

Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages

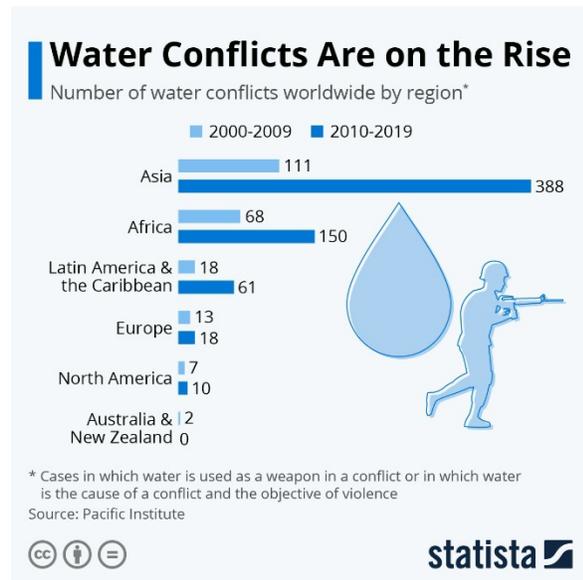
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I. Introduction

What is at stake if we fail to act? 2024 is a harrowing time. In addition to immediate crises, the Security Council also faces the long-term dangers of conflict and war due to water insecurity. Conflicts over declining freshwater resources threaten to cause violence or even war between UN Member States. As the UN body responsible for managing war and violence, the Security Council has a responsibility to address this threat.

reduces the predictability of freshwater supplies, there is growing pressure to find water for daily life, agriculture and industry. Governments have responded with major projects, such as massive new dams on the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers in Turkey, the Blue Nile in Ethiopia and the Mekong in China. These projects serve vital national interests, but pose serious dangers for Member States downstream, such as Iraq, Sudan and Egypt along the Nile. Similar controversies affect relations between India and Pakistan, China and the states downstream on the Mekong River. Mexico and the United States face similar problems managing the Colorado River.



More recently, the international community has witnessed water used as a tool in war between Russia and Ukraine. Violent disputes between ethnic communities in Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda have turned upon unresolved issues over water rights. In North Africa and the Arab Peninsula, fresh water is increasingly seen as a resource worth fighting for. The primary role of the UN Security Council is preventing war. Can its Member States find solutions to water disputes before they culminate in violence?

Water disputes already are a major part of the UN agenda. These issues are part of two of the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 6 "Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All" and Goal 14 "Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development"; together, these provide instrumental support for the international community.¹

Global population growth, rising wealth and consumption are increasing demand for freshwater everywhere. As global warming

¹ United Nations, Sustainable Development Goal 6: *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6> ; United Nations, Sustainable Development Goal 14: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and*



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



Behind these issues lie serious problems. 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water, according to the 2023 *Sustainable Development Goals Report*, 2.4 billion people live in water-stressed countries, and 3.5 billion people lack access to safely managed sanitation services². A majority of the UN's member states lack effective sustainable water management which causes one in five river basins to experience high fluctuations in surface water.



Catalyst for violent conflict? The controversial Ilisu Dam on the Tigris River in Turkey.
Photo: Turkish Directorate of Hydraulic Works.

II. Background and Current Situation

2010 marked a victory for water rights activists when safe and clean drinking water and sanitation was declared essential for the full enjoyment of life. The UN General Assembly

marine resources for sustainable development.
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14>

² The Sustainable Development Goals are a collective of targets which serve as a guide to worldwide peace. There are seventeen goals ranging from eliminating poverty to building stronger institutions. These goals have been promoted through 1,345 publications, 3,855 events, and 7,755 actions. <https://sdgs.un.org>. Also see Sustainable Development Goals 2023

was especially active, with the GA Resolution 64/292, *The human right to water and sanitation*. This resolution was recalled in 2013 with Resolution 68/157, *The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*.³

With the establishment of *Sustainable Development Goal Six* in 2015, the Member States of the UN went further, committing the international community to eliminate significantly reduce water scarcity worldwide. Critics note that due to rising world population and global warming, this goal is lofty.⁴



In much of the world, water equals risks of violence.

