In Short Supply: Water Scarcity

November 20-22, 2015
Committee Background Guide

SSICSIM 2015
SECONDARY SCHOOL
INTERACTIVE CRISIS SIMULATION

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SSICSIM
SECONDARY SCHOOL INTERACTIVE CRISIS SIMULATION

Delegates, Teachers, and Staff,

Welcome to the SSICsim 2015 Conference and the *In Short Supply: Water Scarcity* crisis committee.

As a conference for high school students, SSICsim strives to impart certain worthwhile skills to teenagers. Alongside innumerable other student events, SSICsim recognizes that the ability to speak persuasively and with conviction in public is often a skill developed at conferences such as ours. Even so, public speaking is not the ultimate goal of this committee. *In Short Supply: Water Scarcity* will require delegates to research and prepare arguments, negotiate and devise proposals, take risks, carry out plots, form alliances, and more. Model United Nations is more than just debating or public speaking: it is a chance to practice diplomacy.

For some, diplomacy can be daunting. There is no guaranteed outcome, no take backs or resets, no chance for an extra life, and no kill switch to the game. Regardless of skill level, mistakes are guaranteed, and one move can equally give a delegate the upper hand or dismantle all their preparations.

Unpredictability is the name of the game – yet, one thing can be relied on for certain. Anybody can win influence and power. One small decision can affect the course of the entire committee. Then, just as things seemed settled and done, a mad rush and a flurry of activity makes everything exciting again. I encourage all novice delegates to take bold risks and immerse themselves entirely, as they may find themselves surprised at their own skills. Even when it seems the opposite, nothing is set in stone.

Model United Nations is challenging, but it can also be very rewarding. With any luck, *In Short Supply* will be fast paced and engaging, and will keep all delegates scheming and laughing along the way. Thank you for spending your time at the conference, and on behalf of the committee staff, I hope you find the experience engaging, thought provoking, and worthwhile.

The very best of luck,

Stephanie Fennell
Committee Director
In Short Supply: Water Scarcity

Introduction

Markets are an inherited blessing and a persistent curse of the modern world. Over the course of nearly 400 years, markets have fundamentally altered the means by which political power operates, by giving rise to new a new type of political entity: economies. By many standards, the world is better for it. With markets and free trade came freedom from poverty and political oppression; in the age of globalization, this is true more so than ever before. Yet, as this freedom provides unprecedented access to resources and enables self-identification, it simultaneously threatens the lives it liberates and provides for. Today, unfettered, profit-seeking entities stop at nothing in pursuit of economic goals. It should surprise no one that the exploitation of the most vulnerable and of resources is all too common.

Months ago, the most pressing finite resource for lawmakers and diplomats was oil; however, in a very short period of time, global water scarcity has passed its breaking point. The world is in an environmental crisis for fresh water. The global community must act now, or suffer the wide-ranging and devastating consequences.

Fresh water reserves are dwindling worldwide. Water bodies are receding from overuse, and are polluted the world over. The UN receives daily reports of rioting for food and water in the streets of Pakistan, Iraq, Libya and Algeria. In the United States of America, the Ogallala Aquifer is on track to being completely exhausted by December 2015. As time wears on, the crisis becomes more severe.

In August 2015, the United States of America responded to the crisis by joining with China, Canada, the United Kingdom, Russia, and others to form the Global Water Exchange Bank. Acting on predictions that hostile market forces would soon govern the Global Water Exchange, UN Water re-branded itself as the United Nations Water Action Committee, and took regulatory control over the bank to ensure the its security and compliance with international law.

This is the first conference of the United Nations Water Action Committee (UNWAC). Though UNWAC and UN Water share many of the same goals, UNWAC differs in several key ways.

First, whereas UN Water was tasked with negotiating with NGOs and governments as a subsidiary of the UN, UNWAC is a coalition of nations. These nations meet to deliberate immediate actions and set global directives. As a forum for nations, each nation is individually

able to consider their own national interests as well as global priorities, and enshrine those priorities into policy.

