

**Freshman #6**

TOPIC:Improving water qulaity



# SOCOMUN XXVII

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Improving Water Quality

Hello everyone! My name is Emily Shiraishi and I will be one of your co-chairs this year at SOCOMUN! I am a senior and I’ve been in MUN since freshman year. I attended the UC Santa Barbra conference when I was a sophomore and had the privilege of travelling to London, England to attend RRSMUN during my junior year. Aside from MUN, I am a part of Ambassadors, Link Crew, and Advanced Women’s Choir. All these activities and MUN keep me busy but all have allowed me to gain better people skills, public speaking skills, and leadership skills. MUN has allowed me to become more involved in global relations. I used to hear things on the news and think how terrible but now I think what some solutions for this issue are. MUN has changed my thinking. I no longer think of the world as the United States, I think of the world as Norway or Argentina or Australia. It has taught me not to be so small minded but to think bigger and outside of the box.

As a co-chair, it is my job to ensure that you all leave SOCOMUN with a better understanding of MUN and how conferences work. I understand that it is your first conference therefore, there are no stupid questions. I am here to answer any questions that you may have about MUN. Just to give you an overview of how the day will go. We will start with sharing country policy and solutions that you have proposed. Then you will go into caucus to discuss with other delegates, their policy and their solutions. After this, you will being to form resolutions and then they will be presented by your resolution group in front of the committee to be voted on. If you have any questions, email me at [socomunfresh6@gmail.com](mailto:socomunfresh6@gmail.com) . I’m so excited to meet all of you and hear your solutions!

Hello! My name is Jack O’Keefe and I will be your legal for SOCOMUN this year. I am a junior in my third year of MUN. I really enjoy it and I believe it has brought me to think more creatively and has allowed me to meet some very interesting people. I plan to do MUN all 4 years of high school, and it will prepare me for many challenges in the years to come. I believe that it is a great experience, and everyone will gain a lot from participating in it.

Hello, my name is Emily Endraws and I will be your secretary for SOCOMUN. I’ve been doing MUN for the two years I’ve been at SMCHS. I like MUN because I like to learn more information and I like to argue and debate over information. MUN helps me discover what is going on around me and help the community around me. Some helpful hints that helped me when I came was to look at the topic synopsis. Another thing that helped me feel more comfortable during the conference was that you are not the only person who has no idea what they are doing. Learning is an important step in this because these prompts are real world problems.

**Background:**

Water is a necessity for every living being on earth. As said in CNN “it is known as the elixir of life”. It is a source of energy as well as a defense that cleans out the toxins from our kidney and liver. Because water is essential to our living, not drinking it can prove to be fatal to us. Not Drinking water can lead to Dehydration which leads to excessive exhaustion and potentially death. In addition, drinking too much water can also prove to be unhealthy, known as water intoxication. Drinking excessive amounts of water can lead to the influx of the sodium levels in your blood. Considering this, water can be beneficial and detrimental to our livelihood. Therefore, because water is so important, it is essential that the quality of water is safe for drinking. Consuming water of a poor quality can also be harmful to a human’s health. Drinking water that contains Salmonella in it can lead to Typhoid fever which includes excessive diarrhea. Consuming water than contains E. coli in it can lead to a fever followed by abdominal cramps that can lead to diarrhea. Most commonly found in children of young ages in developing countries, E. coli can lead to an infection called Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) which causes kidney failure. Besides the effects of E. coli, the quality of water is degraded through the use of chemical pesticides unkempt waste control leading the sewage overflows, and gradual nutrient depreciation in river basins. These additional effects lead to the spread of harmful parasites such as Giardia and Norovirus. Digesting water that has Hepatitis A can lead to yellowing of the skin, nausea, fever, vomiting, and stomach pain. People is developed countries to contract illnesses like these, are easily able to go to the doctor’s office and obtained prescribed medication to get rid of the illness. However, people in developing countries have no way of being able to immediately go to the doctor’s office. In fact, many offices where they can receive help requires them to walk miles which is impossible based on the condition.