These resolutions and SDG 6 are relevant for the Security Council. They establish a right to freshwater, but they do not address the problem of violence, armed conflict and war over war. Since 2020, according to the *Water Conflict Chronology*, there currently are at least 202 conflicts related to or based on water scarcity.⁵

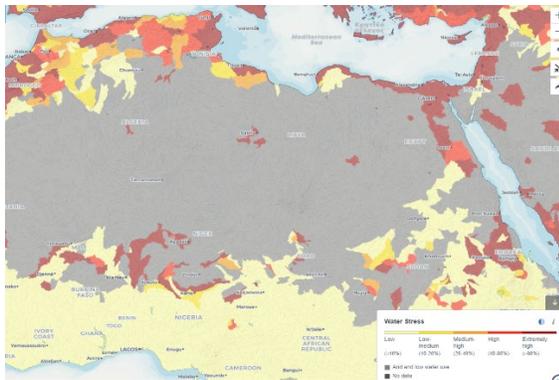
Report: Special Edition
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/>

³ A/RES/64/292 The human right to water and sanitation, and A/RES/68/157 The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

⁴ United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

⁵ Pacific Institute. 'Water Conflict Chronology'. 2023. <http://www.worldwater.org/conflict/map/>

This Chronology combines water scarcity data and determines three elements of of water-based conflict: Trigger, Casualty, and Weapons. *Triggers* deserve special attention. are areas where water is a root cause to conflict; there are 140 triggers currently being tracked by the Pacific Institute from 2020- present. *Casualties* are processes started when water systems are incapacitated due to violence and conflict.



Severe risk of water conflict. Source: World Resources Institute. *Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas*. 2023.

Some major recent examples of use of water resources in war, armed conflict and terrorism:

- In 2020, an attack on a water control station left 2 million people in Tripoli, Libya, without access to clean freshwater.
- In the United States, members of a white supremacist organization were arrested for plotting to poison water supplies in Washington State, United States.
- Guyana Sugar Company was accused of flooding to discourage illegal settlement on its land.

- Israel reportedly turned to civilian computer security to combat an Iranian cybersecurity attack to disrupt freshwater distribution.
- Russia accused Ukraine of blocking Crimean access to freshwater after Russia annexed the peninsula in 2014.
- In February-March 2022, Ukraine flooded land north of Kyiv to deter attacks after the Russian invasion on 24 February.
- On 6 June 2023, the Dnieper River dam was destroyed. Although the attackers remain unidentified, the attack blocked Ukrainian efforts to reconquer its territory east of the Dnieper River and caused widespread flooding and destruction.

There are three primary measures regarding water rights: *sanitization access*, *water stress*, and *water scarcity*.

- *Sanitization access* is defined as the percentage of the population which has access to improved facilities. A Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) published a report in 2023, which stated that the efforts to increase access to sanitation services were successful; however, some 3.5 billion are still lacking basic services.⁶
- *Water stress* is defined by an index which evaluates available water resources, the natural and unnatural uses of such resources, and the region's production of hydrogen. JMP

⁶ United Nations. “WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply, sanitation, and hygiene (JMP) - Progress on household drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene 2000- 2022: Special focus on gender“,

UN Water. UNICEF, WHO. p 45 - 48. 4 July 2023.
https://www.unwater.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/jmp-2023-wash-households-launch-version_0.pdf

determined what proportion of regional populations has access to safely managed water services: 12 percent of Oceania; 16 percent of Northern Africa and Western Asia; 31 percent of Central and South Asia; 35 percent of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia; 64 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa; 79 percent of Latin America and the Caribbean; and 100 percent of Europe and Northern America.

- *Water scarcity* is defined as the amount of water which can be wellled from varied opinions of supply and demand⁷. JMP concluded that all regions listed above currently can supply at least basic drinking water to 90 percent or more of their populations, but this could change in the foreseeable future.

