

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS MODEL UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LAND AND WATER USE**

The General Assembly of the United Nations

1. Nothing with satisfaction recent important initiatives by the United Nations to recognise and combat the
2. effects of climate change and development policies on land and water resources on people
3. and on flora and fauna globally, such as the World Day to Combat Desertification and
4. Drought on 17 June 2019; the declaration of 2019-2028 as the Decade of Family
5. Farming; the UN World Water Development Report, Leaving No one Behind, launched
6. 19 March 2019 in conjunction with World Water Day; and the New Urban Agenda adopted
7. at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),
8. Recalling the centrality of land and water use policies to the Sustainable Development
9. Goals (SDGs),
10. Alarmed that over the coming decades, competition and conflict over land is likely to
11. intensify with the growing pressures of climate change, population growth, increased
12. food insecurity, migration and urbanization¹,
13. Alarmed at the findings of the 2019 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on
14. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on the decline in global biodiversity,
15. Concerned with the lack of funding received by the green climate fund.

Be it hereby resolved that the General Assembly

16. Calls upon all Member States to involve indigenous peoples and women in the formulation
17. of national and international land and water use policies and to learn from their expertise
18. in sustainable management policies,
19. Calls upon all Member States to take positive steps to increase production and
20. consumption of plant-based foods and to impose higher taxes on production and consumption
21. Demands the United States to honour in full the pledge of \$3bn made by the
22. previous administration to the Green Climate Fund, and on all Member States where feasible
- including China
23. to allocate 2% of GDP to the Fund.
24. Calls upon all member states, where appropriate, to review the use of water based energy
- production in order to increase renewable sources.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2019

¹ (Guidance Note of the Secretary General: The United Nations and Land and Conflict, March 2019)

The IPBES' 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services comes at a critical time for the planet and all its peoples. The report's findings – and the years of diligent work by the many scientists who contributed – will offer a comprehensive view of the current conditions of global biodiversity. Healthy biodiversity is the essential infrastructure that supports all forms of life on earth, including human life. It also provides nature-based solutions on many of the most critical environmental, economic, and social challenges that we face as human society, including climate change, sustainable development, health, and water and food security. We are currently in the midst of preparing for the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference, in China, which will mark the close of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and set the course for a post 2020 ecologically focused sustainable development pathway to deliver multiple benefits for people, the planet and our global economy. The IPBES report will serve as a fundamental baseline of where we are and where we need to go as a global community to inspire humanity to reach the 2050 Vision of the UN Biodiversity Convention “Living in harmony with nature”.

The U.N. General Assembly has officially declared 2019–2028 the Decade of Family Farming. Initially proposed in October 2017, the resolution passed with 104 co-sponsors and unanimous approval. The Decade aims to inspire the international community to generate a refreshed political commitment supporting family farmers and crafting pro-family farming policies.

The resolution acknowledges family farmers as key leaders in the pursuit of the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically in “ensuring global food security, eradicating poverty, ending hunger, conserving biodiversity, achieving environmental sustainability, and helping to address migration.”

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) most recent report “The State of Food and Agriculture”, about 750 million of the world's extremely poor work in agriculture, usually as smallholder family farmers. Family farmers produce more than 80 percent of the world's food and control 75 percent of all agricultural resources.

The Decade serves as an international effort to empower family farmers and expands upon the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in 2014 which, according to the U.N. General Assembly, “raised the profile of the role of family farming, pastoralism, and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition.”

Many family farming organizations including ActionAid and Oxfam International (who were part of the IYFF) reassembled into the World Coordination Committee (WCC) under the guidance of the World Rural Forum to campaign for the newly declared Decade. The WCC continued their involvement in the organization of the Decade by presenting an Action Plan to the FAO, the IFAD, and governments. According to the WCC, the Action Plan will “make this Decade an efficient tool to improve the situation of family farmers.”

