



Canadian High Schools Model United Nations Conference

# CAHS MUN

Vancouver, British Columbia | March 2nd to 4th, 2012

## UNHRC

Human Trafficking | Advancement of Women | Access to Clean Water

# UNHRC

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Welcome from the Dais	1	Salutations Delegates,
Writing Position Papers	2	The committee staff for the UNHRC is proud to be your dais for this year's CAHSMUN 2012, one of the largest, if not the largest, conference on the west coast. This year at CAHSMUN we look forward to bringing you the best possible, and stationary free, committee session, chalk filled with suspenseful and constructive debate. Though this committee will not be a cake walk, this year in the UNHRC we have 3 well picked topics pinpointing the many different styles, and views of debate. The first of the three topics is a conflict oriented, ways to combat human trafficking. The second of the three topics on equality rights, more precisely, the change of the status of women in politics. The final of the three topics, which are very much related to development, is ways to ensure clean drinking water and sanitation. We hope, and will try in our best efforts, that you will have one of the most constructive of committee sessions this year in the UNHRC at CAHSMUN 2012, and we hope to see you there.
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Topic Three: Measures to Ensure Clean Water and Sanitation	14	<b>Director: Eric Han</b> As an advocate of global acceptance, and the hopeful death of ignorance as a whole, as well as an advocate against stationary, Eric hopes to help fulfill delegate's needs for a fast paced, interesting, while still constructive committee. Eric, a grade 12 student from Fraser Heights Secondary, beginning his MUN career in grade 10 has become accustomed to the system, accustomed so much, that Eric's future rests upon the world staying intact until he reaches his goal of joining the Canadian Foreign Service. Eric hopes that he can make this committee both fun and informative so that all delegates will go on spreading their new found acceptance and casting all shells of ignorance aside.
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Conference Rules	19	<b>Chair: Natasha Lam</b> As the chair for UNHRC, Natasha Lam is truly excited to have the privilege of chairing at such a distinctive and innovative committee. Natasha is a high school student in Grade Eleven from Little Flower Academy, and this is her first time playing a role in conference organization. She first entered the realm of Model United Nations last year, and immediately discovered her passion for youth voice and empowerment. This past summer Natasha went on a medical internship in rural Yunnan, China, and there she realized the need for international cooperation in improving quality of life and addressing world issues. In the future, she aspires to become a pediatric cardiologist, and hopes to work with Doctors without Borders to provide basic healthcare services in Third-World Countries. Natasha is greatly looking forward to meeting all the delegates and she is certain that this conference will be an unforgettable experience.

# Writing Position Papers

### What are Position Papers?

Position papers are a reflection of the preparation that delegates put towards a Model UN conference. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, NGO, or expert role. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee.

CAHSMUN will reward awards to delegation with the best position paper in each committee. In order for your position paper to be eligible for awards, please follow these guidelines:

- You must submit your position paper to your committee's email no later than February 24, 2012;
- Length cannot exceed two pages;
- The font must be Times New Roman, between 10 and 12 points;
- The margins must be one inch on all sides;
- The file format must be PDF or Word (.doc and .docx);
- Each topic is clearly segregated; and
- No national symbols (e.g. flag, coat of arms) can be displayed on the position paper.

Double Delegates will only need to submit one version of their position paper.

### Committee Email Addresses

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The following is a sample of an acceptable position paper.  
(Courtesy of the National Model United Nations Conference)

Delegation from  
The United Mexican States

Represented by  
(Name of College)

### **Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary**

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: the Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

#### **I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion**

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

### **II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions**

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoing Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the American Convention of Human Rights.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its National Program for Human Rights or the Plan Puebla Panama. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

### **III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa**

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

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The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an institutional reform of the United Nations is crucial in enhancing durable peace in Africa. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

### Committee Background

An inter-governmental body residing inside the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Council goals are to ensure the standards of life are being met internationally. The UNHRC has 47 seats for the member nations. Each term for seats have duration of 3 years with no nation allowed to control a seat for more than two terms successively. The seats are spread amongst nations as followed: 13 seats for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean, and seven for Western Europe and others. All nations upon entrance into the UNHRC are sworn to oath to follow the utmost pristine condition of human rights in their respective nations. Any nation that fails to meet and uphold these conditions will have their rights to the UNHRC suspended via a 2/3rds vote in the General Assembly.

