

Committee: ECOSOC

Topic: Increasing Access to Food and Clean Water in Developing Countries

Delegation: Argentina

A. Around the world, 844 million people—one in nine—do not have clean water (WaterAid, 2017). 815 million people still go to bed on an empty stomach each night, and one in three people suffer from some sort of malnutrition (WFP, 2017). Many factors contribute to these food and water issues, including overpopulation, climate change, soil erosion, ongoing civil war, and high food prices.

Overpopulation is a considerable issue in many developing nations and has been causing strain on nations to meet the food needs of their people. As the population rises, so does food demand, and developing nations often lack the technology to produce enough food to compete with rising populations. Just to keep up with rising demand (and not to improve the current situation with regard to food needs), it is predicted that overall food production must increase by 70% by 2050 (FAO, 2012 or 2013). However, as we have seen in the past, human population planning is difficult and has yet to be successful, and therefore it may be better to increase food production and technology rather than decrease populations.

High food prices contribute to the problem as well, as if people within nations cannot afford food, then they will not have food. In many countries, such as in Burundi, this is because they import more than they export, which leads to many citizens turning to subsistence farming as a way to feed themselves. However, this often leads to a diet of mainly grains, which does not provide enough vital nutrients for the consumer. Not to mention that these nations do not have access to what is being produced on these farms, because they are subsistence farms, but also because their people are still malnourished, nations concur that they must import more food to feed their citizens, and the cycle continues.

Ongoing civil war, terrorism, and other conflicts that reduce the security and stability of a nation are also big players in this game. When nations have to draw their attention to bloodshed and warfare within their nation, the same attention is being drawn away from finding a way to sustain their people's livelihoods and health. This is especially if there is already a problem with food and water access, but warring groups, in order to win, may follow scorched-earth policies and blockade each other. Not to mention the stopping of the flow of trade between two sides of a nation in a civil war, which may be a source of food for people on both sides.

B. The UN has done much to resolve water issues, such as through the United Nations Water Conference (1977), the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), the International Conference on Water and the Environment (1992), and the Earth Summit (1992), as well as through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In order to address food access issues, the UN created Sustainable Development Goals, one of which is the Zero Hunger Goal. This is goal two, which aspires to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Though the UN has done all this, there is still much that can be done.

C. In Argentina, our Civil Code (Código Civil) determines that almost all water is under public domain, defines the lines of river banks, determines the legal consequences of changes in the land caused by the water's natural action, forbids diversion operations which change the natural path of water in order to bring it to other areas, and provides rules applicable to equitable servitudes which represent nonpossessory interests in land which contains water. We also have determined that all water is public property (with very few exceptions) in order to try to preserve the non-polluted state of water bodies within our nation's borders. Since water is in the public domain, it belongs to the province in which it is found and is under the jurisdiction of the federal government only in certain matters such as navigation.

D. We as a nation believe that in order to control overpopulation in developing nations, abortion can be used if and only if the baby is a result of rape or carrying out the pregnancy can severely hurt the mother. We also believe that condoms are a way to prevent aids or pregnancy between married couples only, and only if overpopulation is a severe issue. We believe that artesian wells in the desert are a great way to produce water in desert nations, as upwards of 1000 gallons of water per minute can be produced through these artesian wells.