina's economy relies on water resources to maintain agriculture. The last contributing factor of water supply in Argentina is groundwater. Groundwater is a major benefit for rural and urban populations, contributing about 30% of water resources for agricultural needs. However, it is easily affected by pollution. In order to avoid being water-stressed Argentina can industrialize. By industrializing, the amount of water used for agriculture can decrease, allowing for a surplus of water for citizens and possibly other countries.

In order to prevent water-stress globally, international policies promoting improvement of irrigation systems and the invention of water-saving technologies must come into play. Approximately 70% of the world's freshwater is used in agriculture. By promoting higher quality irrigation systems, smaller amounts of freshwater can be focused on agriculture, additionally leading to closing the gap between supply and demand in the process. Additionally, the invention of water-saving technologies are a necessity. Countless countries across the globe use rainfall to supply water to their citizens and agriculture. While rain is continuous, it is also extremely unpredictable, causing many countries to have unexpected droughts within multiple years. With the invention of water-saving technologies, countries can save water resources for when they are fighting a drought or are in desperate need of water.

By the year of 2025, it is estimated that 1.8 billion people will be living in regions involving only water scarcity. Additionally two-thirds of the world's population is predicted to be under water stressed conditions during this time. Water scarcity is known to be nature's problem, but it is also a human phenomenon since it affects basic survival as well as the economy. At this time, the Earth's population is continuing to increase, leading to a greater need for more water resources. The world is currently fighting to supply the demand for water resources. However, due to pollution, uneven distribution, and poor management, continuous amounts of water are being wasted. There are many countries and corporations around the world that are fighting for water. The Earth is not supplying the same amount of water that is being used, and this is a continuous problem for the environment and the economy. Due to this, the amount of water available is decreasing, overall leading to an imbalance in the usage of water resources.

There are many things that can be done to protect water resources and increase water supply. For example, hazardous waste that is disposed of in the ground, seeps into the soil and gradually leaks into our water systems, causing toxic water. A way to solve this problem is by simply not putting these waste in areas where this issue could possibly occur. A similar issue occurs with fertilizers, the excess amount of fertilizer in our water system leads to the release of harmful greenhouse gases. In addition, there are many ways to increase water supply. One of the major solutions is by decreasing corporate water footprint. But it is not always big businesses and corporations that have an impact. By turning off the sink when one is not using it, being cautious of how much water one is using, and even appropriately pricing water, this can all lead to an increase in the supply of water. To ensure appropriate coordination across nations, the UN should create a policy with guidelines about how much water a country can use throughout a time period and how to deal with proper toxic substances. These policies will contribute to the balanced division of water throughout countries, in which they can individually separate water for human consumption and agriculture.

Delegation from: the Commonwealth of Australia

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

The issues before the United Nations Environmental Programme are: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity; and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. The Commonwealth of Australia is committed to mitigating these issues and working together to find solutions with other delegations.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The Commonwealth of Australia has dealt with the issue of water scarcity over many years. The lack of adequate water systems is caused by limited and unpredictable rainfall. Since the 1970s, the amount of runoff in Perth's reservoirs has decreased by 91%. This has led to an increased reliance on groundwater. As a result, aggression over water scarcity in cities has erupted. The Commonwealth of Australia has been vigilant in creating creative solutions to these conflicts and will willingly work with other countries to solve the issue.

Since some aquifers have been drained at an unsustainable rate, the city of Perth has created a system to replenish them. This system of recycled water has proved to be an effective way of addressing water scarcity - one that can be replicated in cities across the world. Although Australia abstained from the vote on Resolution 64/292, we still recognize the importance of access to water and acknowledge the links between water scarcity and civil rights.

The hope for the committee is that a comprehensive, multifaceted solution is made to address conflicts over water scarcity. The Commonwealth of Australia believes that the current system in the country is working well and will continue to do so in the near future.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The Commonwealth of Australia recognizes the importance of proper plastic waste disposal management. In fact, tackling Australia's waste management problem is one of the country's top priorities. First published in 2009 and updated in 2018, the National Waste Policy has outlined Australia's national framework for waste recovery. This policy advocates for the collaboration of governments, businesses, and industries in order to reduce plastic waste. The Commonwealth of Australia has shown initiative to address this urgent issue and pledges to work with other delegates to find solutions for addressing plastic waste disposal on a global scale.

Thus far, Australia's strategy for managing plastic waste is limiting manufacturing plastic that is not recyclable. By only producing plastic that is compostable, reusable, or recyclable, no new plastic will weigh down the environment. The current rate of recycling in Australia is 55%, however the goal is to reach 70% to curb single-use plastic pollution. In a new governmental mandate, by 2025 Australia will make all plastic packaging reusable.

The Commonwealth of Australia acknowledges the importance of existing plans and conventions to improve upon plastic waste management and disposal. Through established systems, the Commonwealth of Australia hopes to minimize the impact of plastic waste on the environment while still acknowledging that plastic waste cannot be fully extinguished. As a whole, the committee should aim to address managing plastic waste by finding more creative solutions than simply cutting down on overall plastic consumption.

MODEL UN 2021

Topic A – Water Scarcity

1. Our country, Austria, can assist other nations suffering from water scarcity by providing safe, clean, water to countries who cannot do this themselves. This can be done by the transportation of water via truck, convoy, or other modes of transportation. Ways we, as a nation, can prevent ourselves from being water-stressed is by proper sanitation of water so it can be used for drinking and bathing. If we introduce proper care for water to our own nation and spread it to others, our region will benefit.
2. Some international systems that could be put in place to mitigate water stress include: 1. More technologically advanced countries (The United States, UK, France, Germany, Canada, etc..) can support the countries who don't have access to these resources. This way, we can spread the importance of water and aid in preventing water stress in water stressed regions. 2. Laws can be put in place in water stressed nations until their water shortage problem has subsided. This can be accomplished by meeting with the officials from the nation with the water problem and suggest the intended action plan.
3. The competing interests involving water being balanced are that everyone is aware of the importance that water holds but are unsure on how to resolve this issue. Water is necessary for humans' survival but a lot of water in water stressed areas is being wasted severely.
4. Some measures that should be put in place to protect water resources and increase water supply is proper allocation of water. This means the government needs to properly distribute their water so that more people benefit from it. This could mean supplying more water to the poor rather than to the rich who can afford more water anyways. A second way we can protect water resources and increase water supply is by validating the means behind the purchase of water in water stressed areas. This means if people want water for a decorative fountain or for a pool, their request for water should be declined until the proper amount of water is allocated to the people who need it and don't have it or until this water crisis is over. The institutional set-up that are most appropriate for ensuring adequate coordination across nations is communication. Proper communication is crucial when coming up with a plan to solve a crisis as big as this one.

Topic B – Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

1. As the two delegates for UNEP who represent the nation of Austria, we believe that the government should be the one to pay for the investment of technology to improve waste management or recyclable plastics? We believe this because if people are following public guideline like recycling and littering, then it is up to us to sort out the rest and ensure that recyclables get recycled and that the waste does not end up in the oceans.
2. The government and the people both share the burden of proper waste management. The government needs to act after the plastic is thrown away to make sure it is sent to a recycling plant to be reused. The people need to recycle and not litter or throw away recyclable plastics in the trash.
3. We think that if a country is willing to take in another nation's plastic waste, they should be heavily compensated if their environment isn't impacted. This means that a nation wants to export their plastic waste to us, Austria. Then that nation needs to pay per square foot of plastic or a fee of Austria's choosing. Austria can be allowed to do this until it becomes too much waster that Austria's environment is being negatively affected. Yes, we think that countries should be able to export waste because it can stimulate the nation's economy and protect the environment.

Delegation from: The Dominion of Canada

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

The issues before the United Nations Environmental Programme are: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity; and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. The Dominion of Canada is dedicated to preventing conflicts, if they ever arise, over water scarcity and diligently managing plastic waste disposal, and hopes to ensure that the country will continue to thrive and not be hindered by these two issues.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The Dominion of Canada emphasizes the importance of international action to reassure access of safe water to all people as it is a critical factor to its citizens' health and prosperity. As 1 out of 6 indigenous people residing in Canada suffer from water shortages, the delegation of Canada strongly calls for International aid on account of these residents.

Recognizing the significance of first nations' access to clean water referencing the 2 billion dollars spent regarding that subject, the Dominion of Canada highly stresses the importance of water accessibility to all members of its nation. The delegation has lifted 81 water advisories and strives to do the same with the 59 remaining. Canada wishes to upgrade treatment and transportation of fresh water to its people and desires new treaties similar to A/RES64/292 outlining water distribution, to be written as fresh water is a fundamental human right according to Canada's Constitution Act of 1982.

Water sanitation is key for not only developing countries, but also ones struggling with transporting clean, sustainable water to its people. Many provinces and states lack the ability to provide water to all of its citizens, especially first nations. Canada supports research for a more efficient sanitation process with hopes to ensure public health. We wish for the termination of global water scarcity as a whole and desire eventual clean water access for every human residing on Earth. The Dominion of Canada hopes for a fruitful debate and passes resolutions to address this issue.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The world's oceans are suffering, plastic can be found in each and every crack and crevice. Plastic can be found floating on the water's surface, in and around the melting Arctic glaciers, washed up on most coastlines, sitting on the ocean floor, within most species of marine life. Plastic is every country's problem and every country's responsibility to clean up. While the Dominion of Canada is still responsible for a decent amount of plastic waste, the country has taken measures to improve. The Dominion of Canada wishes to emphasize the importance of getting the plastic waste disposal problem of the world under control and will do everything within their power to improve this issue.

The Dominion of Canada has noticed and acknowledged this issue, taking action to improve this issue. Whether it starts in only one country, you must at least start in order to accomplish your goal. By the end of 2021, all bags, cutlery, and straws made from hard to recycle

plastic will be out of use. Canada has made it so any company that manufactures plastic products or sells with plastic packaging, that they are responsible for their plastic waste. The Dominion of Canada has been working with industries to gather fishing gear and relocate it so that it doesn't end up in the ocean. Plastic fishing gear is a major contributor to plastic waste debris. In 2018, Canada launched the Oceans Plastics Charter, a charter that outlines action to eliminate plastic pollution and acknowledges how urgent action needs to be in order to clean up the ocean. Through this charter Canada has mobilized international support, being endorsed by 21 governments and 60 businesses and organizations. The government of Canada is working on all levels to take action on plastic waste and pollution.