The UNHRC follows a certain guide package that consists of 3 different major elements. The first element is the Universal Periodic Review, also known as the UPR; this element assesses the current state of human rights in all 192 nations in the United Nations. The second major element is the Advisory Committee, the major logistics element of the UNHRC, the Advisory Committee aids in making important decisions by providing knowledge of issues occurring, and issues past. The third and final major element of the UNHRC is the Complaint Procedure. The Complaint Procedure allows individuals and organizations to bring complaints about deviations in the standards of human rights to the attention of the Council.

The current president of the UNHRC is Laura Dupuy Lasserre of Uruguay, though the committee itself has been criticized for the blatant overuse and over discussion of the Israel-Palestine conflict, rather than addressing other matters, Laura Lasserre, the recently placed president of the UNHRC has not been a target of any such allegations creating a possibly more constructive use of session for the UNHRC.

# Topic One: Combating Human Trafficking

## Introduction

Human trafficking is defined as the act of illicit trade of human beings for the purpose of forced labour, usage in the sex trade, or modern slavery. Human trafficking is an important issue due to the illicit flow of capital and the rampant violations of international human rights regimes. It is estimated that the total annual revenue of human trafficking ranged from \$US 5 billion to 9 billion in 2004. This makes human trafficking the second most profitable illicit trade, placing after the trade of illicit narcotics. The United Nations estimated that the 2.5 million people from 127 different countries are currently being trafficked to 137 countries. Human trafficking is the fastest growing illicit trade at this time, making it a matter of utmost importance for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

There are numerous types of human trafficking, the first of which is known as debt bondage. Debt bondage is the act of imposing forced labour in return for an outstanding debt. Forced labour, quite similar to debt bondage, is the act of forcing work, mostly physical labour, upon persons with the threat of violence or other punishment. Sexual trafficking is the act of forcing individuals to work in sex trade, including prostitution, pornography, strip dancing, and other forms of sexual servitude.

The trafficking of children is especially problematic due to physical and emotional damages that may be caused during their development. It is estimated by the ILO (International Labour Organization) that currently 246 million children around the world, from ages 5 to 17, are being used as child labourers, child soldiers, drug traffickers, and child pornography. The trafficking of children often occurs when the parents are no longer able to care for the child and sell him or her to others for a profit, or use them to pay off debts or loans. Parents may also be deceived into believing that their child is being brought to an area with better living conditions, with adults who can properly care for the child. Instead, the children are often shipped off to foreign countries for sexual or physical labour. In Asian states, the problem stretches further than just reasons of poverty, as many children are stolen and kidnapped from their respective homes and families and are coerced into the sex trade. It is estimated by the United States Department of Justice that 30% of all child sex industry cases were caused by the coercion of the child.

## Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

The act of human trafficking for sexual exploitation is generally defined by the movement of individuals, usually female, to work in sex industries around the world. After this point the international law surrounding this act becomes ambiguous, as national laws differ in the interpretation thereof. For example, in the Netherlands, it is illegal to pay someone for sex, but criminality does not lie in the sex worker and instead lies on the patron. Furthermore, the differences between voluntary and forced prostitution is undefined as well. For example, a woman may be forced to work in prostitution because of her living situation, but this may also be interpreted as her working voluntarily in the sex trade to make ends meet.

When sex workers do become liberated, it is found that they are socially scarred and unable to function well in a normal lifestyle. This is especially true if the sex worker was introduced to the sex trade when he or she was younger and was still developing mentally. This also pertains to child soldiers, who have grown with the scars and horrors of war in their respective countries. After liberation, these children, or adolescents are unable to be reintegrated into their past environment, as well as many of these children being ailed with post traumatic stress disorder.

### **United Nations Involvement**

The United Nations has introduced the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking, also known as the UN.GIFT. The UN.GIFT was made initially to help fight against human trafficking; to this date 140 Member States have signed the protocol to prevent human trafficking, as well as suppress and punish those who practice human trafficking. They conduct investigations into different Member States to collect accurate figures of the reported trafficking acts. With this information, the UN.GIFT has published the Global Report of Trafficking in Persons. The basis to the UN.GIFT is the idea; human trafficking is an atrocity that not one nation alone can solve, it requires a multi platformed, multinational response.

The UN.GIFT mission statement goes as follows: UN.GIFT aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; ensuring adequate protection and support to those who fall victim; and supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons. In carrying out its mission, UN.GIFT will increase the knowledge and awareness on human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build capacity of state and non-state actors; and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.

