



Question of: Ensuring Equitable Access to Water Supplies for Agriculture

Submitted by: United States of America

Co-submitted by: Austria, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, Venezuela

The FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION,

Affirming that water scarcity has become a problem of international concern,

Noting with approval that many aspects of this issue are being taken care of with absolute regard by many member states,

Desiring to support every country in achieving the water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the necessity to provide changes in the management of water sources,

Emphasizing the importance of water loss reduction,

1. Recalls the importance of research and water-quality monitoring by:
 - a. Claiming a periodic report by UN-Water agencies on the state of the world's water resources,
 - b. Developing a periodic report to provide an integrated picture of the world's freshwater resources, in order to create a continuous assessment in the future;
2. Urges the establishment of an index to use at global, national, and local levels to estimate water scarcity in rural areas and identify priorities for action in water development;

3. Draws the attention to the importance of more sustainable diets, aiming to moderate increases in food demand and food waste, by:
 - a. Initiating campaigns on the topic, targeted to the whole population, especially in developed countries,
 - b. Establishing mandatory educational programs in all school grades;

4. Calls upon the creation of regulatory instruments, such as but not limited to:
 - a. Prohibitions on the direct discharge of pollutants in waterways,
 - b. Limits on the marketing and sale of damaging products;

5. Recommends adopting economic instruments to improve legal provisions;

6. Supports the improvement of irrigation schemes, in order to reduce water return flows and therefore reduce the migration of fertilizers and pesticides into water bodies;

7. Encourages aquaculture farms to adopt sustainable practices to protect the surrounding environment, such as but not limited to:
 - a. Avoiding excess feed by standardizing feed inputs,
 - b. Removing and treating excessive nutrients in fishponds,
 - c. Promoting integrated multi trophic aquaculture systems in which the waste of one species serves as a food source for another.