

Excellencia MUN 2023



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Committee: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

We whole-heartedly welcome you to the simulation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Excellencia MUN 2023!

This Background Guide has been prepared after thorough research by the Executive Board and is meant to serve as the starting point for your research. Please note, that this guide is in no way exhaustive or comprehensive, so we would highly encourage delegates to do their research with this guide serving as the basis.

Also, we would like to wish you good luck with your preparation for the conference. It is going to be a pleasure serving as the Executive Board and we would love to see you perform well in committee.

Lastly, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us from the Executive Board in case you have doubts, concerns, or anything of the sort. We shall be happy to help you out in such a case.

Regards,

Chairperson

Chirag Kundra

chiragkundra01@gmail.com

Vice-Chairperson

Soumya Saroj Sahoo

themonk231007@gmail.com

Agenda: Enhancing water security for ecosystem restoration in developing nations.

Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the lead UN agency on international development. It operates in 170 countries with the mission to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality.

Established in 1965, the UNDP has been instrumental in advocating for change, fostering partnerships, and mobilizing resources to uplift societies worldwide.

The UNDP provides expert advice, and training, and grants support to developing countries, with an increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations. The UNDP is central to the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), a network that spans almost 170 countries and unites the 40 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, and other bodies working to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our focus lies on the issue of water security, with particular emphasis on the subject in developing nations. Let us explore this agenda further through this background guide.

Mandate

The mandate of the UNDP is to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.

It emphasizes developing local capacity towards long-term self-sufficiency and prosperity. The UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress.

It plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The UNDP works with countries to help them find their solutions to the challenges they face and doesn't impose solutions or rules upon them. Additionally, the UNDP is tasked with building democratic governance, the rule of law, and inclusive institutions.

Introduction to the Agenda

Water security is a paramount concern for the sustainable development of nations, particularly in the context of ecosystem restoration in developing countries.

As the global population burgeons and climate change intensifies, ensuring reliable access to clean water has become a critical challenge, especially for regions grappling with economic constraints.

The nexus between water security and ecosystem restoration is deeply entwined; healthy ecosystems are reliant on sustainable water sources, while simultaneously, robust ecosystems contribute to the preservation and purification of water resources.

In developing nations, where vulnerable communities often bear the brunt of water scarcity, the restoration of degraded ecosystems holds the promise of replenishing water tables, rejuvenating rivers, and preserving biodiversity.

Moreover, it mitigates the impacts of climate change, promoting resilience against extreme weather events.

The Issue of Water Scarcity

Water scarcity is a pressing issue that has implications for the health and well-being of citizens around the globe. It is estimated that around 1.1 billion people worldwide have limited access to clean, purified water, while 2.4 billion people lack access to any water sanitation facility. Poor management, wastage, pollution, and uneven distribution of water resources contribute to this problem.

The Food and Agricultural Organization has predicted that by the year 2025, nearly 1.8 billion people will be residing in areas that will be experiencing absolute water scarcity. This could lead to two-thirds of the world's population being under severe stress conditions. This highlights the need for water resources to be easily accessible and affordable.

Alongside this, pollution has also been one of the main reasons for the increase in water scarcity. According to reports on SDG 14, which is: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, sea and marine resources for sustainable development”, plastic pollution contributes largely to the degradation of water in marine forms. It hence has a direct and profound impact on water availability and water security in the regions where it so occurs.

Water Security and Ecosystem Restoration

Water security refers to the process of ensuring that there is enough water of good quality available to support socio-economic development, livelihoods, health and ecosystems.

Water is a scarce resource, and it is crucial to preserve it for future generations. For the very same reason, ecosystem restoration is significant as well. It is the process of assisting in the replenishment and restoration of ecosystems that have been damaged or degraded by human activities or otherwise.

