



**Federative Republic of Brazil highly appreciates all initiatives of the conference held by the Forum for the 21st Century. Brazil is definitely aware of the fact that water issue is one of the basic elements for creating life on the planet Earth and that without this source evolution would not have been possible at all. We would also like to express our thanks to the Forum for the 21st Century to let us participate on this conference.**

- ✿ Water is a resource of paramount importance in Brazil and, as such, requires a careful management system. This situation is aggravated when there is rapid population growth with fast urbanization rates. Several uses are competitors for this beneficial resource: human supply, industry, agriculture, among others. Furthermore, water is essential to sustain development.
- ✿ Brazilian government opened the discussion on what should be the country's water policy in 1984. The major change came in 1997, with the promulgation of the National Water Resources Management Act, establishing both the National Water Resources Policy and the National Water Resources Management System. This paper describes the policy and the management system, as established in the 97 Act and now in process of implementation.

The National Water Act of 1997 defines the National Water Resources Policy, with its objectives, principles and instruments, and also the National Water Resources Management System, establishing the institutional arrangement under which the country's water policy is to be implemented. The National Water Resources Policy was proposed to achieve the following objectives:

- ✿ **Sustainability:** to ensure that the present and future generations have an adequate availability of water with suitable quality;
- ✿ **Integrated management:** to ensure the integration among uses in order to guarantee continuing development;
- ✿ **Safety:** to prevent and protect against critical events, due either to natural causes or inappropriate uses.

Issue of water is very often a centre of discussions in Brazil. It is known that our country has plentiful of water, with the highest total renewable fresh water supply of the planet. In fact, 70% of such available water is in the Amazon Basin where only 7% of the population lives. The rest 93% of the country's population will depend on the remaining 30% of the water availability. It is estimated that about 12% of the world's surface water resources are located in Brazil.

In Brazil there are four major different areas in contrast. The North, including the Amazon basin with abundant freshwater resources, is very sparsely populated and poor. The Northeast, semi-arid with a constant threat of severe droughts, struggles to sustain a population of 40



million people living in oppressive poor conditions. The West, with two dominating ecosystems, the savanna and the wetlands, is dominated by cattle raising activities and intensive agriculture development. The South is where the industrial and financial centers are located, with its water resources under a very unbalanced supply/demand relationship, due to excessive consumption and pollution of the large urban areas. In each region, there is a different problem.

### **Proposes**

- ✿ Firstly, we would like to express our full agreement with an initiative to direct more financial sources towards creating new sources of water. It is necessary to strengthen the efforts to divide water sources more equally to all humanity, mainly in region of Africa, where the problems are most visible. We would be very pleased also to participate on creation of fund, which should be supportive in this case. Cooperation with nongovernmental sector is also very intensive in Brazil, so we hope that for this purpose their contribution to the project will be irreplaceable and we will benefit from their experiences, which they obtained in this area during years of their function. We seem the creating of the special committee, which would support NGOs as very successful step forward, because communication with authorities in the stricken area would be a key factor for the next development.
- ✿ One of the millennium goals is to provide safe drinking water and basic sanitation for its entire population by 2015. We definitely agree with the propose to support wastewater management in LDCs where the problem is deepening in recent years or decades. This matter is also strongly discussed in Brazil. The need to bring Brazil's wastewater treatment closer in line with that of sustainable level is the key immediate goal. Brazil's major and medium size metropolitan areas face increasing problems of water pollution. Coastal cities such as Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Recife suffer effects of upstream residential and industrial sewage contaminating rivers Rivers, lakes, and the ocean. In our country only 35% of collected wastewater received any treatment. The focus in the next couple of years will be on setting up adequate sewage treatment facilities in state capitals and large cities of Brazil. One of the crucial factors is rapid industrial growth, demand for high-purity process water and relatively high water tariffs for industries are set to catalyze increasing demand for water reuse and recycling technologies. The Brazilian government is now leading the charge to improve the country's wastewater disposal by launching the Programa de Aceleracao de Crescimento (PAC), an investment program it believes will benefit 80% of the population during the next seven years, and every citizen in Brazil by 2020.
- ✿ Furthermore, we are aware of the fact, that industry and its production is the main sector, which has the highest affect on the water consumption not only in our country. We are deeply convinced that there is a huge space for development in this area. New technologies can bring a positive affect not only on water management, but also environment. In Brazil, water withdrawal by industry represents 8% of resources. Ethanol production from sugar cane crops for example uses a significant amount of water resources, where the most of the sugar cane plantations in Brazil rely on natural irrigation.



# The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

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## Modelová konferencia Environmentálna sekcia

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- ✿ Fourthly, we seem the pursuit in creating new sources of fresh water with the method of desalination from salt water as adequate and necessary. The Northeast part of the Brazil has been focus of major concern for Brazilian government in past decades, because of recurrent droughts and poverty caused by absence of fresh water. Thousands of people in Brazil's semi-arid Northeast now are having better access to the water resource thanks to a technology that is little used in Latin America: the reverse-osmosis membrane, which desalinizes and purifies water.
- ✿ Finally, the support to the committee through the fund must be negotiated between all parties involved. We seem level of 2% of GDP as a good starting point for discussion and we strongly believe that we will find some compromise. Our GDP in the last year was 2,172 billion USD. Furthermore, equal numbers of seats and an equal vote in this committee must be great assumption for smoother and more transparent decision making process.