



Main Model United Nations Conference

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Challenges of a Changing Global Order – Responding to Emerging Conflicts

A photograph of a young girl in a school uniform filling a white container at a public water tap. The image is overlaid with a blue tint and a halftone dot pattern.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

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Main Model United Nations Conference 2022

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1. Introduction

Honourable Delegates,

We, Nathalie and Paula and in the name of the entire team, welcome you to the 17th edition of MainMUN in Frankfurt. We will be your Chairs in the committee United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA). Therefore, we would like to use this opportunity and introduce ourselves.

My name is Paula Benz, and I study Political Science and Gender Studies in my bachelor at Goethe University. This MainMUN will be my third and my second time chairing. I will be chairing the UNEA from a little town in Sweden, and I am excited about delegates joining from all over the world. I am very much looking forward to MainMUN and the debates. Hope to see you all in March!

My name is Nathalie Ferko and I am currently working on my thesis in Political Science as well as I am already working full-time. I started my MUN career in 2015 and gained a lot of experience as a delegate, board member and chair. Therefore, I am looking forward to this year's conference to work with students from all over the world in order to face the environmental crisis and find common solutions.

The two topics that will be discussed in the UNEA at MainMUN 2022 are

I. Supporting Sustainable Energy Development in the Combat against Climate Change

II. Ensuring Safe Access to Clean Water in Crisis Situations

Please note that the Background Guide is used to give you an overview of the topic, and you need to do some research on your own regarding the policies and opinions of the country you will be representing. We highly recommend that you write a position paper, and if you hand it in before the deadline, we can give you feedback, and you will be secure in your positions and your country's stance on the topics.

We are looking forward to seeing you at MainMUN 2022!

Nathalie & Paula

2. UNEA

The United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) has the most decision-making power regarding environmental issues within the United Nations (UN). It was founded in 2012 as an update of the UN Environment committee because the Member States called for more climate action. UNEA was strengthened again by the UN in 2015 through the Paris Agreement and is now responsible for enforcing the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The headquarters of UNEA are located in Nairobi, where the assembly meets every two years. The Programme by UNEA, the UNEP, is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and addresses numerous essential topics related to the environment. The issues relate to broad categories, climate change, disasters and

conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, and the UNEA operates within these categories. The newest Special Report: “Global warming of 1,5°C” (IPCC 2021), by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), puts increasing pressure on states and multilateral institutions like the UNEA to tackle climate change, as many problems the UN is facing are directly or indirectly bound to climate change.

3. Topic I: Supporting Sustainable Energy Development in the Combat against Climate Change (written by Johannes Bogatz)

Climate change is the pressing topic of the 21st century. Tackling its challenges is one of the hardest challenges to mankind at the moment and likely in the next decades. Not only is coping with the catastrophes caused by the massive disruptions in the climate and environment difficult by itself, at the same time the need to limit the increase in global temperature is an undeniably hard task. It needs a high variety of different actions to be taken. The most important one is the energy production, which needs to be as carbon neutral as possible as soon as possible, to stop further warming. Assuming the energy consumption won't be lowering itself dramatically in the next years, most of the production must undergo a complete change to a carbon neutral production, as it is to date the highest emitting sector of greenhouse gases. This goal can be reached on many different routes. As the production of nuclear power faces environmental, political and economic problems, renewable energy is the best option left. This paper will explore the normative and structural foundations, the current status and actions taken to achieve higher percentages of sustainable energy production in the context of the United Nations (UN) and shall help policymakers decide on their further actions.

3.1. Framework

In the following, it will be explored why there needs to be action taken and in which constitutional context it should happen. Furthermore, the institutional status quo of climate action in the context of the UN will be explored and explained.

