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A LETTER FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Development Programme. This committee was designed to reflect the current issues associated with the externalities that stem from the culture of consumerism and to challenge your understanding of the issues and your attempts to solve the issues at hand. I am the Director for the Committee, and alongside myself we have three Vice-Directors: Mabior Ater, Kelvin Wu, and Katie Schmidt; and our Moderator: Osama Abdalla. During your time with the Committee, it is my hope that you find yourself engulfed by the topics presented in this background guide and interested in the subsequent solutions.

Before I introduce the topics of this Committee to you, I should introduce myself. I am a third-year student at the University, studying Political Science and European Studies. Last year, I was one of the Vice-Directors for ILO at UTMUN and I am thrilled to be expanding the experience into my role as a Director. Development is something I feel, gets overlooked in favour of the technicalities of economics, socio-cultural issues, and political contexts. Perhaps this is in part because looking at the consequences of our actions is not always pleasant, but it may also be the general inability to imagine how a single individual action can magnify on to the global stage. On a more personal note, I will briefly paint a what I hope is accurate, picture of myself. My admiration for the Canadian tuxedo (denim on denim) is so fierce that I simply cannot deny my frequent desire to wear it anywhere and anytime. I do so most often whilst sautéing vegetables to accompany my steak and listening to all sorts of Blues and Americana records. I realize this makes me precisely the type of consumer we will be discussing (I am guilty of really loving a good steak), I hope that while we discuss these issues, you have the chance to consider your own influence too.

The topics I have chosen for this Committee are 1) The Ocean's Summit 2019 and the ban of plastic straws; 2) The Rise of the Middle Class and its Consumption; 3) Water Privatization. The first topic is focused on the ban on plastic straws, the effects of that decision, the current global issues associated with plastics, and the possible solutions. The second topic will discuss the rise of the middle class in countries such as China and India, and their consumption in the area of meat, vehicles, air conditioning and water. The third topic explores the issues surrounding water privatization, the effects of such actions, and the relevant solutions.

Best of luck with your preparations and I look forward to seeing you in February 2019.

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TOPIC A: REDUCING THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE USE OF PLASTICS

INTRODUCTION

Plastic waste management has been a chronic problem in the global economy. The quantum of plastic is ever increasing—due to the large increase of development activities, and the economic switch to a capitalist society. The increase of plastic usage is statistically indeterminate—but the usage of plastic has risen exponentially in the past decade. In today's society, plastic pollution is our biggest problem—plastics have been regarded as a key material in strategic sectors. Plastics have served as an economic avenue for the production of goods, renewable energy, bio-technical devices, and even sports, to mention a few. Nonetheless, plastics have allowed the innovation of goods in all economic sectors—but have surged as a toxic impact to our ecosystem. The economic cost of plastics is unbearable—the global population of 7 billion contributes to 320 million tons of plastics. Sources estimate that this is expected to double by 2034.¹

With the uproar of political agreements, there is a strong estimation that the usage of plastics will decrease. Experts suggest that the implementation of a top-down approach that can alleviate all local problems—the opportunity for higher authority figures to solve the status quo. Furthermore, nations imposing “environmentally friendly” laws will reduce the human consumption of plastics.² It should be noted that the unregulated consumption will disturb the ecosystem—the usage of plastics has a toll on animal life, and can lead to a reduction in their longevities and increase their endangerment.

Not only does the consumption of plastics have a harmful impact on the environment through the ecosystem, it also affects humans. Scientists suggest that 83% of tap water samples contain plastic pollutant.³ This study focused heavily on the global drinking water pollution. In certain regions, the traces of plastics vary in tap water (i.e North Africa, and Eastern Europe). The approach to international cooperation is far from clear as to whether it can deliver towards the urgent need to decarbonize the global economy. The implementation of political treaties, like *The Paris Agreement* which incorporates a hybrid system that combines a bottom-up approach with top-down elements—a governance mechanism that allows politicians to implement policies on a regional level. However, treaties like *The Paris Agreement* lacks the foundation to incorporate a sustainable discussion on plastics in correlation with climate change.⁴

¹ “The Compelling Facts About Plastics: An Analysis of Plastics Production, Demand and Recovery for 2006 in Europe” (PlasticsEurope, January 2008), https://www.plasticseurope.org/application/files/2815/1689/9283/2006compelling_fact_PubJan2008.pdf

² Ibid.

³ “The Plastic in Our Drinking Water,” PARLEY, September 6, 2017, <https://www.parley.tv/updates/2017/9/6/the-plastic-in-our-drinking-water>.

⁴ “World Ocean Summit 2019,” World Ocean Initiative, 2018, <https://www.woi.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/>.

