

# RichMUNd II

The logo of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a light blue circular emblem. It features a stylized globe in the center, showing the continents of North and South America. The globe is surrounded by a wreath of olive branches. Overlaid on the globe and wreath is the text of the event.

**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**Divya Atluri**  
*Chair*

**Ananya Venkatesh**  
*Chair*

**Ankita Naphade**  
*Vice Chair*

Dear Delegates,

I am a sophomore at Henrico High School. Currently, I am involved in many different sports and clubs, such as, tennis, field hockey, MUN and debate. I have been in MUN since freshmen year and have participated in 5 conferences, one of which I was in the crisis staff, MUN has been a big part of my life ever since. I love everything from the energetic debate to the chaos of a crisis in committee.

This committee will seek to identify a plan for the current issues of Climate Change and Water Security. Although I encourage delegates to be well versed and knowledgeable in the history of the UN Environmental Program, I ask delegates to avoid consciously following the established course of history. Debate will be far more enjoyable and stimulating if decisions and their impacts are featured in real-time. I also want to remind delegates that position papers are due on the first committee session, feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and hearing your ideas on these pressing issues.

Can't wait to see you all soon!

**Divya Atluri**

***Co-Chair***

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Hi guys!

My name is Ananya Venkatesh and I am currently a senior at Henrico High School. I am the Vice President of Henrico's Model UN club and I have participated in model UN for four years. Over the years I have grown to truly love it and I am excited to share my passion by teaching you all about how FUN "MUN" can be! For this committee, we are expecting a 1.5-2 page single spaced position paper including a country introduction, a few paragraphs on topic 1, and a few paragraphs on topic 2. If you need help or have questions about the position paper or anything committee related, feel free to contact me!

Good luck and see you guys soon!

**Ananya Venkatesh**

***Co-Chair***

**ananya181@gmail.com**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ankita Naphade and I will be your vice chair for this committee! I have participated in Model UN for 3 years now and I absolutely love it! From the sweeping comments during moderated caucuses to the well-led debate sessions during unmods, Model UN has been a great experience for me and I hope RICHMUND this year will be the same for you guys!

Other than Model UN, I love to sing, dance, and eat ice-cream on a daily basis! As president of Spanish Honor Society, I also have an immense passion to listen to Spanish music and watch Spanish movies! I am also interested in all things Bollywood and have the best time binge watching Netflix! I also love learning about new cultures and languages!

I remember when I first started Model UN, I was *that* scared little girl in the back that would be too afraid to voice her opinion, but I'm really glad now that it has increased my public speaking skills and allowed me to flourish in ways I previously thought impossible! This year, I am looking forward to comprehensive debate that focuses on finding solutions that are locally, nationally, and internationally friendly! I hope you guys take advantage of the time you have to research well and come to committee well-prepared, but most important of all, have fun! Feel free to email with any questions!

Good luck and see you soon!

**Ankita Naphade**

***Vice Chair***

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## **Introduction**

The United Nations has six main committees, one being the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP is the organization that mostly speaks for the environment in the United Nations. The General Assembly recommended the establishment of UNEP at the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in June 1972. Since then, the

UNEP has worked together to promote the collaboration and cooperation of all associations that work in the field pertaining to the environment. The base is located in Nairobi, Kenya where international environmental programs and laws are developed at a basic level. From this, the UNEP uses its power to inform other countries about natural, and

environment-friendly ways to sustain a healthy environment. Not only does UNEP make sure that other countries are aware of programs that encourage the safety of their environment, but they also monitor other countries to make sure healthy procedures are being carried out.



# UNEP

## **Topic One: Water Security**

### **Overview**

The United Nations defines water security as “the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.” (UN-Water, 2013)

For the sake of this committee, you may start by breaking the definition of water security into smaller parts in order to tackle every aspect of the issue. In terms of sustaining livelihoods and human well-being, there are millions of people who lack access to safe drinking water around the world. Because of environmental concerns and issues with bringing about water security, it is not always a priority for every nation. As a collective body, the United Nations Environmental Programme has made water security a priority and over the years it has started to receive more attention and more importance by nations. More recently, water security has become a pressing topic that has been recognized by the United Nations, specifically the United

Nations Environmental Programme in the Millenium Development Goals.

The United Nations established 8 goals called the Millenium Development Goals for all member nations to strive to reach by the specific target deadlines. Goal number 7 is: Ensure Environmental Stability. Specifically, along with other targets, one target involves decreasing the population without access to safe drinking water by half by 2015. For the most part, that goal has been met; the population of people without access to water has been reduced by half. However, in 2012, 748 million people still lacked a reliable drinking water source.<sup>1</sup>

Also in terms of human well-being and sustaining livelihoods, of all the sectors, water security has the most direct and pressing effect on public health. As one might expect, the lack of drinking water causes major health issues. In the areas where there is no access to fresh water, it is likely that there is no medical center or hospital. This results in a vicious cycle involving the lack of water destructing the public health of an area, also causing the mortality rates to increase.