### **Proposed Solutions**

Human trafficking is indeed a multifaceted problem, with complications not only pertaining to the simple end of human trafficking. For a solution to be reached, three important points must be addressed. Firstly the act of human trafficking must become less lucrative to those who partake in illicit activities, thus effectively stemming the demand for persons looped into the affairs of human trafficking. The social aspects of human trafficking must be addressed as well, thus secondly countries must consider how to stop people from entering the field of human trafficking, either as a trafficker or as one who will be trafficked. The social aspect of human trafficking also pertains to the usage of illicit narcotics to prevent those who are not currently associated with human trafficking, become so out of necessity. Finally the unification, or standardization of nation's policies on human trafficking must occur, as to globally take action to end human trafficking, this may include; the standardization of borders internationally, and the creation of a committee to discuss, and remain active upon, international human trafficking.

### **Conclusion**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has recognized the need for the act of human trafficking to end. The developed and developing world must work in cohesion to end a multi faceted problem to ensure the standardization of policies around the world pertaining to human trafficking. Nations have been recognized for their actions towards the end of human trafficking, though unfortunately it is still practiced, and is still very prevalent, though hopefully through the cooperation of the member states of the United Nations the world can see an end to human trafficking altogether.

### **Questions to Consider**

What is your country's current record with human trafficking?

What are your country's current views on human trafficking?

What are your country's views on prostitution?

What has your country done in the past to address human trafficking?

What are your country's views on debt bondage?

Has your nation signed the UN.GIFT Protocol to combat human trafficking?

What is your country's current record with child soldiers?

## Topic Two:

# Advancement of Women in Government and Politics

### Introduction

Women today have the opportunity to show their abilities and talents, but are still faced with obstacles such as public opinion and established societal stereotypes. Statistics show that there are a strikingly low number of women currently involved in politics. One would think that since women comprise of half of the global population, politics would be reflective of this; however, as of 2011, only 28 countries can claim that their parliamentary representation of women have reached 30% or more. Women serve as heads of government in nineteen countries, but are still vastly underrepresented globally.

### Current Situation

The third United Nations Millennium Development Goal works to promote gender equality and empower women, and one of the first steps to achieving this goal is through increased involvement of women in decision-making processes. Women account for half the population, and therefore should be entitled to be represented as such. The increased participation of women in all levels of democratic governance will also diversify the character of democratic assemblies. Equal representation of men and women also enhance the legitimacy of democracy. When women are discriminated against in politics, their experiences, talents, and perspectives are not reflected in policy decisions, and prospects for a better world are neglected. In addition, their participation makes a significant difference because they bring different views and visions and can shape the political agenda. For example, they have been instrumental in directing attention to eliminate all forms of violence against women. However, under the concept of critical mass, these interests can only be heard when certain levels of representation are achieved.

Many obstacles currently prevent the accomplishment of this goal, and quotas and reserved representation are often the only way for women to enter the political process. One major problem is political violence in countries such as El Salvador, where females who occupy posts in municipal governments experience violence and political harassment. They are discriminated against during electoral campaigns, where they receive substantially smaller amounts of financial support. Furthermore, the direct impact of electoral systems on the participation of women must also be noted. Research done by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women shows that representation is highest in countries using proportional representation (PR) systems. The balance in electoral tickets results in greater demands for equality in decision-making. The Kingdom of Swaziland uses a non-party based system known as Tinkhundla, where parliamentarians are directly nominated from the community. In electoral systems like these, women are easily sidelined because of traditional biases in favour of male leadership. Organization of political parties can also be an obstacle because party leaders may treat female members as a means to secure women's votes and involve them solely for party lobbying activities.

### **Past United Nations Actions and Treaties**

When the United Nations First World Conference on Women was held in 1975, governments were called upon to develop strategies to promote equal participation of women, but it was not yet identified as a priority. A decade later in Nairobi, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women recognized the increasing need for attention towards the advancement of women in government. In 1979, the General Assembly passed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (A/RES/34/830), stating appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate discrimination against women in both governmental and public life. By accepting the convention, states commit themselves to “incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones, and prohibit all forms of discrimination against women.” In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Beijing Platform for Action governments affirmed their commitment to promote and protect the human rights of women, emphasizing equal participation by women in decision-making, and called on governments to monitor and evaluate progress through collection, analysis, and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data. Moreover, the target of 30% was set as the figure believed to be necessary for women to make a visible impact on political decisions. The establishment of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) supported efforts to increase the share of women elected, as well as increase their political effectiveness as legislators.