Because water covers 70% of the earth, it is assumed that there are no issues with obtaining clean water. However, “only 3% of the world’s water is fresh water, and two-thirds of that is tucked away in frozen glaciers or unavailable for use” (WWF). Considering the world’s population, 7.6 billion, 6.2 billion of people do not have access to clean water due to poor sanitation which leads to disease in men, women, children, and newborns. Most freshwater rivers and lakes are becoming polluted, the changes in climate are taking a toll on the environment, and agriculture is becoming a big consumer of water which means other natural sources or ways to obtain clean water are needed. With this rate, the consumption will only increase and “By 2025, two-thirds of the world’s population will face water shortages” (WWF).

Keeping this in mind, the United Nations has approved many resolutions to combat poor water quality. Resolution 64/292 and 54/175, led the United Nations to distinguish that it is a basic, fundamental human right to have clean water and sanitation. The World Health Organization stated through Resolution 64/24 that to provide clean water and sanitation, the national health strategies of countries must be improved. In addition, the Human Rights Council also declared that there would be expert monitors appointed to report and diagnose the implementations to the right of water and as well as make sure to take note of any violations. Obtaining clean water is difficult for citizens in developing countries. Therefore, the priority and duty of this committee is to find solutions to better the lives of citizens of these countries so that they will not suffer from dehydration, waterborne illnesses, or the violations of their basic human rights.

**Possible Solutions:**

To contest the poor water quality, delegates should consider long term and short-term solutions. There are many cost effective and innovative solutions that can be given to citizens in developing countries. You should also focus on finding solutions that can be applicable to nations worldwide. If there is a solution that can only be applied to developing countries or developed countries, then you should make sure that you specify. This is the most important part of debate at the conference as it allows everyone to come together and collaborate as well as allows everyone to speak confidently about their solutions. As I have written below, no solution is outrageous or absurd. If you are able to confidently prove and speak for your solution, it is valid. Here are a few suggested solutions that act as an example to steer you in the right direction.

These are a couple of long term solutions the first solution is to create desalination plants. Desalinization is the process of purifying sea or salt water drinkable for humans. These plants will most prominently be placed in developing countries that are not landlocked, as they will have a clearer access to sea and salt water. This solution has been implemented in Saudi Arabia where this plant has been able to produce more than 272 million gallons on safe drinking water every day. Desalinization plants will most likely be a solution that everyone has but I encourage you to think outside of the box and come up with other different solutions. The second solution is to harvest water out of thin air. A company named Eole, has recently stated that it is possible to harvest water out of the fog in the air mostly in very dry parts of the world. This solution is currently functioning in the UAE, United Arab Emirates, where they are producing up to 16 gallons of water per hour through the atmosphere. The third solution is to attempt to harvest water from fog. This technique has been used in the Andean Mountains in South America. They have been able to create fog borders which sit above the rain line where the water is then condensed and harvested into safe water.

Listed are various short-term solutions which directly address the humanitarian aid of the citizens. The fourth solution is to utilize the WaterCredit Initiative. Through microfinancing, WaterCredit gives small loans to those who need funds to make sanitations solutions a reality. The benefit of this solution is that there is a large group of people that are gifting small, repayable amount of money to people in developing countries. The fifth solution is to distribute LifeStraws to citizens in developing countries. It a nine-inch straw that simply needs to be inserted into unfiltered water and suck which will result in the contaminants being filtered out and the water will become clean. The straw is simple and cost effective which helps clean out arsenic which is often found in ground water. Lastly, the sixth solution is to provide education to citizens. Most of the waterborne illnesses can be prevented through boiling water for 60 seconds before consumption. If citizens had been aware of this, they would be less likely to catch waterborne illnesses and will be less likely to get sick which would decrease the mortality rate of developing countries. Therefore, utilizing teacher without borders which could strictly be a volunteer teacher basis. It would allow medical students or other trained medical personnel to visit developing countries and train them in prevention of consuming unclean water and ways to harvest clean water in an emergency. We encourage you to build upon these solutions as well as come up with your own. Also, please make sure all solutions you propose align with your country policy.