Canada hopes for more countries to take action and manage the waste disposal problem that has taken the world by storm. The Dominion of Canada hopes that more countries will get involved with the Zero Plastic Waste initiative and take steps in the direction of greening their own governments. Canada wishes to work in tandem with other countries and create better options in place of plastic so that the everyday person will stop using plastic. The Dominion of Canada desires to witness a debate that argues for all options to improve the issue of plastic waste disposal and start more initiatives to take steps in the right direction.

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Delegation From: People's Republic of China

Represented By: Saint Edward High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has a decades long history with water scarcity, beginning in the 1960's and continuing to the present day. In 1960, the average amount of available water was about 4,100 cubic meters per capita per year in the PRC and by 2021, it has plummeted to about 2,000 cubic meters per capita per year, or $\frac{1}{3}$ the world's average. This issue is especially prevalent among the northern provinces, whereas in the south there are more rivers. To combat this issue the PRC has undertaken the unprecedented South-to-North Water Transfer Project (SNWTP), which involves rerouting billions of cubic meters of water each year from the Yangtze River in the South to the water stressed provinces of the North. This project encompasses some 1,500 kilometer-long canals to divert an estimated 20.9 billion cubic meters of water each year.

The PRC believes that only through transnational cooperation, improved social resilience and economic development are countries able to prevent and withstand water scarcity issues. Countries that have higher levels of economic development and social resilience have proven to be more equipped to handle water scarcity issues by being able to look to alternate avenues for water, such as water imports and the use of advanced water technologies and practices like seawater desalination, wastewater recycling, and other water-saving technologies. It is for these reasons that the PRC set up the Lancang Mekong Cooperation mechanism (LMC), which has the aim to further water resource cooperation, agriculture, industrial capacity, cross-border economic cooperation and poverty reduction in member states; LMC has six member states: China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It is through the LMC that the PRC is able to help its regional neighbors accordingly, particularly in respect of cooperation over transnational rivers. It is also through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that the PRC is able to alleviate and assist other global countries in combating water scarcity, and to avoid local conflicts often dubbed as 'water wars'. For instance, with LMC partners Thailand and Laos through the BRI the PRC was able to fund and build a 8-meter diameter pipeline from the Yuam River to the Bhumibol Reservoir to help mitigate the water scarcity affecting the farmers of central Thailand. Another instance, in which the BRI significantly helped another country is the development of the Padma (Jashaldia) Water Treatment Plant in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The plant, which was majority funded through the BRI, will now be able to provide 450 million liters a day of water to the very water stressed capital of Bangladesh. This in turn helps to increase the economic development and social resilience of Bangladesh to respond to water scarcity issues, thus preventing international disputes over water.

It is through these experiences in tackling water scarcity issues in the past that the PRC's hope is for this committee to be able to do the same and provide countries with viable solutions to eliminate water scarcity, and consequently prevent 'water wars' from happening between member states. The PRC desires a resolution that will adequately address and provide funding for member states to draw from to advance their economic development in the area of water sourcing and

management, as well as to aid in the social resilience of countries in times of need, determined by a panel through a majority of votes. To achieve these goals, the PRC will propose the introduction of a Water Resilience & Development Fund (WRDF), whose purpose would be to provide not only funding for improving social resilience and economic development, but also to provide a forum in which member states would be able to aid one another with their advanced technologies in regards to water. Funding would come from donations of member states, as well as NGOs. Funding would be allocated through a random 21-member committee of member states in charge of the WRDF, which would rotate on a four year basis between member states, except for the top three contributing members who would each have a preallocated seat.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The People's Republic of China (PRC) believes that plastic waste is one of the most pressing environmental issues facing the world today. The PRC takes notice of the 300 million tons of plastic waste created each year and the disastrous results this unsustainable level of plastic waste production has on the health of both humans and the environment. Additionally, the PRC notes that, of this plastic waste, less than 9% of it is recycled. In response to this, the PRC has taken numerous measures to help better ensure the safety and health of its environment and its peoples.

To more effectively manage its plastic waste disposal, the Government of the PRC has implemented a ban on the import of mixed use plastics. The effects of this ban have been enormous in helping the Chinese environment and the people who live there. No longer does the PRC serve as the recycling plant of western nations. No longer are facilities being clogged by plastic waste imported from many western nations. Rather, facilities can focus on recycling waste from Chinese citizens, lower landfill usage and keeping the environment cleaner and healthier. In Addition, the Chinese government also has implemented a ban on non-biodegradable single use plastics, set to take full effect by 2023. This ban will see huge reductions in single use plastic waste, all by replacing simple items such as plastic straws with paper or reusable straws. In addition this ban will help the Chinese government to be able to more effectively control plastic waste. The PRC firmly believes that the most effective way to combat growing plastic waste and to more effectively manage plastic waste is for each member state to take this pressing matter seriously and into their own hands.

The Peoples Republic of China believes that no longer should developed nations ship their waste to developing nations to be recycled. Rather every country should and needs to take action and responsibility for their own recycling. In order to do this, the PRC believes that the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) should take quick and effective action to help countries manage plastic waste disposal. This could be done through incentives or through further highlighting the harsh reality that over hundreds of millions of tons of plastic waste is contaminating our environment and coeans everywhere. However the most important action that can be taken, is to attack the problem at its source, which can be done by severely limiting or outright banning single use plastics.

Delegation From: Republic of Columbia

Represented By: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for United Nations Environmental Programme

The issues before the United Nations Environmental Programme(UNEP) are: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity; and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The delegation of Columbia believes that water scarcity is an overbearing issue. Columbia has the 24th greatest abundance of water in the world. Even so, scientists predict that we will have a grave water shortage by 2050. There have been disputes over environmental concerns in Columbia, but the Peace Accords in 2016 have since ended the major ones. The Peace accords created much momentum to address environmental issues including concerns that contribute to water scarcity such as deforestation, but much progress must come in order to continue these efforts. Despite our efforts, illegal mining and deforestation continue to go rampant. We push for harsh punishment of those who violate these laws, as well as stricter laws relating. Another large contributor to water scarcity is climate change. The Republic of Colombia has committed to reducing our current greenhouse emissions. We feel that it is not our responsibility to globally reduce emissions if we are already battling other problems in private. Other countries have not recognized our issues, therefore they should not try to make it an obligation for us to give out the supplies that we already lack. It is not just to ask someone for something that they do not have. In the rural areas of Columbia, one in three people do not have decent toilets, and one in four do not have clean water to drink. We are working with the poorest groups in Columbia to provide clean water. We have trained people how to install and maintain windmills, hand and solar-driven pumps and storage tanks. We have set up water committees to keep these solutions working. With the use of modern technologies, we are hoping that our attempts will start to make a difference. In earlier years Columbia used rainwater for drinking, but the dry tropical zone is experiencing longer and more intense dry periods, which makes it hard to continue this process. At the moment, Columbia needs to preserve the water we already have for the citizens of Columbia. We understand the severity of conflicts pertaining to water and or other essential products, but at the moment we do not feel like we have the capacity to assist other countries with conflicts. In no way does Columbia support violence but unfortunately, we do not have enough of the resources, (as in abundance in water manpower, and equipment) needed for helping combat violence.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The Republic of Columbia understands that excessive plastic waste affects our sea-based cities. This is why Columbia has passed such laws as a plastic bag tax as well as recognizing recycling labor and providing incentives to recycle. The plastic bag levy has resulted in a 27% reduction in usage. The Colombian ministry of environment deals with many issues and is requiring increasing recyclable materials in packaging. Colombia provides resources and information to our people, and does everything it can to offset the effects of plastic waste on our coastal cities. Committed to developing a National Program for Marine Debris Management and banned single use plastic on its main caribbean islands. Colombia also interacts with the private sector to regulate there as well. As a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change International Environmental Treaty, Colombia intends to collaborate in order to create a legislature that is beneficial to its people and has positive intentions. Colombia does not support excessive spending for irrelevant activities and will not contribute to costly resolutions that do not benefit the citizens of Colombia. Columbia wants to focus on the problem at hand, and not any other issues at the moment. We are encouraging other countries to follow our example and assemble policies that provide their own countries with a safe environment. Every decision a country makes will directly affect its bordering countries. It is unfair to ruin the environment of neighboring countries because of the lack of care for the environment.

Delegation from: Denmark

Represented by: Beaumont School

United Nations Environmental Council

Position Paper for the Environmental Council

The issue before the United Nations Environmental Council is: the effective prevention of conflicts over water security and the management of plastic waste disposal. Denmark is dedicated to peace and the preservation of the environment and looks forward to reaching a peaceful solution to limit conflicts over fresh water and the preservation of our environment .

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Denmark would be happy to contribute to the prevention of conflict over fresh water. As of now no treaties or agreements have been signed or ratified regarding the usage and distribution of fresh water sources; however Denmark has demonstrated great care towards environmental preservation and pollution control.

As a vital human resource, Denmark has some of the cleanest groundwater sources in the world. This is possible because focus is placed on the prevention of pollution and preservation. Water loss is a waste of valuable resources limited in Denmark via set parameters of acceptable waste water levels and the integration of waste water treatment to ensure that no harm would come to the existing sources or the environment. The Water Sector Reform Act, implemented in 2009, requires all drinking water providers and wastewater utilities to operate within set parameters as well as collect and file performance data including water loss.

The UNEP has already partnered with a Danish cooperation, DHI, which focuses on international advisory and research of freshwater resources. DHI has over 50 years of experience with staff in over 25 countries and experience with over 140 countries. The UNEP-DHI is currently working to map the easternmost region of Africa, commonly referred to as The Horn of Africa, which is home to Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. This mapping study is crucial to the development of a digital platform which will be used to promote discourse on fresh water sources of the area. The UNEP-DHI center has actively promoted a digital system referred to as “integrated water resources management” (IWRM). This system aids countries in setting and achieving sustainability development goals when it comes to water and sanitation. The introduction and implementation of similar systems in areas where drinking water is scarce could lead to the decline of water based conflicts.

Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Denmark is in favor of reducing plastic waste materials as the preservation of the environment is incredibly important. Denmark is already party to agreements concerning pollution such as the Marine Dumping-London Convention and the Antarctic-Environmental Protection has been signed but not ratified. Much of Denmark’s industrial and household waste is recycled. Danish Environmental Protection Act focuses on the preservation of the natural environment while

limiting the usage and waste of raw materials and other resources. This Act promotes social growth while limiting pollution to the natural environment including air, water, and soil.

