



# Second: ECOFIN

Global Sustainable Energy Development

The Global Water Crisis

UCIMUN 2020



Welcome Delegates,

We are Hana Schlosser and Angie Lo, and we are the Secretaries-General for the UCI Model United Nations 2019-2020 school year. We are honored to serve as part of your Secretariat this year and are excited for everything we have planned for the conference. We truly hope you find our conference to be enjoyable as well as engaging and educational in nature.

Hana is a 4th year Biomedical Engineering major with passions in both biology and politics. This is her fourth year participating as part of the UCIMUN Conference Staff, previously serving as Assistant Director of Ad Hoc on Terror, Director of SOCHUM, and Director-General. She originally joined UCI's MUN program because she wanted to continue intellectual discussions outside of STEM after participating in Speech and Debate throughout high school. Hana truly loves the MUN program at UCI because it allows her to improve upon skills such as public speaking and diplomacy while also providing her a family at UCI. Outside of her studies and MUN, Hana enjoys playing music, cooking, and playing basketball.

Angie is a 3rd year Sociology and Political Science double major. She has been involved in MUN since freshman year of high school, and loved her experiences there so much she wanted to continue it onto college. She served as Secretary-General of her high school MUN club in her senior year and as a part of UCIMUN, has been an Assistant Director and a Director for General Assembly, and Under-Secretary-General of Mains. When not busy with her school, UCIMUN and work, she likes drawing, playing video games and doting on her pet fish.

This year, we really hope for you all to take to heart the paramount nature of coming up with solutions to the topics we have chosen. Our theme this year, “*addressing global human security and its impacts*”, was carefully selected because we would like to emphasize the number and severity of global issues which affect everyday people. With your research and your resolutions, we would like you all to delve into ways to benefit as many people as possible, because global issues go beyond nations and governments—they affect all of us.

Our staff's goal, as always, is to provide delegates with high quality debate and an opportunity to immerse themselves in an intellectual discussion of issues that are relevant to the community around them. Please feel free to reach out to us, our USGs, or our Directors anytime between now and our conference. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to seeing you in the Spring!

Sincerely,

Hana Schlosser and Angie Lo

Secretaries-General

UCIMUN Secretariat 2019-20

[ucimunsg@gmail.com](mailto:ucimunsg@gmail.com)



Welcome Delegates!

I am excited to welcome you to our 28th Annual University of California at Irvine, Model United Nations High School Conference. My name is Kyle Petersen and I will serve as you Under-Secretary-General of the Mains Committees. Along with the Secretaries-General, Ashima and I have been working tirelessly to create an incredible conference for you this spring. I am truly excited to see all of the hard work you have put into preparing for this conference.

Outside of Model United Nations here at UC Irvine, I am a 3rd year Business Administration Major specializing in Finance and Management. I have been involved with Model United Nations for seven years now, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Model UN has helped me tremendously in my personal and professional life. It was also one of the major influences to do a year abroad in Milan, Italy, to study international banking and finance at Bocconi University. Model UN has helped shape me to become the person I am today, and I hope it will help you do just the same.

Model UN will help you grow into a better and a more worldly individual. Whether UCIMUN is your first conference or your fifth, take it as a learning experience. Don't be afraid to ask questions and grow. The dais will be there to guide the debate and help facilitate the learning experience; however, the direction in which the committee goes is up to you and your fellow delegates.

You will be tasked with embodying a country and its policy; for some of you, this will be extremely easy because this country's policy matches your own opinions, while for others, this can be quite difficult. No matter the case you will then have to work with delegates whose objectives are the exact opposite of your own. I entrust that each and every one of you will uphold the diplomacy of the United Nations and work together in a professional manner in order to find the best solution to the problem at hand.

I hope that you will have just as much fun as I have in preparing for this conference and I cannot wait to see what your debate has in store. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your dias, as we will be more than happy to help.

I wish you all the best and cannot wait to see you this April!

Sincerely,  
Kyle Petersen  
Under-Secretary-General of Mains Committees  
UCIMUN Secretariat 2019-20  
[usgmains@gmail.com](mailto:usgmains@gmail.com)



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Second Committee (ECOFIN) at UCIMUN's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Conference! My name is Cenisa Gutierrez, and I am eager to serve as your director during committee. Throughout the conference weekend, we will discuss topics that affect citizens around the world currently, and in the future, while collaborating on sustainable solutions. My involvement with Model United Nations here at UCI started last year as the assistant director of UCIMUN's Sixth Committee (Legal), and this will be my first time as director.

