

THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY  
NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND THE IMPACT ON VULNERABLE  
POPULATIONS

The exploitation of natural resources for economic expansion comes at the expense of both indigenous people and of our only inhabitable planet--planet Earth. The dominant stakeholders in resource extraction are seldom those who are disadvantaged; instead, they are frequently considerable, corrupt corporations who profit from the resources. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and various NGOs have taken action to halt deforestation; however, corruption in the logging industry has proven that international cooperation is necessary to limit the detrimental extraction of resources. In 2008, the General Assembly created the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) to minimize forest emissions while simultaneously promoting sustainable development. UN-REDD places importance on the inclusion of all stakeholders, including native people who utilize forests for food and shelter. In 2008, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DOTROIP), which defined indigenous people's territorial, resource, and human rights. Lebanon not only voted in favor of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but also supported a national, comprehensive research project to assess Lebanon's groundwater resources. Lebanon, in conjunction with UNDP and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), has made great strides to evaluate Lebanese groundwater resources that could be used to avoid a grievous water crisis. The National Groundwater Assessment project has striven to take into consideration the increased exploitation of the groundwater resources in an effort to meet the goals of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP on SCP). To combat potentially devastating water shortages, Lebanon implemented the Greater Beirut Water Supply Project (GBWSP) to provide water from the Litani and Awali River to citizens of the region of Greater Beirut. The GBWSP seeks to supply water to low-income citizens within the Greater Beirut region who are most vulnerable to exploitation. Lebanon recognizes the severity of this corruption, and strongly supports regional as well as international cooperation to protect vulnerable populations. In the future, Lebanon suggests the involvement of more NGOs in all member states to conduct research projects to devise more sustainable approaches to resource extraction--approaches that aren't rooted in the oppression of indigenous people and in the irreversible destruction of the Earth. Lebanon also seeks cooperation between Arab nations in the Middle East to devise common objectives of sustainable extraction of resources that don't grant one single nation a significant economic advantage over neighboring states. Lebanon recognizes that international economic competition could be an incentive to continue extracting resources at the cost of vulnerable nations, which is why Lebanon strongly suggests a summit between all stakeholders--corporations, NGOs, governments, and especially vulnerable populations--to establish a contingency plan. The contingency plan should outline norms and technical standards (NTONs) that would restrain one stakeholder or nation from accruing significant political or economic power over other stakeholders as well as encourage sustainable methods of resource extraction.

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Example speech based on the policy paper that's right above this:

The exploitation of natural resources for economic expansion comes at the expense of both indigenous people and of our only inhabitable planet--planet Earth. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and various NGOs have taken action to halt deforestation; however, corruption in the logging industry has proven that international cooperation is necessary to limit the detrimental extraction of resources. Lebanon recognizes the severity of this corruption, and strongly supports regional as well as international cooperation to protect vulnerable populations. In the future, Lebanon suggests the involvement of more NGOs in all member states to conduct research projects to devise more sustainable approaches to resource extraction--approaches that aren't rooted in the oppression of indigenous people and in the irreversible destruction of the Earth. Lebanon also seeks cooperation between Arab nations in the Middle East to devise common objectives of sustainable extraction of resources that don't grant one single nation a significant economic advantage over neighboring states. Lebanon recognizes that international economic competition could be an incentive to continue extracting resources at the cost of vulnerable nations, which is why Lebanon strongly suggests a summit between all stakeholders--corporations, NGOs, governments, and especially vulnerable populations--to establish a contingency plan. The contingency plan should outline norms and technical standards (NTONs) that would restrain one stakeholder or nation from accruing significant political or economic power over other stakeholders as well as encourage sustainable methods of resource extraction.