According to the World Resources Institutes *Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas*, most populated areas in Western Asia and Northern Africa are at high risk for water stress— increasing likelihood of drought, safe water access, and agricultural successes.⁸

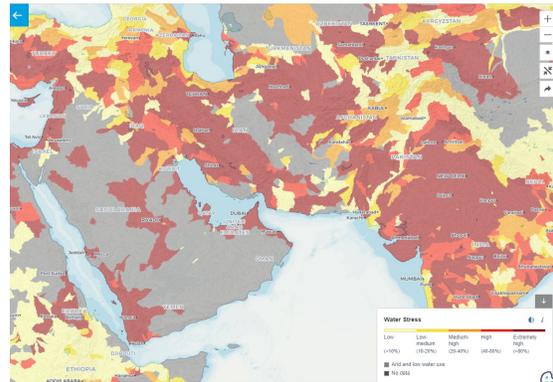
Key issues that need to be addressed to reduce water scarcity in target areas are [not limited to] poor infrastructure, overexploitation of water resources, unfair and unequal distribution of said resources, and increasing the reusability of water resources.

Leading countries working for water security include Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, and Pakistan. Leading actors against water scarcity include “UN - *Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6*”, “*United Nations Environment Programme*”,

⁷ United Nations, UN Water,

⁸ World Resources Institute. *Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas*. 2023. Retrieved from [Risk Atlas](#); and Pacific Institute. ‘Water Conflict Chronology’. 2023. <http://www.worldwater.org/conflict/map/>

“*German Federal Institute for Hydrology*”, “*Global Commission on the Economies of Water*”, “*Thirst Project*”, and “*Water for the*



People”. These groups engage with local and national leaders to promote progressive legislation, install supportive infrastructure, fund missions and volunteerism initiatives, and more.

III. Past Security Council Resolutions

[S/RES/2417 \(2018\)](#) noted the impacts of armed conflict and its impacts on humanitarian needs. 2417 reiterated the drastic need for conflict resolution and future prevention. It reaffirmed responsibilities to reduce threats to humanitarian needs and further demanded all parties’ upheld obligations related to protection of civilians and civilian objects. This resolution considered adoption of sanctions to increase accountability amongst conflicting states.⁹

[S/RES/2573 \(2021\)](#) raised grave concerns in the matter of the level of violence against civilians and their infrastructures amidst armed conflict. 2573 raised concerns for violations of IHL and

⁹ United Nations. “Resolution 2417 (2018)”, *Security Council*. 24 May 2018. <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2417>



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



IHRL and the destruction or damage of other objects necessary for civilian survival. 2573 demanded all parties involved in conflict fully comply with their obligations regarding IHL and IHRL. It further stressed the need for international collaboration to reduce violations of IHL and IHRL.¹⁰

[A/RES/64/292](#), *The human right to water and sanitation*, recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. It recognized this right as essential to the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. Further, the Assembly called upon States to provide international assistance and cooperation to ensure “safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all”. It welcomed the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to submit annual reports to the General Assembly on obligations related to the access to safe drinking water and sanitation.¹¹

[A/RES/68/157](#): *The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*, reaffirmed 64/292. It notes that 768 million people worldwide continued to lack access to improved water sources; whereas 2.5 billion lacked access to improved sanitation facilities; and whereas 700,000 children under the age of five die annually. It called upon States to continuously monitor and regularly analyze the status of safe drinking water; to consult with communities on adequate solutions; and to encourage States to intensify global partnerships for the development of improved facilities.¹²

IV. Role of the UN Security Council

¹⁰ United Nations. “Resolution 2573 (2021)”, *Security Council*. 27 April 2021. <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2573>

¹¹ United Nations. “The human right to water and sanitation”, *General Assembly*. 28 July 2010. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/64/resolutions.shtml>

Enacted in 1945, the Security Council attends diplomatically to matters of conflict between member states, non-member states, and sovereign nations. The Council engages in peacekeeping operations, sanction impositions, and military interventions. This body maintains authority to enforce diplomacy amongst member states. The body is currently represented by 15 member states: Albania, Brazil, China, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. These member-states determine acts of aggression and threats to peace. This body is called upon to settle disputes through methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.

