

CASMUNC 2025

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Ripples of Change

**Building a Future with
Clean Water for All**

**Committee: Promoting Access to
Clean Water and Sanitation
through Sustainable Development**

Chair: Niki Patel

Vice Chair: Ari Magas



Hi Delegates! I am Niki Patel, and I'll be your chair for the UNDP Novice-GA committee! I'm a Junior at Canterbury, and I have been participating in Model UN for my entire high school career. Outside of MUN, I am involved in extracurriculars like HOSA, and some clubs that my friends and I created, including Animal Advocacy, MD to Be, as well as Hearts and Hands. I'm thrilled to be chairing this Committee with you all, and am expecting great discussion to be held!



Hello Delegates! My name is Ari Magas, and I'll be co-chairing the UNDP committee. I am a sophomore at Canterbury and have been participating in Model UN since my Freshman year.

Outside of MUN, I am a member of the tennis team, DECA, and theatre. I am excited to help run this committee!

Position Papers: Position papers will be required for this committee, and we strongly recommend doing as much research as possible if you want to succeed in the committee. Your papers have a maximum of 2 pages in length. Your paper should have a heading with your name, date, position, and committee name. Write your papers in proper MLA format (12 pt Times New Roman, double-spaced) and include at least three links to credible sources that aided you in your research. Good sources to use include your country's official website, the websites of different UN organisations, and trusted news sources, or any credible sites you find on Google. The use of ChatGPT or other AI websites is strictly **prohibited**, and **ALL** papers will be checked for plagiarism and AI use; using artificial intelligence could result in you losing your opportunity to earn an award in this committee.

This is a good resource to teach you how to write a position paper

<https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/nmun-pp-guide.pdf>

Send your papers as PDFs to arimagas2009@gmail.com and Nikirpatel2009@gmail.com before the committee starts to be eligible for awards. If you would like feedback on your position paper, put that in your email, and we will reply with your feedback. (*When submitting position papers, use a personal Gmail account, **NOT** a school account*)

Topic Overview: Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of sustainable development. Despite global progress, over 2 billion people still lack access to safely managed drinking water services, and more than 3.5 billion lack safe sanitation facilities. These inequalities contribute to disease, poverty, and environmental degradation, particularly in developing regions. The UNDP recognizes the urgent need to promote sustainable water management that protects ecosystems while ensuring equitable access for all.

Background Information: Water safety refers to water that is both accessible and safe for drinking. Water safety is a growing concern in many developing countries that not only may not have the proper infrastructure or access to provide clean water, but also have largely growing populations that increase the need for water. Unsafe water can lead to waterborne diseases, notably cholera and typhoid fever. Climate change is another issue that impacts water quality and safety. Disasters such as droughts or floods are issues that impact the cleanliness and availability of water in an area. In many of these developing countries, water access is based on factors like social status or wealth; access to a basic human right should not be determined by how much money someone has or what someone looks like. Furthermore, industrial waste and pollution are among the many causes of water pollution. Water is a necessity and should be safe and available to everyone without the risk of disease.

Current Situation: Just last year, in 2024, 2.2 billion people lacked access to safely managed water. That is why this committee is being put to session, ten developing countries that struggle with water safety and sanitation, as well as ten developed countries known for aiding and developing infrastructure for water safety, have been gathered. The goal of this committee is to

solve the problem of water scarcity and sanitation through resolutions. Your goals are to formulate creative and effective solutions to provide access to clean water for all people. Over 1 million people a year die due to unsafe water, and diseases such as cholera, which in 2024 led to 50% more casualties than the year before, are deaths that can be stopped if everyone has access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation. Additionally, many people don't have access to water because water access is determined by social status or wealth. Access to water and sanitation is a basic human right that this committee aims to protect.

Past International Action: The international community has made several efforts to expand access to clean water and sanitation over the past few decades. These actions have focused on setting global goals, increasing cooperation, and funding development projects in areas most affected by water scarcity and poor sanitation. One of the earliest major steps was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), launched in 2000. Goal 7 aimed to “halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation” by 2015. Although this goal was not fully achieved, it helped raise awareness and mobilize resources around the world. In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replaced the MDGs, with Goal 6 specifically dedicated to ensuring clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. This marked a shift from short-term projects toward more sustainable, long-term development. Other organizations and agreements also play key roles: The Global Water Partnership (GWP) supports regional cooperation and knowledge sharing on water management. The UN-Water Action Decade (2018–2028) encourages countries to take measurable steps toward achieving SDG 6. The World Bank and UNICEF’s WASH Programme (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) provides funding and technical support to improve infrastructure and promote hygiene education.