In the famous report by the Club of Rome from 1972 (*The Limits to Growth. A Report for the Club of Rome's Project on the Predicament of Mankind.*) it is stated that the earth has limited resources that will be used up at some time. Especially under the aspect of climate and the limited amount of carbon negative gases that can be emitted into the atmosphere. On a foreword of their new climate emergency plan, they state: "*Climate change is the most pressing global challenge, constituting an existential threat to humanity*" (Club of Rome 2018: 0). This gets underlined by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): "*About half of cumulative anthropogenic CO2 emissions between 1750 and 2010 have occurred in the last 40 years*" (Edenhofer, O., R et al. 2014: 7). It is expected that the global mean surface temperature will rise from 3.7°C to between 4.8°C to 7.8°C in 2100 (Edenhofer, O., R et al. 2014: 8). The consequences of not acting will be dramatic in economic,

ecologic and many more aspects, especially for further generations. Living on earth will be much more difficult to impossible.

The climate is a worldwide phenomenon that doesn't stop at manmade borders and affects every human, country and the global community as a whole. Because the problem of climate change causes conflicts between the different stakeholders caused by different interests, it can only be regulated on a multilateral level between the representations of each country and not in unilateral or bilateral approaches. Furthermore, as the more countries participate, the more legitimacy it gains, but with more parties involved a multilateral approach loses effectivity and vice versa with less participants it gains effectivity and loses legitimacy (Maull 2020: 4). The UN as the multilateral body with the most participating countries is, therefore, the best forum to address this issue, although it loses some effectivity caused by the many participants. Founding completely new multilateral entities just for climate change without the involvement of the UN is possible, but difficult and would take some time. As action is needed as soon as possible, there is no time to spare. Facing climate change undergoes many structural and normative problems. Not only are the countries on different economic levels, some of them are also tackling a different kind of problems, such as war, mass migration, unstable governments and normal environmental challenges. This needs to be addressed by all states to make sure everyone is able to reach set goals. Therefore, the only option to a holistic approach is the UN. All while including more differentiated action fields as for example the goal to more sustainable energy production.

The international community has long taken on the problem of climate change. The most important approaches were made in the context of the UN. Their approach can be differentiated into two sections. First stands the recognition of climate change with the goal to tackle it in the form of an agreement and second the more practical part of direct actions and directives on how to tackle climate change.

The First part took form in the Paris Agreement entered into force on November 4th 2016. It is a "*legally binding international treaty on climate change*" (UNFCCC 2020: 1). It recognizes climate change as a threat and the need to tackle it on the basis of the latest scientific knowledge (United Nations 2015: 1). The Parties agreed not only to recognize but also to "[*take*] *full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries with regard to funding and transfer of technology*" (United Nations 2015: 0). Its primary goal is to stay under an additional increase of at least 2°C at best 1.5°C in comparison to the pre-industrial era (Masson-Delmotte: 1). Following this 1.5°C commitment, 70-85% of the energy must be carbon negative at best renewable till at least the year 2050. When aiming for the 2°C warming this can be lower at a share of 50-80% till 2050 (Masson-Delmotte: 15).

The second part is more directly settled at the United Nations. Next to the General Assembly, a major part of the discussion is held at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as parent of the Paris Agreement, it is the platform and secretariat to discuss the adaption of the Paris Agreement. On top of this, the UN built a framework for countries to orient and help them adapt sustainability measures, the

Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) (Department of Economic and Social Affairs: 1). These contain 17 Goals, of which goal 7 is:

"Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"

(Department of Economic and Social Affairs: 1).

The **UN-Energy Pledge** sets goals in 4 frames on the ground of SGD 7 until the year 2025. That being:

- Access (giving more people access to preferably renewable energy)
- Transition (make energy production renewable and more efficient)
- Resilience (creating new jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency)
- Finance (investing money in renewable energy)

(UN Energy: 1)

The monitoring of SDG 7 goals was put into the framework of a joint initiative of the World Bank energy sector, the Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), the International Energy Agency and 15 more global organizations. They provide their collected data on energy to everyone and provide bi-annual updates (United Nations: 2).

3.2. Status Quo of Renewable Energy

To understand why energy production is so fundamentally important there needs to be taken a look at the current numbers and the background of these.