The upcoming 2019 World Ocean Summit will “look at the threats to the ocean that come from the land. Its broad aim is to build bridges between governments and businesses, and to catalyze meaningful progress towards a sustainable blue economy.”⁵ It is organizations like this that are tackling the issues head on. Recently, some countries have taken to the spotlight in their efforts to reduce national plastic levels.

THE BANNING OF PLASTIC STRAWS IN THE UK

On October 22, 2018, the UK set up a consultation to ban plastic straws, plastic stirrers and plastic stemmed cotton buds.⁶ This six week consultation exists to understand the impacts or potential consequences arising from the banning of plastic straws by all the players in the industry.⁷

One of the reasons this ban has been proposed is due to the environmental consequences it poses: the incorrect disposal is costly—with approximately 1 in 10 cotton buds ending up in waterways and oceans.⁸ On average, 225.3 items made from polystyrene (the material used to produce straws) are observed per 100m in UK beaches.⁹ About 1 million birds and 100,000 sea creatures die every year from ingesting these plastics.¹⁰

Plastics, in general, are produced by finite or limited resources.¹¹ Straws made from paper are less of an environmental threat and decompose at a quicker rate.¹² Some of the giants in the industry like McDonalds, Starbucks and Pizza express have also agreed and invested efforts to move away from plastic straws.¹³ Resources used in the production of plastic straws may be better allocated to the production of more beneficial—or less harmful—products. However, is the banning of plastic straws all well and good?

Despite the advancements taken on the end of the UK in banning plastic straws, environmental impacts of such plastics are still not entirely understood.¹⁴ Also, through the

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ “Consultation on Proposals to Ban the Distribution and/or Sale of Plastic Straws, Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds and Plastic Drink Stirrers in England,” Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, October 22, 2018, <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/plastic-straws-stirrers-and-buds/>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Bernie Thomas, George Cole, and Howard Walker, “A Preliminary Assessment of the Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts of a Potential Ban on Plastic Straws, Plastic Stem Cotton Buds and Plastics Drinks Stirrers” (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, May 2018), http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14326_Plasticstrawsstemcottonbudsandstirrers.pdf.

⁹ “Great British Beach Clean: 2017 Report” (Marine Conservation Society, 2017), https://www.mcsuk.org/media/GBBC_2017_Report.pdf.

¹⁰ Tom Murray, “Consultation Stage Impact Assessment on the Proposal to Ban the Distribution and/or Sale and of Plastic Drinking Straws in England” (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, October 16, 2018), https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/plastic-straws-stirrers-and-buds/supporting_documents/Plastic%20Straws%20Impact%20Assessment.pdf.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Thomas, Cole, and Walker, “A Preliminary Assessment of the Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts of a Potential Ban on Plastic Straws, Plastic Stem Cotton Buds and Plastics Drinks Stirrers.”

banning of plastic straws, considerations must be made to those individuals who require them for medicinal purposes.¹⁵ Perhaps the greatest cost in the event of banning plastic straws will be seen in the economy, as depicted in the table below:

Table 1 - Summary		10 Year NPV estimates, £m:		
		Low	Central	High
Benefits	Production Emission Savings	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0
	Disposal incineration emission benefit	£0.3	£0.4	£0.6
	Reduced coastal clean-up costs	£0.5	£0.5	£0.5
	Beach well-being benefit	£4.4	£6.7	£8.9
Costs	Disposal landfill emission cost	-£0.2	-£0.2	-£0.1
	Paper straw costs passed to consumers	-£69.9	-£55.5	-£41.3
	Paper straw costs to businesses	-£46.6	-£37.0	-£27.5
Total		-£111.5	-£85.0	-£58.9

Table 1 Summary of the costs associated with banning straws – three estimates are shown: a low, central and high estimate which indicate differing values in the literature (note: negative amounts indicate costs, and positive amounts indicate benefits).¹⁶

The greatest costs, according to the table, appear to be in the transition from plastic to paper straws. The central total cost averages at -£85.0 million (Table 1). The costs to the economy need to be weighed against the potential benefits seen in the environment—i.e. saving the organisms in the ocean!

It is important to note that other countries have also taken on several initiatives: Vancouver, Costa Rica, Seychelles, Glasgow and Taiwan (to name a few) have also been recent players in tackling plastic straw pollution.¹⁷ China, Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Morocco and Rwanda (and many others) have also put efforts against plastic bags.¹⁸ But what about global players? Delegates should refer to the Earth Day Network under Topic A Key Resources to get a general sense of how far their country has advanced in terms of plastic pollution.

