

Welcome to the 2017 UCMUN conference, delegates! I'm Sabrina O'Brien, and I will once again be the director of this year's United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

This year, UNESCO will be focused on the topics of Transgender Hate Crimes and the Water Crisis in the Middle East. These debates will hopefully result in solutions to escalating issues. UNESCO is a diverse committee, with 195 member countries whose views and positions are considered in debate, then consolidated into many important resolutions. As a diversified group, we must respect different views, meet discrimination with understanding, and find the humanity within ourselves to help those who cannot help themselves.

As the LGBTQ+ community continues its activity, transgender right advocacy gains a greater voice, but often times puts individuals into danger. As movements against discrimination and violence toward minority groups comes to the forefront of politics, this topic is of particular focus in this wave of media coverage and support.

In consequence of water scarcity in the Middle East, many people suffer from lack of water and sanitation, diseases, and will eventually lead to food shortages if the crisis continues. Last year, UNESCO had a public session in which they resolved to put sustainable and safe water sources at the forefront of the UN and EU agendas—making the water crisis a pertinent and critical topic of discussion for our committee.

I am very excited to present these topics to you and hope that you delegates will also find the research enlightening and of significant arbitration. When I first began studying these topics, I had gone into the process without knowing the extent of these issues, and was in fact shocked by their urgency. It is my hope that you as delegates will also see the import of these problems and come to thoughtful and precise solutions to the increasing violence aimed at transgender people and the water waste issues prevalent in the Middle Eastern region.

I look forward to working with all of you and hope that you find these topics interesting and worthy of debate! If there are any questions you need answered, do not hesitate to send an email my way.

Sabrina O'Brien
UCMUN 2017 UNESCO Director
sabrina.o'brien@uconn.edu

Committee History:

In the United Nations Conference of 1945, 44 countries came together to create an organization that would represent a culture that would establish “the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.” At the end of the conference, 37 of the 44 nations founded the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Its first session was held in the Paris conference of 1946 with the participation of 30 countries.

Today, UNESCO has 195 members and 10 associate members. The General Conference meets every two years in which all 205 member nations come to together to determine policies, the main agenda, set the program and the budget. Every country has one vote regardless of size or contribution to the budget. The committee prides itself on ensuring that all views from each member country are represented and taken into consideration in the voting of policies. The languages of the General Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

The Executive Board is voted in every four years and works as the overall manager of UNESCO, preparing the work of the General Conference and ensuring that its decisions are properly carried out. The choosing of these executive members are a matter of diversity of cultures and geographical origin in order to reflect the universality of UNESCO and its mission.

The goal of UNESCO is to: build the foundations of global peace, eliminate poverty, and create sustainable development and intercultural relations through education, science, culture, communication, and the transfer of information.

Works Cited

"UNESCO." *UNESCO*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 28 Jan. 2017.

Committee Simulation:

The Role of the Delegates

A successful conference cannot take place without active and participatory delegates. Participation in committee is essential and takes the form of engaged, persuasive debate with other delegates through informed speech and writing. Delegates are expected to have thoroughly and accurately researched the position of their respective country ahead of time; knowledge of current refugee policy is most important but must be accompanied by an understanding of bloc positions, history, and cultural ideologies. As such, any resolution that is passed by the committee must be representative of the positions of the countries sponsoring it.

Background research is clearly not only crucial for a realistic debate but for a successful committee. Delegates should keep in mind, however, that drafting a resolution is not a simple process, requiring extensive negotiation and structured arguments. Of course, other complicating factors such as political alliances, social and cultural viewpoints, and funding make the writing of resolutions even more challenging. Like any form of negotiation, an impressive debate must draw on compromise and a wide range of knowledge, skills that any accomplished delegate needs.

That being said, there are rules within this committee and the conference as a whole that must be followed. While proper parliamentary procedure and decorum must be maintained throughout all committee sessions, it is even more important that delegates have respect for themselves, those around them, the staff, and the international issues at hand. Following these rules will make UCMUN more enjoyable for everyone, especially as a learning conference. This

conference is supposed to be fun, and it will be as long as delegates act appropriately and respectfully.