According to calculations of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the total global emissions caused by human action has seen the highest rise in history in the decade of the years 2000-2010 with a plus of 2.2% per annum compared to 1.3% per annum from 1970 to 2000. This totals to around 49 gigatons of emitted CO₂ per annum in 2010. Of these 49 GtCO₂/yr 78% can be traced to fossil fuel combustion and industrial procedures. This equals around 32 GtCO₂/yr. (Edenhofer, O., R et al. 2014: 6).

This must be brought into some context, in which sectors and by whom the highest amounts are emitted.

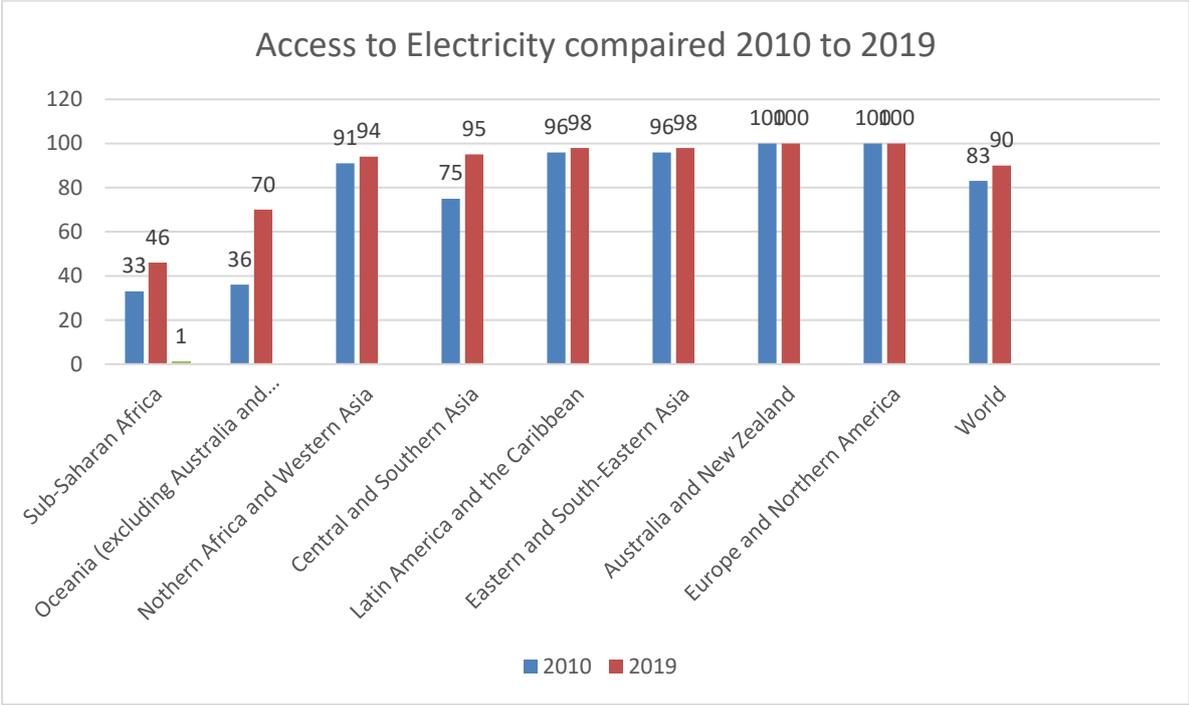
Although many different sectors contribute to climate change, some contribute significantly higher than others. The highest is electricity and heat production with 25% (Edenhofer, O., R et al. 2014: 8–9). Looking at the sectors the current percentages of sustainable energy are not very promising. In heating and cooling with a total energy consumption share of 51% around 10.2% are renewable. In transport with a total share of 32% only 3.4% is renewable. The most promising is power with a total share of 17% and a renewable share of 27.1% (André et al. 2021: 8). On top of this, some sectors didn't improve at all. For example "*the transport sector's renewable energy share did not increase*" (André et al. 2021: 7). Renewable energy, although there has been improvement, has still a low market share. In the year 2019 11.2% of the total energy consumption was renewable, compared to 8.7% in 2009

this is an increase of 2.5%. If the trend continues the goals of SDG7 and the Paris Agreement won't be met (André et al. 2021: 6).