I am a third-year double majoring in International Studies and Business Economics. UCIMUN has only heightened my knowledge and interest in international relations and diplomacy. Outside of MUN, I enjoy gaining research experience as a research assistant in active studies on campus. Additionally, I have involved myself in community service clubs throughout my years on campus. Furthermore, I am pursuing a research thesis that delves into how government regulations affect the sustainability choices of certain businesses in the United States and comparing that effect on businesses around the world in various governmental structures.

The topics chosen for this committee this year coincide and build off one another as they delve into the overarching discussion of implementing more sustainable societies around the world through economic policies. As the world's economy depends on a continuously limited amount of fossil fuels, it is imperative to turn towards the idea of *Global Sustainable Energy Development* (Topic A). *The Global Water Crisis* (Topic B) deals with providing clean water and sanitation around the world and how poverty in developing countries is exacerbated by the lack of these resources and vice versa. This topic demands a unified effort to provide this resource to countries especially affected by high rates of poverty. Together, these topics compliment this year's theme of "*Addressing global human security and its impacts*". Both topics exhibit the need for collaborative and in-depth consideration for all parties affected by these issues.

Though I aim to provide thorough research on the topics as a starting point for delegates, I hope to communicate to all that it is of great significance to conduct your own research and prepare for this conference. Beyond our committee's discipline, I highly encourage all delegates to approach these topics in an interdisciplinary manner as these global issues are multifaceted and require a large scope of research. In regard to Position Papers, I am expecting to see how these topics affect your country and subsequent policies, factual evidence and explanation for your country's stance, and proposals for progressive, global resolutions.

I am very excited about our committee, and hope everyone's committee experience is impactful, eye-opening, and informative. As members of the Second Committee, I look forward to seeing constructive economic policies and resolutions on both topics from all of you. After submitting your position papers, you will receive an email confirmation ensuring we have properly received it. At any time, please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns regarding the committee, conference or UCIMUN in general, and good luck on your research. Thank you and I look forward to meeting you all in April!

Sincerely,  
Cenisa Gutierrez  
Director, Second: ECOFIN



[ucimun2nd@gmail.com](mailto:ucimun2nd@gmail.com)

## **Topic A: Global Sustainable Energy Development**

### **Introduction**

The United Nations (UN) has defined global sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (“Sustainable Development”). Due to increasing research efforts, the climate crisis of the past decade has been brought to the forefront of UN discussions, ensuing the release of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015). One of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, Goal Seven, discusses Affordable and Clean Energy, whose goals are to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (“7: Affordable and Clean Energy”).

Sustainable energy development, i.e. economic development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources, is a significant topic that has appeared in the Paris Climate Agreement, various Sustainable Development Goals, and individual domestic energy plans. It has been an ongoing concern for organizations within the global community for decades and will continue to be a challenge for nations in the following years.

Sustainable energy development is intertwined with economic policies; for example, the essence of economics attempts to successfully bridge the gap between limited resources and unlimited wants. Sustainable development applies that concept with the ever decreasing amount of fossil fuels and replaces the negative externalities of burning carbon emitting sources with long lasting, clean energy. However, it is important to understand sustainable development does not fit all countries and regions. In order to successfully transition the world to utilize sustainable



energy sources, sustainable energy will best be implemented when different regions' economic frameworks and the environment are taken into account.

Together, the Second Committee will convene to develop an established framework on how to allocate global economic resources to implement international sustainable energy infrastructure. As a reminder, the purpose of this committee is to evaluate and understand the complexities of a solution where sustainability and healthy economic activity coexist. Furthermore, the committee will review global sustainable agreements, promote collaboration within international organizations and states, and work for a sustainable infrastructure to last for future generations.

### **Topic Description**

Sustainable development remains a highly debated topic that will last until there is a collective consensus from the global community on a solution that will implement a consistent alternative energy for various regions of the world.

In 2009, economies had to “spend at least 1% of their GDP over 2 years on reducing carbon dependency”; despite the fact this is less of a burden on developed nations over nations with very small GDP (“A Global Green New Deal”). Currently, the standards have been raised to “reducing carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 60 to 65% by 2030” (Denchak). The United Nations recognizes the urgency in climate change and has reflected its persistence for change in the agreements and deals they have authored with the support of other nation states.