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<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/envIRON.shtml>

Another Millenium Development Goal involves improving maternal health and reducing infant mortality rates. There are several instances during which pregnant women and children do not have access to safe drinking water. This in turn makes safe pregnancies very difficult and in many cases can cause the termination of both the infant's life and mother's life. Water security affects almost all of the other Millenium Development Goals as well including "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger," and "Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases."

In reference to the definition, water security is not only involved with human well-being, but also affects the socio-economic development of any nation. The sectors that water security has a direct impact on include agriculture, energy, tourism, education sectors<sup>2</sup> In terms of agriculture, without proper water access, the crops will not be able to thrive. There are several economies that rely on the agriculture industry, so it is imperative that there is security in terms of the production of crops. Also, water availability is a major factor in the industry of tourism. If water is

not readily available, tourists will be very apprehensive about visiting. Water security affects industry because in the majority of the industries, water is needed for most of the industrial processes. For example, in the meat industry, water is needed to clean the meat and to allow the machinery to work properly. Without water security, the aforementioned sectors suffer. In turn, this causes the economy to suffer as well. The less money entering the economy, the less money there is to invest in improving society, potentially in terms of water security.

In Africa, for example, water security is a main issue and there have been many steps taken to address the problem. Water resources management has been implemented across the continent which involves transporting water to where it is most needed, storing water for dry periods, develop infrastructure to better preserve water sources. In the past during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, integrated water management was discussed. It was decided that all sources of water must be managed together. South Africa was divided into separate regions in which the different regions were managed together. Similar steps have been taken not only in Africa, but all around the world. The pollution of water

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<sup>2</sup> What is Water Security? - THE CHALLENGE - Global Water Partnership". Gwp.org. 2010-03-25. Retrieved 2014-08-16.

is another major problem in which pollution prevents the water from being used.

Deforestation causes the nitrogen in the soil to increase as the plants are no longer there to absorb the nitrogen out of the ground.

Deforestation also increases run-off and the combination of water run-off and excess nitrogen in the soil causes nitrogen to enter the water. The water that may have once been a source of drinking water is now nitrogen-infested.

### **Questions to Consider**

- 1) Should the target number of people who need access to drinking water be increased?
- 2) Are there specific nations that we should focus on?

The logo of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a large, light blue watermark in the background. It features a central emblem with a stylized human figure and a globe, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Below the emblem, the word "UNEP" is written in a large, serif font.

# UNEP

## **Topic Two: Climate Change**

The UN believes climate change has become a key issue amongst the UNEP and has become a global issue because the climate is shared by all the world's nations. The UNEP has taken many steps to bring forth a resolution; they have developed environmental education and awareness as well as promote sustainable development. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the most important international document related to climate change. UNFCCC focuses on getting countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Climate change affects every country and can possibly bring severe costs for the world. This committee should consider that all the countries emit different amounts of greenhouse gases, but nations everywhere feel the effects of climate change. Keep in mind that fossil fuels are relied on for day-to-day life, therefore, delegates cannot pass a resolution to ban the use of fossil fuels.

The effects of climate change are already transforming life on Earth. All over the world, temperatures are increasing, landscapes are changing, risks of drought, fire, and floods are more likely, and much more. With temperatures increasing over,

the tension of over shrinking food supplies and dwindling natural resources increases. Those who can't afford basic things are expected to be most heavily affected by climate change. In developing nations, climate change is fundamentally altering entire societies. In Bangladesh, rising sea levels have forced thousands of "environment refugees" to move inland, straining existing food supplies and inundating local job markets. If we don't act now, climate change will drastically alter the lands and waters we all depend upon for survival.

Many steps have been taken to minimize the devastating effects that climate change is bringing upon the earth. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have been working on efforts to reduce the consequences that climate change brings forth. They are working together to generate cleaner, more efficient vehicles which will subdue the amount of pollutants that are released into the air by motor vehicles. The different toxic wastes that are being released in the air from these vehicles have an extensive effect on climate change. The EPA and NHTSA believe that building



cleaner mechanisms could have a drastic effect on this ongoing complication.

Close to every nation strongly agrees that something needs to be done about climate change. However, the challenge has been trying to get a settlement on a basis. In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created by the UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to access the scientific knowledge on climate change, letting the IPCC conclude that there was a broad international consensus that climate change was human-induced. The United Nation has realized that climate change might possibly be one of the ultimate threats facing the planet. Nations have come to an comprehensive understanding that something has to be done about climate change.