Looking at who emits how much, all the highest producers of greenhouse gases are industrialized nations. Ranking downwards China is with 30% the highest, followed by the United States with 15%, the EU-28 with 9%, India with 7%, Russia with 5% and Japan with 4% while all other states sum up to 30% (Boden et al. 2017: 1). This shows the massive global disparity between rich and industrial nations and developing countries.

One of the most important parts of energy is electricity. Despite it being easy to produce in the year 2019 759 million people still didn't have access to it. This is around 10% of the worlds population. Compared to 2010 the number has increased from 83% to 90% having access to electricity with 1.1 billion people having access the first time (Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Statistics Division 2021: 1).

But there is a huge disparity in electricity access between the global north and the global south. Looking at the data Europe and Northern America, Australia and New Zealand all have a 100% access rate. At the bottom are mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa with 46%, this still is an increase by 13% compared between 2019 and 2010 (Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Statistics Division 2021: 1).



Graphic with data by the United Nations (Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Statistics Division 2021: 1)

Access to renewable energy doesn't just include electricity. Other forms of energy consumption play a vital role too. But with access to renewable energy, some dangers and problems will be tackled, as renewable energy is easier to produce locally and is mostly in a less harmful form than the to be substituted oil, gas and other highly risky and harmful energy sources. One aspect is food making. It is estimated by the UN that "one third of the world's population will still be using dangerous and inefficient cooking systems in 2030" (Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Statistics Division

2021: 1). It is hoped that clean energy will also improve these problems as well as social and gender disparity. Here SDG7 interacts directly with other SDGs.

3.3. Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and the SDG 7 Measurements

The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative aims at the social part of a transformation to sustainable energy in the context of SDG 7. The initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership between governments, the private sector, and civil society. Launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2011, it has three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030 (United Nations: 1):

"1. Ensure universal access to modern energy services.

2. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

3. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix."

(United Nations: 1)

This interlinks with SDG 7. The goals of the SDG 7 have been set to the year 2030 for now, this doesn't exclude later correction nor new goals to be set (Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2021: 1). The Tracking of SDG 7 is subdivided and classified into six categories:

- Access to electricity
- Access to clean cooking
- renewable energy
- energy efficiency
- international financial flow
- renewable capacity per capita

(Energy Sector Management Assistance Program: 1)

To monitor the success of the SDG 7 several targets have been set with their pursuant counterpart indicators. These are as following to the UN:

	Target	Identifier
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of

		primary energy and GDP
7.a	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems
7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

(Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2021: 1)

They are an orientation and are used to measure the SDG 7 goals and are interlinked with the Energy for All Initiative. They are used by ESMAP and provide a framework for measurement.

As the current Covid-19 pandemic is affecting many aspects of life it does also affect the phase-out of fossil fuels and the shift to renewable alternatives. In 2020, the first year of the pandemic, little to no new renewable energy support policies got approved by the individual countries. And "*investment in fossil fuels in COVID-19 recovery packages was six times higher than for renewable energy*" (André et al. 2021: 10–11).

3.4. Further Sources and Research Ideas

Every country has its own policies regarding sustainability and renewable energy. The policies aren't standardized and must be researched individually. But the UN offers monitoring tools and helps by offering a high variety of examples. This helps to inform oneself in regard of the following questions:

How high is the percentage of sustainable energy in your country?

How fast is the development to a renewable energy production going in your country?

What kind of economy does your country have and does it use a lot of energy and is it possible to change its energy consumption to renewable soon?

Does your country need international (financial/structural/etc.) help to fulfill the sustainable energy goals?