**Questions to Consider:**

*(Use these as a guide to research but they will not need to be answered on the day of the conference.)*

1. In addition to the resolutions that have been passed, what other actions have the United Nations taken to help developing countries? What branches of the United Nations have been active in this issue?
2. What are some NGO’s that actively working to provide clean and safe water to citizens around the world?
3. How will you get nations to prioritize water quality in order to make the necessary change?
4. What will you do in nations that are near a war zone to protect water sources?
5. How will you improve water quality in refugee camps?
6. How can your nation use its local dissolved oxygen statistics to derive better water filtration systems and water maintenance strategies?
7. Does your country policy support the creation of a global water conservancy project or prefer for every nation to utilize independent federal programs?
8. Does your country agree with all previous resolutions on this issue? Which would you consider revising?
9. Who are your country’s preferred partners when working to solve this issue? What other nations have similar policies?
10. On a long-term scale, what existing agencies and organizations would you actively involve to alleviate this issue?

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| **Goal 6 Targets. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all** |
| 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all |
| 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations |
| 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally |
| 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity |
| 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate |
| 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes |
| 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies |
| 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management |

Works Cited:

“Meet the Man Who Helped 4 Million People Get Access to Safe Water in Just Two

Years.”ONE, 26 Sept. 2016, www.one.org/us/2015/09/22/global-goal-6-clean-water-

and-sanitation

NGO to help with Sanitation. Talks about their leader and plans to improve. It could be a good basic source to understand the problem and some basic solutions.

“Global Engagement.” Water.org, water.org/about-us/our-work/global-advocacy

Water.org plans to provide clean water to rural villages by working with local governments. This source is credible and has a clear path for their goals. Can help to provide framework for clean water.

“Why Water? The Water Problem in Africa.” The Water Project, thewaterproject.org/why-water/

This source provides a background explanation and some basic ideas on how to solve the crisis. The source provides adequate facts and is credible. This can be used to learn the necessary background knowledge of the topic.

“How the UNICEF Tap Project Brought Safe Water to Over 500,000 People.” UNICEF USA, 22 Mar. 2017, [www.unicefusa.org/stories/how-unicef-tap-project-brought-safe-water-over-500000-people/30643](http://www.unicefusa.org/stories/how-unicef-tap-project-brought-safe-water-over-500000-people/30643)

This source explains UNICEF’s achievements in water sanitation. It provides background information about UN and is credible. It can be used to better understand UN involvement.

“Water and Sanitation - United Nations Sustainable Development.” United Nations, United Nations, [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation)

This source is the website for goal #6, which is the topic. It comes straight from the UN and provides adequate background on the topic. This can be used to understand UN intervention and policies.

Scarcity, Decade, Water for Life, 2015, UN-Water, United Nations, MDG, Water, Sanitation, Financing, Gender, IWRM, Human Right, Transboundary, Cities, Quality, Food Security.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/scarcity.shtml](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/scarcity.shtml)

Water quality is an important because when there is unclean water, diseases spread. This website is useful because water is decreasing is a worldwide problem which is emphasized here. This is also a reliable source because it is from the UN or United Nations

“Water Scarcity.” *WWF*, World Wildlife Fund, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/water-scarcity.

Water is the most important tool we need to live. We may think there is plentiful, but we are wrong. To help find solutions for this problem, understanding the topic is key. We don’t just use water to drink, but we use it daily, on most things around us.

“Countries Compared by Geography > Area > Water. International Statistics.”*NationMaster.com*, NationMaster, [www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Geography/Area/Water](http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Geography/Area/Water)

Understanding how much water each country has can also help find a solution. Noticing how a developed country might have a lot more water than an undeveloped country can help find a way to help. Knowing which countries have the resources can help find which countries to work with.

“Waterborne Diseases.” *Drinking Contaminated Water Can Lead to Waterborne Diseases.*, [www.vestergaard.com/global-challenges/waterborne-diseases](http://www.vestergaard.com/global-challenges/waterborne-diseases)

Knowing the problems that unclean water can cause, makes the problem even more of an importance to fix. This issue is one problem that no one seems to care about, so fixing it is critical. Knowing what the problem is, is always the first step to fixing it.

“Water Scarcity.” *WWF*, World Wildlife Fund, [www.worldwildlife.org/threats/water-scarcity](http://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/water-scarcity)

The Un has tried to fix the problem and has come up with solution to help the problem decrease. It also talks about what we use water for and how, with the decreasing amount, that’s going to take a toll. This is also from the UN, which is a reliable source and is very useful.