Bloc Positions:

Developed Nations: Often focus on funding, technology transfer, and supporting international aid mechanisms.

Developing Nations: Prioritize affordable infrastructure, local community involvement, and capacity building.

Water-Scarce Nations: Emphasize the need for efficient water use, desalination technologies, and climate resilience.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can countries ensure fair access to clean water and sanitation for all, including rural and marginalized communities?
2. What are the most effective ways to fund and maintain sustainable water infrastructure?
3. How can local communities be involved in promoting sanitation and hygiene practices?
4. How can nations balance economic growth with protecting water resources?
5. What role should international cooperation play in managing shared water resources?
6. How can innovative technologies or low-cost solutions help improve access to clean water and sanitation?
7. How can the risk of waterborne diseases like cholera be reduced?

Positions:

1. **United States** - The United States is one of the world's leaders in water safety, investing in water and sanitation through international organizations and cooperation. The USA advocates for water safety within its own nation and in developing nations. Although the

US is among one of the safest countries in terms of water safety, certain marginalized communities within the USA face struggles in water safety, most notably the Flint, Michigan water crisis from 2014-2019.

- 2. Germany** - Germany is a large advocate and donor for water safety. Known for supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6, water safety, and diplomacy. Germany funds education and water, and sanitation, notably being a large donor to organizations like GIZ and BMZ, which focus on water and sanitation.
- 3. Japan** - Japan invests in infrastructure relating to water safety in Asia and supports access to safe drinking water in developing countries. They have invested in water safety in Africa, as well as encouraging innovation and technology relating to the issue.
- 4. United Kingdom** - The United Kingdom is another leader in water safety and a large donor. The UK believes in equal access to clean water and promotes research and innovation in the field. The UK promotes clean water in Africa as well as innovations in technology.
- 5. France** - France is a strong advocate for water safety in developing countries. France is known for hosting conferences and institutions in the field of water safety. France has collaborated with organizations such as the WHO and UN-Water, and invests in clean water access in South America and Africa.
- 6. Canada** - Canada promotes access to clean drinking water in indigenous communities and is an advocate for water safety research. They collaborate with UN organizations and promote research and innovation in water safety.

- 7. China** - China supports access to clean water and has invested in global infrastructure through the Belt and Road initiative. They have collaborated with the UN and, through aid support clean access to drinking water in Asia and Africa.
- 8. Australia** - Australia is a large supporter of water safety and sanitation within the Indo-Pacific region. Promoting research and education in the field, Australia funds projects and promotes humanitarianism.
- 9. Sweden** - Sweden is an advocate for water safety and has funded successful water and sanitation projects within its own country through SIDA, the Swedish Aid Agency. Sweden believes in clean access to water and sanitation in conflict zones and promotes water safety research.
- 10. Netherlands** - The Netherlands is a large advocate for water safety, as seen by its collaboration with water safety organizations and its funding of water safety in developing areas. Additionally, the Netherlands is known for sponsoring World Water Week to spread awareness of this global issue.
- 11. India** - India faces many challenges in the field of water safety and sanitation. India advocates for SG6, but it struggles with water pollution and groundwater depletion. Additionally, many people in India do not have access to clean drinking water, as for a long time, access to drinking water was tied to the Caste-System.
- 12. Nigeria** - Nigeria struggles with water safety, having a high rate of waterborne diseases, notably cholera. In rural areas of Nigeria, it is very hard to access clean water; additionally, water access is tied to poverty. Nigeria faces problems with water pollution and climate change, seeking donor support from developed countries.

- 13. Bangladesh** - Bangladesh faces issues with water contamination and flooding. Water access is tied to wealth and social status, which does not allow for equal access to water. Bangladesh faces sanitation and hygiene problems as millions lack clean drinking water.
- 14. Pakistan** - Pakistan struggles with water scarcity and tensions with India. Urban areas face water contamination, and many lack clean drinking water. The government has implemented initiatives to fight for water safety; however, rural areas still face water and sanitation problems.
- 15. Haiti** - Haiti struggles with water safety and equal access to water. The government struggles with implementing water safety infrastructure, and rural areas lack access to clean water. They face issues with water contamination and outbreaks of Cholera.
- 16. Yemen** - The water crisis in Yemen worsens with the conflicts the country is involved in. Water access is tied to poverty, and many lack clean water. Yemen has provided NGOs with emergency relief; however, they still face sanitation issues.
- 17. Sudan** - Sudan struggles with water-borne diseases and unsafe water. Water access is tied to gender and wealth, and many lack safe drinking water. The conflict in Sudan has led to a decrease in access to clean water, and drought and flooding only worsen this.
- 18. Ethiopia** - Ethiopia struggles with water-borne diseases as well as unequal access to water. In rural areas, many lack access to safe drinking water, and throughout the country, millions of people have no access to water and sanitation. Climate change only worsens water scarcity, as Ethiopia seeks donations from developed countries.
- 19. Democratic Republic of the Congo** - The DRC has abundant natural resources and water access; however, the country lacks proper infrastructure and purification facilities, leading to millions of people lacking access to clean drinking water.