The UN-Energy Pledge site offers an overview of many sustainable energy related topics: <https://www.un.org/en/energycompacts/page/registry>

On the site of ESMAP the results of the SDG 7 targets can researched and sorted by worldwide and for each country:

<https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org//>

The IRENA is an intergovernmental organization that helps countries improving their renewable energy share and informs the public and policymakers.

<https://www.irena.org/aboutirena>

The site of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative offers an overview over the several topics of SDG 7 and especially its programs.

<https://www.seforall.org/impact-areas/programmes>

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4. Topic II: Ensuring Safe Access to Clean Water in Crisis Situations

4.1. Topic Introduction

In our rapidly changing environment and society, there are numerous issues we need to address. The climate is changing, and the world is nearing a climate catastrophe. Due to unsustainable agriculture or an unsustainable lifestyle, water has become a scarce resource in some parts of the world. Some are more affected by this scarcity than others; an estimated two billion people do not have access to clean water (WHO 2019b). This year's UNEA will look more closely at the most vulnerable affected by unsafe access to water. After climate catastrophes or conflict situations, limited water sources significantly affect citizens. These events can also lead to the pollution of fresh water sources, making the water dangerous if consumed. People can also be confronted with dangerous conditions while trying to get access to clean water. The right to water was declared a human right in 2010 (UNDESA 2014). Therefore, it is essential to discuss what can be done to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for refugees living in camps, victims of natural disasters, and the most vulnerable, for example, children or disabled people.

4.2. Frameworks

The first mention of water as a fundamental right was at the United Nations Water Conference in 1977, where the member states issued an action plan that

“asserted that all peoples, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, had the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs” (OHCHR 2010: 3).

In 1996 the United Nations passed the Habitat Agenda, which included the need for an adequate amount of water; however, the amount is not specified (The Habitat Agenda 2006: 2).

In 2010 the General Assembly (GA) by the United Nations (UN) reached an important milestone. The right to water was declared a human right in the resolution A/RES/64/292. More specifically, the

right to water and sanitation was acknowledged as indispensable for realising other human rights (UNDESA 2014).

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) by the UN also address the right to water and implemented it in their Agenda 2030; goal six is called “Water and Sanitation” (UN 2021). Target 6.1. and 6.2. mainly deal with clean water for everyone and safe access to sanitation facilities, especially for vulnerable people who need hygienic products for their monthly period (UN 2021).

Not only does the United Nations have international frameworks, but the European Union (EU) has as well, “The EU water framework directive” (European Commission 2021) that directs the handling of water and water regulations in the EU.

The African Union (AU) also regularly hosts a partners’ conference on the water and sanitation programme in Africa; the last one was held in 2019 (AU 2019). These conferences are planned in coordination with the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW).

4.2.1. MDGs and SDGs

What role did the right to water play in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and how did the emphasis change regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, which were set in 2015? Did the emphasis change at all? The Millennium Development Goals were established in 2002 and aimed, among other things, at halving extreme poverty, providing universal primary education or halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases (UN 2015a). There were eight goals in total; set to be achieved by 2015. The right to clean water is not mentioned as its own goal, however in goal seven, the plan to ensure environmental sustainability, the UN wanted to halve the earth’s population without safe access to clean drinking water by 2015. This goal was reached in 2010, five years ahead of time. However, “[d]espite progress, 2.4 billion are still using unimproved sanitation facilities” (UN 2015b). In 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were introduced, and instead of eight goals, the UN set 17 new and improved goals for the Member States to accomplish. Goal six was dedicated to the right to water and sanitation, entailing eight targets in total. In 2020 the number of people lacking safely managed sanitation facilities was higher than ten years earlier, now being 3.6 billion in total (UN 2021). The importance of water has become more apparent in recent years, as global water usage has been increasing and the water situation got more stressed in many parts of the world. Goal six from the SDGs focuses on the importance of clean water, safe access to it, and the preservation of clean water sources. Especially with the Covid-19 pandemic, access to fresh water is critical, and strategies to provide safe access and ensure clean water need to be discussed (UN 2021).