The United Nations and Ecosystem Restoration

The United Nations has launched the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 to restore damaged ecosystems worldwide and prevent, halt, and reverse their degradation. The initiative aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly those on climate change, poverty eradication, food security, water, and biodiversity conservation. The restoration of ecosystems is fundamental to achieving these goals. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global effort aimed at restoring the planet and ensuring the health of people and nature.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), too, has been working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 6 on water, which is crucial for the achievement of all the SDGs. UNDP works across the full range of water resources challenges and is engaged in applied water management across all the SDGs, in portfolios as diverse as Nature, Climate, Energy, Waste, Inclusive Growth and Disaster Risk Reduction. UNDP is also the custodian of the largest transboundary water portfolio in the UN system, and a key contributor to the Water Action Agenda and Water Action Decade (2018-2028).

UNDP has called for immediate actions for transformative change to invest in unprecedented conservation and restoration – of forests, wetlands, agricultural lands and mangroves, to ensure water security, food security, and sustainable livelihoods, which is key to meeting the global goals.

UNDP's Nature, Climate and Energy team recognizes the need to prioritize ecosystem restoration or maintenance as it can have wide-ranging positive impacts beyond the areas of intervention, particularly in terms of water access and security. Multiple projects supported by UNDP focus on ecosystem restoration for a sustainable impact on the world.

How do developing countries come into the picture?

Today, 2.4 billion people live in water-stressed countries, many of which are developing nations. Factors such as regional and climatic disparities, changing monsoon patterns, overconsumption of groundwater resources, and overpopulation contribute to water scarcity in these countries.

Water security affects both developed and developing countries. However, the greatest threats of water-related risks fall mainly on developing countries.

Many poor countries face unreliable water supplies and hence require greater investment to achieve water security.

In some countries, there is simply a geographical lack of water resources whereas in others, although there is plenty, they lack the infrastructure to manage the resources properly. Alongside that, an unprecedented rise in the population and a higher dependence on agriculture of the country leads to more issues with water scarcity. The recent issues of climate change further worsen the situation by leading to irregular rainfall and hence a lack of water resources and management of the same.

All in all, the absence of proper funding and water management in such countries leads to them being more in trouble than the other, well-off countries.

How do we solve this issue?

As discussed earlier in this guide, the presence of a proper system of financing the needs of countries concerning water scarcity is of utmost importance. Alongside that, the countries have to be equipped with the latest and best technologies for their need and must be able to use them to the fullest potential to achieve their cause.

This brings us to the next, very important point of capacity building amongst the population of the country so that they can use the technologies for their purpose effectively and efficiently. Also, a proper system of management and monitoring of the progress of the nation shall ensure that no misuse of the allocated funds is taking place and sustainable development is occurring.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

Every resolution must aim to answer at least one, if not more, of the following questions:

1. How much has your country allocated to the purpose of building resilient water systems?
2. What comes first: economic development or water security for ecosystem restorations?
3. How should the progress of nations be monitored in the best way possible to ensure proper management of water resources?
4. How should pollution be managed by countries and tourism industries for the better condition of water resources?
5. How should technology be used and implemented to improve water security?
6. How must capacity-building take place in countries to ensure the independence of the nation from other nations for its own development?
7. How much should be allocated in funds and resources by member states to ensure water management in the best way possible?

References

The following are some sources that may help you in your research:

1. [About us | United Nations Development Programme](#)
2. [Water Scarcity | Land & Water | Food and Agriculture Organization](#)
3. [Water Scarcity | UN-Water \(unwater.org\)](#)
4. [Water Security | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#)
5. [Goal 6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)
6. [Goal 14 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)
7. [Why water security is our most urgent challenge today | World Economic Forum](#)
8. [Water Security | World Water Council](#)
9. [UN Decade](#)
10. [Water | United Nations Development Programme](#)
11. [Water-Growth-and-Finance-policy-perspectives.pdf](#)
12. [Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership: Working with Country PartnersforaResilient Water Future](#)
13. [Water Scarcity – One of the greatest challenges of our time | FAO](#)
14. [High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy](#)
15. [Water Stress: A Global Problem That’s Getting Worse | Council on Foreign Relations](#)
16. [Water Scarcity, the Climate Crisis and Global Food Security: A Call for CollaborativeAction](#)
17. [Water Overview: Development news, research, data](#)
18. [Implementing Improvements in Water Quality](#)
19. [Water security and the sustainable development goals](#)
20. [Improving Water Security](#)
21. [Coping with Water Scarcity](#)