Women’s political rights also involves other UN bodies, such as the UN Security Council, who adopted Women, Peace, and Security (S/RES/1325), recognizing the important role women play in conflict resolution and peace negotiations. The United Nations Democracy Fund has supported a two-year initiative carried out by the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC) to focus on advocating for women’s political participation and representation and developing empowerment strategies for female parliamentarians in Southern Africa through the establishment of female parliamentary caucuses. On the July 2, 2010, the General Assembly voted unanimously in favour of the creation of a special organ of the UN (A/RES/65/191). The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) became operational in January 2011, seeking to promote gender equality and advancement of women.

### **Efforts by Member States**

Advancement of women in government and politics also depends on the cooperation and individual efforts of Member States, many of which have taken action. Women deepen democracy by transforming politics for gender equality, especially in transitional governments such as those of Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, demanding change, rights, dignity, and opportunity through pro-democracy protest movements and media outlets. In Afghanistan, women suffered oppression under the Taliban, but received a voice in the national government after the establishment of a 25% quota for female representation in Parliament. Other countries that have adopted quotas or constitutional amendments include Bolivia, Senegal, Egypt, Albania, and Burkina Faso. Positive results can also be found in Iraq, where woman have been committed to exercising their right to vote and to run for office, despite doing so at great personal peril. More women run for the provincial council than the allowed quota because they are willing to make sacrifices in order to improve quality of life in their communities.

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Moreover, one of the most compelling cases is that of the African Union, where the Africa Union Constitutive Act requires its members to have a 50% representation of women commissioners. As a result, Member States such as Rwanda have achieved monumental change. In 2008, the number of women in ministerial positions amounted to a mere 16.7%, but statistics in 2011 indicate that representation now stands at a monumental 56%, far exceeding the critical mass goal of 30%. The presence of an activist women's caucus and a highly developed model of consultative policymaking initiated this breakthrough in women's rights.

Sweden also recognized the role of men in promoting gender equality. Men can support the initiatives and movements of women, leverage them into positions of power, and alter traditional views of sole male leadership. The Swedish Parliamentarian Network encourages male parliamentarians to engage in debates and dialogues within parliament to broaden their perspectives on gender equality.

### **Proposed Solutions**

The advancement of women in government and politics can be achieved through the four key interrelated concepts of political participation, political representation, political leadership, and political accountability at all levels of governance. Political participation involves the development of political agendas by women through debate, discussion, and petitioning in formal and informal ways. Political representation encompasses the presentation of political agendas in decision-making arenas and key social forums. Political leadership means allowing women to take the lead in articulating political agendas and then translating them into policy. Political accountability includes being held responsible for decisions, and when appropriate, acting upon criticism and demands of the public.

In order to increase the effectiveness of women in legislation, leadership training programs should be instated to assist them in becoming more active candidates at national, provincial, and local levels of government. Access to power has been gained through involvement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), where they have developed leadership skills and gained relevant experience through exchange programs and partnership initiatives, so partnerships with NGOs is also necessary. Women should also receive education of the rights of the individual, as well as collective rights that they are entitled to, in addition to how to demand that these rights are upheld. This can be achieved through the formation of academic and research bodies that are actively involved in policy institutions and political debates. Through the development of personal characters such as self-confidence, women are better prepared for political careers. Furthermore, societal stereotypes regarding gender roles can also be eliminated through reconciliation of work and family responsibilities for both men and women. Social networks and media outlets can also be exploited to raise the political prestige of women. Political parties can also attract female candidates by providing incentive funding to run an election campaign, providing access to networks and skill development.

### **Conclusion**

In the words of the United Nations Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon, “Democratic ideals of inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency cannot be achieved without laws, policies, measures, and practices that address inequalities.” The United Nations Human Rights Council recognizes that progress made in the parliaments of Member States has begun to represent the interests of both genders, Female participation in politics has become a rising concern, but barriers to complete eradication against discrimination of women in government and politics still remain in existence. Through the cooperation of member states, there will one day be a partnership of equality, where voices of men and women are welcomed with equal respect, and both genders work together to ensure that discrimination against is truly put to an end.

### **Questions to Consider**

Does your country have a female participating in politics?

How has your nation voted upon resolutions pertaining to the rights of women?

What is your countries view on females participating in politics?

What is the traditional/cultural role of females in your country?