Denmark has partnered with other countries to aid in reducing waste, mostly in the attempt to reduce plastics and the harm posed to the environment. Kenya and the Ministry of Environment of Denmark has partnered to produce a plan for the recycling and reduction of plastic packaging. Plastic packaging has been a huge contributor to plastic pollution in the seas and land. Plastic is a nonorganic material that breaks down slowly and harms the natural homeostatic disposition of an ecosystem. The Environment Sector Cooperation (ESC) is working with Kenya to nurture dialogue on plastic recycling and help Kenya achieve the target of increasing plastic recycling and the gradual increase of waste recovery to 80% by 2030.

Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) of Denmark is also partnering with Indonesia to reduce waste. Indonesian households produce around 65 million tons of waste annually. While half of the waste is shipped off to landfills, the other half is left to the environment, polluting waterways and natural resources. Denmark has been working to instill a circular economy where waste represents an economic opportunity as all materials retain potential as a resource.

Delegation from: the Republic of Finland

Represented by: Beaumont School

Committee: United Nations Environmental Program

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Program

The topics to be discussed before the United Nations Environmental Program are as follows: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Security and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. Finland strives to further discussion regarding such issues and work towards both effective and long-term solutions.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are considered the most water-stressed regions in the world, thus they are afflicted by numerous water-related conflicts. 12 out of 17 of the most world-stressed countries are a part of MENA. The Republic of Finland imports large quantities of water from MENA, with a smaller percentage coming from the Middle East. Finnish citizens get approximately [60%](#) of their water from groundwater reservoirs, which is fed by rivers and lakes. Finland believes it is crucial that a global effort is made towards the recirculation and reuse of water, as it would drastically reduce the number of conflicts in relation to clean water.

According to UNICEF, or the United Nations Children's Fund, Finland has the [purest](#) water in the world. Roughly [47%](#) of water used in Finland's industries comes from other countries. However, Finland has over [180,000](#) lakes and ponds that are more than 500m² and 25,000km of rivers. Finland has drafted a strategy for building a [water-secure](#) world by 2030. The strategy involves constructing wetlands, removing wood chips that release nitrogen, recirculating water, and forming artificial groundwater. The Republic of Finland hopes the results will contribute to the development of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. Finland strongly believes this strategy to be the solution to famine, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and adaptation to climate change.

The Republic of Finland will carry out several of the European Union's (EU) efforts to conserve their resources, including improving drought management plans, increasing water efficiency, and fostering a [water-saving](#) culture. Finland is currently striving to expand its groundwater resources, as its reservoirs need little to [no treatment](#) before consumption. Finland has hopes that its fellow EU members and countries beyond will adopt and follow such strategies.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Each year, [300 million tonnes](#) of plastic is wasted globally, and about [8 million tonnes](#) end up in the ocean. Despite worldwide efforts to reduce the amount of plastic in landfills, only 12% of all plastic is recycled. The Republic of Finland strongly supports policies that enforce proper waste disposal. As one of the most ecologically-friendly countries in the world, the Republic of Finland has made considerable efforts in managing its plastic products. Finland strictly prohibits all plastic bags, intending to keep them out of the ocean. Finland believes accessible processes are critical to reducing plastic waste, and that a global effort must be made to fulfill this goal.

Finland heavily prioritizes the recycling and reuse of plastic, with plastic only contributing to [5%](#) of the country's total waste. Recognizing the importance of reducing plastic waste, Finland enforces the [Single-Use Plastic Directive](#) (SUPD). This European Union directive banned certain single-use plastic products and went into effect in July of 2021. The SUPD bans plastic cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers, balloon sticks, and cotton bud sticks. Though Finland follows a functional refundable package system, only 27% of all plastic packaging is recycled. With the introduction of the [Plasticbot](#), the Republic of Finland hopes to recycle 50% of its plastic packaging by 2025. The processing line currently processes 20,000 tonnes of plastic per year. Employees crush, wash, melt, and granulate plastic; the granulated product is in the same form as raw plastic material, thus it can be reused in production equipment.

Increased recycling is absolutely critical to reducing waste, so Finland invests roughly [EUR 150-170 million](#) annually to the reuse and recycling of plastic. Finland believes that their current policies have exponentially reduced the generation of plastic waste. Finland looks forward to making significant progress on this global issue, and expresses hope that similar policies will be adopted by other nations.

Delegation from: The Republic of France

Represented by: St. Edward High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Program

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Water scarcity is an issue facing the environment around the world. Over 2 billion people are without access to clean drinking water, 4 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation, and 1.42 billion live in areas with high water vulnerability. Even in some developed nations, there is a discrepancy between access to water in rural and urban areas. Furthermore, since the turn of the twentieth century, conflicts over water have become increasingly common. While most get resolved quickly, there is still no effective way to prevent conflict over water, and lingering effects are common. For example, the Yemeni civil war has caused a water crisis that the UN has struggled to resolve. With high tensions and few ports to send aid to, the UN peacekeepers have been unable to relieve said water crisis.

To combat the world's water crises, France has adopted the *International Strategy for Water and Sanitation* and ratified the Helsinki (1992) and New York (1997) water conventions. France also participated in a study in 2013 with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on equitable access to water which aimed to prevent "equity blindness," which is the unintentional unfair implementation of social programs. Domestically, France has raised over three-hundred-million Euros for the cause of water management in neighboring countries through the Oudin-Santini Act (2005). Finally, France has implemented the French Water Partnership (FWP), which seeks to bring more recognition to water and sanitation issues on an international level. As per the FWP, France seeks to establish the right to clean water as a human right both in France and across the world, and to design and implement an effective strategy to make water affordable and sanitation accessible to all. Another aim is the worldwide implementation of decentralized funding for water-based humanitarian causes (such as the aforementioned Oudin-Santini Act implemented in France) and allowing local governments to perform important roles in water and sanitation, thus allowing for more autonomy.

Through these actions, France hopes to encourage other countries to adopt the principles of the FWP and support international humanitarian programs sponsored by the UNEP, especially in respect of water scarcity. Additionally, France challenges others to introduce their own programs to support this common cause. If these policies receive worldwide implementation, many water crises could have more effective management and resolution.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Plastic waste is a considerable environmental problem, as improperly disposed plastics, specifically microplastics, make their way into waterways and ultimately end up in the ocean. This causes aquatic animals to accidentally consume these, which can kill them or cause them to have plastic inside of them when we try eating them later. The Republic of France supports recycling plastic wholeheartedly and even has a plan to achieve a 100% recycling rate of plastics by the year 2025.

The Republic of France at one point had one of the lowest plastic recycling rates in the European Union, only 24.2% compared to an average of 32.5%. Since then, France has passed Law No. 2020-105 (Regarding a Circular Economy and the Fight Against Waste). Based on the European directive on single-use plastics, it aims to get France's recycling rate to 100% by the year 2025 and ban many of the most conventional forms of generating plastic waste. By 2023 (with many other associated measures taking effect before then), France plans to ban plastic straws, plastic silverware, styrofoam boxes, and plastic packaging for some varieties of produce weighing less than 1.5kg, with all kinds being banned by mid-2026. Another key article introduced by this law stops any non-food product such as clothing from summarily being destroyed, they can now only be kept, donated, or recycled. France also plans to make water fountains mandatory in many restaurants and other buildings to reduce the number of plastic water bottles used. Additionally, the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, officially endorsed negotiations about international treaties involving plastics at the 5th France-Oceania summit in July of 2021. As the Republic of France is currently the Vice-President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), it hopes to send the message that it is committed to fighting plastic pollution and supports any future resolutions aiming to reduce plastic pollution or remove plastic currently in oceans & other waterways.

The Republic of France hopes that the UNEP will notice the significant problem that plastics pose to our environment and safety and that the committee will discuss possible solutions to these issues, both in the short term and in the long term. The Republic of France will always be in favor of resolutions aiming to decrease the effect that plastic pollution has on our lives.

Delegation from: the Republic of Germany

Represented by: Lakewood High School

Position Paper For The United Nations Environmental Protection

The issue before the United Nations Environmental Protection is: Addressing the problems of water scarcity; helping to solve plastic waste problems. Germany is committed to addressing the problems of plastic waste. Germany is devoted to figuring out how to address these problems and wants to express its hope to come to a resolution that is beneficial to everyone

I. Making Strides To Fix The Water Scarcity Water Crisis.

The Republic of Germany greatly encourages international support in fighting for access to clean water. Only 3.5% of the world's water is drinkable and has become a greater problem with double the number of people being short of water than in 1960. A large part of water-stressed regions uses groundwater to meet their water needs. Having water stress can lead to conflicts between countries. While large conflicts on a global scale are unlikely, smaller conflicts, such as the one in Yemen can be attributed to a lack of water in the already politically tumultuous areas. This is a sense that is only becoming more common. 1/3 of the population; which are mostly contained in 44 countries, have high levels of water scarcity. In these countries, many people are leaving to achieve proficient levels of water retainment. It is estimated by the U.N. that 700 million people will be forced out of their homes by 2030 because of a lack of water. In MENA 12/17 countries are under water stress. This will lead to a 6-14% drop in these countries' GDPs by 2050. This will be repeated in other countries.

Attention should be drawn to previous attempts to address the water crisis. In 2016 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were drawn up to address many problems with the world. The 6th devolvement goal was sustainable water use. In this goal, they addressed the problems that still exist in the world. The Integrated Water Resources Management has been drafted to promote and coordinate the development and management of water and land resources. They address the problems of a growing population and a changing climate and its effects on water. Germany in recent years has faced increasing water problems. While nowhere near as bad as others, Germany has had to deal with hotter temperatures and less rainfall. With Germany being a prosperous nation other methods for extracting water can be used, this is not the case in all nations.

The Republic of Germany would like to show its support for treaties and resolutions to address the growing problem of water scarcity. The IWRM was a start at addressing water struggles, but more work needs to be done. Germany is expected to see an increasing strain on water in the coming decades. Climate change is expected to lead to warmer, drier summers which would affect the amount of water in reservoirs. Germany would like to propose helping reduce climate change as a possible solution for the water problem. Many of the water scarcity problems can be attributed to climate change and Germany believes the reversal of climate change could fix the water crisis. Also, there should be considerable attention drawn to how water is extracted. Many countries feel that the water crisis is not their problem. They are

currently experiencing a divine amount of water. They see fixing the water crisis as a strain on their economy. This is simply not true. This is a global problem; water is needed by everyone. Just because one country has water now in a future period of time that might not be the case. It is Germany's belief that more care should be taken in fixing how water is taken from its source. Solutions could include making agriculture more sustainable and recycling more water that is used for non consumption purposes. Germany would again like to reiterate its undying commitment to solving the problem of water scarcity. This is a worldwide issue; we are all in this together.