The Role of the Dias

The Director and the Assistant Directors will form the Dias. They are obligated to maintain a structured, appropriate debate; they will accomplish this by establishing and keeping committee rules as well as ensuring delegate participation. More specifically, the Dais is responsible for setting debate, ending debate, and voting procedure. All members of the Dais are also available as a resource that delegates may approach with any questions regarding parliamentary procedure, the topics being discussed, or the conference in general.

Topic A: Responding to Increasing Violence against Transgender People

Introduction:

Individuals who do not identify with the gender assignment given to them at birth have been recorded since the ancient times, beginning with a story in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Iphis, daughter of Ligdus was born female, but her mother, knowing that a daughter would be socially undesirable and thus probably killed, lied and raised the child as a boy. Raised as a boy, Iphis fell in love with Ianthe, a woman who was unaware of her partner's sex, and so he prayed to become a man so that he could marry her. Fortunately for Iphis, the Egyptian goddess Isis transformed him into a man right before his wedding ceremony (*Metamorphoses*).

Such stories and traditions are common in other cultures throughout the world. Native American tribes, for example, accepted the presence of a third gender in which biological males culturally identified as a gender separate from male and female. A fourth group consisting of individuals who were biologically female and identified as another gender entirely formed a much smaller demographic. However, these individuals were prized in their respective tribes because of their ability to perform both male and female roles, and, more importantly, they were not denigrated or condemned for who they were (UCSB).

In India, "Hijra" is the term used to describe cross-dressers, intersex people, and transgender women. The community dates back 4,000 years and appears in the ancient texts, with its members described as bearers of luck and fertility (Daily Mail).

It is perhaps this change in societal opinion and mentality that has fueled stigmatization and violence against the transgender community. As the times have changed, the sentiments people have toward these people has changed very much. When Europeans came to the

Americas they called Native Americans identifying as the third gender *bedarche*, a derogatory term associated with the Arabic word meaning “male prostitute.” Christianization ended the third gender practices and raised transphobia in the tribes (UCSB). Hijras in India, despite the enormous respect historically granted to them in the religious domain, are now discriminated against in modern society. Given few protections, they are pushed to the margins of society and ostracized by their families (Daily Mail).

History and Description of the Issue:

Although the LGBT movement began as early as 1924, the plight of transgender people received little attention until former Army Private Christine Jorgensen became the first American to undergo a sex change operation in 1952. Estelle Asmodelle was the first transgender and transsexual person to be legally identified as such in Australia. She underwent many difficulties when travelling, since her passport identified her as male. Unfortunately, the Australian government would not legally change her sex identification to female unless she could prove that she had completed a gender reassignment surgery. In modern times, there have been a number of historical events demonstrating social stigmas against transgender people. In 1975, Minneapolis, Minnesota became the first city to pass a law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people. The New York Supreme Court ruled in 1977 that Renee Richards, a transgender tennis player, was eligible to play in the United States Open as a woman (*NYT* Timeline). Such cases hardly exhaust the list of individual victories for transgender people. However, despite laws inching towards progress, transgender people still are stigmatized, ostracized, and abused. For example, in 1980 the American Psychiatric Association added Gender Identity Disorder to their

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (APA). They later changed this to Gender Dysphoria, in which it was explained that transgender people only needed treatment if they felt distress about the dichotomy between their body's sex and what gender they identify with.

France only recently discarded laws requiring sterilization of transgender people going through the reassignment process. However, individuals identifying as transgender are still required to prove to a judge that they are transgender by giving evidence of how they live their personal, work, and family life according to the gender they identify as (BBC Reassignment).

In 2011, Anna Godzka became the first openly transgender woman in Poland's parliament (Huffington Post).

Current Status:

From a legal standpoint, it seems like the issue of transgender rights is progressing. However, the violence against transgender people across the world continues. In Turkey, Hande Kader, a transgender woman, was found dead and burned in August 2016 (BBC Kader). In the United States, the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that there may be 40 times more hate crimes against transgender people occurring than the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) estimates (Time).