In 2023, T. K. Wu discussed water scarcity.¹³ Issues which increased water scarcity ranged from violating human rights with coercive political actions, geopolitical bordering river disputes regarding damming projects, and exploitation of water as an energy supply.¹⁴ In the same year, the Security Council met to determine pathways for “protection of water-related essential services and infrastructure for the civilian populations during armed conflicts”; recall importance of implementing international humanitarian law (IHL); and inform effective measures for the “protection of water services and infrastructures in the context of armed conflict”.

It is undeniable that conflict significantly increases the possibility of water rights violations. As such, a vast number of civil disobediences arise due to lacking access to

¹² *ibid*

¹³ Wu, Tin Lok. “4 Countries with Water Scarcity in 2023” ([Earth.org](#), 2023)

¹⁴ *ibid*



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



resources defined by the UN as Human Rights. Juxtaposing the *Water Conflict Chronology* and the *Global Conflict Tracker*, there is an indication of key regions which are affecting water access worldwide: the continent of Africa, the continent of Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. With consideration to Wu's discussion and recent flares of armed conflict, water scarcity has become a threat to global peace: Due process requires the intervention of the Security Council to protect and implement IHL and international human rights law (IHRL).

V. Country and Bloc Positions

Security Council Permanent Member States

China works through the United Nations to ensure the security of all Member States, and the resolve tension that could lead to armed conflict. China strongly supports fair and equitable access to fresh water for all people. China also is committed to strengthening national sovereignty, including national control over water resources within each country's borders. To reduce tensions, China will support international projects to improve water availability, especially if these are financed through Chinese loans under its Belt and Road initiative, encouraging recipient to trade with China.

While China will support measures based on fairness and equity, it also is determined to protect its own *sovereign control* over its water supplies, and is wary of any proposal for any country, anywhere, that might establish a precedent for foreign meddling in its own domestic affairs.

France strongly supports the work of European Union to achieve all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals globally, including those promoting universal access to water. Under

French leadership, the EU and its 27 Members have invested heavily in development projects to facilitate water availability. France also encourages diplomatic initiatives to facilitate sharing of water resources and expects all UN Member States to *cooperate* on water projects, to avoid increasing tensions.

France will support Security Council measures that establish general principles calling on all UN Member States to work on fair water distribution so the interest of down-stream countries always are considered and addressed. France is especially determined to resolve potential conflicts among its former colonies in West Africa and the Sahel region.

The Russian Federation is hesitant about Security Council action—including resolutions—that might establish universal principles. Instead, Russia prefers for the Security Council to focus on specific conflicts where there is a danger of escalation to war. For example, Russian diplomats will support initiatives that strengthen the Government of Syria in its war with Western-supported terrorists, include measures to improve water access to the Syrian Government and isolate territories under terrorist control.

Russian UN diplomats are watching this debate to ensure that any resolutions support Russia's Special Military Operation in Ukraine, including support for resolutions that safeguard Russian-controlled water facilities and public access, while denying any legitimacy, authority or material assistance to its opponents and their illegitimate supporters.

United Kingdom: With the election in 2019 of the Conservative government led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, UK development policy shifted with large-scale support for development project stressing the Sustainable Development Goals. It's much smaller global engagement stresses specific project, typically with a major



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



role for British export industry, including water desalination, distribution and sustainable agriculture.

Under the current Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, the United Kingdom support articulation of universal principles in international organizations, especially the Security Council. The UK is willing to see the Security Council intervene in specific conflict regions as well, to prevent conflicts from escalating. It will offer military resources, especially naval and air capabilities, help countries suffering from water catastrophes and the promote regional power balances in situations that might lead to war.

United States of America: Under President Joe Biden and UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US re-emerged as a leader of UN initiatives to establish global policies and precedents for conflict mitigation. Their highly engaged diplomacy leads Security Council efforts to establish principles for all Member States to follow on issues of fair and equitable access to freshwater. The US prefers to see the UN used to articulate principles to guide all Member States.