## Topic Three:

# Measures to Ensure Clean Water and Sanitation

### Introduction

Clean water and sanitation was declared to be a human right by the passing of Resolution 64/292 during the 108th plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on July 28, 2010. This resolution was passed to ensure that all peoples would have access to clean, safe water, as well as calling all Member States to provide financial resources and technology to create safe water areas. The General Assembly has shown its concerns for the expected 884 million individuals without access to safe drinking water, and the 2.6 billion that lacked access to basic sanitation. This resolution, however, was not passed with consensus, thereby undermining global efforts to provide safe water and clean sanitation.

Bolivia's representative has stated that despite the constant references to the importance of clean water as a basic human right, lack of water has killed more children annually than measles, malaria, and AIDS. In 2010, it is estimated that 84% of all people had access to clean water supply. These water supplies are not limited to those of western convenience and can include public wells, protected springs, water kiosks, and standpipes. 14% of the global population, however, use unprotected streams, wells, canals, lakes, and rivers. These sources of water are susceptible to water-borne diseases, which can be life threatening.

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the largest problem areas for ensuring clean water and sanitation. Despite improvement over the past few years, the percentage of people with access to clean water has improved to 60% in 2008 from 49% in 1990. In Sub-Saharan Africa, basic sanitation over the span of 18 years from 1990 to 2008 has only had the percentage of citizens with sanitation increase by 3% from 28% to 31%. These numbers make it almost definite that the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will not reach the millennium development goals.

### Clean Water and Sanitation in the Developing World

Clean water and sanitation is very difficult issue in the developing world due to lack of basic infrastructure. For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the general health of people in the country is directly correlated with the amount of clean drinking water and sanitation. For example, around the world, the less than five national mortality rates are decreasing, but in Sub-Saharan Africa, the decrease is the least significant, demonstrating the very low standards of health in that region.

The existence of violence or political instability is generally the reason why a country lacks in providing safe drinking water and clean sanitation to its population; the lack of public health subsequently endangers economic growth and prosperity, leading back to violence and political instability. In Sub-Saharan Africa, many countries have had to deal with the post-conflict reconstruction, including the repatriation of former soldiers and reconciliation efforts between former warring parties; their past lifestyles may prohibit them from fully integrating into mainstream society and be productive members. Sub-Saharan Africa also lacks in infrastructure due to the aforementioned reasons. At this point in time, almost every single country in Sub-Saharan Africa is in a state of development that is not only poor, but also very much lacking in infrastructure. The cycle of poor infrastructure, lack of effective governance, and poverty continues.

### **Clean Water and Sanitation in Developed Countries**

Clean water and sanitation in many developed countries is nearly universal. For example, the statistics of Canadians without access to clean drinking water is immeasurable. For sanitation, 75% of all Canadians have access to a municipal sewage system; the remaining 25% has a septic disposal system. The freshwater supply is continuous and abundant and is of excellent quality. Due to the participation of developed countries in international trade, potable water can be through this means.

In Resolution 64/292, the United Nations encouraged Member States to share their clean water and sanitation technologies with other Member States, especially those that are developing. This pertains to developed countries as it is within their powers to share the technologies that they have developed to further the living standards of people living in the developing world.

### **Past United Nations Actions**

As mentioned previously, the United Nations has passed a resolution to officially recognize clean water and sanitation as basic human rights. The resolution called upon all Member States to aid poorer Member States with materiel and the technology transfers to improve access to clean water and sanitation. The resolution also mandated Catarina de Albuquerque, the UN independent expert on human rights, to report annually to the General Assembly on the progress of the global initiative for clean water and sanitation, as well as progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Millennium Development Goals and Water**

We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want. (UN Millennium Declaration, UN A/Res/55/2, 2000.)

According to the World Water Development Report (WWDR), problems of poverty are inextricably associated with the water availability, quantity, quality, and its proximity. Improving access to water has the potential to make a major contribution towards poverty eradication. Addressing this would contribute to the meeting of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 1: Eradicating Extreme Hunger and Poverty.

Some 11 million children under 5 die each year, mostly due to preventable diseases. Children being hardest hit by water born disease. This pertains to Goal 4: Reducing Child Mortality. According to the WWDR, 70% of all people who died of diarrhoeal disease were children.

### **Proposed Solutions**

As clean water and sanitation is an issue that requires much international agreement, and cohesion, many steps must be taken to overcome the issue of the lack of clean water and sanitation. Firstly developed nations must either commence, or increase technology to developing nations that pertains to clean water and sanitation. This technology sharing must also include all nations that have issues with clean water and sanitation, as this problem is one that is global, countries akin to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea requires clean water and sanitation as well. Secondly, countries, especially those that are developing, must be encouraged to improve infrastructure so that water can become more accessible to those that require it, namely the impoverished.