The European Union created an anonymous online questionnaire for transgender people to report their experiences. Of the 6,579 people who responded, 29 percent did not tell their families and 44 percent did not tell their co-workers of their identity. Sixty-five percent experienced aversion in public and 53 percent experience assault or harassment while only 13

percent saw positive measures to promote respect. The conclusions of the survey is a shocking amount of trans people experiencing discrimination, harassment, and violence in all spheres of life, due to their gender identity (EU survey).

Many of the surveys and statistics are taken from anecdotal data as very few of the crimes are reported or investigated. Yet just the anecdotes themselves show enough of the issue without the need for hard numbers coming from crime report statistics.

In India, a transgender woman, Mariya, was murdered by one of her friends. A transgender woman named Sowmya was only 26 when she committed suicide because of the lack of support from her parents, rejection from her boyfriend, and because she had no livelihood (Reuters).

In Turkey, Bihter was waiting on the street for a friend when a car pulled up to the curb and a man got out demanding money. When Bihter refused, the man threatened her saying that he would kill her and then began to assault her. They attempted to stab her with a butcher's knife, but bystanders called the police and an ambulance. Although police arrived, they did not remove the assailants and prevented witnesses from making statements (Reuters).

Malika, a transgender woman from Cote d'Ivoire has to keep her existence as trans a secret since it is illegal in her country. She cannot work, obtain counseling, or receive hormone therapy. Ivorian transgender people are often attacked, humiliated in public, and blackmailed (Reuters).

There are stories from around the globe that tell the same stories over and over again. Transgender people cannot be themselves publically, they fear for their safety on a daily basis, police do not help, perpetrators are not brought to justice, and the transgender community suffers in silence and anonymity. Although steps have been taken in the legal sense for first-world countries such as France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the violence against these individuals continues in all areas of the world.

Bloc Positions:

As there is still much debate and continued dichotomies of views in regard to any topic relating to the LGBT community, there is much to be done in the arena of protecting the minority group. The movement for more equality and representation for the community is a struggle that has continued for nearly a century and has more recently come to the forefront of major media news sources and politics, making long strides to equal rights. However, this can also backfire on individuals as they are found or targeted, often leading to dangerous situations followed by a lack of response by law enforcement and the government--or in some cases where there is a response, it does nothing for the greater problem of hate crimes against the group or has an implementation that is of no use due to old legislation or public backlash.

In a landmark ruling in April 2014, India's Supreme Court recognized transgender people as a third gender. The court said, "It is the right of every human being to choose their gender." This decision came after the Supreme Court's ruling in December of 2013, criminalizing gay sex (reversing the 2009 Delhi High Court order which decriminalized it). So although Hijra may now officially have legal recognition, they may also be breaking the law if they have consensual sex.

On top of this, rights groups say that the transgender/Hijra community faces much discrimination and that hospitals sometimes refuse to accept them (BBC India).

A study by the National Institute of Epidemiology showed that among 60,000 transgender people a large proportion of them received no support from their biological family (*Times of India*). The study also held meetings with community leaders to investigate the social support available to people in the community. What was revealed in these meetings was that the main perpetrators of violence against transgender people were police and law-enforcing authorities (*times of India*). What does one do when the people whose job it is to protect and serve the public, are the force that discriminates against you the most? Absence of support from both families and the government shows that it is the effort of NGOs that bridges the transgender community to their rights, training them in livelihood activities and organizing awareness programs (*Times of India*).

As of 2015, there has been no governmental strategy to promote tolerance and combat discrimination against LGBT persons in Hungary. According to the ECRI (Emergency Care Research Institute), “there are no clinical guidelines or medical protocols in relation to transgender issues...the lack of specialized surgeons in the public health care system remains an obstacle.” And according to the Councils of Europe’s Commissioner of Human Rights, schools do not provide any information on homosexuality or homophobia, thus creating bias and prejudice. And although racist and homo-transphobia violence fall under the Criminal Code Article 216, between 2009 and 2013 there were 191 reported cases of alleged hate motivated crime, of which no data was reported on how many were LGBT victims (ECRI 20). The ECRI also notes that harassment and various forms of violence are part of everyday life for the people

of the LGBT community (ECRI 21). Yet there is no data on the LGBT population in Hungary, and without such information there is no basis for development or implementation of policies to address intolerance and discrimination against the community (ECRI 32). And although transgender persons are able to have their identities recognized through legal procedures for change of name and gender (without the need for surgery or sterilization), however the person must be unmarried or get a divorce in order to begin the legal process (ECRI 33). Hungarian transgender people don't simply have obstacles to hurdle over, they have walls that completely block their path to equality and acceptance.