Additionally, unlike UN Water, as partners join the Global Water Exchange, those same partners are required to become a member of UNWAC to ensure that partner interests are upheld by the committee. Thus, for nations to access the Global Water Exchange Bank, they were also required to abide by the goals and principles of UNWAC as a member of the committee. Each nation was required to declare the following before the UN General Assembly:

As a Member of UNWAC, the nation of _____ believes that:

1. Achieving long-term sustainable global water security through UNWAC is possible;
2. Global political and economic stability is contingent on water security;
3. Long-term water security is contingent on sustainable practices which are regulated by nations;
4. Nations are singularly responsible for water security inside their borders; and
5. Nations are collectively responsible for global water security.

In the interest of immediate global security and the long-term success of UNWAC, before its dissolution, UN Water identified two immediate priority goals to UNWAC for its first conference, as follows:

1. Resolve International Disputes Over Water Resources. Though nations are singularly responsible for water security within their own borders, watersheds are transnational. The water scarcity crisis has heightened tensions between nations sharing watersheds. To avoid conflict, these tensions must be resolved.
2. Develop Frameworks and Set Precedents. Though the ultimate goal of UNWAC is to achieve total global water security, the process of completing the goal will take time. Due to the lengthy nature of negotiation, as well as the slow pace of climate change, results of the committee will be slow. This being the case, developing frameworks for and setting precedents to resolve imminent challenges to water security is an urgent priority.

Armed with these goals, UNWAC will address three key issues at its first conference.

1. Trade, Development and Cooperation. Recognizing that fruitful trade and economic development are linked to peace, UNWAC will act as a platform to discuss avenues for peace with nations threatening violent conflict.
2. Infrastructure, Health and Education. Water infrastructure, medical infrastructure and sewage systems, play key roles in ensuring health and education. UNWAC will discuss and implement strategies to optimize efficiency and sustainability in these infrastructure systems.
3. Water Ecology, Climate Change, and Sustainability. Noting the mass extinction of species and human endangerment as a result of poor water usage practices, UNWAC will make note of policies culminating in these and other dangers. Armed with this knowledge, UNWAC will create frameworks and recommendations for policy changes to avoid future harms.

Background Information

September 8, 2000: Following a three-day summit of world leaders, the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration. The document was intended to unify previous declarations of solidarity among nations and to set global priorities for peace, development, climate change, human rights, poverty, and multinational cooperation.

September 4, 2002: In Johannesburg, the World Summit on Sustainable Development came to a close. Over the course of negotiations, members established several guidelines to create a globally sustainable future, with special attention paid to economic sustainability and climate change.

August 12, 2012: The London Summer Olympics hosted their closing ceremony, and the IOC announced that Brazil will host the 2016 summer games in Rio de Janeiro. Expensive plans for construction projects broke ground in Rio de Janeiro and Brazillia for both the Olympics in 2016 and the FIFA World Cup in 2014.

September 4, 2015: Estimates on water levels from the Indus Valley region were released, suggesting in the 2014-2015 season, the area received the lowest levels of rainfall in over 100 years. In preparation, the government of India approved the construction of 100 new dams in Uttar Pradesh and Kashmir, to be completed over the course of the year. Once completed in August 2016, the new dams will retain a full 25% of the water previously flowing into Pakistan.

September 14, 2015: Estimates on the depth of the Ogallala Aquifer in the Midwest United States were released, suggesting that the aquifer will be fully depleted by February, 2016.

September 18, 2015: Canadian activists demonstrated in front of the White House in protest against negotiations between President Obama and the Prime Minister Steven Harper. Police were called in when one demonstrator threatened to drown herself in a tank she had brought to the event.