4.3. Facts and figures

4.3.1. What are crisis situations?

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global warming will likely reach an increase of 1,5 degrees Celsius between 2030 and 2050 (UNEP 2020). The report concludes, that natural disasters will become more common, such as floods, droughts, storms, earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions (Ritchie/Roser). Some natural disasters are caused by each other, such as volcano eruptions resulting from a tsunami, and other crises will follow natural disasters, such as famine following droughts or floods. In these cases, water is often scarce, water sources are destroyed or contaminated. Due to the resulting scarcity of access to clean water, people will often drink and use unclean or contaminated water regardless, which can lead to sickness or even death.

Not only are regions after natural disasters especially in need of clean water and safe access to water sources, areas in which war has broken out are also vulnerable to the destruction of water sources and the endangering of the access to water. A prominent example is Syria. Before war broke out, “98 per cent of people in cities and 92 per cent of people in rural communities had reliable access to safe water” (ICRC 2021); now, only 50% of the population have safe access to clean water. In 2021 there have been 27 wars and armed conflicts registered across the globe, the majority of them in the Global South, where access to water is often more difficult to begin with (Council on Foreign Relations 2022).

4.3.2. Water as a human right

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that, for the fulfilment of the human right to water, water must be sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable. Enough means that there must be enough to fulfil the needs of a human in a day, which is between 50 and 100 litres per day. Safe means that the water must adhere to the WHO guidelines for clean drinking water, absent of chemicals or sickness-inducing contents. “Water must also be of an acceptable colour, odour and taste to ensure that individuals will not resort to polluted alternatives that may look more attractive” (OHCHR 2010: 9). Furthermore, water needs to be accessible to all, elderly or disabled, and water needs to be affordable. Water is a human right and not being able to pay for it is not essential to whether a human being has enough water. While the WHO stresses that enough water for a person is between 50 and 100 litres per day, the minimum amount should be 20 litres per day. (OHCHR 2010: 8-11). Refugees and internally displaced people¹ living in camps often only get two to three litres per day, which is not even a fifth of the minimum amount (OHCHR 2010: 23).

¹ "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border." <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/idpersons/pages/issues.aspx>

4.3.3. Importance of water

What can happen if people drink contaminated water, use unclean water for hygienic purposes, or don't drink enough water? At least 50% of malnutrition can be traced back to drinking dirty water and catching intestinal diseases or diarrheal infections. Over 800 000 people die every year due to infections caused by contaminated drinking water (WHO 2019c). Conditions include, but are not limited to, "cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio and exacerbates stunting" (WHO 2019a). Catching a disease from unclean water and not getting hydrated while sick is a great danger, especially for children. Yearly an estimated 525 000 children under the age of five die due to diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated water or food (WHO 2017).

Drinking unclean or contaminated water is not the only health risk to people; using contaminated water to wash oneself is also a reason for diseases and death. Especially people on their period are vulnerable to diseases because if there is no water and they cannot clean their genital area, the number of bacteria increases and bacterial infections are more likely (Goje 2021).

4.3.4. Who is especially vulnerable to unclean water or unsafe access to water?

Especially vulnerable to unsafe access to unclean water are children, women, disabled people or trans people. As already mentioned, children are more likely to die of infections or diseases caused by contaminated water, as are people menstruating. But not only is dirty water a problem, but the question of how to get water is also a pressing issue in some countries. Studies have shown that the hours invested to get water, primarily by women and children, are 200 billion hours in a day (UNICEF 2016). This time could also be spend to work a paying job or get educated at a school. Especially girls are likely to drop out of school and help their mothers get water. This stunts the human development of most countries, as only half of the population could even get educated at a higher level. Girls are also more likely to drop out of school when there are no sufficient sanitation facilities (OHCHR 2010: 21). They will not go to school during their period, because there are no sufficient sanitation facilities, but also because of the social stigma surrounding periods and menstruation. Periods are often seen as unclean and shameful to talk about. Due to missing 10 to 20% of school days within the year, they can often not catch up with missed content and therefore drop out of school (IPPF 2021).