II. Taking steps to solve the plastic waste problem.

Germany believes we all need to address the cataphorese problem that is plastic waste disposal. Every year 8 million metric tons of plastic waste are dumped into the world's oceans every year. This is devastating to marine life and the tourism and fishing industries. Plastic accounts for a total of 13 billion dollars in loss from these industries as well as efforts for cleaning up beaches. Plastic pollution in oceans isn't just an environmental issue, but also a financial burden for countries.

From the 1950s-1990s plastic waste tripled followed and by the 2000s it had raised more in that decade then it had in the previous 40 years. ½ of all plastic is single use while only 14% of all plastic is recyclable. This leads to a tremendous amount of waste that is preventable. In Germany's Clean Seas Campaign we have a goal to eliminate micro plastics from personal use products, ban single-use plastic bags, and reduce plastic use. Micro plastics are too small to be filtered out by waste treatment centers and end up in the world's oceans and animal and plant life. The campaign is tackling the issue by ad campaigns designed for people to check their personal products and then approportily switch to a safer option. Germany has issued a plan on January 1, 2022 that bans all lightweight plastic bags used for sale of goods.

All nations need to work together to reduce plastic waste to protect the world's oceans, marine life, and the fishing and tourism industry. Without addressing and solving single use plastic and reducing the use in general, there will be devastating effects to both marine and human life. Due to recent current events including a global pandemic single use plastic has skyrocketed and we need to come together to stop and curb this issue. NGOs are a possible financial pillar that can help pay for technology to improve waste management and plastic recycling. The exportation of plastic waste by countries needs to be accounted for so countries are responsible for their own. Micro plastics in our marine life and personal use products is a serious issue we still don't know the long term consequences of. We need to stop single use plastic and make it more recyclable. We as nations have a responsibility to solve this issue to protect our planet and future generations. Germany proposes countries put in laws to reduce use, more reclining centers, and programs to ensure these plastics don't end up in the world's oceans. Germany believes that each country needs to be responsible for their own waste management but we should support and hold each other accountable for meeting waste goals.

CCWA Autumn MUN 2021

Delegation from: Germany

Represented by: St. Edward High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Program

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Germany highly supports the act of preventing conflicts over water scarcity, particularly as Germany has seen consistently worse droughts and has seen a reduction in rainfall over the last three years. Germany has had conflicts over water scarcity in the past including with near neighbors. Germany and many other countries would greatly benefit from programs that will help with the protection of water supply routes and sources and the effective means to store water accordingly.

The issue of preventing conflict over water scarcity is related to Germany due to the fact that during the recent summers Germany has seen droughts and reduced rainfall. This is important because Germany gets over 70% of its water from dams and rainwater collected across the country. Germany is currently in the process of writing up a policy that will "...ensure an adequate supply of drinking and processed water, both in terms of quality and quantity", to secure for the long term all other water uses that serve the public interest. Such uses include leisure and recreation, shipping and energy production to maintain or restore good ecological and chemical quality of water bodies. This policy was written up as a precautionary measure, and awaits final ratification. If not passed, this will leave many people not having a readily accessible source of water. Germany's projected water shortage is not as bad as other countries, particularly LEDCs (Lesser Economically Developed Countries) such as Eritrea where over 80% of their population does not have access to clean potable water. Germany is helping these countries with the German Water Partnership This partnership helps LEDCs develop programs to ensure more supplies of clean potable water. Germany presently believes that water is mankind's most important resource and without water, no one will be able to prosper.

In conclusion, Germany would like to see that the UNEP will promote measures to help those LEDC'S get the Water they need safely and reliably. This could be addressed if the UNEP pushed for funding to go to programs that will help not only these LEDCS secure their own valuable water resources, this would also help the ecosystems around water supplies too. Proper protection of rivers and waterways, better help to enforce the local law and regulations to prevent people and companies from dumping toxic chemicals into waterways are all methods Germany would support.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Management of plastic waste is a major issue that needs to be solved internationally due to the lasting effects it will have on the world's oceans, rivers, and marine life. Plastics can accumulate chemicals in the water and the surrounding area. When birds, sea turtles, and other marine animals ingest these plastics floating around in the water it can cause them to become sick and die. Documented negative effects of plastics and debris in oceans around the world have been shown to cause great danger to at least 267 species.

The Delegation of Germany recognizes and supports the need to manage plastic waste on the international level. As one of the world's lead producers of plastic, but also one of the world's leaders in recycling plastics, Germany has plans to solve the growing problem. In 2018, the German Environmental Ministry revealed a five point plan to reduce plastic waste. The plan included avoiding unnecessary products and packaging, making products and packaging environmentally friendly, an increase in recycling, separation of trash, and more international aid. So far, this plan has increased the recycling rate of plastics in Germany from 36% to 48.8%. Germany has also followed the EU's guideline to ban single use plastic items, and has made a large investment of €50 million (US\$56.8 million) toward the export of technology that will remove sea garbage. As another part of the Ministry's plan, Germany has undertaken considerable efforts to better inform the public about the dangers of plastic waste on the environment to encourage them to take action. Germany has always pushed to be environmentally friendly, both within its borders and on the international scale. Plastic waste, if left unchecked, will leave the earth's oceans and marine life struggling and damaged. Germany has made efforts to decrease production of plastics, but this battle cannot be won by one or two parties alone. This is a problem of international concern, and needs to be treated as such before it becomes worse and even impossible from which to recover.

The Delegation of Germany calls on every country to do their part and find solutions to conquer plastic waste and save marine life around the world. Germany understands that this change will have to happen over time, but things like the ban on single use plastics and more public awareness can go a long way. The larger, more economically developed member states of the UN should also donate money to the research and development of more environmentally friendly solutions than plastic. Additionally, the international community needs to work together to resolve this issue. If cooperation from every country is not apparent, the plastic waste will worsen, and begin to affect public health and safety as well. In order to create a safer and better world for future generations, UNEP must act now in order to end this problem before it is too late.

CCWA AUTUMN MUN 2021

Delegation of Republic of Ghana

Represented by: Saint Edward High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Program

I. Preventing conflicts over water scarcity

Ghana views the accessibility to clean water as a most important human right so as to live healthy and hygienic lives. With clean accessible water at the core of man's existence, conflicts between individuals, groups and states for what is increasingly becoming a scarce commodity can easily arise for any nation domestically and internationally. The levels of desperation might be measured differently in nations; wealthy countries such as the USA or Saudi Arabia view a water shortage as a temporary uncertainty, resulting in quickly rising costs and a problem solved by technology. However, in less wealthy nations (such as Ghana), clean and accessible water scarcity is a major cause of concern, which can cause mass serious illnesses and less safe irrigating of crops, potentially causing a nation's quick financial decline and chaos.

Although rich in gold mines and coffee and cacao crops, Ghana struggles to maintain clean water access. When Ghana became an independent nation, freed as a former colony of Britain in 1957, it invested firstly in creating a main power source. This was in the form of hydroelectric power. The Volta river was dammed in 1966 which created the largest man-made lake in the world, Lake Volta. This lake (with a few small others) also serves as a main fresh, clean water source for the larger cities' populations, mostly located along the coast. As the cities grew, so did industries and the amount of toxic pollutants entering the water source, including Lake Volta. Twenty percent of Ghana's 28 million people have little or no regular access to clean water. Ghana has been trying to put in action plans to manage water resources. In 1996, Ghana's parliament created the Water Resource Commission (WRC) to better oversee and provide safe, clean water. This has led to working with organizations such as Wateraid which routes polluted water away from fresh water sources. The WRC also assisted in developing the Ghana Clean Water Project which organizes regular testing and identifying of polluted water sources consequently combating unsafe sanitary water consumption. Ghana was in a different kind of water trouble than its fellow African nations as it did not have a shortage of water thanks to substantial rainfall occurring two rainy seasons a year and also due to the water from springs that feeds the rivers and ultimately the lakes; however, it has a shortage of clean water as waterborne diseases such as cholera has become a common health problem in large communities. In response, Ghana has hired companies such as Native Energy to build improved, though very costly (\$35 million at least), new and replacement filtration systems to start its first line of defense to the water pollution.

With Ghana's population growth expected to double from 2016 to 2050, water accessibility will continue to be of great concern to the economic and general population's health stability. In September 2020, the World Bank provided a grant of \$125 million to improve the water quality in Accra and Ghana is hoping

to work further with the WHO in future projects, such as possible desalination projects and other better uses of technology.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The mass use of plastics across the globe for packaging, storage and transportation of basic goods, including food, has produced plastic pollution across the globe on an unprecedented scale, causing environmental devastation everywhere. The problem is particularly difficult in waterways and the oceans, with very negative effects as a result.

Ghana shares this problem with single-use plastic packaging a considerable problem in communities everywhere across the nation. In many areas, disposed plastic waste is left on the ground, often then ending up in waterways and rivers, polluting precious potential water sources and eventually ending up in the sea. Effective and working waste disposal systems do not operate properly across Ghana and communities in poorer rural areas suffer greatly because of this, whilst in the urban areas – like Accra – efficient waster disposal is also a problem. Over time, plastic waste that was collected was sent to landfill sites that were poorly designed and inefficient and recycling programs are few and far between. The Government of Ghana recognizes this as a serious issue facing the country and plans to introduce education programs for ordinary residents about proper waste disposal and to try and implement policies which lessen the need for plastic packaging, in favor of more sustainable and ecologically-friendly methods.

The Delegation of Ghana calls on UNEP to further coordinate research and technology projects to lessen the reliability of Lesser Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) – like Ghana – on single-use plastic packaging and to help develop affordable and sustainable alternatives.

Position Paper for the Environmental Programme Committee

The United Nations Environmental Programme Committee will be addressing the prevention of conflicts over water scarcity as well as management of plastic waste disposal. India has had difficulty with these issues for many years and is committed to finding a proper resolution for all nations involved.

Topic I: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Although clean water is a scarcity in many nations, India has an incredibly prevalent issue with water pollution and waste in rivers. With one of the largest populations in the world, about 1.366 billion people in 2019, India is struggling to manage the chemical and plastic waste production that spills over into water sources. The citizens of India are suffering, and it is time to step in and end the water scarcity and/or conflicts over it. The Water Project says, “Regardless of improvements to drinking water, many other water sources are contaminated with both bio and chemical pollutants, and over 21% of the country’s diseases are water-related. Furthermore, only 33% of the country has access to traditional sanitation.” This is especially true in the countryside of India. Lack of clean drinking water still exists in less developed countries. In fact, 200,000 people in India die due to this issue each year.

