**FORUM:** Economic and Social Council

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing Measures to Increase the Accessibility of Potable Water
 and Healthy Food in Less Economically Developed Countries.

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Mexico

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Libya, Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Portugal, Norway, Congo,
 Nigeria, Colombia, France

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Acknowledging* the existence of the Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 2, working to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” and “end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” encouraging an increase in the accessibility of potable water in developing countries and limiting the population size suffering from lack of food sources,

*Appreciating* the efforts made by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Water.org, Volvic and other international organisations with the aim to increase the accessibility of potable water for agriculture and household use in LEDCs,

*Concerned* that up to 6% of total annual deaths in developing countries are a result of non- potable water drinkage while it is nearly 0% in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs),

*Emphasising* that over 2.3 billion people worldwide do not have access to adequate food due to poverty, droughts, crises or natural disasters among others; an increase of over 300 million on the previous year,

*Further observing* that basic sanitation and adequate access to clean water is essential in the prevention and containment of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Covid-19, and Hepatitis, among others,

*Noting with concern* that 52% of the Mexican population faces water scarcity, resulting in the inability to access potable water by over 65 million people; stifling economic activity, putting greater tension on national health systems and exacerbating poverty,

*Observing* that Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), mainly in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are largely responsible for water pollution due to uncontrolled population growth, expansion of agriculture, untreated sewage discharge into water basins, and outdated technology,

*Recalling* that one of the prevailing reasons for poor water access and unsanitary conditions in developing countries is the lack of appropriate technology and up-to-date infrastructure,

1. Invites Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developing nations listed by the UN to improve their water conservation technology with the financial help and know-how of MEDCs through means such as but not limited to:
	1. rainwater harvesting, a process by which non-potable rainwater is collected in large basins, diverted into containers and stored for later use,
	2. Dew and Fog Harvesting,
	3. the SODIS method: the purification of water through solar radiation;
2. Encourages local and national governments to secure the long-term sustainability of freshwater sources by:
	1. imposing an annual geographic Water Footprint Assessment, providing information on the water availability and pollution assimilation capability of water sources, and aiding in the determination of their limits, assessed by databases such as but not limited to:
		1. The United Nations
		2. WaterStat
		3. GemStat
		4. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
		5. AquaStat
	2. setting maximum water utilisation and pollution restrictions in river basins and aquifers to guarantee a safe balance between the inhabitants’ needs and the environment’s capacity,
	3. developing water footprint benchmarks for producers based on the available technology and resources, formulating water footprint reduction targets aimed at decreasing water consumption,
	4. establishing equitable water footprint distribution or ‘fair sharing’ within river basins and among all involved communities;
3. Calls upon organisations such as but not restricted to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands to preserve and restore wetlands which naturally collect, store and filter water by:
	1. funding them via voluntary contributions from other member states, distinct programs, organisations, other UN entities and firms, or other organisations in the private sector,
	2. transforming wetlands into nature reserves, restricting the types of activities and uses which may occur in the specific area and protecting that region,
	3. organising youth and volunteering programs for work in wetlands to preserve their current natural state;
4. Further invites local and national governments to subsidise microfinance providers and encourages medium-and large-scale firms to revert some funds to support microcredit organisations by:
	1. funding research for underlying reasons for food loss and waste at any stage of the food supply chain,
	2. using more effective and sustainable food waste disposal methods,
	3. implementing private agricultural development programs;
5. Requests that all member states make education their first and foremost priority through means such as but not limited to:
	1. abolishing the cost of school fees, with additional funds raised through help from UNESCO, or any other relevant organisations, in an attempt to:
		1. Improve access to education by increasing its availability to the general public
		2. allowing LEDC’s to hire experienced staff
		3. allowing schools to improve the quality of life in said schools,
	2. providing healthy and nutritious school lunch programs in LEDCs, created, if needed, with the help of professional dietitians,
	3. providing public awareness campaigns focused on the benefits of personal hygiene and the risks of drinking non-potable water;
6. Further encourages all parties involved to aim towards minimising their corporate water footprint through:
	1. monitoring medium-and large-scale organisations’ yearly water consumption,
	2. imposing taxes on water usage for firms and businesses in order to diminish their water footprint,
	3. incentivize the purchase of water-efficient equipment;
7. Designates consultants from MEDCs to share their expertise on, but not limited to, transport infrastructure, water infrastructure and agricultural knowledge to help cities build better:
	1. sanitation systems,
	2. sewage systems,
	3. waste water purification systems;
8. Requests that fellow nations actively work to improve the quality of food systems and food supply chains, in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. implementing more food systems, such as:
		1. donation community or school food drives
		2. food donation systems (such as from supermarkets)
		3. donations of damaged but still edible foods from post-harvest crop yields
	2. intervening along the food supply chain to lower the costs of nutritious foods.