

# **Week 5: Tutorial Discussion: Water - Availability and Sustainable Management of Water Resources**





# **Transboundary Water Conflict in Asia**

**River Basins: Brahmaputra and Mekong River Basin**  
**Countries in Conflict: China, India, Bangladesh, Laos,  
Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam**

## Background

- China has run into rough waters with its neighbors after planning to build the world's biggest dam on **River Brahmaputra** - a 60-gigawatt mega-dam in the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR).
- The plan is to move ahead without China discussing or entering into water-sharing agreements with downstream India or Bangladesh.
- Not only India but other nations of Southeast Asia are affected previously due to China's 11 mega-dams on the **Mekong River** that have caused water levels there to fluctuate widely in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

## Activity 1: Transboundary Water Conflict

**Activity:** Imagine your group is the delegates from different countries involved in this transboundary water conflict (China, India, Bangladesh, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam). Your objective is to solve the transboundary water issue with the interest and perspectives of your assigned country.

**Ultimate Objective:** Come up with a written resolution as a first step to solving the water conflict (under consideration).

# Activity 1: Transboundary Water Conflict

**A step-wise approach toward conflict resolution and discussion**

**Step 1.** About 20 minutes.

**Preparation work:** Have a look again at your prepared summary during the self-learning activity and add more if required. You should mainly focus on summarising your country's stance and approach to this transboundary conflict. To begin, you may list down the problems you are facing, and potential solutions to propose, identify the potential ally countries (if any), find mutual interest with your neighbors, etc.

**Step 2:** About 30 minutes

**Roundtable discussion with all party countries.** You may like to use the following structure of discussion:

- I. Every country should start with a brief opening speech (about 2 mins each): your country's stand and the critical issues you want to focus on during the roundtable discussion (about 15 mins in total).
- II. An open discussion among all countries based on the opening speeches --- Keeping the ultimate objective in mind, delegates should aim to discuss transparently, find a common ground, and compromise if you must (about 15 mins).

# Activity 1: Transboundary Water Conflict

**A step-wise approach to work on this conflict resolution task.**

**Step 3:** About 15 minutes

**Compile a draft resolution:** Write down your suggestions in the format of clauses of a Resolution: summary of agreements, the way forward, a plan to carry out agreed-upon actions, etc. When writing a resolution, the representatives must reach a consensus or convergence between the topic's proponents and opponents.

**Step 4:** About 10 minutes

Concluding remarks/plenary discussion.

# Group Allocation for Roundtable Discussions

Please note the below allocation of student groups to different countries and Roundtable groups.

Student groups and respective countries							
	India	Bangladesh	China	Laos	Cambodia	Thailand	Vietnam
Roundtable 1	1	2 & 12	3	13	14	17	18
Roundtable 2	7	8 & 16	9	20	21	19	23
Roundtable 3	15	4	5	22	26	24	25
Roundtable 4	6	10	11		27		

# Schedule of Roundtable Discussions

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

Venue: Collab-2, EMB, NTU.

## Specific venues in Collab-2 for all discussions

**Roundtable 1**

Table 3 in Seating Zone A

**Roundtable 2**

Table 12 in Seating Zone B

**Roundtable 3**

Table 26 in Seating Zone C

**Roundtable 4**

Table 29 in Seating Zone D



## Some background information that might be of use

Check the income per capita of countries involved in the transboundary conflict	<a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?end=2020&amp;locations=BD-IN-CN-TH-KH-VN-LA&amp;start=2020&amp;view=bar">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?end=2020&amp;locations=BD-IN-CN-TH-KH-VN-LA&amp;start=2020&amp;view=bar</a>
Check their ranking in Human Development Index by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	<a href="https://hdr.undp.org/en/content/latest-human-development-index-ranking">https://hdr.undp.org/en/content/latest-human-development-index-ranking</a>
Check access to electricity	<a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?end=2019&amp;locations=BD-IN-TH-KH-VN-CN-LA&amp;start=2019&amp;type=shaded&amp;view=map">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?end=2019&amp;locations=BD-IN-TH-KH-VN-CN-LA&amp;start=2019&amp;type=shaded&amp;view=map</a>
Check the unemployment rate	<a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/271330/unemployment-rate-in-india/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/271330/unemployment-rate-in-india/</a>

# How does a political resolution look like

Resolution GA/3/1.1

## General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**

2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

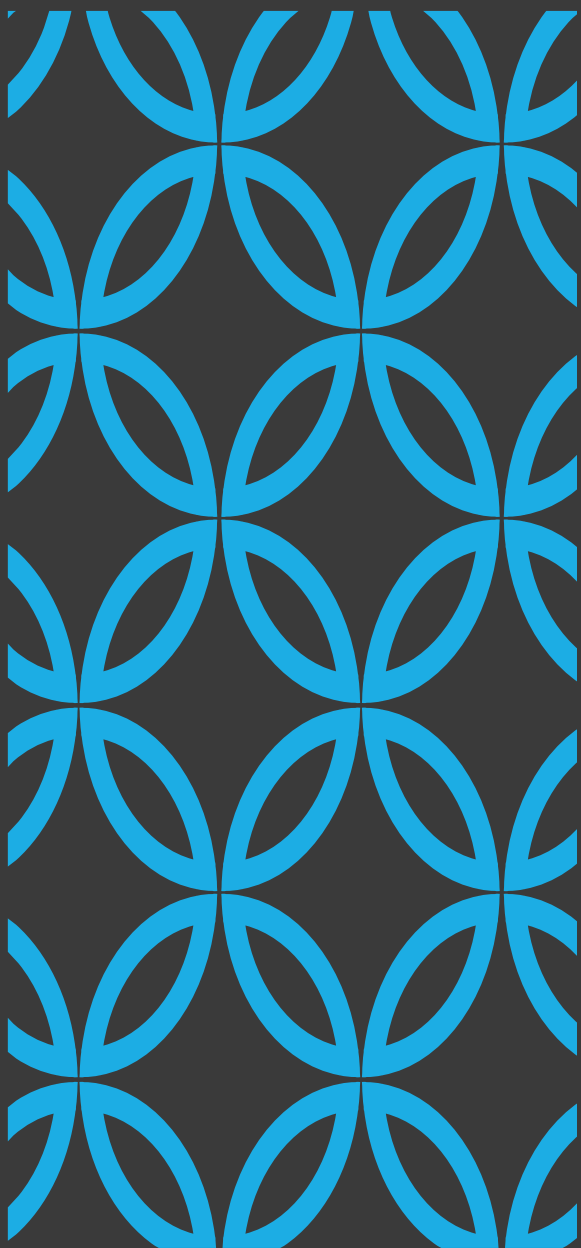
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[end resolutions with a period]**



SEE YOU NEXT WEEK

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