PLASTICS AND THE OCEANS: RECENT GLOBAL EFFORTS

This section will briefly touch upon recent efforts to end plastic pollution by major global parties. One such player: The United Nations Environment Program, has been at the forefront. In 2017, they released the CleanSeas Campaign to try and fight pollution by looking at its root causes: production and consumption.¹⁹ This effort is primarily targeting single use plastics. Another recent effort of the United Nations is the BeatPlasticPollution Campaign, organized in 2018 with the intention of reiterating the CleanSeas Campaign, and to serve as an event for World Environment Day.²⁰

¹⁵ Murray, “A Preliminary Assessment of the Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts of a Potential Ban on Plastic Straws, Plastic Stem Cotton Buds and Plastics Drinks Stirrers.”

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ “Global Efforts to End Plastic Pollution: Single-Use Plastics,” Earth Day Network, accessed January 4, 2019, <https://www.earthday.org/plasticban/>.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

The European Union has also been a prominent recent player. They have, for the first time, produced an initiative called the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.²¹ Similar to the CleanSeas Campaign, the EU seeks to tackle the problem in terms of production and consumption, and to increase the supply of jobs in recycling plants²². The EU also has plans to make all their plastic recyclable by 2030 and to reduce the consumption of microplastics.²³

(Note: microplastics are plastics less than 5 mm in length that are difficult to detect).²⁴



²¹ “Plastic Waste: A European Strategy to Protect the Planet, Defend Our Citizens and Empower Our Industries,” European Commission, January 16, 2018, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-5_en.htm.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ “What Are Microplastics?,” NOAA’s National Ocean Service, July 6, 2017, <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. If plastic straws are banned, how could this affect individuals who make use of them for medicinal or pharmaceutical purposes? Put another way, what measures may be taken in banning plastic straws but ensuring that those who require them have access to them?
2. What initiatives could be taken by businesses that have invested resources in the production of plastics, specifically plastic straws?
3. What are the benefits and/or downfalls of:
 - i. Educating the general public on the use of plastics and straws?
 - ii. Subsidizing large firms away from plastic straws?
 - c. Taxing the production or selling of plastic straws?
4. Are the costs associated with shifting to paper straws greater than the current environmental and marine costs?
5. Where are the funds required to decrease the consumption of plastics coming from?
6. Is removing the toxic chemicals in the plastic products we buy an effective means to solve the issue?
7. Should we increase the production of biodegradable plastics?
8. What are the environmental consequences associated with microplastics?

TOPIC B: THE RISE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS & ITS CONSUMPTION

Since the 1990s, the world has experienced a global rise in the population of the middle class, and subsequently, the rise in its consumption. The growth of the middle class is typically attributed to a global amelioration in living standards due to the benefits of liberal economic policy. This expansion was paired with a global influx in population (although it is important to note this observation prompts the chicken and egg question: was it the rise of the middle class that prompted an increase in population, or an increase in population that prompted the rise of the middle class?). Nevertheless, this topic will focus on the rapidly growing (in both population and purchasing power parity (PPP)) middle class and its widespread consumption of previously-identified luxurious goods such as: cars, meat, air conditioning and water.

The middle class is a broad concept, so before moving on to discuss the issues at hand, or even attempting to identify key players, it is crucial to understand who the middle class really is. First, the rise of the middle class is strongly attributed to developing countries, but since they are only developing, the middle class is not the same as it would be say, in Canada. Hence, for the purposes of this topic, the middle class are those who are typically living in four member households and have the PPP of \$10,000 collectively, or \$2,500 per person per year.²⁵

These new consumers can be found in various developing countries as well as a few transitional countries. The new consumption patterns which emerge from this newfound middle class are ones that support an affluent lifestyle. Suddenly, these consumers are able to purchase household appliances, computers, gadgets, and clothing.²⁶ However, the two greatest categories for consumption are cars and meat.²⁷ This consumption brings forth the problematic externalities such as an increase in carbon emission and an increase in water consumption. It is precisely these externalities that draw attention to the consumption patterns of the rising middle class in developing countries, and prompt the consideration of the global wellbeing in the future.

As mentioned above, the key players tend to be developing countries and a few transitioning countries. The two most prominent players in the developing camp are China and India with 24% and 13% of the population being new consumers respectively.²⁸ These countries experience the largest economic and population developments and due to their past, are still in the process of developing. However, it would be unfair to single out the two greatest contributors to this topic and not point out other, nearly as important contributing states such

²⁵ Norman Myers and Jennifer Kent, "New Consumers: The Influence of Affluence on the Environment," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 100, no. 8 (April 15, 2003): 4963–68, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0438061100>. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0438061100>.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid., 4964.

as: South Korea, Mexico, Columbia, Turkey, and Poland.²⁹ Furthermore, it is worth considering that the US also contributes to the environment impacts associated with the rise of the middle class, however, for the purposes of this topic, their contribution is not strongly considered since they do not typically classify as a developing state.