Getting water is another risk, as wild animals may attack women and children; they are more vulnerable to sexual assaults, especially refugees getting assaulted and raped while trying to get water for their families (OHCHR 2010: 23).

4.3.5. Regions in the world where safe access to water is not guaranteed

In 2020 26% of the world population did not have access to safely managed drinking water, and 46% did not have access to safely managed sanitation facilities. As of 2018, 2.3 Billion live in water-stressed countries (UN 2021).

Especially vulnerable to water scarcity and climate change are developing and least developed countries, as they do not have the infrastructure or freshwater resources as industrial countries. In industrial countries, 3.5 % of the land is covered by freshwater sources, compared to only 1,4 % in developing countries and less than 1 % in the so-called least developed countries (UNDESA 2020: 37). Additionally, to the distribution of freshwater resources, people get sicker and cannot work in countries without sufficient sanitation facilities and clean water. Studies have shown the clear connection of sickness and GDP loss, or in other words health and GDP gain. One study for example showed the increase of GDP per capita related to the reduction of the mortality rate (WHO Africa 2019: 2).

There are already several countries where clean water supplies and safe access to water are endangered or not provided. This is a situation mainly in countries of the Global South and happening less in countries of the Global North. The Flint Water Crisis is a famous example from the United States, where the drinking water of the US city Flint was contaminated. The contamination resulted in grave danger to the health of citizens (Denchak 2018).

One extreme example is Yemen, where after the Arab Spring, a civil war has begun that costs many lives and causes millions to flee. An estimated 13 million people in Yemen do not have save access to clean water, and the war is drastically worsening the situation. Yemen has always been a water-stressed country, but in recent years the situation has worsened (Suter 2017).

4.3.6. Situation in refugee camps

While the minimum amount of water a person can survive with is 7 litres; which is not sufficient nor recommended by the WHO, the UN has decided that for refugees living in camps, there should be at least 15 to 20 litres per person per day (OHCHR 2010: 9). But most camps fail to provide even 15 litres per day, especially because many centres are in countries that already suffer from water scarcity (Dakkak 2020).

People will have to continue leaving their homes because of war or natural disasters, and they will most likely flee neighbouring countries. For example, an estimated 1,3 billion Syrian refugees live in Jordan, most unregistered, and the actual number is probably even higher (UFZ 2021: 2). The water situation in the country is agitated; water was scarce even before the high number of refugees entered Jordan, and it continues to get strained.

4.4. Policy Opportunities

While the UN has already started projects in many countries of the Global South, there are still policy opportunities that are not implemented everywhere or can be altered to a global fit. The WASH project by UNICEF is probably the most popular project regarding water safety and help for the Global South. WASH stands for Water, Hygiene and Sanitation and entails guidelines for the member states to provide safe water and sanitation facilities (UNICEF 2021).

The situation in the Global South is more pressing, as they are more vulnerable to natural disasters and the following crises for humans. But in the future, catastrophes will become more likely in the Global North too, and the United Nations and its member states need to be prepared for crises rising worldwide.

1. Using local groups
2. Response teams
3. Clearance of water directly in affected regions or refugee camps
4. Technologies used for water cleanings, such as sewage networks and wastewater treatment plants

4.5. Further research for delegates

Water Peace Security's online tool has resources to show you where water scarcity may lead to conflicts. It also has data and publications. <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/>

<https://www.wri.org/search?keys=water>

<https://www.unep.org/search/node?keys=water+and+sanitation>

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>

<https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/factsheet35en.pdf>

4.6. Guiding Questions for the Position Paper

- 1 What is your country's position in the world? Is access to water available to everyone equally? Have you suffered a crisis lately where access to clean water was limited?
- 2 Does your country have local projects or groups that work within the topic? Can you use already existing infrastructure or projects and enhance them?
- 3 Is your government able to support projects to ensure safe access to clean water, or does your country need help from the UN?

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