Under President Biden and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield, America hesitates before intervening in specific conflicts and tends to oppose measures that target specific countries. When conflicts become violent, with the use of force, however, the United States is willing to permit the UN to intervene more directly.

Other countries and blocs

African States created the *African Union*, the *African Ministerial Conference*, the *African*

Water Facility, and the *African Great Lakes Region*. All of which have committed to the protection and revitalization of the African States' water resources.

Though *The Human Right to Water and Sanitation* had been passed, there were continuing conflicts in which resources were being targeted or inadvertently damaged. From 2010 to 2019, there were 335 African conflicts involving water infrastructure or security casualties. 47 of these were due to the rise of insurgency in Maghreb (the Saharan region).

Asia-Pacific States Bloc is a member of *UN Water*, the *UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific* (ESCAP), and the *Coral Triangle Initiative* (CTI), *Mekong River Commission*, and the *Indus Waters Treaty*.

Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan stands within the Eastern European States bloc, was a member of the Security Council from 2011-2012, and is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement. With a coastline along the Caspian Sea ranging 800 kilometers, a population of 10.12 million amidst 87 thousand square kilometers, and a population density of 126 per square kilometers: Azerbaijan is ranked 90th in world population. As of January 2023, Azerbaijan is ranked the 18th most water-stressed country in the world and surviving with medium to high-level stress.¹⁵

Water usage largely supports the nations' exported agricultural goods; 70 percent of the nations' water sources are imported and used for agriculture, industry amounts to 24.3, household usage at 3.2, and another 0.7 percent for other uses.¹⁶

Currently, Azerbaijan dedicates 0.9 percent of its total national budget towards SDG 6. Some

¹⁵ Aliyeva, O., Hasanova, S., Huseynova, M., Mahmudov, M., Mammadli, F. "Unraveling Azerbaijani's Water Crisis" (IDD, 2023).

¹⁶ *ibid*



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



transborder alliances Azerbaijan is involved with which regard water resources are the *Caspian Environmental Programme*, the *Ramsar Convention on the Wetlands*, and the *UN Convention on the Law on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses*.

European Union: Founded in 1957 as the European Economic Community, and renamed in 1993, the European Union (EU) consists of 27 nation-states, with a surface area of 4.23 million square kilometers and 448 million inhabitants. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea, the Arctic Ocean, and the borders of Belarus, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.¹⁷

EU Member States follow directives from EU Environmental Law such as 2006/118/EC *Protection of Groundwater Against Pollution*, 91/271/EEC *Urban Waste Water Treatment*, 98/83/EC *Drinking Water – Essential Quality Standards (until 2023)*, and most notably the *Water Framework Directive*. The longest river in the EU is the Danube, protected by international river basin commissions such as the *Danube River Protection Convention*.

The EU's "*Beyond the UN 2023 Conference*" echoed the UN's goals: water security for all, global water stress resilience, reduction in compromise to future generations' right to water and sanitation, the restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems, and the balance of supply and demand of water resources. Over 750 commitments were made by EU nations during this conference which are detailed in the Water Action Agenda, of which the EU has committed 33 efforts for transformative actions.

Similarly, the *Helsinki Convention* "Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea

Area" addresses protections regarding the Baltic Sea contracts Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden to the protection and preservation of the Baltic Sea. This Convention further supports the protection of the marine ecosystem and member state cooperation in the prevention of pollution.

Latin American & Caribbean States Bloc are involved in the *United Nations Development Program*, *United Nations Water*, the *United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, and Caribbean* (ECLAC), the *Latin American Water Tribunal* (TLA), and the *Latin American and Caribbean Water Center*. Other collaborations involve the *Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System* (MBRS). There were 61 water related instances from 2010- 2019, according to the *Water Conflict Chronology*, a majority were demonstrations against rising inequity and resource shortages.