This topic seeks to explore the difficulties associated with a rise in both the PPP and an influx in population in developing states, and, consequently, will challenge the committee to discuss appropriate solutions to the issues at hand.

INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF MEAT-BASED DIETS

The rise of the middle class in developing countries has also increased the consumption of meat in people's diets. This is largely due to the fact that meat is relatively expensive to grains, hence it used to be consumed by a smaller number of people. Since the number of people who can afford meat has grown so has the consumption. By 2020, developing countries and their new consumers are forecast to increase their demand for meat by 92%.³⁰ China's new consumers are indulging in meat-based diets. In fact, China accounts for 28% of the entire world meat consumption.³¹ This brings forth the issue of raising the livestock for its consumption.

The grain and water necessary to raise livestock will need to drastically increase in order to support the meat-based consumer habits. In the case of grain, an increase in grain farming requires an increase of farmland, however that is difficult to accomplish with a growing population that needs housing space. Thus, farmers may aim at fast crop rotation which can lead to soil erosion and nutrient depletion.³² In terms of water, the water needed to irrigate crops puts a strain on the water supply in developing countries that often struggle to deliver clean drinking water to other areas of the country. Furthermore, the strain on water resources makes countries susceptible to drought.

The technology needed to acquire water in landlocked countries, or even transport it to different areas in a country contributes to the carbon emission.³³ However, this carbon emission is also a product of livestock since studies have shown that the production of beef generates an incredible carbon footprint. Furthermore, the technology needed for farming is also not immune to carbon emission. Thus, the issue of the rising middle class and its consumption of meat is extremely interconnected with the environment.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid., 4966.

³² XiaoHong Zhang et al., "Energy Consumption of China's Crop Production System and the Related Emissions," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 43 (March 2015): 111–25, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2014.11.034>.

³³ Myers and Kent, "New Consumers," 4963.

CONSUMPTION OF CARS

The consumption of cars has also increased dramatically since the rise of the middle class. In fact, since 1990 China's consumption of cars has averaged at a 19% increase every year.³⁴ India is also participating in this mass car consumption with an average car increase of 14% every year.³⁵ This is attributed to the increase in availability of cars as well as the increase in the PPP. The increase in cars prompts spatial and environmental issues. First, an increase in cars requires infrastructure. However, these countries are still developing and thus their infrastructure is also developing. Not to mention that the development of infrastructure is a costly project. Hence, the new consumers who own cars are pushing the boundaries of their areas—an effect that is controversial when considered with an increase in population. Furthermore, the manufacturing of cars to match the demand has a negative effect on the environment. This effect is only a fraction of the carbon emission actually produced by these cars when they are on the roads.

CONSUMPTION OF AIR CONDITIONERS IN INDIA

The rise of air conditioner consumption in India might sound like a harmless development, however, due to the increase in PPP and the general increase in the population of the middle class, a luxury of the past has become accessible to many people. India is known to reach very hot temperatures, and the economic developments of the country allows the manufacturing and purchasing of air conditioners. Air conditioners are often the only means of escaping the heat and without their use, the heat can result in death.³⁶ Hence, those who are able to afford the luxury, usually choose to use it. However, air conditioning demands great electricity use. The average air conditioner for the room uses 20 times more energy than a ceiling fan.

Since air conditioners consume so much energy, one of the obvious suggestions for India would be to transition into using sustainable energy sources. Yet, investing in sustainable energy sources is expensive, and it doesn't help that Indian households are often underpaying for their energy or not paying at all due to the dysfunctionality of the billing.³⁷ Hence, air conditioning in India is a matter of life and death in some cases, but is also a detriment to the environment.

THE DISPOSABLE LIFESTYLE PHENOMENON

The last subtopic touches upon the increase in a disposable lifestyle assumed by the middle class. Since the middle class often has more PPP, they are more flexible in their purchases and thus in their disposing. In countries such as China there is an increased

³⁴ Ibid., 4965.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Lucas Davis, "Cooling India," *Energy Institute Blog* (blog), July 24, 2017, <https://energyathaas.wordpress.com/2017/07/24/cooling-india/>.

