Dear Ms. Mains,

When I read your policy memo, I found a strong will to address water sanitation standards in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is focused enough region and issue to produce an ambitious yet concentrated effort to create success. However, I felt that overall your paper asks your reader to collect more data instead of specific actions to take. While you can always use more data when combatting a problem, your paper cites a number of existing statistics, and many agencies in the United Nations, including the WHO, are at least partially focused on data collection and publication. You do address the inaccuracy of most estimates of the region, and focusing attention on that is a wonderful direction for your memo to take. However, collecting this data should be used by Mr. Jarraud to discover the scale of the problem, not determine the broad solution to it. You do provide multiple proposals on how the UN can address this problem, including promising technological developments in India. I especially liked your detailed description of how to create a system of maintenance of the systems, ensuring their success after the completion of the UN’s mission.

If I had one suggestion about your proposal, it would be to deemphasize the importance of asking for increased funding. Additional funding can always help a project, but your emphasis should be on what existing and future funds will go towards, such as the technology you mentioned. You can assume the Inter-Agency Mechanism on All Freshwater Related Issues submits an annual budget to the United Nations, as do all other organizations which receive funding. You can argue that Sub-Saharan African sanitation should take a higher priority within the Inter-Agency Mechanism, versus other projects it is working on.

Overall, I think your paper was an excellent start and clearly provides multiple solutions for Mr. Jarraud to take. I would spend more time discussing the importance of Sub-Saharan Africa specifically, and focus on less on the already existent need for additional funds.

Sincerely,

Grant Oxer