India has improved the ways in which water is connected to homes as of 2019. India has even reinforced Community-Led Total Sanitation, CLTS, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, WASH, in order to help resolve this issue. Also, “Over the past years, it has worked on groundwater recharging projects, micro-irrigation, and legislative changes to promote better water management.” They have tried to adapt to the land by making underground structures to suck water out of the ground and irrigation. In addition to this, twenty million were served with clean water from the Jal Jeevan Mission. This program, “...assists, empower and facilitate: States/ UTs in planning of participatory rural water supply strategy for ensuring potable drinking water security on long-term basis to every rural household and public institution, viz. GP building, School, Anganwadi centre, Health centre, wellness centres, etc.” Finally, India’s prime minister has said that every house in the rural areas will have access to water through pipes by 2024. Developments like these have meant that less women have had to travel for water access.

In the past the focus of water pollution has been toward improving gender equality because the task of fetching water has been assigned to women. India would like to suggest that this focus is challenged and moved toward the root of the pollution. Industrial waste often spills into rivers causing bio-pollution of human waste that results in the production of bacteria. It is almost impossible to handle raw sewage in a cheap and efficient manner. Therefore, the solution presented will likely be expensive. India would like to implement the piping and treatment plants used in larger cities in small cities and towns. In addition, reinforcing recycling, using less unrecyclable resources, and importing substitutes would allow for less waste to end up in the waters. A potential change that could help with this is growing crops that require less water such as soybeans, fava beans, and cauliflower. As well as avoiding growing crops such as lettuce and sweet corn. This would allow for more water to be accessible to humans and be cleaned than being consumed by crops. Another potential solution would be to improve irrigation systems to prevent leaks, thus preserving water and not wasting it.

Topic II: Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

In India, approximately 5 to 6 percent of the country consists of plastic waste alone. Approximately 15 million tonnes of plastic waste, 5% of the world's total, is produced by India each year. This problem is almost expected, when how many people use plastic everyday counting water bottles, milk jugs, and materials used in packaging (which dominates the usage of plastic in India) is taken into consideration. Plastic has taken over India's rivers and land, a solution is needed before other nations end up in the same position.

In the past, the United Nations has collaborated with the soda company Coca-Cola to generate over \$9 million going towards cleaning up Indian plastic waste. This project is called the Plastic Waste Management Programme and is planned to be a six year endeavour. Since the project started in 2018, around \$1.5 million has been donated each year in order to support their efforts. They plan to generate technology that can help manage this waste as well as introduce knowledge of the problem to citizens. The hope is that these new methods will institutionalize the management of plastic waste. The Prime Minister of India has established a campaign called Plastic Hackathon 2021 and is taking steps to attempt to ban plastic in India by 2022. Plastic Hackathon challenges young people to look for solutions for the single-use plastic issues.

One solution that is achievable within the near future is reinforcing recycling laws. For example, recycling milk jugs to make backyard steps or maybe even housing are very innovative ways to recycle plastic. By doing this, a lot less trash will end up in India and can even be put to practical uses. Recycling plastics could also be used to make toys for children in poverty, also giving children the opportunity to exercise their imagination and have a sense of normality in their childhood. Another solution would be to dedicate a space specifically for incineration, which is burning the plastics. It is a quick and effective way to get rid of plastic waste and dedicating a space to it would destroy much less of the environment compared to if plastic was lying everywhere. In addition to this, the makeup of plastics is very good for conducting energy. 85% of the plastic making process uses transport and heat. Thus, converting the energy from the plastics into electrical form could help minimize the amount of plastic and give the people of India a more modern life with access to proper stoves, washing machines, TV, etc. It would be a way to return to the environment what was taken from it to produce these products. Many innovations have also been made with the practical use of biodegradable plastics.

Delegation from: Iran

Represented by: North Olmsted High School

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Conflict over water has been raging through the world since the beginning of civilization. However, in recent years, the situation has become a lot more dire and urgent. In poor countries, water cannot be cleaned sufficiently, which leads to sickness. In many regions, climate change has led to droughts, making water even more valuable, not just for humans, but for nature as well. Increasing water scarcity is a danger to everyone, even people in prosperous countries. In Iran, water scarcity has become an incredible problem for the citizens.

Iran's water crisis started a few decades ago, before the revolution, when the Shah nationalized the water supply. Dam and well building led to extreme loss of groundwater sources. The reason that the government has been taking water is to make agriculture prosper, and while that has worked, it leaves the citizens of Iran quite dehydrated. Lack of water has led to violent protests from poor Iranians. Also, it isn't just the national government that has restricted clean water so much. Sanctions from the U.S.A. have resulted in Iran's economy to resort to using water damaging methods to gain money. This includes mining, petrochemicals, and steel production, which uses a lot of water. Iran's previous export, oil, was much less expensive in the case of water compared to the new ones. Before these sanctions from the U.S. mining only used 1.2% of Iran's yearly water supply, and now it uses almost 3%.

The action that Iran has begun taking and suggests other countries take too is to invest in protecting water. Being one of, if not the most important resource for humans in the world, it is worth spending on. Iran's government has been working on water desalination to supply the agricultural needs. It has also been trying to get water from the Persian gulf to citizens in Central Iran that are in desperate need of water. The desalination program is to help keep underground water resources safe, which will immensely help rural areas and prevent movement to urban areas which cannot handle all the people. This program is to create many jobs for Iranians, and seriously calm the increasing issue of water scarcity. The ultimate goal is to simply protect the environment and natural resources of Iran. Cooperation between countries in the region is of utmost importance. For every country in the region to thrive, they must help each other and share. Strict international sanctions are causing incredible issues for Iran's water, and even if they let up just a little, it would help lots. Truly, the only way to solve this problem is for the UN to come together and work to protect our water sources.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Due to plastic demand globally, there has been an increase in plastic waste. Since the 1990s, there has been a demand for single-use plastics to be made, rather than sustainable plastics, like those created in the 1950s and 1970s. Plastic is in high demand because it is convenient and can be used constantly because it is biodegradable resistant. This means that it will take thousands of years for plastic to break down into smaller pieces, but it will never fully break down. When plastic is dumped into the ocean, one of the few ways to “dispose” of it, the plastic ends up being ingested by the marine life, whether small or large. After it is ingested, the fish can be caught by humans, then cooked and the plastic pieces are then ingested by humans all over the globe.

Iran is a large country, with many landfills and several secondary disposal sites as well as ultimate disposal sites. Also known as SD or UDs, most of which are provided by the Khulna City Corporation, or the KCC. While the compost plants and medical waste management are provided by the NGOs and CBOs in Iran. In 2012, the KCC admitted to the dangers of their disposal of solid wastes to the public, they made their confession due to the increasing investigating of the NGOs and CSOs in Iran. Along with that, the UNEP and UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, are also tasked with observing countries and their effects on the environment. Twenty-two NGOs and CSOs worked together to manage the disposal in 31 wards of Iran. Khulna City held a survey to find the number of NGOs, CSOs, their management plans, and their thought on the present secondary dumping sites and roadside dumping. Meetings were held within the Khulna City Corporation to discuss the results of the survey and how to move forward. Before the survey or investigations, the safety of the public was not considered. The KCC began creating separate departments to be proactive and conserve the environment as well as the cities.

Some of our goals include no poverty or hunger, better health, cleaner water and energy systems, and more. For these goals to be met, the KCC and other official groups must remain diligent in creating safe and secure dumping procedures. Along with that, they must continue to discourage roadside dumping from civilians. If Iran’s government, along with the help of its NGOs, can refine their disposal, especially for plastics, they could quickly develop a cleaner and safer environment. The waterways in Iran would be much cleaner and safer to consume. These outcomes are the most desirable, for everyone. They would provide Iranians with a safer environment and better health. The improvement of their plastic disposal would also improve their economy. Iranians run successful fishing businesses that can be shipped globally. If plastic continues to be dumped in their waterways, they are only hurting themselves. If their fish continue to consume the plastic they will ruin their business, which in turn ruins the economy. As stated, if the Iranian government, with the help of more NGOs, could refine their dumping systems, they could improve upon many of the negative things about their living environment. The NGOs continued to investigate and push for conclusions from the KCC because they could see the destruction that mislead dumping had led to. The NGOs, although not associated with any government, wanted to improve for the good of all people. They realized that they could step in to reach the goals of the government. They developed plans and discussed them with the KCC. Soon after new motions were passed and the plans were carried out. If the government can continue these plans, they will be able to improve their communities and environment overtime.

Delegation from: Italy
Represented by: Beaumont School
Double Del.

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Programme

I. Topic A: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Despite being a well developed nation, Italy still has issues with potential water scarcity. As climate change and the potential for further changes increase, many countries are starting to take stands revolving around the changing climate and its effects, water scarcity being one of the many. As more and more countries begin taking and affirming stances, it is the committee's responsibility to establish leadership and encourage partnership among all participating members when it pertains to the environment, seeking to avoid compromising future generations with problems which may be addressed now. In the present, Italy will be working to prevent water scarcity within our own borders by analyzing present data, expanding said data through research, and addressing the issues based on our data through programs proven effective, such as desalination. By increasing Italy's participation in preventing water scarcity, it aspires to have other participating countries follow suit.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), including its 193 other member states, presents the issue of water scarcity. While effects differentiate based on climate and socioeconomic structure, Italy finds it important to address the effects within our country and the surrounding world. June 2021 was Italy's driest month since 1961 and major determinants were seen to its agriculture, with an estimated 14 billion euros in damages and deficits to farmers. Italy's land is roughly 42% farmland, meaning natural water deficiency can damage its economy significantly. Apulia, Basilicata, Sicily, and Sardinia are at severe risk of water deficiency needs due to a lack of infrastructure management practices and their risk is further aggravated by the decreasing in average precipitation. Without regard to precipitation, slightly less than 4 billion cubic yards of water has been lost to leaks due to issues with Italy's water infrastructure. This has led to expensive investments to upgrade the waterways at national and local levels, however replacing the entirety of Italy's water infrastructure takes immense time, effort, and funds. With the decreasing average in precipitation linked strongly to climate change, Italy inquires as to what other countries will contribute to protect natural water.

Italy is in full support of aiding efforts both within and outside its borders regarding the protection of water. Currently, Italy is funding desalination (the process of removing salt from seawater) in order to supply water to over 300 million residents. Italy has also been researching and testing clouds and climate similar to China and Dubai to catalyze rain artificially, however the effects have been minimal. Italy is attempting to cut carbon emissions 60% by the year 2030 and taking further actions such as funding renewable resources. Italy formally requests other participating countries attempt the same as to jointly cut carbon emissions and set in place legislature to help ensure such goals.