³⁷ Ibid.

attention on packaged foods and fast meals.³⁸ These are all packaged in containers made from plastic, paper, metal or a combination of these. But the increase of consumers and the ability to consume much more leads to the constant use of packaged products. Furthermore, restaurants and grocery stores are responsible for the widespread use of these packaged products. Specifically, the use of to-go containers in the food industry has caused an increase in waste.³⁹ This waste is commonly dumped in developing countries.⁴⁰ This waste consists of food and beverage containers, electronics, used plastics and unwanted parts.

With developing countries participating in the disposable lifestyle, not only is there an increase in disposable products (and an inevitable problem associated with their disposal), there is a critical shift in the economies of these developing countries. If the number of consumers is increasing, the number of garbage is also increasing, and the places where we acquire the materials for the disposables are decreasing. Hence, the disposable lifestyle poses many critical development questions.

³⁸ “China’s Food-Delivery Business Is Booming. So Is Waste,” *The Economist*, October 19, 2017, <https://www.economist.com/china/2017/10/19/chinas-food-delivery-business-is-booming-so-is-waste>.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Where do we draw the line: should the progress of an individual or a country be compromised for the sake of the environment?
2. Do developed countries play a role in helping the developing countries? If so, what can developed countries do to help developing countries not make the same development mistakes
3. Are there any timely, efficient solutions for the challenges at hand?
4. What is your country's role in regard to the topic? Which countries are not relevant to the topic?
5. Are the resources available to these states sufficient in solving these issues?



TOPIC C: THE PRIVATIZATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

INTRODUCTION

Water is undeniably an irreplaceable resource for all living things. Yet for around one sixth of the world's population, this resource of clean water is near unattainable. Recognized as a human right, governments are finding it increasingly difficult to provide all of their people with access to clean drinking water, turning towards privatization and private organizations for help. Privatization of water is a compelling issue that has stemmed from accumulating issues such as global warming, climate change, increases in water pollution and continuous growth in the world population. Privatization here is the process of moving water supply, management, and sanitation from the public sector to a private sector. Giving organizations outside of the government's ownership control over the management of water.⁴¹

CURRENT SITUATION

With increasing demand and seemingly growing scarcity, many municipalities and nations have turned towards private organizations in search for better efficiency, financing, and service. However the public reception of privatization has been highly polarizing, with countries like Bolivia who faced large scale protests and violence in response to privatization while on the other side of the spectrum countries like Colombia and Algeria have carried out water privatization to a rather successful degree. Meanwhile, certain nations like the United States have long since implemented water privatization in many cities to varying levels of success and public satisfaction. While this means that for many water has become more readily accessible, it has also shown to create a rise in pricing in areas where many residents are simply unable to afford it.⁴² Alongside inflated pricing is an unequal distribution in prices, where the exact same amount of water can cost three to ten times more in certain countries.⁴³ Companies like Nestle have drawn from crucial underground springs to bottle and sell premium bottled water, leading to the drought in many local villages in Pakistan.⁴⁴ With such drastic differences in results, nations are faced with a difficult decision to make when considering the path of privatization.

⁴¹ Adam Millsap, "Privatizing Water Facilities Can Help Cash-Strapped Municipalities," Forbes, accessed January 5, 2019, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2016/10/05/privatizing-water-facilities-can-help-cash-strapped-municipalities/>.

⁴² Joachim Hagopian, "Privatization of Water as an Owned Commodity Rather Than a Universal Human Right," Global Research, October 29, 2018, <https://www.globalresearch.ca/privatization-of-water-as-an-owned-commodity-rather-than-a-universal-human-right/5378483..>

⁴³ Nancy Macdonald, "Is the Privatization of Water the Right Thing to Do?," September 3, 2009, <https://www.macleans.ca/society/life/the-market-solution/>.

⁴⁴ Hagopian, "Privatization of Water as an Owned Commodity Rather Than a Universal Human Right."

KEY PARTIES

Pakistan is one of the nations who currently has very poor drinking water conditions, ranking around 80th out of 122 nations for water quality. In 2005 it was estimated that only 25.6% of the population had access to safe drinking water (see annex I).⁴⁵ With interference from Nestlé's bottled water campaign negatively impacting the local underground water sources of many villages. Nations must pay attention to both the growing industry and opportunity as well as the environmental and human rights impacts of private organizations.