October 8, 2015: The most violent of a string of water riots in Pakistan took place, leaving close to 100 dead. Massive looting of local businesses in the southern region of Karachi disrupted local commerce. Officials were reluctant to schedule a national day of mourning as press coverage might have given rise to future riots or encouraged terrorist cells to take violent measures.

November 10, 2015: The United States, Russia, Canada, The United Kingdom and China opened the Global Water Exchange Bank at 00:00 EST with several other nations. The Bank was intended to be the foremost tool in the commoditization of water and its exchange over a free market.

November 15, 2015: Lowered sanctions on Iraq's development of nuclear energy fund a groundbreaking deal between Russia and Iraq. The deal took place over the Global Water Exchange. Over the course of a year, Russia will supply Iraq with 100 Water Level Points per month starting on December 1, 2015 to a total of 1200, in exchange for a lump sum of 1500 Trading Power Points, which to be added to Russia's account on November 31, 2015.

November 20, 2015: UN Water took regulatory control of the Global Water Exchange Bank. Participation on the exchange is limited to nations which have declared the UNWAC declaration of goals and principles before the UN General Assembly.

Background Information

Topic One: Trade, Development and Cooperation

http://www.herzen.spb.ru/en/About_University/1334733131

As a cornerstone to manufacturing, agriculture, and energy production, a vast and secure fresh water supply is foundational to any modern economy. In much of North America, Europe, and Asia, water is plentiful for industrial use; however, as fresh water supplies dwindle worldwide, even those nations whose water supplies were never in jeopardy face unprecedented difficulties. In the USA and Mexico, aquifers have been pumped to dangerously low levels. The Ganges, Yangtze, and Huanghe (Yellow) rivers are contaminated and undrinkable, severely impacting all agricultural practices and increasing costs of production. The Aral Sea, a once great freshwater lake, has shrunk to a tenth of its size in less than 100 years. Disputes over east and west flowing rivers in the Indus Valley threaten peace between India and Pakistan. To address heightening tensions between nations who share watersheds, UNWAC will address two specific geopolitical targets.

The Indus Valley

Terse relations between India and Pakistan over religion, geography and history worsen as water scarcity becomes an increasingly severe reality. The three greatest rivers supplying water to Pakistan, the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum, flow through India before crossing the Pakistani border. Political threats from both sides are frequent. Hindu right-wing groups in India have petitioned their government to stop the flow of water to Pakistan, while radical Islamic groups in Pakistan have called for water Jihad against India.

The province of Kashmir, a water secure province on Pakistan's border, has been a source of contention since the partition of British India in 1947 for many reasons, resources and water chiefly among them. In 1960, the Indus Waters Treaty was ratified between India, Pakistan and

what is now the World Bank in order to establish a set of guidelines to protect the interests of both countries. Many have called for the renegotiation of this treaty. Since it was ratified, climate change and infrastructure have changed the availability of water. India has responded to an increasing demand for water by its people by building over 3200 dams on the Jhelum, Pakistan's greatest water source. In Pakistan, the region of Karachi has run dry, where water theft and water riots are increasingly common.

NAFTA

Canada and the USA have a history of cooperation over the past century. Canada, a peace-loving nation, is a military, economic, and political ally of the USA. The USA in turn protects Canadian interests, including the security of Canada's borders. The USA faces several challenges to its water security. An ongoing drought in California is entering its fifth year, the Colorado River rarely reaches its delta in Mexico, and six states are threatened with desertification as a result of over pumping the Ogallala aquifer. According to recent estimates on the depth of the aquifer, these six states will need to a new source for water by February 2016 when it runs dry. In contrast, Canada has the seventh highest total internal renewable water resources per capita globally. The great lakes region, a sprawling network of rivers, and vast glacial reserves make Canada one of the most water rich countries on Earth.