II. Topic B: Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

When looking at Italy as a nation, there is no doubt it produces plastic waste, as do many other countries and state members. As waste increases, habitat damage and environmental damage increase as well, leading to a lower quality of life for future generations. It is the committee's responsibility to establish leadership and encourage partnership among all participating members when it pertains to the environment. The committee should also provide reasonable guidelines flexible to the nations participating due to different extenuating circumstances. In the present, Italy will be working to prevent overly excessive plastic disposal by attempting to mitigate both the direct and indirect circumstances which produce plastics and microplastics, along with passing legislation and setting realistic goals to aid plastic disposal in our country.

Italy's waste production levels plummeted following the events of the Coronavirus, and the lockdown led to a deterioration of gross waste in Italy. Prior to the Coronavirus, Italy recycled about one quarter of their waste, but approximately 53 kilometers of plastic still found its way into the Mediterranean Sea. While devastating towards the economy, a 10% decrease in waste production over this period did benefit the decrease in excess plastic waste produced. Unfortunately, due to the usage of masks, in which Italy partook from as well, an extreme spike in the utilization of single-use plastics has been rising, and is increasingly posing a threat to the environment. Single-use masks and plastic packaging have been of concern to environmentalists across Italy for decades. Though masks have proven themselves effective to combat the spread of Coronavirus, it has jeopardized the environmental progress that was made, combating the pollution of the seas and oceans. The Mediterranean Sea, beset by the vast amounts of microplastics, as well as other bodies of water in and surrounding Italy are in danger, and the environment is being placed at long-term risk. Natural water will eventually whisk all the littered plastics and masks away and sweep them off to waterways and rivers which will eventually lead to the ocean. In addition, the People's Republic has decided to cease their role as the main dumping ground for Italian waste, resulting in the increase of illegal waste disposal into different countries. This process usually consists of a person registering for waste management, the companies offering their service at a cut cost.

Italy proposes general guidelines and pledges for countries to attempt their part when entering the agreements proposed by the council. Sweeping and generalized guidelines allow interpretations country by country, aiding in efforts for country specific clean up. Italy will be undergoing further research and planning to improve its plastic waste recycling methods. Italy has done its part through improved waste management and plans to refocus itself to achieving its original one fourth recycled plastic statistic post shutdown. Italy is in full support of country based requirements on legally recycled plastics and strongly desires encouragement to pass legislation to combat plastic pollution.

Delegation from: Japan

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

The issues before The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) include: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity; and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. The delegation of Japan is committed to improving water access and promoting peace as well as ensuring that plastic waste is properly disposed of.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Millions of people living around the world live in water scarce regions. It is projected that 52% of the global population will live in water stressed regions by the year 2050. Japan has experienced numerous water shortages from 1939 to 1994. The 1994 water shortage in Japan resulted in the water supply for 16 million people being affected. In addition, the 1994 water shortage resulted in agricultural losses of 140 billion yen. As a result, Japan recognizes that water shortages can be detrimental for the economies of affected nations. Japan recognizes that water is a valuable commodity that is vital for the success of agriculture and other industries that are integral to the economies of nations around the world. Japan is committed to reducing the prevalence of water scarcity around the world in order to increase the availability of clean water and to support industries that rely on water access.

Japan has been fortunate in not having experienced water scarcity related conflicts. Japan expresses concern towards the water scarcity conflicts between China and India in the Himalaya Region as well as in the Middle East and North Africa regions. Japan has previously instituted the Basic Environmental Law, the foundational legislation for all of Japanese environmental policy. This legislation designates a bureaucratic system in regards to environmental disasters which includes water shortages. This outlines a subcommittee that is designated to the issue specifically at hand. In addition, it outlines the allocation of funds in the case of situations such as water shortage. Japan commends the efforts made by fellow UNEP delegations in the Water for Life Campaign from 2005-2015.

Japan seeks to establish the Water Scarcity Conflict Pacifying Committee (WSCPC), dedicated to the promotion of peace and reducing the prevalence of water scarcity. Japan believes that the best way to resolve water scarcity conflict is by instituting a 3rd party NGO to facilitate the equal distribution of water to both nations from the disputed source. In addition, members of the WSCPC will provide supplemental water supply in order to ensure both nations have ample water resources and thus, releasing tensions between nations. In addition, other delegations of the

WSCPC shall provide funding for permanent infrastructure in all nations involved in the conflict so that there are multiple water sources available rather than just the disputed source. Japan is committed to establishing long term solutions in order to expand global water access and promote peace between nations.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

8 million tons of plastic currently reside in the Earth's oceans. This plastic is detrimental to the underwater ecosystem within our oceans. The damage that plastic causes affects generations of marine animals, causing permanent damage for generations. The majority of the plastic that is commercially utilized is non recyclable. This requires members of the UNEP to be creative in regards to how to dispose of these plastics. The damage caused by plastics also extends to the fishing and tourism industries that rely on having clean oceans. The damage to these vital industries can cause serious damage to the economies of nations around the world. This issue directly impacts Japan, which is surrounded by ocean. Japan relies heavily on the fishing and tourism industries and has seen the detrimental economic effects of plastics in the ocean. Japan strongly supports the development of new plastic disposal methods in order to protect ocean ecosystems and support vital industries.

Japan has enacted legislation nationally to incentivize the use of recyclable plastics in business by imposing an extra tax on non recyclable plastics. Japan supports the efforts made by the OECD to regulate the transnational commerce of non recyclable plastics. In addition, Japan supports the efforts made by fellow UNEP delegations through the Clean Seas Campaign through preventing plastic from entering the seas in the first place. Japan endorses the collaborative efforts with the Ellen Macarthur Foundation to reduce plastic usage in the public and private sectors and the efforts made by the Basel Conference of Parties to make plastic commerce more transparent. Japan also favorably acknowledges the bans of plastic imports imposed by China and the new regulations on plastics established by the European Union. Japan would like to build on the past and present legislation in order to create more cohesive solutions for the management of plastic disposal.

Japan proposes the establishment of the Plastic Waste Disposal Management Committee (PWDM). Japan considers scientific innovation the most important solution that can be used towards this issue. Specifically, Japan proposes the use of waste to energy incinerators in order to produce more environmentally safe plastics. This innovative practice will help this issue because it will not damage industries that rely on plastic while providing a much easier method of disposal. Japan also suggests financial incentives for businesses that choose to use recyclable plastic. Nations will earn this money back through the benefits that they will receive from the improvement to industry that cleaner oceans provide. Japan supports using scientific innovation as a means to benefit the environment and the economy in regards to plastic waste.

Delegation from: Norway

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Programme

The issues before this United Nations Environment Programme are: Preventing Conflicts over Water Scarcity and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. Norway believes environment health and safety should be a top priority of this international community and is hopeful that this committee will find a positive solution to the problems at hand.

Issue I. Preventing Conflicts over Water Scarcity

Due to an increase in world population industrialization and urbanization, water scarcity has become prevalent in the modern world. As all citizens of the world use water frequently throughout their daily lives, this issue can simply no longer be ignored. Water stress worldwide continues to be increased by a decline in water resources and an incline of climate change. Approximately 33% of the world's population face high levels of stress and numbers will only continue to climb. Examples of water related conflicts include the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), which includes 12 out of the 17 most water stress countries in the world. These conflicts cannot continue because they're leading to increased fatalities and only exacerbate the conflict. However UNEP has worked hard to reduce water scarcity by implementing such programs such as the sustainable development goal and partnering with different water and environment NGOs to improve management of freshwater resources. These resources help cope with droughts, as well as increase infrastructure. Water is a staple for all citizens of the international community, and if something is not done to retaliate against this water deficit, the human population may be in danger.

Norway, having acknowledged water scarcity to be a problem in its own country, has taken action through means of ministries and scientific studies to aid in decreasing this issue. to increase freshwater management Norway has installed numerous ministries including healthcare services, environment, petroleum energy, and local government and regional development. These ministries aid in improving drinking water quality protection of water sources, water power and regulation, and infrastructure. These ministries work with a directors group as well as NGO consultants to create an effective solution for the country's water deficits. In Norway preventing water scarcity is imperative because 5% of the total land area is water. The main sources for water pollution in Norway include agriculture drainage and sewage from over 5 million citizens. Sewage issues are most prevalent and treatment includes mechanical, small private plants, and biological chemical treatment. Stormwater and combined sewers lead to increased overflow discharges, increase leakages from sewers, and reduce treatment capacity. This leads to more citizens getting sick and drinking water systems declining. Many countries have similar problems to Norway and if more

countries can institute water management ministries and directorates, the water scarcity issue may decline in the near future.

Norway proposes more countries follow in its footsteps of increasing ministries to help increase infrastructure and regulation of water, and instituting measures for treatment of sewage. Although Norway, as well as many other countries, have taken steps to prevent this terror, there is still much progress to be made. Norway's hope is that this committee will be able to increase measures of halting water scarcity from falling into a deeper deficit, and improve means of water treatment in the international community.

Issue II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The effect of modernization has taken an international toll on the world. There is no doubt plastic is apart of people's everyday lives, but with that comes the issue of pollution. There is increased pollution especially regarding plastic waste that has infringed upon the protection of the natural environment. While plastics have many valuable uses it has severe global consequences. Statistically, half of all plastic is designed to be single-use. In the 1990's, plastic waste had more than tripled in two decades. Secondly, more than 99% of plastics are produced from non-renewable resources. The global epidemic of plastic pollution fueled by dysfunctional waste management cannot be ignored.

Norway, understanding the plastic crisis has taken its own action. Norway leads the world in recycling, as it has a 97% recovery rate on all plastic bottle waste. It's recently founded company, named infinitude, developed one of the most efficient ways of recycling. Secondly, the government of Norway sponsored the launch of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership in which it focuses on plastic waste prevention and minimization. It also protects life forms from hazardous chemicals used in the formation and destruction of plastic. Norway has also partaken in the research regarding a global assessment of the marine pollution crisis in the lead to the Glasgow Climate Change Conference.

Norway proposes other countries follow Norway's lead in making significant changes to their daily life to improve and manage plastic waste disposal. Norway hopes all countries regardless of their differences can come together to find an effective, peaceful, and implementable solution for all. Although there have already been various measures taken in tackling this global issue, this crisis needs to be solved before it's too late.