United States of America is an example where privatization in many sectors has already become a standard, with water privatization slowly growing in certain areas. Between 2005–2016 over 90% of municipal water privatization contracts were renewed, a sign of satisfied services. The recent Flint Michigan incident has once again sparked discussion of the effectiveness of privatization; if the water utility of Flint Michigan was private could this have been prevented?⁴⁶

Bolivia had previously privatized water utility in the city of Cochabamba under pressure and influence of the world bank and the American organization Bechtel. Due to mistakes and failure to properly implement such drastic changes, large scale protests erupted into what is called the first ever “water war” eventually leading to a change in political leadership and revoking the privatization of water. This instance in Bolivia can be a notable example of where privatization can fail miserably.⁴⁷

IMPACTS AND EFFECTS OF PRIVATIZATION

CONTROL

Going from public to private means that governments will be relinquishing control over the management of a key resource. This can be both good and bad, in some situations the government may not be properly managing the distribution and sanitation of water, in such cases the public can use their right to protest and vote to change the governing body responsible for water utility. On the other hand, if the private company is irresponsible and poorly manages the resources, the public will be unable to act the same way, and in many cases long term contracts render the government useless as well. A lack of transparency is similarly a factor that must be considered when water utility turns to the private sector.

⁴⁵ Nils Rosemann, “Drinking Water Crisis in Pakistan and the Issue of Bottled Water The Case of Nestlé's ‘Pure Life,’” April 2005, <https://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/Rosemann-2006-Drinking.pdf>.)

⁴⁶ Millsap, “Privatizing Water Facilities Can Help Cash-Strapped Municipalities.”

⁴⁷ Tom Hennigan, “Water War in Bolivia Led Eventually to Overthrow of Entire Political Order,” *The Irish Times*, November 18, 2014, <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/water-war-in-bolivia-led-eventually-to-overthrow-of-entire-political-order-1.2004444>.

INFLATION

As water is privatized, it is common to see an inflation in the price of water as private organizations are incentivized to make profit.⁴⁸ A rise in price for water can mean many things, for those who previously had no access to clean water it means they will still be unable to obtain access, and for some it can mean that they can no longer afford it either.⁴⁹ But nations should also take into account that the management and development of infrastructure can be a very costly, but important factor⁵⁰.

HUMAN RIGHTS

A contentious debate over privatization is its effects and role in human rights. The UN declared in 2010 that access to clean water and sanitation was to be a human right, and clearly the world is still working towards making that right a reality.⁵¹ Water is a basic necessity and many consider making such a public resource private and charging high prices for it goes against the human rights of many poor and less fortunate people.⁵² Nations must consider if privatizing water is indeed violating the human rights of people, or if it is just an unfortunate reality of a growing structural system.

CONCLUSION

Water privatization is an issue that should be approached from multiple perspectives. It must be recognized that privatization has found great success with some and failure with others. The United Nations can not impede on any nation's free will, any choice to go private, remain public, or any other is completely up to the individual delegations. The UN however does have the ability to create guidelines following any transition into the private sector. Delegates should consider and debate both the benefits and drawbacks of privatizing this crucial resource and determine the best course of action for their respective nations. A lack of clean and accessible water is a pressing issue that grows with each passing day, and it is up to the delegates to decide a resolution that can create positive change.

⁴⁸ Adam Hudson, "Why Water Privatization Is a Bad Idea for People and the Planet," AlterNet, April 18, 2017, <https://www.alternet.org/2017/04/why-water-privatization-bad-idea-people-and-planet/>.

⁴⁹ Macdonald, "Is the Privatization of Water the Right Thing to Do?"

⁵⁰ Millsap, "Privatizing Water Facilities Can Help Cash-Strapped Municipalities."

⁵¹ "GA/10967: General Assembly Adopts Resolution Recognizing Access to Clean Water, Sanitation as Human Right, by Recorded Vote of 122 in Favour, None against, 41 Abstentions," United Nations, July 28, 2010, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2010/ga10967.doc.htm>.

⁵² Hagopian, "Privatization of Water as an Owned Commodity Rather Than a Universal Human Right."

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is privatization of water a violation of the universal human rights as declared by the UN?
2. How will change from the public to private sector affect the populace?
3. Can the inflation in price for water be justified by the benefits that come from privatization?
4. What role do the developed countries play in pushing for, or against privatization? What about the developing countries?
5. Is there a path/solution that be accommodating to all nations?