The United Kingdom is a more progressive nation that has made efforts to help transgender people, however, according to the *Independent* newspaper, transphobic hate crimes reported to the police has increased to three times the amount in the past five years going from 215 reports in 2011 to 582 in 2015. Further, as a result of the low prosecution rates there is a great distrust of police amongst the transgender community (*Independent*). Figures from the *Independent* show that violent crime against transgender people has increased by 58% between 2014 and 2016. And although police take the increase of reports from 2011 to 2015 as a sign of gained trust between the transgender community and police, experts believe there is no way of knowing whether the rise in reports is due to an increase in confidence or other factors such as an increase in transphobia (*Independent*).

Further, in November of 2016, the Ministry of Justice recorded the first statistics of transgender prisoners, showing that there were 70 trans prisons in 33 of the 123 public and

private prisons in England and Wales. However, in late 2015, two transgender inmates committed suicide; both were transgender women being held in male prisons (Strickland).

Committee Mission:

Strides are made for the LGBT community as the movement prevails socially and politically, yet crimes against transgendered people continue to increase in boldness and frequency. As representatives of UNESCO, it is our duty to combat violence in these times of rising intolerance. It is necessary that the committee come to a conclusion and resolution for this continuing issue, and find ways of implementing policy into legislation or government practice.

Questions to Consider

1. Is the violence against transgender people a global or isolated issue?
2. Should violence against transgender people be considered a hate crime?
3. Is it therefore the responsibility of governments and/or organizations to address the issue and violence?
4. What steps can be taken by local, regional, national, and international governing bodies to ensure the safety of these people?
5. Where does the violence result from, and how can that be addressed?
6. Is the type of violence that these individuals experience an issue in and of itself?

Works Cited

"Anna Grodzka Becomes Poland's First Openly Transgender Member Of Parliament."

Huffington Post. N.p., 10 Nov. 2011. Web. Mar. 2017.

D'Urso, Joseph. "Transgender Voices from around the World." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 20.

Nov. 2015. Web. April 2017.

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. "ECRI Report on Hungary." Council of

Europe, 9 June 2015. PDF. Apr. 2017.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. "Being Trans in the EU." *Comparative*

Analysis of EU LGBT Survey Data (2014): 88. *European Union*. Web. Mar. 2017.

Glicksman, Eve. "Transgender Today." American Psychological Association, Apr. 2013. Web.

Mar. 2017.

"Hande Kader: Outcry in Turkey over transgender woman's murder." *BBC News*. BBC, 21 Aug.

2016. Web. Mar. 2017.

"India Court Recognizes Transgender People as Third Gender." *BBC News*. BBC, 15 Apr. 2014.

Web. Apr. 2017.

Kidd, Jeremy D., A.B., and Tarynn M. Witten, Ph.D. "Transgender and Transsexual Identities:

The Next Strange Fruit—Hate Crimes, Violence and Genocide Against the Global

Trans-Communities." *Journal of Hate Studies* 11.53 (2008): 31. Web. Mar. 2017.

"Milestones in the American Transgender Movement." *The New York Times*. The New York

Times, 18 May 2015. Web. 10 Mar. 2017.

Mok, Jefferson. "Hidden world of the Hijras: Inside India's 4,000-year-old transgender

community where religious respect doesn't protect them from modern-day

discrimination." *Daily Mail Online*. Associated Newspapers, 30 June 2015. Web. 10 Mar. 2017.

Naso, Publius Ovidius, E. J. Kenney, and A. D. Melville. *Metamorphoses*. Oxford: Oxford U Press, 2008. Print.

"Police Harass Transgenders Most, Says Study." *The Times of India*. India Times, 17 Apr. 2016. Web. Apr. 2017.