The World Nuclear Association (WNA) states the fact that the human enhancement of global warming leading to climate change is a worldwide problem. The WNA also states, “Emissions of greenhouse gases have a global impact, unlike some other forms of pollution. Whether they are

emitted in Asia, Africa, Europe, or the Americas, they rapidly disperse evenly across the globe. This is one reason why efforts to address climate change have been through international collaboration and agreement.”

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in Kyoto, Japan, is an international agreement which commits its Parties by enforcing internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are especially responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities.” The extensive rules of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 2001, and are referred to as the “Marrakesh Accords.” The first commitment period lasted for 4 years, between 2008 and 2012.

### **Questions to Consider**

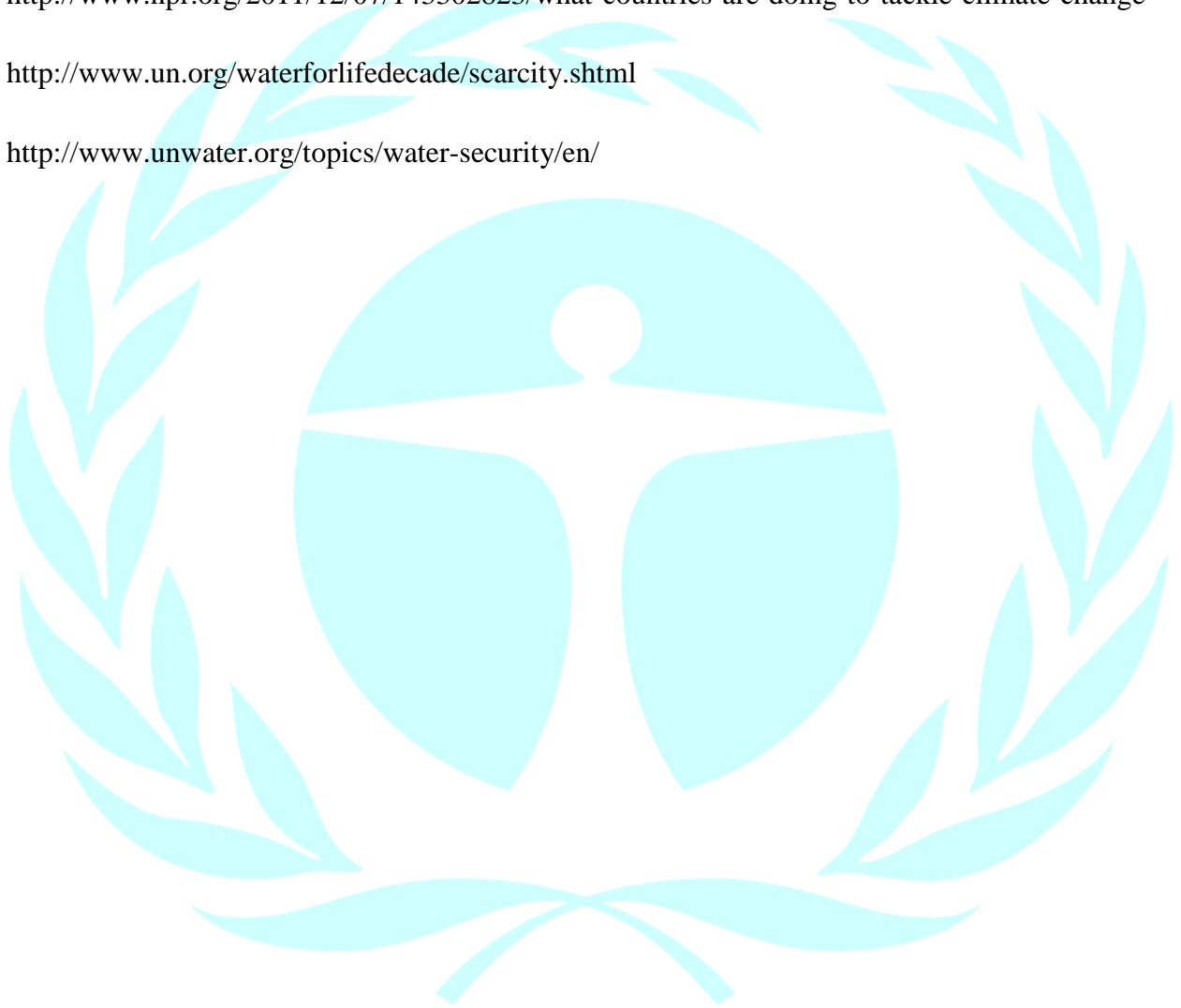
- 1) Are there other ways to tackle the current issue of climate change?
- 2) Other than the Kyoto Protocol, will any new agreement help stop climate change?

**Useful Links for Research:**

<http://www.npr.org/2011/12/07/143302823/what-countries-are-doing-to-tackle-climate-change>

<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/scarcity.shtml>

<http://www.unwater.org/topics/water-security/en/>



UNEP

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