This longstanding cooperation has been mutually beneficial for decades. In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the USA and Mexico, came into effect. Its aim is to facilitate economic development by lowering trade barriers between member states. Since 1994, provisions under NAFTA have led to the tripling of merchandise trade between member nations. As of yet, water is excluded from this agreement. In the event that Canada becomes engaged in bulk water export, its water, like its oil, will fall under Chapter 3 of NAFTA as a commodity. Canada risks being compelled to sell its water under the provisions of NAFTA. Canadian activist groups have petitioned their government, calling for renegotiation of the treaty to avoid exploitation of Canada's vast resources.

Background Information

Topic Two: Infrastructure, Health and Education

Infrastructure serves a vital role in securing the overall well being of a people over the long term, playing a critical part in protecting human rights, including health, education, and water security. Where public infrastructure is lacking, social challenges become more frequent and severe. Specifically, the quality of water related infrastructure, including sanitation facilities, sewers and water supply, has a direct causal relationship with the health and education of the people relying on it. Noting this relationship, UNWAC will investigate the following areas in its first year.

Health

As water resources become scarce, communities are driven by necessity in search of ever more distant water supplies. Often, where water infrastructure is unable to provide sufficient access, the alternative water supplies are unfit for consumption or dangerous to consume. Viruses and toxins, which are routinely screened for in water treatment facilities, are poorly managed by natural sources.

Two of the five leading causes of death in children under the age of five globally are diarrhea and malaria, water borne illnesses spread in large part by inadequate sanitary infrastructure. These diseases are most endemic in Sub Saharan Africa, where early childhood deaths are fifteen times as common as the global average. Estimates indicate that nearly half the childhood deaths related to these illnesses could have been prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions.

Of these affordable interventions, sewage management and water sanitation have the most widespread effects and save more lives and resources in the long term. However, infrastructure projects also have the highest initial cost, especially to rural areas. Alternatively, medical interventions provide short term, cost efficient solutions.

Education

Low literacy among women is a noteworthy socioeconomic cost of water insecurity. In areas without easy access to water infrastructure, gathering water for the day is a task delegated most often to girls and women. Gathering water often requires traveling long distances, which consumes equally great amounts of time. For young girls, the sacrifice for water goes beyond physical exertion. All too often, education is a secondary priority to water needed for basic survival. Even in cases where girls are able to attend school, infrastructure determines whether the girls are able to continue. Though schools may operate, not all schools have access to toilets or secure sewage, which are necessary facilities for safe self-care during menstrual periods.

Noting that reproductive rights and literacy for women are directly linked to economic growth, increased literacy, decreased child mortality, and increased life expectancy, and that literacy and reproductive rights for women are contingent on access to water related infrastructure, UNWAC recognizes access to water related infrastructure as a priority.

Committee Resources & Special Powers

General Resources

Water Level Points (WLP)

This is a resource traded on the Global Water Exchange. Each nation has been assigned a water level reflecting their access to fresh, drinkable water for the first meeting of the committee. Along with Trading Power Points, WLPs are recorded on the Global Water Exchange and change as the committee progresses. WLPs may be traded, gifted, or pooled with other countries as required by negotiations. WLPs may also be held in escrow by the Dias in the event of a crisis update.

Trading Power (TPP)

This is a resource traded on the Global Water Exchange. Each nation has been assigned a Trading Power reflecting their expendable GDP. Nations can use these points to buy WLPs or favors from other nations. For the purposes of the committee, TPPs can be thought of as a nation's money.

Trading Power points can be exchanged, most often for Water Level points. A simple trade constitutes the transfer of Water Level points from one country, the "Seller", to the other, the "Buyer", and the subsequent transfer of Trading Power points from the Buyer to the Seller. Each trade will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis between the two nations. To be official, trades must be cleared by the Dias via the President of the Global Water Exchange Bank, and be recorded on the Global Water Exchange. Like WLPs, TPPs may be gifted or pooled between nations. TPPs may be held in escrow by the Dias in the event of a crisis update.