Strickland, Pat. "Transgender Prisoners." *Commons Library Briefing*. UK Parliament, 28 Nov. 2016. Web. Apr. 2017.

"The Third Gender in Native American Tribes | SexInfo Online." *The Third Gender in Native American Tribes | SexInfo Online*. University of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. Mar. 2017.

"Transgender Murder Victims: Why the Homicide Rate is So High." *Time*. Time, 17 Aug. 2015. Web. Mar. 2017.

"Transgender rights: France scraps sterilization in status law." *BBC News*. BBC, 14 Oct. 2016. Web. Mar. 2017.

Yeung, Peter. "Transphobic hate crimes in 'sickening' 170% rise as low prosecution rates create 'lack of trust' in police." *The Independent*. Independent Digital News and Media, 28 July 2016. Web. Apr. 2017.

Topic B: Middle Eastern Water Crisis

Introduction:

Seventy per cent of the Earth is covered by water, yet only 2.5% of these resources are freshwater (Foreign Policy Journal). Additionally, only 1% of the freshwater resources are accessible since most of them are trapped in glaciers and ice caps. Of this amount of fresh water, only one per cent is held in the Middle East.

“Firstly, the region experiences arid conditions, low rainfall and high levels of evaporation, leading to limited naturally available water resources. Secondly, the Middle East and North African region (MENA) suffers from inefficient usage and mismanagement; usage of old water networks; population growth; pollution; cultural and social issues; and inappropriate legal, political, and economic frameworks” (Foreign Policy Journal). Additionally, regional farming practices are outdated and irrigation methods use more water than in other countries. These wasteful trends and lack of access to clean, safe water work in combination to hinder water sustainability in the Middle East (Foreign Policy Journal).

Furthermore, unclean water has been associated with diarrhea, Arsenicosis, Cholera, Fluorosis, Guinea Worm Disease, HIV/AIDS, Intestinal Worms, Malaria, Schistosomiasis, Trachoma, and Typhoid (UNICEF). In the Middle East, children die due to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene-related causes at the rate of a jumbo jet crashing every four hours.

In November of 2010 UNESCO stated at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health that adequate quality and quantity of water is essential to human development and well-being. The organization therefore commended

the preset efforts to provide drinking water and basic sanitation through prioritization of wastewater management and innovation. Programs such as UNESCO's Hydrological Programme work to promote the science and knowledge of sustainable water resources. It is through the International Hydrological Programme, World Water Assessment Programme, and Institute of Water Education that UNESCO plans to achieve its goals of addressing water and health issues, protecting water resource quality, and providing access to safe drinking water (UNECE).

History and Description of the Issue:

One of the factors in the development of the civil war in Syria was water-conflict and scarcity. "During those six years, 117 million acre-feet of stored freshwater vanished from the region as a result of dwindling rainfall and poor water management policies," (Smithsonian Mag). In addition "Water is a significant dimension of the decades-old conflict between Palestine and Israel" (The Guardian). It is therefore necessary to address the issue of water scarcity that is occurring now not only from a moral and humanitarian view, but also as a precaution for potential conflict and/or armed clashes.

An absence of strong government in Iraq since 2003 has already led to the assassination of irrigation officials and clashes between farmers as a result of drought and shrinking aquifers. Syria also suffered a devastating drought in 2006 that forced farmers to abandon their fields. These farmers fled to the cities which are not overpopulated and struggling with sanitation and waste. And since 1975, Turkey's dam and hydropower construction has led to cuts in water flow by 80 per cent in Iraq and 40 per cent in Syria (Smithsonian Mag).

Since 1985, irrigated agriculture has steadily increased in response to food security policies in the Middle East. In Syria especially, the food policy objective is to satisfy the fast-paced needs of one of the largest growing rates in the world (3.50 per cent increase in 1985; and 2.54 per cent increase 1995-2000) (Research Gate).

“The water resources of Syria are very limited compared to the needs of the country and estimations show that available resources amount to 16,058 million m³ per year as total uses reach 19,162 million m³ per year...In consequence, the water balance for Syria is negative with a deficit of 3,104 million m³ per year varying distinctively across basins,” (Research Gate).