Transitioning the world to carbon-free energy involves generating the energy we need using renewable sources rather than fossil fuels. Geothermal, hydroelectric, wind, nuclear, waves, biomass, renewables, and nuclear energy are all examples that can applied respectively to



different regions around the world. Though the alternatives are idealistic to begin sustainable development, there are many caveats such as lack of consistency and, more evidently, fiscal resources to implement the renewable infrastructure. All nations within the global community face massive technological challenges when transitioning to renewable energy. Sectors and industries such as aviation, shipping, and long-distance transport, concrete and steel manufacturing, and highly reliable electricity are incredibly difficult to replace due to a lack of scientific research into environmentally beneficial and complex routes to solutions. However, in terms of solutions, synthetic fuels or biofuels, carbon capture and storage and flexible energy generation and storage are all viable options.

### **Cost Implications of Renewable Energy**

As the UN is pushing for an increasing amount of countries to transition to renewable energy sources, there are many possible obstacles that need to be considered when transforming how the international community receives their power source. There is a reliability issue when moving countries over to ‘greener’ energy; startup costs are very high, and many developing countries simply do not have the funds to implement sustainable energy immediately. Despite the list of benefits, present and future, renewable energies will bring to global civilizations’ well being, there is also a stakeholder incentive issue where utility companies around the world will lobby against the renewable energy sector, such as the solar industry. Finally, there is a social implication to sustainable energy. Jobs related to the energy sector and fossil fuel industry across various countries will be lost in the transition. However, there is a possibility of jobs to be gained if infrastructure is needed to be built. It is significant to note there are ‘tradeoffs’ with each



environmental economic decision delegates make. The Environmental Impact Assessment is helpful in evaluating the potential environmental impact of projects on diverse resources.

### **Various Types of Sustainable Energy**

Currently, the world population continues to heavily rely on the burning of fossil fuels as an energy source. Domestic land can be used for biofuel, wind and solar energy. Converting biomass into domestic sources of energy is a very viable option as nations of all economic levels waste a certain percentage of food and when not composted or disposed of properly contributes to carbon emissions. Consumptive water use can be an input for growing corn, for example, to convert to biofuel production. Non-consumptive water use through desalination technology can be utilized for hydropower and thermoelectric power. This technology would be helpful in areas prone to droughts and would be using converted seawater into a potable water source; however, water technologies can negatively impact the surrounding environments as it requires lots of initial energy to implement, and contaminates the surrounding bodies of water for nearby communities. Characteristics of an inclusive and well thought out resolution for sustainable energy will embody coherence with other instruments, flexibility in the needs of other countries' economic wants and needs, evidence based resolution making, motivation of the regulator and regulated, and negotiation skills.



## **Bloc Positions**

### North American Bloc

The North American bloc diverges in a variety of ways towards sustainable energy. In certain regions, changes in leadership has left groups within this bloc to redact their support of certain climate agreements. Despite federal opposition to sustainable development, private institutions and many non-profit climate groups are spreading awareness and educating the public of this region of the importance of offsetting climate change issues, such as the proposed American legislation, the ‘Green New Deal’ (Friedman).

### South American Bloc

In South America, many states were eager supporters at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23), discussing implementation of renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions in this global sector. Despite actions geared towards increasing solar and wind energy usage, however, certain large powerhouse states in the region continue to destroy ecosystems in favor of oil mining and fracking. Nonetheless, states within large nations are beginning to ban the practice of harmful energy mining. In order to change the environmentally harmful decisions of certain groups, sustainable energy development needs to be presented as a way to increase South American economic prosperity (COP23: UN Climate Change Conference 2017).

### African Bloc

The African Union (AU) acknowledges the importance of renewables yet is on their way to match their economic activity and strength to the level of their neighbors. However, their economy is rapidly increasing and renewable energy sources such as solar energy and geothermal energy are set to “make up almost half of sub-saharan Africa’s power generation by



2040” (Valentine). Despite facing the problem of an increasing population, ensuing more necessary food and water production, plans and goals set up by this region are still important to the public.

### European Bloc

Throughout the yearslong discussion of global sustainable energy, the European Union (EU) has been a global leader in renewables and other green directives and goals. In 2009, the EU and its member states have issued a European Union Directive to successfully transition “at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020” (Renewable Energy Directive). Countries around the world have partnered with specific nations within the EU to achieve certain sustainable goals and initiatives.