### **Conclusion**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has recognized the issue of clean water and sanitation in the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in resolution 64/292 during the 108th plenary meeting of the General Assembly. To completely eradicate the issue of the lack of clean water and sanitation worldwide, all nations must work together, and no nation can be left out of the sharing of technologies to combat the lack of clean water and sanitation, or else the problem will still be present. Though with the cooperation of nations within the United Nations and those outside as well, universal clean water and sanitation is a goal that seems reachable

### **Questions to Consider**

What is the progress your country has made towards the Millennium Development Goals, specifically those related to sanitation and access to water?

How has your country been affected by the lack of access to clean water and sanitation? Is your country in a position to provide assistance in this regard?

How does geography affect your country's ability to access clean water and sanitation?

How has infrastructure or the lack thereof, affected the provision of clean water and sanitation?

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# Conference Rules

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

### **Rule 1 – Date of Meeting**

The bodies of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall meet every year in regular session.

### **Rule 2 – Delegations**

The delegation of each Member State shall consist of no more than two representatives in any committee.

### **Rule 3 – Duties of the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall act as the highest presiding officer and shall direct the staff of all bodies. The Secretary-General may designate an officer of the Secretariat to act on his or her behalf.

### **Rule 4 – Duties of the Chairman**

The Chairman, as a presiding officer acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the committee, enforce the rules of procedure, accord the right to speak, and announce decisions. The Chairman shall rule on points of order and may propose motions to the committee. Motions shall be addressed by the Chairman upon his or her discretion. The Chairman shall accept, approve, and introduce draft resolutions to the committee.

*Comment: Working papers will be submitted to the Director of each committee, who will provide stylistic and substantive edits. Working papers will be introduced to the floor at the discretion of the Director; delegates no longer move to introduce a draft resolution.*

### **Rule 5 – Invitation to a Moment of Silence**

Immediately upon the opening of the meeting, a Member State may move to observe a moment of silence.

*Comment: The purpose of the moment of silence may not be directed towards a single event. For example, a delegate may dedicate a moment of silence to those affected by famine, but may not dedicate it to those affected by the 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa.*

### **Rule 6 – Provisional Agenda**

Each committee shall order the provisional agenda provided by the Secretary-General. A proposed agenda shall include all topics provided in the provisional agenda. A simple majority is required to approve an agenda order. A speakers list shall be established for the purposes of discussing the order of the agenda. Motions to set the agenda will be voted upon in the order in which they were received.

### **Rule 7 – Amendment to the Agenda**

A committee may change the order in which it considers topics. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the agenda. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

*Comment: A motion to amend the agenda will only be entertained after a topic has been closed and all related substantive matters have been put to a vote. A Member State may not move to amend the agenda during substantive debate.*

### **Rule 8 – Quorum**

The Chairman may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed or a procedural vote to be taken when at least one-quarter of the Member States are present.

### **Rule 9 – Speeches**

No Member State may address a committee without the explicit consent of the Chairman. Member States shall address the committee in the order of the speakers list. The Chairman shall call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The Chairman shall establish a time limit on speeches upon the opening of the meeting and may entertain motions to amend the time limit. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the time limit. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

*Comment: Delegates may speak as often as they wish, but each country may only appear once in the active speakers list. For Member States with two delegates, courtesy dictates that only one delegate shall address the floor during substantive and procedural speeches.*

### **Rule 10 – Questions to the Speaker**

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may inform the Chairman that he or she will accept questions from the floor. At such time, the Chairman will recognize two Member States to pose substantive questions to the speaker in regards to the preceding speech. The speaker shall have the remaining allotted time to answer both questions.

### **Rule 11 – Yields**

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may yield his or her remaining time to another Member State. The subsequent speaker may not yield any additional time. Representatives may not yield to another representative of the same Member State.

### **Rule 12 – Closing of the Speakers List**

The speakers list may be closed at any time upon the majority vote of the Member States present and voting.

*Comment: When a speakers list is exhausted, debate automatically ends and the committee automatically enters into voting procedure.*

### **Rule 13 – Reopening of the Speakers List**

The speakers list may be reopened upon a motion from an Member State as long as there are active speakers on the speakers list at the time of the motion. The Chairman shall entertain one speaker in favour and one opposed to this motion. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

### **Rule 14 – Right of Reply**

If a speaker has impugned the national integrity of another Member State or Observer, or the personal integrity of another representative, the Chairman may allow that Member State or representative appropriate speaking time to exercise the right of reply.