Libya: Libya stands within the African States bloc, was a member of the Security Council 1976-77 and 2008-09. It is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Libya covers 1.76 million square kilometers with an estimated population of 6.9 million and manages a coastline of 1,770 kilometers along the Mediterranean Sea. Libya is ranked 15th most water stressed country¹⁸. It must be stressed that Libya has no natural water reserves and heavily depends on aquifers. To reduce dependence on border states and balance water stress, Libya established the *Great Man-Made*

¹⁷ Life in EU "Facts and Figures, EU demographics. (EU, 2023).

¹⁸ World Data "Libya"
<https://www.worlddata.info/africa/libya/index.php#>



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



River Project (GMMRP) in 1983.¹⁹ This was designed to transport 6 million cubic meters of underground water per day to the major cities of Libya. As of May 2022, 34 pumps had been constructed.

Libya is a signatory for the *United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses*, the *Arab Water Academy*, and the *Mediterranean Action Plan*.

Mexico stands within the Latin American and Caribbean States bloc and has been a member of the Council five times (1946, 1980 - 1981, 2002 - 2003, 2009 - 2010, 2021 - 2022). Mexico is bordered by three bodies of water: the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. This border amounts up to 9,330 kilometers of coastline and a third of the world's water resources. Mexico's estimated population of 130 million are surviving in medium level water stress.²⁰

Turkey is a highly engaged member of *G20*, *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*, and has been an elected member of the Security Council five times (1951 - 1952, 1954 - 1955, 1961, 2009 - 2010). Turkey borders three bodies of water: the Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea, and the Black Sea. The coastline amounts to 8,333 kilometers. Turkey has an estimated population of 84 million living amongst a high level of water stress and ranked 27th.²¹

Turkey is involved in international cooperation agreements such as the *UN Watercourse Convention* (signatory), the *Southeastern*

Anatolia Project, and the *Water Framework Directive*

VI. Some possible proposals for action

The Security Council has the ability to making binding international law, binding because the Five Permanent Members, when they act together, have the ability to enforce the decisions of the body. But getting the five Permanent Members and a majority of the other ten Member States to agree is not easy.

If a Security Council resolution is opposed by any of the five, it is vetoed. If it lacks the support of a majority of the other ten, it also fails. This problem explains why the Security Council often cannot act, as its members work instead to protect their own interests of the needs of their foreign allies. On an issue as difficult as this, where national interests can be strong, finding agreement will not be easy, and may require compromises the Member States are unwilling to permit.

As representatives of sovereign Member States, ODUMUNC delegates are free to develop their own solutions, loyal only to the policies of their home governments. Some possible paths forward:

Choose to pursue individual action. If it is determined to be in the best interest of the Security Council to encourage continued international cooperation between member states and non-member states, the Council should

¹⁹ Altaeb, M. "What's Next for Libya's Great Man-Made River Project?" Middle East Institute. 10 August 2022. <https://www.mei.edu/publications/whats-next-libyas-great-man-made-river-project>

²⁰ World Data "Mexico" <https://www.worlddata.info/america/mexico/index.php#>

²¹ Columbia University 'Turkey on the Web', <http://www.columbia.edu/~sss31/Turkiye/geo.html#>



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



remain aware of growing threats to security that this report has discussed.

Security Council members which may support individual action are Brazil, Japan, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

Council members may choose to support individual action in consideration of current initiatives, bloc desires, individual action outweighs benefit to a collective (or commitment to multilateralism). It should be considered by the Council that General Assembly members have erected dams which position their countries in authority over the right to water, such as Ethiopia, Pakistan, and Turkey. Down-stream countries like Egypt, India, Iraq and Vietnam, facing conflict and water-stress related displacements may welcome individual action, and welcome support or mediation through the Security Council.