### Asian Bloc

Asian states, though pledging for various global sustainable development goals, struggle with adhering to the targets due to the area’s exponentially increasing population growth. Many Asian countries focus on providing the cheapest and easiest energy for their citizens while also keeping up with their largely increasing manufacturing economy. The wasteful and unsustainable practices of manufacturing economies in this area conflict with the goals of long term sustainable energy practices (Publicover).

### **Committee Goals**

By the end of this committee, countries should collaborate and create innovative resolutions based on having global energy draw from renewable and carbon free sources. Countries should be mindful that different regions are at different stages of development and require more resources than other states to reach a point of achieving reliable, sustainable energy.



The committee's goal is to balance economic development for developing nations and transforming the infrastructure of where the world sources renewable energy from. It is up to the delegates to decide the best course of action for tackling this issue.

In regards to committee conduct, I expect delegates to remain in character by consistently advocating the interests and representing the policies of your country. Delegates will display the utmost respect for the opinions, ideas, and policies of fellow delegates, even if they conflict with your country's policy priorities. As you break out into caucuses, I wish to see delegates who are identifying potential state partnerships, encouraging discussion between other delegates without dominating the conversations, and attempting to make speeches to develop a calculated and all encompassing solution towards implementing sustainable energy development for all nations.

### Research Questions

1. What international energy agreements, pledges, goals, etc. does your country belong to, and how do they affect your country's economic development?
2. Does your country have any domestic goals or plans for transitioning to carbon free energy?
3. How does the state of your country's economy affect decisions towards sustainability?
4. What are some flaws, issues, or biases of international sustainable development goals? If so, how can your country address these issues to be more applicable to akin countries?
5. Is it realistic to develop a uniform global energy standard that ensures all nations can achieve sustainability while also ensuring economic growth? If so, what are the necessary provisions needed to establish this? If not, what are some possible barriers to achieving progress?



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## Topic B: The Global Water Crisis

### Introduction

Extending the idea of sustainable development to global access of clean and accessible water, the UN has assigned Sustainable Development Goal Six as “ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” (“Goal 6: Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation for All”). The UN recognizes that access to clean water, or a lack thereof, greatly alters one’s ability to improve their socioeconomic levels in their respective nations, especially in countries that are behind in national development. Additionally, it is important to note the concept of access to clean water extends beyond potable water sources but also includes basic sanitation facilities and water supplies. Many countries, developed and developing, face the issue of water sustainability, which includes water efficiency from the consumers and water management from the state and private level. Major cities around the world are facing water shortages and are reinventing their water infrastructure in order to acclimate to the future decreasing supply due to climate change. Unfortunately, most countries around the world are more concerned with a consistently safe water supply where “in 22 countries... the water stress level is above 70 per cent” due to a lack of public funding and privately owned supply of water facilities and private supply (“Progress & Info” 2018).

Global water access and its effect on poverty levels is a significant topic that has appeared in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, economic organizations such as the World Economic Forum, and various domestic water supply plans. It will continue to grow into an ongoing concern within the global community for decades and will continue to be environmental and economic challenges for nations in the following years.



Sustainable access to water can be directly intertwined with a nation's poverty levels; for example, individuals cannot be productive participants in their country's economy if they are unable to have basic water access in their communities; economists focus on bridging the gap between the unlimited wants of global water consumption and the limited supply of water sources around the world through future water supply technologies or pushing for legislative actions. However, it is important to understand water access and implementation of sanitation facilities is not a one plan fits all countries/regions. In order to successfully transition the world to depend on sustainable water sources, the way countries utilize and collect water for their citizens will best be implemented when different regions' economic frameworks, the environment of each country and national consumption patterns are taken into account.

Together, the Second Committee will convene to develop an established water management initiative on how to allocate global clean water resources while alleviating poverty in many developing countries. As a reminder, the purpose of this committee is to evaluate and understand the complexities of a solution where sustainable water practices and healthy economic activity coexist. Furthermore, the committee will review global agreements regarding the international access to clean water, promote collaboration within international organizations and states, and work for a sustainable infrastructure to last for the future global generations.