19 March 2018

SDGs

With five billion people at risk of having difficulty accessing adequate water by 2050, finding nature-based solutions, such as China's rainwater recycling, India's forest regeneration and Ukraine's artificial wetlands, is becoming increasingly important, according to a United Nations report released Monday at the world's largest water-related event in Brazil.

UN spotlights rainwater recycling, artificial wetlands among 'green' solutions to global water crisis

Fardin Waezi/UNAMA

19 March 2018

SDGs

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"We need new solutions in managing water resources so as to meet emerging challenges to water security caused by population growth and climate change," said Audrey Azoulay, head of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the foreword of the [UN World Water Development Report 2018](#).

"If we do nothing, some five billion people will be living in areas with poor access to water by 2050," she added.

[Goal 6](#) of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) adopted by world leaders in 2015 seeks to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all and, also access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030.

The report notes that the global demand for water has been increasing and will continue to grow significantly over the next two decades due to population growth, economic development and changing consumption patterns.

If we do nothing, some five billion people will be living in areas with poor access to water by 2050 – UNESCO chief

Due to climate change, wetter regions are becoming wetter, and drier regions are becoming even drier. At present, an estimated 3.6 billion people, nearly half the global population, live in areas potentially water-scarce at least one month per year, and this population could increase to some 4.8 billion to 5.7 billion by 2050.

The number of people at risk from floods is projected to rise from 1.2 billion today to around 1.6 billion in 2050, nearly 20 per cent of the world's population. The population currently affected by land degradation, desertification and drought is estimated at 1.8 billion people, making this the worst natural disaster based on mortality and socio-economic impact relative to gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

The UNESCO Director-General said the report proposes solutions that are based on nature to manage water better.

The report notes that reservoirs, irrigation canals and water treatment plants are not the only water management instruments at disposal.

So-called 'green' infrastructure, as opposed to traditional 'grey' infrastructure, focuses on preserving the functions of ecosystems, both natural and built, and environmental engineering rather than civil engineering to improve the management of water resources, the report says.

In 1986, the province of Rajasthan in India experienced one of the worst droughts in its history. Over the following years, a non-governmental organization worked alongside local communities to regenerate soils and forests in the region by setting up water harvesting structures. This led to a 30 per cent increase in forest cover, groundwater levels rose by several metres and cropland productivity improved.

China's Sponge City aims to recycle 70 per cent of rainwater

Faced with an ever-increasing demand for water, China recently initiated a project, entitled 'Sponge City,' to improve water availability in urban settlements with the aim of recycling 70 per cent of rainwater.

Over recent years, Ukraine has been experimenting artificial wetlands to filter some pharmaceutical products from wastewater based on evidence that wetlands alone can remove 20 to 60 per cent of metals in water and trap 80 to 90 per cent of sediment from runoff.

The world has often brushed aside traditional and indigenous knowledge that embraces greener approaches – IFAD chief

“For too long, the world has turned first to human-built, or ‘grey,’ infrastructure to improve water management. In so doing, it has often brushed aside traditional and indigenous knowledge that embraces greener approaches,” writes Gilbert Houngbo, Chair of UN-Water and President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the foreword of the report.

Despite emerging initiatives, the use of nature-based solutions remains marginal and almost all investments are still channelled to grey infrastructure projects, the report points out.

The report is the fruit of collaboration between the 31 UN entities and 39 international partners that comprise [UN-Water](#).

The report, whose publication coincides with [World Water Day](#) annually observed on 22 March, was presented at the [World Water Forum](#), which kicked off Monday and runs through Friday in Brasilia.

The Forum aims “to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels.”

Also on 22 March, the UN will launch the [International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018 to 2028](#), which aims to further improve cooperation and capacity-building towards the SDGs.

UN-World Bank panel calls for ‘fundamental shift’ in water management

14 March 2018

Climate Change

With 700 million people worldwide at risk of being displaced by intense water scarcity by 2030, water infrastructure investment must be at least doubled over the next five years, a panel set up by the United Nations and the World Bank recommended on Wednesday.