Establish Universal Principles for Water Management on Global Scale. In 2022, during the UN Ocean Conference in Portugal, a High-Level Water Symposium convened to focus on the full water cycle, combining SDGs 6 and 14: This symposium strengthened partnerships to support implementation and reduce litter and microplastics; discussed impacts of human behaviors and wetland resilience; and reimagined the blue economy.²²

The Symposium found evidence that continued gaps in 6 and 14 enactments or protections will further debilitate access to safe drinking water and destabilize ocean life.²³ Members of the Security Council who may support this action

are France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom; this is due to their continued efforts toward environmental accountability and sustainability. Each has engaged in international initiatives, which would suggest their positive views regarding *Universal Principles for Water Management*.

Blocs which may support and benefit from global management include the Group of 77, the African States Bloc, the Latin American and Caribbean Bloc, the Asian-Pacific Bloc, as well as the Western European and Others Bloc.

Focus efforts on conflict resolution of target regions. If this body determines target area conflict resolution as the best path forward, choosing the target area would be the next step: Conveniently, the *Global Conflict Tracker* overlays with the *Water Conflict Chronology* in areas such as Maghreb and West Asia, which is at a considerably higher water stress risk than other regions, as seen from World Resource



Innovative partnerships to support the implementation of SDG 6 and 14: Challenges, opportunities, and actions.” High Level Symposium on Water, 27 June 2022. P 6 - 10. https://hlswater.sgambiente.gov.pt/?page_id=11
https://hlswater.sgambiente.gov.pt/?page_id=372

²² High-Level Water Symposium Roundtables, 2022
https://hlswater.sgambiente.gov.pt/?page_id=11

²³ United Nations Ocean Conference, “Roundtable 3 - Existing Successful and



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



Institute *Water Stress Atlas*.²⁴ Most likely to support target resolutions include the Asia-Pacific States Bloc, the European Union, Non-Aligned Movement, and the United States of America.

Key regions which require immediate Security Council intervention are Central America, Eastern Europe, North Africa, and West Asia and Caucasia. Within the Caucasus, it is in the best interest of the Security Council to support the redevelopment of Azerbaijan's water reserves to reduce dependence on border states. Further, the Council may wish to diplomatically intervene on the Armenian-Azerbaijan border dispute, as this further endangers the water stress levels.

Within West Asia, the State of Palestine is in the most need of Council support to water management and water retention efforts, due to water stress levels. These high levels have increased instability; of the 51 reported water-related conflicts from 2020 to present²⁵ 21 were reported as an attack on Palestinian water. Further, the Council may find it beneficial to support long lasting resolutions between Jordan and Palestine, regarding water management, conservation, and reservation.

Due to rising water scarcity in all countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Bloc there may be interest in having the Council intervene to deter future casualty of water infrastructure and retaliation from constituents.

Within the African States Bloc, it is in the best interest of the Council to support negotiations between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan due to Ethiopia opening the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in July of 2020. This drastically decreased transborder cooperation and increased tensions, while also affecting basin water management.



Authorize the UN Secretary-General to study the issue. The Security Council may opt to lower tensions and controversy within the Council by avoiding controversial or difficult action. Instead it can ask the UN Secretary-General study the general issue or a specific aspect.

A study would have to be authorized by a Council resolution. This resolution establishes the study's *mandate*. It would explain:

- What are the goals of the study?
- What is its production schedule for delivery to the Council?
- Where is the Secretary-General to find authors; independent experts chosen by the Secretary-General, or government appointed experts chosen by each of the Security Council Member States?
- Finally, the mandating resolution should explain what happens when the study is finished. Does it make recommendations for the Council to vote on? Or is it strictly an advisory document for consideration by the Member States?

²⁴ Aqueduct, *World Resource Institute*, "Water Stress Atlas" www.wri.org

²⁵ Water Conflict Chronology, Pacific Institute, <http://www.worldwater.org/conflict/map/>



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



The Council could hope for revelation in target regions to support; individual actions which may support global water management; or highlight key members supporting global water management. The study may find responsibilities amongst upstream member states and most likely to support is the African States

bloc, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Eastern European Bloc. Adoption of such a resolution would stall ongoing peace efforts; drastically increase likelihoods of instability; delay protections to our world's water resource; and further increase the gender equity gap.



Maintaining Peace and Stability Among Growing Water Shortages



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