Annex I (Availability and Quality of Drinking Water)

Source of Water Supply (in percent)													
Year	Reported Institution / Organisation	Population (159 million) ⁱⁱ				Urban (32,5 percent) ⁱⁱⁱ				Rural (67,5 percent)			
		Pipe	Tube- well / Well	Hand- Pump	Other*	Supply				Supply			
						Pipe	Tube- well / Well	Hand- Pump	Other*	Pipe	Tube- Well / Well	Hand- Pump	Other*
1998	Housing Indicators 1998 Census ^{iv}	32.26	9.96	47.14	10.65	65.04	4.45	26.99	3.52	17.25	12.48	56.36	13.91
2003	Mouza Census Report 2003 ^v									7.64	12.80	60.05	19.51
Sufficient Quality of Water Resources (in percent)													
2001	Arcadis Euroconsult ^{vi}		10			10				10			
2004	PCRWR Report 2004 ^{vii}					approximately 50					approximately 30 (case study Indus Basin)		
2005	Interviews		5-10			5-10				5-10			
Access to / Availability of Water (in percent)													
2000	UNDP HDR 2004 ^{viii}	90											
2000	Pakistan Water Sector Strategy ^{ix}					60				53			
2003	UNDP Pakistan Country Report 2003 ^x	63											
2003	Pakistan Human Condition Report 2003 ^{xi}	63				83				27			
2003	Mouza Census Report 2003 ^{xii}									78.47 (sweet water)			
Access to safe and sufficient drinking water (in percent)													
2003	UNIDO ^{xiii}	56								10-45			
2005	Conclusion **	25.61				30				3.82	2.56	12.01	8.68
23.5													
* Other supply includes river, canals, springs and water tanks													
** Average between interviews and reliable resources about availability in relation with quality													

ADVICE FOR RESEARCH AND PREPARATION

The best thing you can do to prepare for this conference is familiarize yourself with the UTMUN procedures. Even if you have been a delegate at the conference before, it is always safe to go over the procedures since they might have changed from past years. Plus, being familiar with the procedure makes your first time at UTMUN much less stressful. In addition to familiarizing yourself with the basic guidelines and procedure of the conference, you should research both your country and the topics a but more, so when you are at the conference, you have a lot to offer to your fellow delegates.

In terms of researching your country, first acquaint yourself with your country's government and global allies. This will make is much easier to draft resolutions as well as think on your feet during caucus. Ideally, you should have a brief overview of your country at hand, with general indicators of your country's position on the issues presented in this committee. This will be very helpful—trust me. Otherwise, look into your country's affiliation with any environmental decisions or treaties, research the current development climate and make note of the relevant facts which could be useful in building both your arguments and resolutions.

As for the topics, please refer to the sources provided to you in this background guide, and you are always welcome to go beyond the sources provided here. These will be helpful for you once you have done some research on your country since they are going to help frame your country in the context of development. If you are a last minute preparee, do not fret. Perhaps you had a million things due at the last second and a tournament all weekend—that's ok! I do not encourage this, since if all of you do it, the committee will be very very dry and stagnant and nobody wants that. But I will offer a word of advice to the last-minute scramblers: Wikipedia is alright, but only if you are using the sources it provides you with, not the actual text. The sources at the end of each section should give you a basic understanding of whatever you are researching. But, please use this information wisely!

If you are interested, the UN website has a variety of past resolutions which are a good source of information for your own possible resolutions or general background information.

Good luck with your researching!

TOPIC A KEY RESOURCES

Thomas, Bernie, George Cole, and Howard Walker. "A Preliminary Assessment of the Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts of a Potential Ban on Plastic Straws, Plastic Stem Cotton Buds and Plastics Drinks Stirrers." Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, May 2018.
http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14326_Plasticstrawsstemcottonbudsandstirrers.pdf.
This document is a review of the social, environmental and economic impacts that banning plastic straws may have on the UK.

"World Ocean Summit 2019." World Ocean Initiative, 2018.
<https://www.woi.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/>.
More information on the upcoming World Ocean Summit 2019 can be found here.

"Global Efforts to End Plastic Pollution: Single-Use Plastics." Earth Day Network. Accessed January 4, 2019. <https://www.earthday.org/plasticban/>.
The Earth Day Network has a summary of all the recent efforts made towards ending plastic pollution.

TOPIC B KEY RESOURCES

Kharas, Homi. "The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries." *OECD Development Centre* working paper no. 285 (2010): 3-61. <https://www.oecd.org/dev/44457738.pdf>.

The OECD Website. <http://www.oecd.org>.
Here you will be able to find relevant data. It is worth checking out the economic data, GDP, PPP, population stats, etc.

The United Nations Website. <http://www.un.org/en/index.html>.
Here you can find past resolutions, your country and their standing, and relevant documents associated with development.

Wietzke, Frank-Borge and Andy Sumner. "The Developing World's "New Middle Classes": Implications for Political Research." *Perspectives on Politics* 16, no. 1 (2018): 128-140. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/perspectives-on-politics/article/developing-worlds-new-middle-classes-implications-for-political-research/BA3A113995D768A36E4719722C0C13C0>.
This is an academic paper which might help provide extra context.