The exchange of Water Level points and Trading Power points is up to the discretion of each delegation. However, the longer a nation stays water insecure, the more volatile and unpredictable the people of each nation will become. Some nations will have the ability to quell certain protests and respond to environmental fallout, which may alter their trade decisions. These nations do so at their own risk! Every nation is responsible for water security within their borders, and their actions will have internal as well as global consequences.

Long and Short Term Water Security Indices (LTWS/STWS)

Each nation has been assigned with Long and Short Term Water Security Indices. These indices can be thought of as a set of "goals" each delegation needs to meet in order to be water secure, based on the lifestyles of the people living in that nation. A system of points, based on population and water levels, reflect how many Water Level points a nation must have by the end of the committee to be either short term or long term water secure.

Nations may negotiate with the Dais to alter their Long and Short Term Water Security Indices, by presenting a plan to alter the usage practices of their citizens. These plans must be presented

by the delegate to the Committee, and must meet quorum before the Indices are altered. The Dais suggests preparing these plans ahead of time in conjunction with position papers.

Initial WLP, TLP, STWS and LTWS by Nation

Nation	WLP	TLP	STWS	LTWS
Algeria	500	2000	2000	2500
Argentina	1500	2500	3000	4000
Australia	1500	3000	1500	2000
Brazil	3000	3000	3500	4500
Canada	9000	1000	2000	3000
China	3000	4000	3000	4000
Chile	1000	1500	1500	3000
India	1000	3000	2500	3500
Indonesia	2000	1000	2500	2700
Iraq	500	1500	3000	4000
Kazakhstan	500	500	1000	2000
Kenya	500	1500	3000	3500
Libya	500	2500	3500	4000
Morocco	1000	3000	3500	4500
Mongolia	1500	1500	1500	3000
Pakistan	500	1500	2500	3500
Peru	1500	2000	2000	3000
Russia	9000	2000	2000	3000
Saudi Arabia	500	3500	3500	4000
South Africa	1500	1000	2000	2500
Spain	500	2500	3000	4000
Uganda	500	700	1500	2500
UK	4000	4000	2000	3000
USA	1000	6000	3500	5500
Zimbabwe	500	700	1500	2500

Committee Resources & Special Powers

Special Powers

Ticking Time Bomb

Some nations are tied to preexisting trade deals, which prevent them from trading Water Level points. If a nation has a Ticking Time Bomb power, it shields them from invasion, assassination, natural disasters, and other unpredictable events. Ticking Time Bomb will only apply until that nation chooses to make a trade involving Water Level points.

The Tyrant

Some nations have the military and political strength to suppress their own people. The Tyrant may be used once over the course of the committee to solve a national crisis. If this power is used, the next three trades involving Trading Power points in which the Tyrant nation is the Buyer will require approval from three other nations other than the Buyer and the Seller.

The Broker

Some nations have citizens whose business savvy helps them rise to the top! The Broker may be used once over the course of the crisis. When a deal goes through the Global Exchange, The Broker can be applied once the deal is finalized to half their side of the deal. If they are the Buyer, they will pay half as many Trade Power points agreed to. If they are the Seller, they will transfer half of the Water Level points agreed to.

Country Profiles

Algeria

Located in North Africa, Algeria is a natural ally of Libya. Though Algeria is the largest country in Africa and the Middle East, over 90% of its land mass is covered by desert, which isolates much of its population close to Algiers, its capital. Algeria is in favor of working with the African Union to solve Africa-specific problems, but is unlikely to have the resources to solve other crises. Algeria has the potential to be a model for other nations, by creating water security through policy in an extremely water scarce environment.

Argentina

At the Southern tip of South America, Argentina is flanked by the Atlantic to the east and the Andes Mountains of Chile to the west. Among South American nations, Argentina has emerged as a major global player and negotiates in its own interest and in the interest of its neighbors. As a democracy, Argentina is in favor of global cooperation; where possible, Argentina will prefer to build bridges between nations and form coalitions around specific policy initiatives. Argentina's North is water secure; yet, the Patagonian Desert's slow encroachment on water secure areas threatens the nation's long-term water security.