*Comment: The delegate must submit a written statement to the Director at the conclusion of the remarks in question, explaining why a right of reply is warranted. The Director will approve or reject the right of reply; if approved, the Director will ask the delegate to read the same written statement to the committee.*

### **Rule 15 – Point of Order**

A Member State may rise to a point of order to bring attention to the Chairman an error in the execution of the rules. The representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

*Comment: Delegates should allow the courtesy of letting the speaker finish before rising to a point of order; nonetheless, we recognize the need to interrupt the speaker. The point of order will be the only point recognized at CAHSMUN in order to reflect the actual United Nations procedures as much as possible and to reduce the frequency of filibustering. If a delegate wishes to rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry or a point of personal privilege, he or she should communicate privately with the Director.*

### **Rule 16 – Appeal of the Chair**

A Member State may appeal a discretionary ruling of the Chairman. The representative may explain the nature of the appeal and the Chairman may explain the basis of his or her ruling. A simple majority is required to overturn the discretionary ruling of the Chairman.

*Comment: A “Yes” vote means that the delegate wants to overrule the decision of the Chairman, whereas a “No” vote means the delegate agrees with the discretion of the Chairman.*

### **Rule 17 – Suspension of the Meeting**

A Member State may move to suspend the meeting for a specific amount of time. A simple majority is required to suspend.

*Comment: Suspensions are used for caucusing and breaks between sessions. Based on his or her judgement of the committee's progress, the Director may suggest an alternative amount of time for the suspension. In order to reflect actual United Nations procedures and to reduce the frequency of filibustering, all suspensions will be "unmoderated." Provisions for moderated debate is set out in Rule 18.*

### **Rule 18 – Moderated Debate**

At any point after a draft resolution has been introduced, a Member State may move to enter moderated debate on a draft resolution. The motion to enter moderated debate must specify the draft resolution. A simple majority is required to pass this motion.

*Comment: During a moderated debate, the speakers list is temporarily suspended and the Director will identify each speaker from those wishing to speak. During a moderated debate, the discussion may only pertain to the draft resolution in question and should be used for clarification and discussions of amendments in a more structured setting.*

### **Rule 19 – Closure of Debate**

A Member State may move the closure of debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize only two Member States opposing the closure to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion, and if passed, the Chairman shall declare the topic closed.

*Comment: When debate is closed on a topic, the committee immediately goes into voting procedure and consider all draft resolutions and amendments on the floor. Motions to close debate are generally ruled dilatory until there has been substantial discussion on the topic.*

### **Rule 20 – Adjournment of Debate and Reconsideration**

A Member State may move to adjourn debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize two Member States in favour of and two against to speak. A simple majority is required to pass this motion. If this motion passes, the body will begin discussion on the following topic on the agenda without deciding on the adjourned topic.

A Member State may move to reconsider a topic that has been adjourned. The Chairman shall recognize one Member State in favour of and one against to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion.

*Comment: Adjournment of debate is used to end discussion on a topic without voting and move on to the next item of the agenda. If an adjourned topic is approved for reconsideration, it shall be placed as the following topic on the agenda after the discussion on the current topic expires.*

### **Rule 21 – Adjournment of Meeting**

A Member State may move to adjourn the meeting and reconvene the body at the next scheduled date. A simple majority is required to adjourn the meeting.

*Comment: This motion can only be used during the last committee session and during the closing ceremonies.*

### **Rule 22 – Resolutions and Amendments**

Resolutions and amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman, who shall circulate copies to Member States upon approval. No resolutions or amendments shall be voted upon unless copies have been distributed to the body.

*Comment: All working papers must be submitted to the Director, who may provide substantive and grammatical edits on the paper and return it to the authors before approving it to be a draft resolution. The number of sponsors and signatories must add up to 20% of the quorum of the committee or five Member States, whichever number is greater. Sponsorship indicates support for and agreement with the working paper or amendment. A signatory does not necessarily support or agree with the document; this Member State simply wishes the document to be discussed. Working papers, as they are unofficial documents of the committee, will not be distributed by the Director and cannot be referred to in speeches.*

### **Rule 23 – Voting Rights**

Each Member State of the United Nations shall have one vote.

*Comment: Observer delegations may note on procedural motions but not on substantive matters. Member States with two representatives still have one vote.*

### **Rule 24 – Presence**

A Member State who is “present and voting” shall only cast an affirmative or negative vote in substantive matters. A Member State who is “present” may choose to abstain in substantive matters. All Member States may only vote in the affirmative or the negative in procedural matters.