Delegation from: the Republic of Korea

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

The issues before the United Nations Environmental Programme are: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity; and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. The Republic of Korea is dedicated to preventing conflicts over water scarcity and hopes to increase the effectiveness of plastic waste disposal.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The Republic of Korea believes that preventing conflicts over water scarcity and ensuring all people have water is essential, and that being able to have clean drinking water and practice proper sanitation is a basic human right. Lack of clean drinking water can also lead to effects like respiratory diseases and waterborne diseases. The numerous other effects of water scarcity, such as crop failures and wars between countries, is something that the Republic of Korea hopes to see diminish as solutions to water scarcity are found, especially as a country that has had issues with water scarcity in the past.

The Republic of Korea has received help from the OECD to create a policy to better water management, and has been recommended four priorities to focus on, including long-term planning against future water risks. While the conditions have been getting better, they still have a long way to go. Much of the water is already dedicated to a specific purpose, so the increasing need for water is difficult to attend to. Pollution also plays a role, and reduces the amount of safe water for people to drink.

The Republic of Korea would like to see the collaboration between those delegations with access to clean water. The people and government understand that not everyone has access to much, if any, clean and usable water, so the Republic of Korea would like to see those with clean and usable water, and who are also willing to do so, contributing some of their resources to countries in extreme need. Of course, it is understood that countries put their own people first, and other countries' people second.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The Republic of Korea believes that managing plastic waste and disposing of it properly is crucial for the future of a healthy planet. As a country still in the midst of a plastic waste crisis,

the people of the Republic of Korea believe that reducing the production of plastic and improving the disposal system countries use is essential for the protection and preservation of the environment and those in it.

Since 2018, the Republic of Korea has implemented a system of plastic waste disposal, and has been hoping to reduce plastic wastes by 50% by 2030. The extended producer responsibility that was introduced in 2000 asks that manufacturers fulfill their obligation to dispose of and properly deal with wastes from their products, and the Comprehensive Measures of Waste Recycling introduced in 2018 sets a series of actions to be taken at each stage of the resource cycle. However, due to COVID-19, the production of plastic has been increasing due to the amount of people ordering products straight to their homes.

The Republic of Korea would like to see that the system for the disposal of plastic waste be greatly improved, and that the production of plastic also be reduced. The Republic of Korea hopes to work with other delegations to create a resolution with this new and improved disposal system in mind, along with the reduction of plastic production. However, the people and government recognize the economic effects this could impose, and would like to see these effects addressed. The Republic of Korea would also be happy to see the effects that COVID-19 has had on plastic waste addressed.

Position Paper

Country: Russian Federation

Committee: United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

Catie Popelka and Yaryna Kurdoba

The issues before the United Nations Environmental Programme are: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. Russia is dedicated to helping their country better its environment, and wish to implement programs that could prevent environmental issues going forward.

Topic I: Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

Russia possesses one fifth of the world's fresh water reserves but this water amount is unevenly distributed within Russia's territory. The central and southern regions of European Russia, which hold 80% of the country's population, have only 8% of water resources. Despite this abundance, much of the freshwater in Russia fails to meet the safety standards, 35 to 60 percent of the drinking water in Russia is not safe to consume. Some Russian companies have taken the incentive to try and improve the quality of the water in Russia, but the incentive to do so is low. Russia's aim is to decontaminate their own water sources to prevent future scarcity.

Russia is very concerned with the water scarcity problem in it's own country. The United Russia party the Institute of Macro-Economy of the Russian Academy of Sciences has developed a party program entitled "The Clean Water of Russia" governmental program. This program aims to develop government regulation systems for water supply and wastewater disposal systems, establish conditions for long-term private investments of the water sector through the improvement of the Russian Federation legislation in the field of public and private partnership and environmental legislation, modernize the water supply and wastewater disposal systems, create safe water use, and much more. Russia clearly has taken action to combat the issue of water scarcity in their own country.

Russia wishes to solve the problem of water scarcity in their own country as a the water crisis in Crimea is putting tension on the Russian government's finances. To do so Russia proposes that they continue work on their "Clean Water of Russia" program. We want to ask other countries for their help this program especially our neighbors, North Korea, China, Norway, Finland, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Poland, Georgia, Mongolia, Latvia, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Lithuania for their help to combat this pressing issue. Russia believes that by working together, we can combat this issue of water scarcity in our countries.

Topic II: Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

When the USSR collapsed in the 1990s, most of the social programs including recycling collapsed with it. The Russian system of collecting scrap metal, waste paper, recycled textile, and glass disappeared. Since then, Russia has created 7.2 billion tons of waste in 2018 and almost 315,000 tons of that waste was imported. Russia only recycles 12% of the waste that it creates and in 2018 they purchased \$20 million worth of plastic waste (a 32% increase from 2017). The process of implementing recycling systems into Russia is slow and does not have as much of an incentive in Russia. In January-June 2019 Russia bought \$12 million in plastic waste which is a 41% increase from January-June 2018. Residents of Moscow (which produces the high pollution) have protested against the conditions of their local landfills, as local children were hospitalized due to the waste.

Russia expresses great concern over the issue of plastic waste disposal within the borders of our own country. With 90% of our current waste being brought to landfills, the Russian government has launched the National Ecology Project to improve environmental protection in Russia towards 2024. This project ensures the sound regulation of household waste in practice. People are encouraged and motivated to separate their waste. From there official facilities have been created for processing and recycling. By building this adequate structure for waste management, Russia has taken large-scale action in order to minimize waste and maximize reuse. 32 of our regions have the capacity to landfill their waste for no more than five years. With the National Ecology Project, this amount is multiplied by 8 and they are able to fill waste for 40 years. By raising awareness among consumers and producers, the government has encouraged Russian citizens to step up and aid with this issue. Waste at Russian landfills generally is composed of: 34% food, 19% paper. In a survey conducted in 2019, it is clear that Russians have stepped up to lower these two categories. The most common method that Russian consumers used to reduce the consumption of plastic in 2019 was switching to reusable rags, sponges, and towels for cleaning at home. 82 percent of the survey population attested to doing this. Furthermore, over 60 percent of respondents abandoned plastic water bottles and began drinking tap water.

Russia's desired policy outcome is to simply continue managing plastic waste disposal and limiting the amount of waste being sent to landfills. We request the help of our neighbors in continuing our efforts, as we believe that all countries should work together to better the environment. Rather than making it a competition, we propose collaborating and truly working towards one common goal. Through the National Ecology Project, we hope to employ permanent protocols and inspire citizens to do better in order to complete our environmental agenda.

Delegation from: The Republic of Singapore

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Program

Issues regarding preventing conflicts over water scarcity and managing plastic waste disposal concern the United Nations Environmental Program extensively. Due to rapid changes in the environment, The Republic of Singapore actively prevents conflicts in the event of water loss and reduces the plastic waste residue. The Republic of Singapore urges for the preservation of water sources and protection of the natural environment.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The expansion of the global population has led to a steep incline in the demand for water. Many countries, including The Republic of Singapore, are struggling to gain access to suitable sources of clean water. As technology advances and the rate of the pollution of rivers remains, sources of usable water will dwindle. However, The Republic of Singapore is determined to be water independent by 2060. The prospect of desalination plants has great promise due to an abundance of salt water. Another promising solution is the steady decline of water consumption in Singapore.

Dry spells are the leading cause of water shortage for The Republic of Singapore, forcing water dependency to its neighbor, Malaysia. As of the 1962 Water Agreement with the Malaysian state of Johor, The Republic of Singapore is allowed to draw up to 250 million gallons of water per day from the Johor River. However, in the event of rainwater loss, The Republic of Singapore has no other alternatives than Malaysia. This may result in a violation of human necessities from a rise in water prices. Efforts have been made to prevent this conflict such as the desalination and water purification efforts from the Republic of Singapore. Singapore has three desalination plants that are being used to purify water sources, supplying the nation and Malaysia with 30% of the necessary water. These efforts create a symbiotic relationship that will prevent future conflicts over water scarcity for nations that struggle with water scarcity.

By upholding the standards set forth by the United Nations Environmental Program, The Republic of Singapore protects the natural water resources and prevents conflicts over water scarcity. By returning a portion of water sources to the nations supplying it, symbiosis of water trade occurs preventing future conflicts. The Republic of Singapore works to protect the natural resources of every country, and forbade nations from taking advantage of these resources.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Increasing manufacturing and the production of convenient goods has led to the pollution of plastic waste in the environment. Plastic waste has become so prevalent that it is now a sign of the Anthropocene era. The Republic of Singapore recognized the adverse effects of plastic waste upon the environment and strives to rid this pollution from the environment. The plastic waste in the environment has adverse effects on humans and the ecosystems. Policies set forth by the United Nations Environmental Program will protect the natural world and its resources.

The widespread use and production of single-use plastics have contributed to the major waste issue that faces the UN. These plastics release petrochemicals that have lasting effects on the environment that affect the ecosystem. These plastics include water-bottles, plastic bags, wrappers, straws and bags. However the Republic of Singapore is making efforts to rid the plastic waste from the cities, oceans, and soil. The Republic of Singapore has installed a 150 day clean-up of the waste in the environment. Through social media and outsourcing the Clean4Change movement focuses on the communities of Singapore to clean and repair the environmental conditions. These efforts are used to inflict change in a large scale that will aid the pollution of the ecosystem.

The Republic of Singapore recycled 36,000 metric tons of plastic and plans to continue these efforts in future years. These efforts have influenced the water and air quality of the nation and it should be an effective measure of waste management for other nations. These measures could be set as precedents and guidelines for years to come on the United Nations Environmental Program.

Delegation from Thailand

Position Paper for the United Nation Environment Programme

The topics before the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) are Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. The Kingdom of Thailand demands clear and direct support for such crucial issues, specifically on a regional and local level, and welcomes discussion over these issues at future conferences.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

According to the American Journal of Public Health, about three fifths of water flowing in all countries is shared by two or more countries (PMC). As demand for water increases for one's daily life, more water is required per citizen. The World Bank has estimated that in general, a person requires 100 to 200 liters of water daily to meet their basic needs. As water is increasingly valued by countries for their citizens, conflicts are increasing. Though few of these conflicts have led to violence, the frequency of these conflicts have been increasing rapidly. Although these conflicts relating to water scarcity are most often non-violent and resolvable, disputes over structures such as dams, reservoirs, and other projects have more of a role when leading to armed conflict. The Kingdom of Thailand sympathizes with those who have been affected by water scarcity, and is actively demonstrating for a resolution in favor of improving conditions in areas where water scarcity is an issue to prevent conflict.

