



**Forum:** 6th Committee

**Issue:** Establishing guidelines for the privatization of water

**Deputy Chair:** Caroline Meyer

### **Description of the Issue**

Water privatization – when private corporations buy or operate public water utilities – is often suggested as a solution to municipal budget problems and aging water systems. Unfortunately, this more often backfires, leaving communities with higher rates, worse service, job losses, and more. Is the privatization of water really a solution? Or are there better solutions to improve the water systems of the world? Only, who should own our planet's water? And what kind of legal system should be set as a guideline?

### **Key Terms**

**smart growth :** an approach to development that encourages a mix of building types and uses, diverse housing and transportation options, development within existing neighborhoods, and community engagement.

**water projects :** the act of making some area of land or water more profitable or productive or useful

**water crisis :** Access to safe, potable water is a fundamental human right. However, access is plagued by inequality – the wealthiest 12% of our global population utilizes nearly 85% the world's water. The water “crisis” that our generation has been presented with is far greater than anticipated; as such, its definition is ever-expanding.

**Public-private partnerships :** a long-term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility, and remuneration is linked to performance. PPPs typically do not include service contracts or turnkey construction contracts, which are categorized as public procurement projects, or the privatization of utilities where there is a limited ongoing role for the public sector.

**WASH provision :** Common WASH NGO projects include well and bore hole construction and urban slum water provision. NGOs also frequently conduct hygiene and sanitation outreach campaigns. International and national NGOs partner on water and sanitation service improvement projects with local NGOs while sometimes also providing financing of projects through their donors



### **Countries and Organizations involved**

India  
USA  
South Africa  
Basically every other country  
World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC)

### **Useful Sources**

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/insight/water-privatization-facts-and-figures>

Useful information on the down sides of water privatization as well as links to the UN declaration of access to water as a human right

[http://www.humangeographies.org.ro/articles/82/a\\_82\\_3\\_adams.pdf](http://www.humangeographies.org.ro/articles/82/a_82_3_adams.pdf)

detailed explanation of the NGOs involved and their actions

<http://www.worldscientificnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/WSN-10-2015-17-31.pdf>

detailed description of the problem, steps taken, different possible approaches as well as the countries involved in important incidents and an overview of worldwide examples of opposition to privatization of water (page 28)

<http://water.columbia.edu/files/2011/11/Siegfried2008ThirstyForChange.pdf>

pros and cons for LEDC's

### **Expectations for Position Papers**

- What is my country's opinion on the privatization of water?
- According to our country, how should the privatization of water be legalized, moreover, what should the guidelines be?
- To what extent should water be privatized?
- According to your country, should legislations to legalize the privatization of water be introduced or rather banned?  
Should the UN support or rather oppose the privatization of water?