TOPIC C KEY RESOURCES

Millsap, Adam. "Privatizing Water Facilities Can Help Cash-Strapped Municipalities." *Forbes*. Accessed January 5, 2019.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2016/10/05/privatizing-water-facilities-can-help-cash-strapped-municipalities/>.

A resource noting some of the potential benefits of privatizing water.

Hagopian, Joachim. "Privatization of Water as an Owned Commodity Rather Than a Universal Human Right." Global Research, October 29, 2018.

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/privatization-of-water-as-an-owned-commodity-rather-than-a-universal-human-right/5378483>.

A resource detailing a perspective on humanitarian rights and water privatization.

Lappé, Anna. "World Bank Wants Water Privatized, despite Risks."

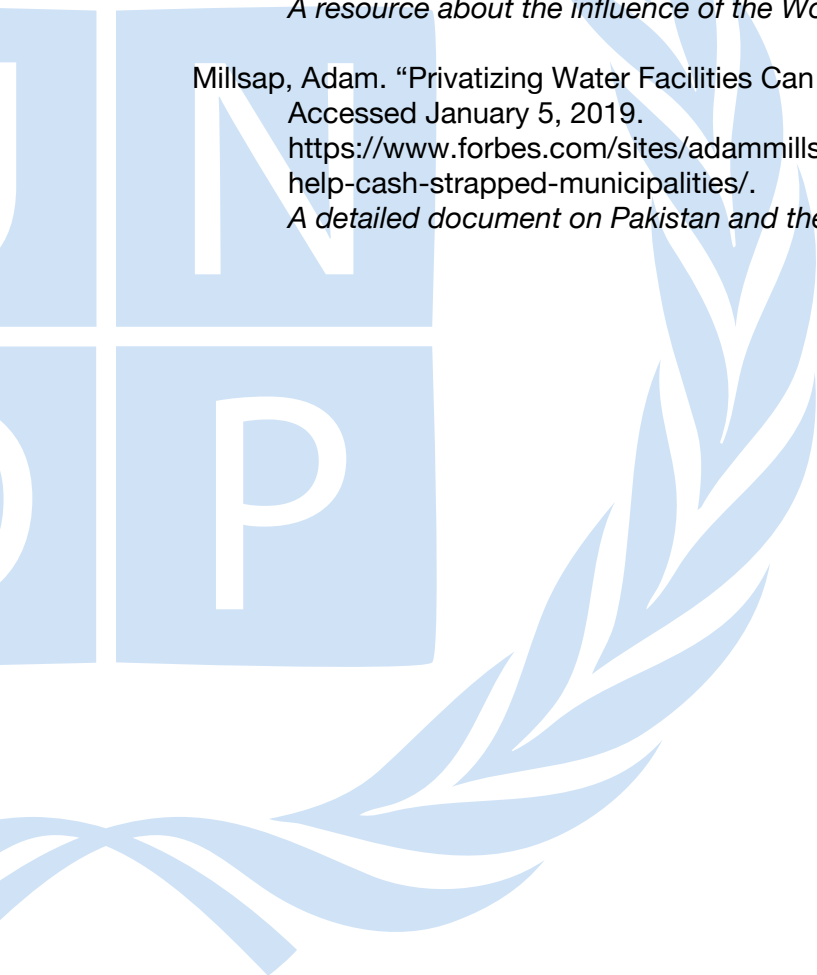
<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/4/water-managementprivatizationworldbankgroupifc.html>

A resource about the influence of the World Bank on privatization.

Millsap, Adam. "Privatizing Water Facilities Can Help Cash-Strapped Municipalities." Forbes. Accessed January 5, 2019.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2016/10/05/privatizing-water-facilities-can-help-cash-strapped-municipalities/>.

A detailed document on Pakistan and the Nestle Incident.



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<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/plastic-straws-stirrers-and-buds/>.
- “Global Efforts to End Plastic Pollution: Single-Use Plastics.” Earth Day Network. Accessed January 4, 2019. <https://www.earthday.org/plasticban/>.
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https://www.plasticseurope.org/application/files/2815/1689/9283/2006compelling_fact_PubJan2008.pdf.
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<https://www.parley.tv/updates/2017/9/6/the-plastic-in-our-drinking-water>.
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<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>.
- “World Ocean Summit 2019.” World Ocean Initiative, 2018.
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<https://www.economist.com/china/2017/10/19/chinas-food-delivery-business-is-booming-so-is-waste>.

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TOPIC C

- "GA/10967: General Assembly Adopts Resolution Recognizing Access to Clean Water, Sanitation as Human Right, by Recorded Vote of 122 in Favour, None against, 41 Abstentions." United Nations, July 28, 2010. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2010/ga10967.doc.htm>.
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