Current Status:

The areas in the Middle East hold some of the most arid environments, making access to drinkable water difficult. In the Middle East 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related causes (Kuwait Times). In Afghanistan, which has a population of 29 million, only 27 per cent have access to improved water resources and only five per cent have access to improved sanitation facilities; in Kabul, a population of six million, 80 per cent lack access to safe drinking water, and 95 per cent of the population don't have access to improved sanitation facilities (Hydrate Life). “The problem is that in many areas, growing populations have less and less water per capita because of crumbling infrastructure leading to massive leaking; short-sighted and self-interested water management, leading to egregious waste, and polluted groundwater” (Haaretz).

The Middle East is one of the most water scarce regions in the world, holding five per cent of the world's population but only one per cent of the world's renewable water resources (Foreign Policy Journal). "On average, water availability is only 1,200 cubic meters, around six times less than the worldwide average of 7,000 cubic meters" (World Bank). Not only is the region arid and prone to drought, it is also vulnerable to climate change. "A predicted rise in temperature coupled with a lack of rainfall in Syria, for example, could lead to the desertification of 60 per cent of the country" (Foreign Policy Journal).

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 102 of every 1,000 children in Afghanistan will die before the age of five (Mint Press). Shortages of water in the summer months create disputes among farmers who need to irrigate their land. "Engineer Daad Mohammad Baheer, Director of Water Supply Unit & Canalization of Afghanistan, said the lack of clean water, and even access to the water that exists could threaten future development in Afghanistan" (Mint Press).

"Globally, around 80 million m³ of potable water is being produced daily by more than 17,000 desalination plants and of these, 50 per cent are utilizing sea water as the source" (Nature Asia). Seventy-five per cent of worldwide desalination water is located in the Middle East and North Africa with 85 per cent of it going to agriculture—use of old irrigation and farming methods from the 1980s lead to the loss of 2/3 of Saudi Arabia's ground water supply (World Bank). However, desalination comes at a cost that is not feasible for poorer countries. The actual costs of the water are a problem on their own, a study found that it cost 1.04, 0.95, and 0.84 USD per desalinated water m³—with the additions of energy costs to produce the clean water and its

transportation to the price residents have to pay for access to it. Furthermore, the desalination process has been shown to have a significant negative impact on the environment. The desalination process produces a solution of salt and minerals which is separated from the clean water. This solution is thrown back into the sea or ocean it came from increasing the salinity of the water, effecting coastal and marine ecosystems and polluting rivers, aquifers, and soil (Rajavi).

The Kabul Urban Water Supply Project is being implemented by the German Development Bank at the request of the government of Afghanistan. The plan is to create water pipelines and infrastructure to improve the urban water system, reduce health risks, and improve the livelihood of Kabul citizens (USAID). Despite the new household connections and cleaner water, this project doesn't address the issue of water supply and quality in rural areas where farmers must still travel several kilometers to reach a well, and pay prices equal to that of fuel (Mint Press).

“Water supplies across the Middle East will deteriorate over 25 years, threatening economic growth and national security and forcing more people to move to already overcrowded cities” (The Guardian). It is necessary to find a sustainable solution while the water crisis is in its initial stages as it would become more difficult to reverse its effects as the situation worsens.

Bloc positions:

Afghanistan has already begun trying to reverse the effects of improper water usage by hiring the German government to create new water pipelines and improve infrastructure in Kabul. In addition, German and European interaction with MENA influence long-term development of the Middle Eastern economy (Germany 187). The EU set up multilateral groups after 1991 devoted to dealing with the problems of the environment and water supply, refugees, and arms control (Germany 47). The severe ecological problems in addition to structural problems range from water supply shortages to waste disposal (Germany 49). According a document outlining the German interests in the Middle East, work done to counteract these issues must be continued (49), and there must be an investment in economic infrastructure—including water and waste management (194). As a result, it only makes sense for the German government to provide aid and expertise (201).

Engineers in Jordan have lauded the use of treated wastewater at the As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant, a facility that treats an average of 267,000 cubic meters of water on a daily basis (USAID).