Australia

The largest island in the world, Australia is securely established in foreign affairs as a former British colony and current liberal democracy. It is a global leader in water conservation policy. Australia is currently suffering record low levels of rainfall; however, because of several conservation policies and infrastructure investments, such as effluent reuse, rainwater harvesting, gray water circulation, and desalination plants, Australia is completely water secure.

Brazil

In the heart of South America, Brazil controls the Amazon River and its subsidiaries, the largest river and watershed in the world. Even so, all is not well. Lax regulations on forestry and agriculture have robbed massive swaths of Brazilian land previously occupied by rainforest of naturally retained water. Over time, the loss of water retention has resulted in the most rapid rate of desertification the world over. Brazil's economy is booming, and with Argentina, it represents the interests of it and its economic partners in South America.

Canada (Ticking Time Bomb)

Canada is a water and resource rich nation. Since its confederation in 1867, Canada has practiced strong democracy. Above all, Canada values peace and cooperation in foreign affairs. In recent years, Canada has taken a back seat in international policy negotiations, preferring to support policies developed by the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. However, recent speculations suggest that this may shift rapidly as Canada emerges as one of the few dominant water rich nations.

China (The Tyrant)

As the world's largest manufacturer, China is an economic powerhouse. Over the last 50 years, as China has grown its economy, the rest of the world, especially developed nations, have become accustomed to the cheap supply of goods produced within China's borders. However, the success of China's factories comes at the expense of human rights violations and environmental exploitation on a massive scale. Though China is water rich, its resources are critically polluted and undrinkable. If China is unable to achieve water security, its biggest trading partners, the USA, Canada and Australia, will suffer severe economic shortfalls.

Chile

Chile is closely allied with Argentina, its neighbor to the East. Chile, like Argentina, is threatened by desertification as the Patagonian desert stretches towards the North. Though the Andes Mountains supply some fresh water, Chile's glaciers have receded greatly in recent decades.

India

With the second highest population in the world, India finds itself in dire straits as water security threatens its south. Rapid economic growth has enriched areas surrounding New Delhi, its capital, and the provinces of Uttrar Pradesh, Punjab, and Kashmir. This has enabled large infrastructure expansions around the Chenab and the Jhelum rivers. While the North is fed by rivers from the Himalayas, the south is poorly equipped to absorb shortfalls in rainwater, and is on the brink of crisis. India is unwilling to work with Pakistan, and is prepared to do whatever it takes to remain an economic superpower.

Indonesia

Home to the largest Muslim population worldwide, Indonesia is comprised of a collection of islands linking Southeast Asia to Australia. It is surrounded by waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans on all sides. Indonesia has equatorial rainforest climate and receives abundant rainfall annually. It seldom faces challenges of food scarcity, and its government has adopted a mandate to be self sufficient in agricultural production. Occasionally, challenges with distribution and resource management to the hundreds of millions of people living in Indonesia cause temporary shortages in food and water; however, policies in Indonesia have created situations where these resources are reasonably well managed and sustainable.

Iraq (The Tyrant)

The nation of Iraq is situated in one of the hottest, driest places on Earth: the Arabian Desert. Decades of corruption, war, and religious turmoil have left the people of Iraq powerless to the government, leaving few avenues left to pursue basic security or human rights. In the wake of the rise of ISIS, the USA and its allies have had limited success suppressing the spread of radical Islam in Kurdistan; however, the people of Iraq hold a general distrust for the USA and the West. Water security threatens the daily lives of everyone but the economic elite.

