



CSPCMUN2017



**World
Health
Organization**

Committee: World Health Organization

Topic: Ensuring Access to Clean and Safe Water to African Countries

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“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.” – Harry S. Truman

Dear Delegates,

First of all, welcome to CSPCMUN 2017. It is an honor to have you in this year's edition. We hope that this simulation is a memorable experience. We are confident that during these three days you will develop skills such as leadership, negotiating, and critical thinking while representing a specific country. We expect that in this model you meet new people who will encourage you to make an impact in our world. I am sure that you will prepare yourself enough so you can get to agreements and help in the resolution of the committee's problematic. We hope that you enjoy this simulation as much as we will. Any doubts you may have, do not hesitate on asking us.

Sincerely,

Mariana Lazo

Chief of Moderators

I. Committee Overview

WHO stands for “world health organization”, and like its name says, this committee has the concern of international public health and ensuring ways to distribute it out to the world. It was established in April 7th of 1948 with its headquarters being located in Geneva, Switzerland. Some of its founders were France, Denmark, Ecuador, Australia, Canada, amongst others. This is a very important committee because it tries to get the health services needed to places that can't be reached easily, and without resources.

WHO actually isn't one of the six organs corresponding to the UN, but still is one of the most important ones because of the reasons previously stated. It ensures the public health all around the world reaching places where most people cannot achieve, and it helps them reach their SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), making their health related statistics to its 194 Member states.

WHO focuses on health systems, promoting health throughout the life-course, non communicable diseases, communicable diseases, corporate services, and preparedness, as well as surveillance and response.

II. Topic information

As of 2004, an estimated 16% of people that inhabited the region of Sub-Saharan Africa had access to clean and drinkable water. The source of the water was an indoor tap, or a tap in the yard. Not only are the conditions of the water bad, but there also is not a good way to distribute it, since there aren't enough financial resources for a good sanitation supervision.

Today, almost 900 million of people in Africa do not have access to safe, drinkable water. The global consumption of water is doubling every twenty years, twice the rate of population growth. It is estimated that in 2025 at least 3 billion people will be living in areas where it will be difficult or even impossible to meet the basic water needs.

Most of the Earth's water is undrinkable. Although 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water, almost all of the water in the ocean is salt water, there is only a 3 percent of fresh water is safe for drinking, 97 percent of that water is frozen in glaciers.

Northern African and Sub-Saharan Africa have made different levels of progress towards the millennium development goal on water, but it has been an outgoing struggle to achieve this. Many efforts have been made to ensure it.

There are as well other problems concerning the death of many young children across the African continent because of malnutrition, dehydration and infections that can be caused by lack of water sanitation, like salmonella or cholera. This brings up another problem: there are not enough doctors in Africa to treat the sick people.

A) History of the topic

As of this moment, there is an outgoing crisis in Africa when it comes to health issues related with the state of the available water. This problem clearly affects both rural and urban parts of the country in the same way, but in the urban parts they have clinics to treat it. To this day, there isn't a real solution that can ensure that the usable water in Africa is safe and clean for its citizens.

Since there are limited sources of clean water in Africa, for many years they have used the groundwater as their main source. They have used this source because only a few people have acceptable drainage system with most of the water being polluted, or having diseases like salmonella. The one benefit of groundwater is that the water is naturally protected from bacteria that may inhabit near it. Groundwater is also a safe bet during droughts that sooner or later will occur.

However, a big part of this problem is that the equipment needed to drill the ground where the water is located is expensive and hard to come across or obtain in Africa. Although the groundwater has a natural barrier against bacteria, it is vulnerable to any sort of human interventions that can harm it, the introduction of bacteria by polluted wells.

In urban areas, there is still some struggle finding clean water. It is also expensive and difficult to get through a safe source, despite having a better situation and citizens from rural parts of the continent. Exponential growth in urban areas is a problem because they extract large volumes of water from the existing areas. This leaves all of the rural areas with little to none chances of obtaining well sanitized sources of water.

B) Current Issues

Chad: Like in all other countries, the water demand is extremely high. Chad's capital, N'Djamena, has poor neighborhoods called quartiers that do not seem to benefit from the utilities grid and have to rely on shallow wells. There are also water vendors, but most people cannot afford this source.

Nigeria: On November of this month, King Emere Godwin Bebe Okpabi flew to London to seek justice in court. He's blamed Royal Dutch Shell for contaminating with oil Nigeria's drinkable water, since now Nigerian citizens do not have access to

clean water. People are now infected with more diseases and the amount of clean water keeps diminishing quickly.

South Africa: Due lack of proper sanitation, South Africa, which used to have one of the most clean water systems in the world, now suffers from a steadily increasing threat of waterborne disease. Preventative measures have been put in places such as the construction of dams. Even wildlife is being affected by issues like sewage runoffs.

Somalia: In May of this same year, Somalia suffered from a cholera epidemic. There were multiple deaths registered and many people were in need of medical care, which they couldn't afford either. The other most recent event involving contaminated water was back in 2014, when around December at least 50 people died after drinking contaminated water from a well in northern Mogadishu.

C) UN action

Africa is one of the major countries without good sanitation. The UN is trying to help Africa have a good organization regarding the sanitation of its water. Hygiene programs have been established, the HVWSHE program was implemented as part of the Water for African and Asian Cities Programmes, to make an impact, motivate and inspire the people to change their behaviours and to better their attitude, so they can have better consequences and improve hygiene and salubrity in this areas. Also in 2004, UN-Habitat, in association with the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda organized a bigger initiative to organize the water distribution and needs of the population.

III. Conclusion

This problematic is affecting widely and spreading realy quickly across Africa as the population keeps on growing and creating negative effects on people and their health because of the notorious lack of hygiene in their water, and not helping to reach their health development goal. It is important that we start to take action on this problem, trying to neutralize it the best way we can help out. It is possible to help out with the help of NGO's providing resources and improving the average life expectancy of African people. We need to realize that the amounts of doctors needed to treat people in Africa are at a shortage.

One way to counteract that problem is to ensure the access to the clean and safe water. With this solution we can help our environment for it to be a safer and more comfortable place to live on while making a better quality of our lives.

IV. Essential Questions

1. How would your delegation solve the ongoing problem of the difficult access of water in Africa?
2. What is one way to help out with the needed resources for groundwater extraction?
3. How could your delegation make the groundwater extraction more efficient?
4. In what way does this problem affect the world? Does the economy change? Or does your delegation suffer?
5. How could your delegation ensure the clean access of the water that's going out to Africa?
6. What kind of quick actions could be taken to act fast or at least to help lay down the problem until a real solution is found?

V. Sources

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