- 20. Chad** - Chad, a country in north-central Africa, struggles with water scarcity as millions of people lack access to safe drinking water. There is a high reliance on rainfall for drinking water; additionally, water-borne diseases like cholera are an issue in Chad. Access to water in refugee camps is scarce, and since 1960, Lake Chad has shrunk by over 90% of its original size.
- 21. Norway** - Norway is a strong advocate for water diplomacy and climate resilience. Through NORAD, it funds water safety projects in Africa and Asia, aligning with U.S. efforts in global water security. Norway emphasizes water access in humanitarian crises.
- 22. Switzerland** - Switzerland hosts international organizations like the WHO and UN-Water, making it a hub for water safety diplomacy. It collaborates with the U.S. on global water governance and promotes equitable access to water in conflict zones.
- 23. South Korea** - South Korea invests in water technology innovation and sanitation infrastructure across Asia. It partners with the U.S. in promoting smart water management systems and supports developing nations through aid and technical expertise.
- 24. Denmark** - Denmark is known for its sustainable water management practices. It funds water safety projects in Africa and collaborates with the U.S. on climate adaptation strategies, emphasizing clean water as a human right.
- 25. Italy** - Italy supports water safety through its development agency (AICS) and contributes to Mediterranean and African water projects. It partners with the U.S. and EU in promoting sanitation and clean water access in fragile states.

- 26. Kenya** - Kenya faces water scarcity due to droughts and climate change. It collaborates with the U.S. and other donors to expand rural water access and sanitation, especially in arid regions.
- 27. Uganda** - Uganda struggles with waterborne diseases and unequal access to clean water. It receives U.S. aid through USAID programs that promote sanitation and hygiene education in rural communities.
- 28. Mozambique** - Mozambique faces flooding and contamination challenges. The U.S. has supported disaster relief and water safety programs, helping communities recover from cyclones and improve sanitation infrastructure.
- 29. Nepal** - Nepal struggles with water contamination and sanitation in rural areas. It partners with the U.S. and Japan to improve water infrastructure and promote safe drinking water in mountainous regions.
- 30. Cambodia** - Cambodia faces challenges with rural water access and sanitation. The U.S. collaborates with NGOs to provide clean water solutions, focusing on reducing waterborne diseases and improving hygiene education.
- 31. Spain** - Spain promotes water safety through its cooperation programs in Latin America and Africa. It partners with the U.S. and EU in advancing water governance and sanitation, especially in drought-prone regions.
- 32. Finland** - Finland emphasizes sustainable water management and climate resilience. It funds water safety projects through its development agency and collaborates with the U.S. on research into clean water technologies.

- 33. Belgium** - Belgium supports water diplomacy and sanitation projects in Africa, often working alongside U.S. initiatives. It contributes to UN programs and emphasizes equitable access to water in fragile states.
- 34. Malawi** - Malawi faces severe water scarcity and sanitation challenges, with rural communities lacking clean water. It receives U.S. aid through USAID programs focused on hygiene education and water infrastructure.
- 35. Afghanistan** - Afghanistan struggles with water contamination and limited infrastructure, worsened by conflict. The U.S. has supported emergency relief and water safety projects to improve sanitation in vulnerable communities.
- 36. Madagascar** - Madagascar faces waterborne diseases and unequal access to clean water, especially in rural areas. It partners with the U.S. and NGOs to expand safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.
- 37. Cyprus** - Cyprus faces water scarcity due to its dry climate. It invests in desalination and recycling to secure safe drinking water. As an EU member, Cyprus works with the U.S. and international partners on sustainable water management and promotes regional cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Bibliography:

1. *United Nations – Sustainable Development*. “Water and Sanitation.” *United Nations*, n.d., www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/.
2. *UN Water*. “UN Water.” *UN Water*, n.d., www.unwater.org/.
3. *United Nations Development Programme*. “Water.” *UNDP*, n.d., www.undp.org/water.
4. *UNICEF*. “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).” *UNICEF*, n.d., www.unicef.org/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash.
5. *World Health Organization*. “Water, Sanitation and Health.” *WHO*, n.d., www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health.
6. *UNECE*. “Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation.” *UNECE*, n.d., unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-protocol/equitable-access-water-and-sanitation.