The UN has provided detailed attention to the issue of water scarcity, in documents such as 2008 *Coping with water scarcity* (FAO), 2021 *Water Security for all* (UNICEF), and in conventions like 1997 *Watercourse Convention* (UN). The *Water, Peace, and Security Partnership Initiative* (WPSI) was recently highlighted by the UN as a means to directly map and predict water scarcity threats that hinder global and regional security. The topic of water scarcity is one that is very personal to Thailand. With recent urban developments further increasing the need for water amongst citizens, Thailand has been stressed to provide. Accompanied by flooding and the facing of the worst drought to hit Thailand in over 40 years, it has become increasingly difficult for Thailand to maintain structure. In 2018, a new 20-year national strategy was approved by Thailand which seeks to restructure water management strategy. Due to the mismanagement of water, local people have begun to protest, which further reflects the notion that the threat of conflict over water is one of great importance.

Thailand seeks a resolution regulating water consumption on regional levels, encouraging proactive cooperation to be had between countries, and increasing the availability of clean water, all in an effort to prevent conflict. As previously stated, Thailand has made efforts to regulate water consumption. Countries in Europe (EU) have encountered "solid legislative basis" for the prospect of water management. In 2001, *The Good Water Neighbors Project* improved communal connections between countries such as Israel, Jordan, and Palestine, with citizens coming together to protect shared water resources, and has positively impacted peace at a local level amongst these countries. Other initiatives such as *The Nile Basin Initiative* of 1999, which developed the Nile between countries in such a manner that bolstered regional peace, further amplifies the need for cooperation between countries to prevent conflict over water scarcity. 6% of the world lacks access to an improved water source. Such as statistic applies to all countries affected by water scarcity, especially those in arid environments. The three countries with the lowest access to clean water, those being Eritrea, Papua New Guinea, and Uganda, have all been strided with conflict over the last few centuries. Additionally, sharing basins or bodies of water, whether that be on the line bordering countries or a shared interest of sharing areas of water are most common amongst poverty stricken, conflict driven countries not unlike the ones previously listed. As documents are passed furthering the ideals reflected in this paper, it is the delegation of Thailand's belief that the issue at hand will be, in time, controlled.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Managing and reducing plastic consumption is a dilemma that many third world countries similar to ours are highly susceptible to. We are not unaware of this issue and therefore we have acknowledged the detrimental effects that plastic waste has induced on our land. However, though we have come to the consensus to change ourselves, we strive to seek help from other urbanized countries to help us overcome the many obstacles that will challenge us. As of right now we struggle with managing plastic waste disposal. Currently we are the 6th biggest contributor in Ocean Waste. Our nation generates almost 2 million tonnes of plastic waste. Inadequate waste management is affecting our nation and our children. We lack an efficient waste sorting and recycling system. This has only created more underlying effects such as water pollution. Our water has become contaminated, and we struggle to provide a clean drinking system for our citizens. Individuals have taken action in their own hands to burn their waste. This has become an issue for our government as we are no longer able to control the actions of our people but also creates a concern for our children. If we keep up this burning we will just continuously be releasing noxious fumes into the air. The health effects that will follow this pollutant will be detrimental for our future and the generations to come.

We wish to seek help from larger nations in order to manage our plastic waste issues. It is difficult for us to “cut out plastic” as we heavily rely on low quality plastics to bag our products and sell food that we buy at our street markets. But currently we have been trying to invest in efforts to relieve this issue. We have currently created a ban on single use plastic in order to eliminate waste. In order to cut down many of our convenience stores' excessive use of plastic bags, we have been informed to enforce this policy. No longer are they allowed to give out plastic bags to bag groceries rather they must resort to other environmentally friendly substitutions. We also have tried to create employment for waste pickers. By providing more job opportunities in that field. Yet these are just temporary solutions to an everlasting problem we are facing. These job opportunities are a part of an informal waste system which does not reach citizens throughout our country. While we tried to resolve issues on our own they still remain unresolved. Since China has denied the import of plastic waste from other countries we now receive that excess waste. We have tried to stop this as we now send plastic scraps back to where they came from to crack down on illegal waste imports. We feel that our issues have been neglected by other countries. They are failing to recognize the harm that it is inflicting on us therefore we are seeking help from others to relieve our dilemma. We wish to seek help from US waste management companies such as Clean Harbors and progressive Waste Solutions. And though not the most ideal solution, we hope to receive funds from other countries to invest in this pressing issue that keeps progressing due to contributors who pollute us with their wastes.

In all, though we may not be a big help in changing this problem we are all for the change. We are willing to partner with other countries to be a part of the solution. We are proposing a partnership with any other country interested to help us maintain our plastic waste. Receiving help from other countries will allow for others to follow in the footsteps of creating a change.

Delegation from: United Kingdom

Represented by: Laurel School

Committee: UNEP

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

The issues before the UNEP are: preventing conflicts over water scarcity and managing plastic waste disposal. The United Kingdom is excited to work with other nations to create long-lasting solutions to these pressing problems facing our world.

I. Preventing Conflicts Over Water Scarcity

The delegation of the United Kingdom acknowledges the drastic issue of water scarcity already plaguing many countries around the globe. The Delegation contends that by addressing the larger issue of global climate change, in tandem with individuals choosing to use less water in their day to day lives, countries can combat the issue, improving the quality of life all over the globe. Thus it is imperative that the delegations assembled can come to a concrete agreement on policies to be undertaken to address this issue.

The delegation suggests individual households be encouraged to use less water as this will lessen the strain on existing freshwater sources, thus alleviating some of the pressure placed on developing nations by water scarcity. However, as this will likely not fully dissipate the issue the United Kingdom supports siphoning resources to countries endangered by water scarcity thus preventing wars and conflicts from emerging from the issue. Helping countries put at risk by water scarcity will make them less desperate to engage in conflict over water.

This issue is one crucial to the survival of people across the globe, and thus should be paid the utmost attention by the United Nations Environmental Programme. The delegation from the United Kingdom is eager to work with other nations in defining the aid which should be sent to countries in need of it and alleviating the scarcity of freshwater worldwide.

II. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

The delegation from the United Kingdom stresses the importance of keeping our waters, countryside, and cities free from plastic waste.

Position Paper for Environmental Program

The issues being further discussed in the Environmental Program are: Preventing Conflicts over Water Security and Managing Plastic Waste Disposal. The delegation of the United States of America is committed to a productive debate that comes to a resolution reasonable to all countries involved.

Topic A. Preventing Conflicts over Water Security

A water-secure world is when everyone has access to safe, clean, and affordable water to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Currently, there are 1.7 billion people in the world who don't have access to water and require help. There are many ways in which water security can be improved upon and if any more time is spent not helping these people in need, there will be far-reaching consequences. The United States along with other countries must raise awareness of this situation around the world and create eco-friendly ways to maintain clean and accessible water.

The United States has taken steps backward in its attempts to prevent conflicts over water security. The U.S. is trying to manage states like California, which are still trying to fight off the drought due to climate change. California is estimated to have around 2.7 billion dollars in damage costs. Not to mention, 40 million people are using the Colorado Basin as a source of water which is predicted to be one of the worst historic drought conditions in the continental U.S. With all of this in mind, the U.S. is still trying to create a better environment for our citizens and hopes that the delegates in the environmental program find a resolution that aids all countries.

Water security safety should be a top priority for all countries in this world. Two-thirds of the world live in countries that face water scarcity or impurity at least one month out of the year. This issue is caused by increased demand for pure water and a limited supply of it available. As the world population is growing, more and more water is needed to function our day-to-day activities. For example, 240 gallons of water are needed to manufacture one cell phone. If we continue to ignore this issue, it will be too late, and we will not have access to clean water. One way we could help water safety is through the recycling of wastewater. Water Reclamation is the process of treating wastewater to save energy, extend water supplies, and improve water quality. Americans are big meat consumers, but the amount of water needed to produce meat is mind-blowing. It takes 1847 gallons of water to produce one gallon of water. This is outrageous. We must collaborate with agriculture corporations to limit their amount of water consumption in meat production. This can be done through the use of soil moisture probes. This technology reduces the water pumped by 20% which would drastically help the issue of clean water shortage. With the use of soil moisture probes, farmers were able to save one billion gallons of water in three years. This process saves farmers more time and energy from less water being pumped. As a result, more farmers will be able to purchase this technology. Finally, we should consider rainwater harvesting. Rather than letting rain runoff and be wasted, we must save it. Rainwater harvesting is something homes can include. We have the incentive to buy rainwater harvesting captures because it reduces your home's water bills. The issue needs attention sooner than later; water is vital for a human's survival.

Topic B. Managing Plastic Waste Disposal

Plastic waste accumulates in our oceans, animal habitats, and most of our ecosystem damaging what we have been trying to preserve and keep clean for multiple generations. Many underdeveloped countries don't have set up places to put these plastics which lead to pounds of recyclable plastic in the ocean every day. Due to the inexpensive and durability of plastic, it is used for the development of almost everything we use, but little do most people know that it takes around 400 years to fully decompose these plastics. Problems like these lead to an enormous challenge that we, the UN, need to resolve.

“Plastics accounted for 12 percent of the 292 million tons of municipal solid waste generated in the U.S. in 2018.” This large amount of plastic waste is killing the environments and ecosystems that make up our world. Of all trash, plastic waste is the most damaging to wildlife and our world. 32% of the United States is currently recycling. With recycling being accessible to the majority of citizens, this percent should definitely be larger. Currently, the United States generates the most amount of plastic waste compared to other nations. The United States spends lots of money to try and maintain plastic waste. For example we have many organizations working to clean the oceans and ecosystems affected by plastic waste. “U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) launched its Ocean Plastics Initiative.” This organization is working to convert plastic waste to energy, recycle more types of plastic, promote proper disposal of plastics, clean ocean water, and support the development of materials made from nonplastics. These organizations need to spread to other countries outside the United States. After all, the United States only makes up for 5% of the world population. Plastic waste management procedures must be incorporated into more countries.

The United States would like to make clear that this upcoming solution isn't going to be something that we can do by ourselves, we are going to need multiple countries' support to make this achievable. As stated previously, plastic is a very versatile and affordable material that factories have depended on too much. This world currently has many underdeveloped and developing countries that don't have anywhere to put all of this plastic which just ends up going into the landfills and oceans. Scientists have estimated that each year 8 million tones of plastic are dumped into oceans and other environments, slowly killing the habitats and animals that surround them. Not only that, it is estimated by 2050 that there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. The United States of America is committed to coming up with a better solution so hopefully, when 2050 comes, there will be more fish than plastic. Our way to solve these issues is coming up with a fund to help raise money so recycling bins and recycling machinery can be placed in their developing countries. Many funds have been created for multiple other organizations and the U.S.A thinks this is the best way to solve this endangering issue.