Kazakhstan

This former Soviet state lies at a crossroads between Eastern and Western politics; it is found south of the imposing and enduring presence of the Russian Federation, and to a distance North of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. It controls a large part of the Aral Sea, and shares the Caspian Sea, the largest freshwater lake by area, with Russia, Iran and other countries. Though Kazakhstan has access to these freshwater reserves, poor usage practices by it and other nations have led to the steady depletion of the Aral Sea, which, combined with minimal infrastructure and low government oversight, makes Kazakhstan largely water insecure.

Kenya

Kenya has been severely affected by water scarcity for decades. Though the recent spread of water scarcity worldwide has hugely affected other nations, in Kenya, day-to-day water scarcity has largely stayed the same. This being the case, for millions of Kenyans, finding enough water to survive is exceedingly difficult, especially in rural areas. If Kenya achieves long-term water security, it will see a massive boom in economic growth.

Libya

As one of the world's largest exporters of oil, Libya holds significant economic sway globally. When Libya operates in tandem with Saudi Arabia, this economic power is even stronger. Internally, Libya often fails to uphold human rights, and its democracy is still in weak stages of formation. Libya is a member of the African Union.

Morocco (The Broker)

Located at the crossroads between East and West, Morocco is equally influenced by European and Middle Eastern styles of living. Morocco is democratic and a useful ally as a mediating influence between eastern and western nations. Rather than being in direct conflict, Morocco seeks the middle ground in tensions between states.

Mongolia

The Gobi Desert covers the middle of Mongolia with a dry, cold climate. To the South, the Himalayas are a natural barrier between it and India; to the East, China and its politics are inexorably tied to Mongolia's. The combination of relatively sustainable living and a few rivers flowing from the Himalayas make Mongolia relatively water secure. However, a major change in economics, climate, or politics could shatter the fragile balance this nation maintains.

Pakistan (The Tyrant)

Low precipitation across the Middle East has left Pakistan at perilously low levels of available water. Its terse relationship with India threatens peace, and makes international cooperation between the nations difficult. Food and water riots are increasingly common in the south of

Pakistan. Pakistan distrusts the USA and its allies, and is more likely to work with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Russia to solve its water crisis.

Peru (The Broker)

Peru is deeply affected by all South American political and economic decisions. Located West of the center of South America, Peru is naturally allied with Chile and Brazil. Historic relations with Spain may also provide to be a useful political tool. The Andes Mountains provide a good deal of fresh water. However, in order to maintain relative water security, conservation and sustainability must be priorities. Already, receding glacial masses threaten long-term water security in Peru.

Russia

Russia plays the political the counterweight to Western notions of government and justice. With vast supplies of water, natural gas, and minerals, Russia is in a unique position to strong-arm European nations, which have difficulty removing themselves from Russia's economic grip. After decades of political maneuvering, Russia finds itself closely aligned with China, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Iraq. Russia avoids entering into outright war, but is willing to send its troops to support military conflicts.

Saudi Arabia (The Tyrant)

Saudi Arabia maintains a delicate political balance with the West. As a global player, its power stems from a vast supply of oil it readily sells to the West, especially the United States. Politically, it is closely allied with the United States and other Middle Eastern nations. Saudi Arabia has a fearsome track record for disregarding human rights, where violent suppression of journalists, women, religious groups and others is extremely common. The water security crisis threatens its political power, as millions are forced to use increasingly little water.

South Africa

The most economically developed country in Africa is found at the continent's southernmost tip. South Africa boasts a diverse and vibrant cultural scene, eleven nationally recognized official languages, and regular democratic elections. It is lauded by many European nations as an example of success and good sovereign government; however, even so, deep scars of racism left by apartheid and colonialism influence politics. In order to be diplomatically effective, South Africa tends to minimize special treatment it receives from the west, and prefers to operate selectively, even independently, as a member of the African Union. As urban centers become a more attractive option for rural populations, providing adequate access and sanitation is a significant challenge to the South African government.

