



## Global Water Issues

### Introduction

- ✿ To solve the global water crisis, the first vital step is to spread the awareness of the volume of this massive problem and to indicate future complications, which could arise if no measures are taken in the present. The United States Environmental Protection Agency welcomes the idea of creating The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, honours its invitations and is grateful to be part of the future discussions, with the emphasis on the current global water issues.
- ✿ We express our full support towards solving this agenda, and are prepared to share our know-how and expertise in this field, with the participants of The Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century; which we gained by solving water scarcity in some areas of our country. Further we would like to stress the importance of this issue in the great mass of environmental problems, help manage the current situation, in order to improve the efficiency of the solution process.
- ✿ The notes in the draft perfectly indicate the importance of this resource, the alarming fact that billions of people lack safe drinking water, perspectives and future tendencies in connection with possible solutions. Such information is needed to successfully conduct negotiations; moreover they set the common goal more easily. We would like to thank the leaders of the environmental section for incorporating them, and would like to move to the proposals of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After a detailed analysis of the draft, for the purpose of the conference held by the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century on the 29 November 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency pronounces and suggests the following:

### Proposals

- ✿ The initiative of building water wells is a basic, short or mid-term solution, which through time attracts more users, which may later lead to a faster depletion of the well. Such water resources are mostly non-renewable, and the slow loss of water may lead to conflicts of the newly accumulated masses. On the other hand it is non-expensive in comparison with other solutions, and has rather fast effect on the quality of life. Therefore we recommend taking into consideration such measures, which could eliminate the negative side effects of this project. The local NGOs should have information about locations with the least conflicts; therefore we think it would be reasonable to direct funds mainly to these areas. Of course, if the underground water source is sustainable, or would serve a long term gain, we would support it.
- ✿ The second proposal covers our next point in concern with this project, correct funding. A common fund for the private and non-governmental sector could function as a great base for further development. It can be controlled, and most presumably the local private and non-governmental sector will like to serve the common good as well as the Forum does. The international background provided by the committee could also ease the legislation processes. As for the know-how, currently the United States of America have 11,680 well drilling companies, and would be glad to share their knowledge.



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- ✿ Every human being should have the right to live in a healthy environment, and have access to safe, clean drinking water. Correct wastewater management and water recycling are crucial in expanding agglomerations. Mainly in cities with limited water sources and weak legislations, which do not protect their inhabitants. This way water could be gained, with no stress on the original reserves. The targets of this project should be major cities with big shares of so called „slums“, as for this treatment would have the greatest effect in these areas. In connection with water recycling, we would gladly share our latest, most up to date expertise, which we implemented during the construction of a similar facility near Seattle.
- ✿ Water efficiency is a crucial factor, which sometimes is neglected even in areas with enormous water potential. Therefore scientific development could bring improvements in many areas. A lot of research is already being done in different countries, so this point of the draft seems just as a reminder, which is not clearly specified. We look forward to the discussions with our colleagues in the environmental section, and are prepared to provide funds for some of the research, if we can come to reasonable conclusions.
- ✿ The United States Environmental Protection Agency sees most controversy with the fifth point of the draft. Water desalination is a technology mainly used for drinking purposes in water scarce regions, in countries that can afford to subsidise such production. Desalinated water is used in some regions for the irrigation of high valued crops, and has proven less economic as irrigation with treated wastewater. Therefore an efficient industry cannot yet flourish from such a water sources, and that is why we would hardly support the outsourcing of industries to these regions. We think that desalination is most effective in areas where desalinated water is the main source of potable water, and that it should be used mainly as a drinking supply, with a small share of unavoidable irrigation.

Our idea to increase the efficiency of desalination is connected with the previous point, with the development of new technologies. One of the biggest problems with desalination plants is their energy consumption, which makes the final product unsustainably expensive without proper subsidies. To tackle this issue, we would gladly fund research into more effective solar power systems, as desalination is mostly used in areas with the highest amount of sunshine per annum. Another way to gain energy from desalination plants is connected with the process itself, as fresh water is removed from its impurities in high pressure containers, which could be emptied through turbines that could supply some of the needed energy.
- ✿ Effective water distribution is also among the top priorities of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the problem of aging water infrastructure. The key to a better distribution system is a functioning infrastructure. That is why we would first recommend funding a major maintenance of the old pipelines, to mend imperfection; so that new ones could be connected, and the least water would be lost or polluted. Pipelines serve as a long term solution, not only for domestic, but also for industrial purposes. Such an investment could boost foreign direct investments in the chosen areas, this way both the water issue and the economic poverty could be solved.
- ✿ We support both the democratic flow of the committee, provided by the equal amount of seats, and also the previously mentioned common fund. But what we can not accept is the amount of capital, which we should provide for this purpose. 2% of our country's Gross Domestic Product is too much, if we consider that the entire United States Agency for International Development gives away only 0.5% of the federal budget, and deals with a much wider spectrum of problems around the globe. Secondly, the countries to which the committee would be aimed, could regard



# The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



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our help as another financial aid, from which it may not draw further conclusions. Therefore we propose, that the local governmental authorities should provide at least 25% of each project expenditure, with 10% divided between the private sector, through Private Partnership Projects, non-governmental organizations and donors; leaving 65% of the total costs to be covered by the fund. Through the previously mentioned USAID, the environmental department could secure an amount of 250 million to 300 million USD for the committee.



To help governments solve the current water issue in the most problematic areas, it is crucial to have proper education, sufficient hygiene and an effective agricultural production. Our proposal to such countries would be to form an independent ministry formed by sections of already existing ministries of education, healthcare and agriculture. This way their internal funding could work more easily and they could direct their capital with lesser delay and structural problems.



Around the globe water problems do not only appear with the scarcity of this resource, but also with great water abundance. Such areas are annually struck by floods and landslides of various sizes. In our opinion, the Forum should take also these issues into consideration. Through the committee and the common fund precautions could be made in the forms of storm water and flood-control projects, which could ease the effects of such foreseeable catastrophes.