

Committee: World Health Organization

Topic: Improving Global Access to Clean Water and Sanitation

Delegate Name: Eli Yale

Position: Papua New Guinea

According to the World Health Organization, 2.1 billion people globally do not have access to safe drinking water, and 4.2 billion lack safely-managed sanitation services (“1 in 3 People”). This lack of access not only inhibits economic development, but also poses severe public health risks, exacerbating the prevalence of waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid fever. The health implications of a lack of clean water and sanitation are profound, with children under five being particularly vulnerable to these preventable diseases. The situation is especially dire in low- and middle-income countries such as Papua New Guinea, Niger, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where inadequate infrastructure and limited resources create significant barriers to progress (Reid). Additionally, according to Gilbert F. Hounbo, the Chair of UN-Water, “the world is seriously off-track to achieve SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all by 2030. This leaves billions of people dangerously exposed to infectious diseases, especially in the aftermath of disasters, including climate-related events” (“Accelerated Action”).

Approximately 63 percent of Papua New Guinea’s population lacks access to a safe water supply (Davis). Therefore, the government of Papua New Guinea, with support from international organizations, has initiated several programs aimed at improving water and sanitation access. Notable among these is the National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) Policy 2015-2030, which seeks to provide 100 percent access to safe water and sanitation in urban areas and 70 percent access in rural areas by 2030 (Abel and Harry). WaSH emphasizes community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approaches, which involve educating and empowering communities to improve their sanitation and hygiene practices. This, in turn, helps create infrastructure for proper sanitation. However, progress has been slow, and significant gaps remain in policy implementation and resource allocation. Papua New Guinea has also expressed its support for improving access to clean water by establishing a national Office of Urbanisation and partnering with various international bodies such as UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat and the Office currently collaborate under a Cities Alliance-funded project. They are also partaking in the European Union-funded global UN-Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (Pyati).

In all, Papua New Guinea is strongly in favor of increasing investments in infrastructure, such as toilets, to improve sanitation and clean water. Additionally, this delegation recommends strengthening local governance and community involvement in water and sanitation projects, involving the training of local authorities and communities in the management and maintenance of water and sanitation systems. Papua New Guinea also looks favorably upon mobilizing financial resources through international aid, public-private partnerships, and government funding to support hygiene and sanitation education programs. Finally, robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to track progress and ensure accountability in the implementation of water and sanitation projects. Papua New Guinea urges fellow UN member states to implement these strategies to make significant strides toward ensuring safe water and sanitation for all people worldwide.

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Position Paper Commentary and Feedback

This is an example of a strong position paper. It not only follows all of the formatting and content rules [outlined on our website](#), but also possesses clear, detailed and polished writing. The paper is supported by robust research from credible sources. YMUN Latin America has provided feedback below on the strengths of this sample so that delegates may incorporate these into their own papers.

Formatting Strengths: This position paper meets all the formatting requirements outlined on our website.

- The position paper has the proper heading, which lists: the committee name, topic discussed, delegate name and position the delegate is representing (the country or figure).
 - Remember that if your committee has two topics, you will have to write two position papers. In that case, you must include the heading each time you start a paper; the only thing that would change is the topic.
- The position paper is correctly 1 page long with 1-inch margins.
- This position paper is written in Times New Roman font.
- This position paper is single-spaced.
- This position paper has text that is size 12.
- The position paper has both in-text citations and a bibliography in proper MLA format. The sources, which include reputable organizations such as UN-Habitat and the World Health Organization, are credible. As a reminder, a good resource to understand MLA format is Purdue OWL ([here](#)).

Content Strengths:

- The position paper is formal, clear and sophisticated. Its language is objective and the vocabulary is precise. The paper uses its one page efficiently to outline the delegate's position and objectives. It evidently demonstrates that the delegate has conducted proper research and understood their position well. This makes the delegate more prepared for success at the conference.
 - Other related strengths: no personal pronouns are used, all statistics are backed by a credible source, and all claims made are consistent with reality.
- The position paper considers key questions related to the topic. It also follows a strong structure that indeed addresses the “past, present and future” of the delegate's position in the context of committee.
 - First Paragraph/Past: The paper describes the issue to be explored in debate and explains why it is important. Such information is critically supported by a discussion on the ramifications of this issue. Perhaps most importantly, this

paragraph introduces the delegate's position and details how it is affected by the topic in question (in this case, lack of access to clean water and sanitation).

- Example of a key fragment: “The situation is especially dire in low- and middle-income countries such as **Papua New Guinea**, Niger, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where inadequate infrastructure and limited resources create significant barriers to progress (Reid).”
- Second Paragraph/Present: The paper then elaborates further on the delegate's position, outlining what it has done in response to the problem to this day. This paragraph also explains the reasons and effects behind such actions.
 - Example of a key fragment: “Approximately 63 percent of Papua New Guinea's population lacks access to a safe water supply (Davis).
Therefore, the government of Papua New Guinea, with support from international organizations, **has initiated several programs aimed at improving water and sanitation access.**”
- Third Paragraph/Future: In the third paragraph, the paper looks towards the future by outlining potential beliefs, solutions and actions that the delegate might advocate for during the actual conference. Crucially, the paper ends with a call to action — one which the delegate will look to promote during committee to effectively address the topic in question.
 - Example of a key fragment: “Finally, robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to track progress and ensure accountability in the implementation of water and sanitation projects. **Papua New Guinea urges** fellow UN member states to implement these strategies to make significant strides toward ensuring safe water and sanitation for all people worldwide.”