Spain

Spain has made a slow economic recovery since the Eurozone crisis of 2010. It owes much of its present success to the United Kingdom, which in championing its own interests generally

champions the interests of Spain. However, while Spain's deserts grow, the United Kingdom tends to be more concerned with the severe crises in Africa and the Middle East. In order to preserve its current standards of living, Spain will be forced to innovate independently and negotiate with a great deal of tact.

Uganda

Though sanitation and access to clean water has significantly improved over the past decade in this central African country, nearly 35% of its population uses contaminated sources for their drinking water, and what sanitary sources are available cost exorbitant sums to secure access. This especially impacts the agricultural industry in Uganda; without clean water, safe and plentiful crops are few and far in between, depriving communities of income and resulting in widespread poverty. Challenges to Uganda include overcoming steady population growth, minimal resources, and insufficient infrastructure to serve the population.

The United States of America

The United States of America sees itself as the defender of democracy worldwide. With the largest military in the world, the United States refuses to back down from military conflict where diplomacy fails, and is prone to forming military coalitions. Recently, drone attacks in Iraq and Syria have been successful in suppressing the expansion of ISIS. At home, the USA faces a severe water shortage in the Western and Southern states, which threatens to become more severe as time wears on. The USA is unlikely to change their standards of living or point of view.

The United Kingdom (Ticking Time Bomb)

A strong defender of global human rights, economic security, and international dialogue, the United Kingdom is committed to finding a democratic, sustainable solution to the water crisis. The United Kingdom favors diplomacy over military intervention; however, the United Kingdom will deploy troops if necessary to keep the peace. The United Kingdom is closely allied with Western Nations, and has a precarious economic alliance with Russia. The United Kingdom is water secure.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has undergone massive shifts in its political history for centuries, fluctuating under the powers of several kingdoms and governments before being colonized by the United Kingdom of Great Britain in the 1890s, then declaring its independence in 1965. The constant flux has created a climate of political uncertainty, which hinders development and stalls projects in infrastructure and public service. Combined with a huge population, sanitation is a monumental problem in the country. In 2013, Zimbabwe endured a water scarcity crisis in which an outbreak of cholera killed 4000, and infected a further 100,000 people.

Committee Mechanics & Notes

Time

Events in the committee occur at the rate of one month per hour, beginning on December 1, 2015. The storyline will pause over breaks and during the nighttime, and no major events will occur during these times. The Dais recommends using breaks to socialize with fellow delegates rather than strategizing or drafting directives.

In terms of committee history, delegates should consider all events and actions listed in the background information section to be true. They may provide different insights or perspectives on each event; however, it is assumed that these events will have been covered by media organizations in depth, and informed players will be well versed in the issues at stake.

Use of Electronic Devices

Delegates are encouraged to use electronic devices, including smart phones, tablets, and laptops, for research and participatory purposes, especially when drafting directives. However, the Dais cautions delegates against their overuse. If these tools are used to excess, they have the potential to keep delegates from being engaged in the debate. At the discretion of the Committee staff, delegates who rely excessively on devices and who become disengaged from the committee will be automatically added to the Speaker's List, and will be notified to prepare a speech.

At this point, there will be no WiFi access provided for delegates at the conference. Should delegates wish to access the internet, they may do so using their own internet provider. For delegations wishing to draft a directive and do not have access to the internet, please send a paper copy to the Dais in the form of a page note or an electronic copy on a USB drive. The Dais will not have computers available for delegations.

In being more environmentally friendly, *In Short Supply: Water Scarcity* will use several media platforms over the course of the committee, including but not limited to Instagram, Wikia, Vimeo and Google accounts. The Dais recommends that delegates sign up for Instagram prior to the conference to follow crisis updates, and invites delegates to follow @ssicsim.

Committee Website

In Short Supply: Water Scarcity has a website serving as an information hub for the conference. By accessing the site, delegations will easily be able to access the background guide, additional resources, an updated version of the global water exchange, and crisis updates. Delegates can access this resource at: http://thesteve96.wix.com/ssicsim-iss2015

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