Canada has international development and humanitarian assistance in the MENA region intended to save lives. However, their main goals are mostly aimed at democracy and refugee issues in the Middle East. Canada, dealing with (and taking steps to a solution to) its own water crisis in First Nation reserves, would have great influence and perspective in the Middle East's own situation (International).

With the adoption of the G8 Action Plan, France in 2008, France made water a key focus of its development policy (Diplomatie). Its focus is centered on Sub-Saharan Africa, and has since extended its cooperation and efforts to Central Asia and the Mediterranean regions. It is imperative that all measures be taken to the effective implementation of safe drinking water and sanitation. The country's efforts would be helpful in the Middle East where the suffering is just as great as in the other areas France is offering external help to.

Turkey views water sources as the basis of human security and an engine for socio-economic development. As a result, the Turkish government claims that transboundary waters should be used in equitable and reasonable ways in order to sustain people across all borders (MFA). Additionally, it is their view that the global water shortage should be addressed in a holistic way with technical and financial support from developed nations and regional/international organizations and financial institutions (MFA).

Questions to Consider

1. Is the water crisis in the Middle East an issue that the UN should address or is it the responsibility of the countries themselves to deal with?
2. How will the water crisis affect other countries?
3. From what perspective(s) should the issue be addressed?
4. What technology and knowledge can the UN offer in assistance?

Works Cited

"Afghanistan's Water Crisis." *HydrateLife*. N.p., 24 Mar. 2017. Web. July 2017.

Al-Otaibi, Ghanimah. "By the Numbers: Facts about Water Crisis in the Arab World." *Voices and Views: Middle East and North Africa*. N.p., 22 Mar. 2015. Web. July 2017.

Babur, Humayoon. "Many Afghans Lack Access To Clean Water." *Mint Press News*, 23 Sept. 2014. Web. July 2017.

Barton, Alexandra. "Water In Crisis - Spotlight Middle East." *The Water Project*, n.d. Web. July 2017.

Canada. Government of Canada. Global Affairs. *Canada and the Middle East & North Africa*. Government of Canada, 20 Feb. 2017. Web. July 2017.

France. French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. *France's External Action in the Water and Sanitation Sector*. Government of France, n.d. Web. July 2017.

Germany. German Institute for International and Security Affairs. *Germany and the Middle East Interests and Options*. Ed. Volker Perthes. Heinrich Boll Foundation, 2002. Web. July 2017.

Hammer, Joshua. "Is a Lack of Water to Blame for the Conflict in Syria?" *Smithsonian.com*. Smithsonian Institution, 01 June 2013. Web. July 2017.

"Kabul Urban Water Supply (KUWS)." U.S. Agency for International Development, 7 Nov. 2016. Web. July 2017.

Pedraza, Linsdey Espinoza, and Markus Heinrich. "Water Scarcity: Cooperation or Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa?" *Foreign Policy Journal*. N.p., 21 Apr. 2017. Web. July 2017.

Rajavi, Yashar. "Water Desalination in the Middle East." *Stanford University*, 7 Dec. 2013. Web. July 2017.

Rinat, Zafirir. "As Israel's Water Crisis Worsens, Push for Desalination Gains Strength." *Haaretz*, 12 Dec. 2010. Web. July 2017.

Turkey. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Policy. *Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Government of Turkey, n.d. Web. July 2017.

United Nations. UNESCO. *STATEMENT BY UNESCO at the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE/ WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health*. UNECE, Nov. 2010. Web. July 2017.

Varela-Ortega, Consuelo, and J. A. Sagardoy. "Analysis of Irrigation Water Policies in Syria: Current Development and Future Options." *Research Gate*. Ciro Fiorillo and Jacques Vercueil,, Jan. 2003. Web. July 2017.

Vidal, John. "Middle East Faces Water Shortages for the next 25 Years, Study Says." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 27 Aug. 2015. Web. July 2017.

Wali, Faisal. "The Future of Desalination Research in the Middle East." *The Future of Desalination Research in the Middle East - Features - Nature Middle East*. Nature Middle East, 26 Nov. 2014. Web. July 2017.

"Water, Sanitation and Hygiene." *UNICEF*. N.p., 17 June 2003. Web. July 2017.