Research Report
General Assembly 3

The question of how to prevent the diseases and illnesses that children undergo due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene or unsafe drinking water.

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Introduction

In 2020, 2 billion people used not safely managed services. Including 1.2 billion people with basic services, 282 million people with limited services, 368 million people taking water from unprotected wells and springs, and 122 million people collecting untreated surface water from lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

3.6 billion people, that's nearly half of the world's population, do not have access to safely managed sanitation in their home. Of those, 1.9 billion people live with basic sanitation services, and 494 million people practice open defecation.

Furthermore, do 2.3 billion people lack basic hygiene services, including soap and water at home. This also includes 670 million people with no handwashing facilities at all. In 28 countries, at least 1 in 4 people have no handwashing facility at home. And in rural settings, only 1 in 3 people have access to basic hygiene services.

The Committee

General Assembly 3 is a fairly ordinary committee, meaning there are no special Rules of Procedure specific to this committee. In MUNA, General Assembly 3 deals with environmental, humanitarian and health issues. In this General Assembly, nations come together to discuss a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world and to find solutions in a peaceful and respectful manner.

This year the issues that will be discussed in the General Assembly 3 are:
1. The need for the MEDC's to renew and strengthen commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions to slow warming of the earth
2. The question of how to address the accelerating world population
3. The issue of alternative approaches to increase agricultural productivity in LEDC's that suffer as a result of CO_2-emissions by MEDC's
4. The question of how to prevent the diseases and illnesses that children undergo due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene or unsafe drinking water

When debating on different solutions, it is important to note money is not an issue as nations can call upon the UN's unlimited funds. Hence, a delegate should never vote or speak against a resolution because of financial reasons.

Keywords

Basic services = An improved water source located within a round trip of 30 minutes.

Limited services = An improved water source requiring more than 30 minutes to collect water.

LIC = A low-income country, a developing country.

HIC = A high-income country, a developed country
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Overview

Safe and readily available water is important for public health, whether it is used for drinking, domestic use, food production or recreational purposes. In 2010, the UN General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation. Everyone has the right to sufficient, continuous, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.

The transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio are linked to contaminated water and poor sanitation. Absent, inadequate or inappropriately managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risks.

For children under the age of five, water- and sanitation-related diseases are one of the leading causes of death. Every day more than 1300 children die because of diseases caused by poor sanitation. And yearly around 297 000 children die from diarrhoea as a result of unsafe drinking-water, sanitation and hand hygiene, even though diarrhoea is largely preventable.

The issue of unsafe water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene is largely limited to low and lower-middle income countries. In LICs this issue accounts for 5% of the deaths. Less than one-fifth of the population in LICs have safe sanitation. These LICs are mostly found in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Arguments

It is a human right to have access to water and sanitation. Everyone has to right to sufficient, continuous, safe acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.

Poor sanitation and no access to safe drinking water is the number one cause for the deaths of many children under the age of five in LICs, even though most of the times the diseases are largely preventable.

In order to provide LICs with safe drinking water and good sanitation, HICs will have to invest and help, and not every country is willing and able to do that.

Resolution

When composing a resolution, a delegate should carefully consider their country's perspective and opinion on the matter. Having read this research report is a good starting point for your research. Try to think of ways that offer a solution for all countries involved to prevent the diseases and illnesses that children undergo due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene or unsafe drinking water.
Make sure the measures are realistic and achievable. Additionally, you should keep in mind that different countries have different policies, and keep the global differences in mind. Make sure to research your country in detail, and keep in mind that you are speaking as if representing that nation. Therefore, make sure to have done some research about your country's policies before joining the conference.

Links and sources

World Health organisation
https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water

Unicef
https://www.unicef.org/supply/water-and-sanitation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/WASH.html

Our world in data
https://ourworldindata.org/sanitation#unsafe-sanitation-is-a-leading-risk-factor-for-death