### **Rule 24 – Method of Voting**

All motions, draft resolutions and amendments, unless specified in the Rules of Procedure, require a simple majority to pass. If a vote is equally divided, that motion, draft resolution, or amendment fails. A two-thirds majority is required for certain motions. Abstentions do not count as votes for the purposes of determining a simple or two-thirds majority. All votes shall take place by a show of placards.

A Member State may request a roll-call vote on a draft resolution or amendment. The roll-call vote shall take place in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States, beginning with the Member State who requested the roll-call vote. Unless a Member State is “present and voting”, each Member State may choose to vote “yes”, vote “no”, or abstain. (continued on next page)

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All Member States may also choose to “pass” and when the Member State is called upon a second time to cast a vote, the representative may only vote in the affirmative or the negative. A roll-call vote is granted upon request and does not require a decision from the body or the Chairman. At the discretion of the Chairman, Member States may explain their vote (yes, no, or abstain) after a roll-call vote. Sponsors to the draft resolution or amendment may not explain their vote after a roll-call vote.

### **Rule 25 – Conduct during Voting Procedure**

Once the Chairman announces the beginning of voting procedure, the meeting room shall be closed and remain closed for the duration of voting procedure. Proper decorum shall be observed by Member States. Member States may only speak upon the Chairman’s request for points or motions.

### **Rule 26 – Amendments and Divisions of the Question**

Amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman before the commencement of voting procedure and shall be entertained first for each draft resolution. If there are several amendments under consideration, those that are “friendly” shall be automatically incorporated into the draft resolution without a vote. The Chairman shall order the “unfriendly” amendments in the order of most destructive to least destructive. A simple majority is required to approve “unfriendly” amendments.

After the incorporation of amendments, A Member State may move to divide certain operative clauses of the draft resolution. The intent of such a division is to highlight the operative clause(s) in question.

1. The Chairman shall recognize two speakers in favour of and two speakers against such a division. A procedural vote will take place to determine if the body wishes to proceed with such a division.
2. If the procedural vote passes, the body shall then consider the placement of the clause(s) in question in a substantive vote. If this vote passes, the clause(s) will be placed in the Annex of the draft resolution. If this vote fails, the clause(s) will be discarded.
3. If the procedural vote fails, the clause(s) in question will remain in the main text of the draft resolution and no further vote will take place on the motion.

Only operative clauses can be subjected to amendments and divisions of the question. Member States may only divide entire operative clauses.

### **Rule 27 – Voting on Draft Resolutions**

Draft resolutions for a topic shall be considered in the order in which the Chairman had recognized them as official documents of the body.

### ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Point of Order</b>	Correct an error in procedure	None	None	
<b>Appeal the Decision of the Chair</b>	Challenge a decision of the Chair	None	Majority	Applicable to the Chair's discretionary decisions
<b>Suspension of the Meeting</b>	Recess for a defined period of time	None	Majority	Go into unmoderated caucus
<b>Moderated Debate</b>	To discuss the clauses of a draft resolution	None	Majority	Moderated debate is only applicable once DRs are on the floor
<b>Closure of Debate</b>	To conclude topic by entering into voting procedure	2 con	2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	End discussion on current topic
<b>Adjournment of Debate</b>	To conclude topic without voting	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Should only be used on the final day
<b>Reconsideration</b>	To reopen debate on an adjourned topic	1 pro/1 con	2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	The reopened topic will be placed next on the agenda
<b>Adjournment of Debate</b>	To conclude the conference for the year	None	Majority	Can only be used during the last committee session
<b>Division of the Question</b>	To consider clauses in question separately from the rest of draft resolution	Part 1: 2 pro/2 con Part 2: None	Part 1: Majority Part 2: Majority	Motions will be voted upon in the order of most destructive to least destructive
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Vote by roll call instead of a show of placards	None	None	Automatically granted
<b>Set Speakers Time</b>	To set the time allowed for speeches	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Default is 60 seconds - should only be moved upon the suggestion of the Director
<b>Close/Reopen the Speakers List</b>	To alter the status of the speakers list	None	Majority	When closed, no additional Member States will be added and if the list exhausts, committee enters voting procedure
<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	To approve the agenda for the committee	None	Majority	Motion should include the order for all topics under consideration

### DIVISION OF THE QUESTION: A VISUAL EXPLANATION