## Description

As a response to the global crisis caused by the 2008 recession, the UN released a Global Green New Deal, a plan to promote international financial recovery while also creating a more sustainable global economy. In 2009, it was required that economies "should consider removing water subsidies and other distortions, adopting market-based instruments or similar measures to



enhance water management” (“A Global Green New Deal”). Since the release of this report in 2009, the collective actions required of international participants have only increased and become more demanding, especially the contributions from participating developed countries, through other UN sponsored agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Establishments also concerned with the welfare of the international economy have come up with plans such as the Global Water Initiative, an economic initiative with the World Economic Forum that is determined to place water at the forefront of “economic growth planning” in order to meet the requirements established through the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (“Global Water Initiative”). Economists recognize a lack of clean water in already impoverished areas decreases the potential for economic growth and activity, from a labor productivity standpoint and when looking at the effects of water stress on education levels. It is also significant to note the World Economic Forum does not place emphasis on technologies to acquire a larger water supply (as learned in the previous topic synopsis, there can be negative environmental effects stemming from new technologies); the Global Water Initiative encourages countries to focus on changing water consumption habits through water conservation behaviors—a solution more geared to developed nations.

The ailments caused by water borne illnesses prohibits school age children from attending class; the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has determined “443 million school days are lost”, reflecting the departed hours of social investment, particularly citizens education and future innovations. Additionally, UNDP reported “over 40 billion productive hours are lost each year to fetching water in sub-Saharan Africa”. It cannot be denied that the massive amounts of lost productivity within just the African bloc attributes to claims made by



human rights activists and economists alike: universal access to clean water and sanitary facilities is necessary for developing countries to recover time that could have been spent improving the living standards, through basic sanitation facilities and an overall increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (“Human Development Report 2006”).

## **Bloc Positions**

### North American Bloc

Despite the fact that this block is made up of developed countries, there are still areas in which leaders are not providing healthy water to impoverished areas. Cities are experiencing water contamination in low-socioeconomic areas such as Flint, Michigan and are still living without clean water despite many months of media attention. Big cities across the region are aware of looming water supply shortages and are working slowly towards solutions in comparison to the European bloc’s eagerness to be ahead of the sustainability curve.

### South American Bloc

The amount of the global population that had increased access to safely managed sanitation services “increased from 28 percent in 2000 to 43 percent in 2015 and 45 percent in 2017” many of those benefiting from this increase in many South American countries. Throughout this timeframe, poverty decreased in this region as well as poverty has “dropped from 43.8 percent to 31.8 percent” (“Poverty in South America”). However, many countries still suffer from poverty and lack consistent clean water in areas due to political turmoil in their leadership.



### African Bloc

The relationship between poverty and lack of access to clean water is felt most within this region of the world. Contaminated water is a culprit in many illnesses that affect the population within this region, prohibiting individuals who would be able to enter the labor force from participating, and thus stagnating the economy. Additionally, an increasing amount of droughts in the area causes the population to suffer from health and sanitary problems. A few years prior, South Africa had experienced citywide water stress as their water supply from six surrounding dams fell close to 20 percent of their normal supply (Gannon). Developed areas of the African bloc are quickly learning to improve their water supply infrastructure after the Cape Town water crisis.

### European Bloc

European region has a very well developed legislative foundation for tackling the goal of sustainable water management that goes beyond the supply of the resource but discusses policies for water pricing. The EU has already determined that a combination of efficient supply management with new technologies and water pricing policies such as tariffs has shown the most influence in reducing household water consumption. The EU in regards to other developed nations is far ahead in considering water crisis issues before they severely affect European nations (“Sustainable Water Management”).

### Asian Bloc

Many of the countries that have registered as having high or medium water stress are located within this region. The main concern does not involve the physical scarcity of water but the inappropriate management of water across many countries in this region. The Asian bloc region is prone to flooding, especially during monsoon seasons, and much of the water that falls onto



the region either becomes contaminated or not properly collected. As with other regions who suffer from water stress, countries are more concerned with boosting their economic activity; Asian nations are especially concerned with building a stronger economy when it is expected that the population will grow 7 percent of the global population (500 million) within the next 10 years (Biswas).

### **Committee Goals**

By the end of this committee, countries should collaborate and create innovative resolutions based on the natural water supply of specific regions and sustainable water management practices. Countries should be mindful that different regions are at different stages of development and require more resources than other states to reach a point of achieving these goals. The committee's goal is how to best distribute clean water so as to alleviate poverty in developing regions of the world. It is up to the delegates to decide the best course of action for tackling this issue.

In regards to committee conduct, I expect delegates to remain in character by consistently advocating the interests and representing the policies of your country. Delegates will display the utmost respect for the opinions, ideas, and policies of fellow delegates, even if they conflict with your country's policy priorities. As you break out into caucuses, I wish to see delegates who are identifying potential state partnerships, encourage discussion between nations without dominating the conversations, and attempts to make speeches to develop a calculated and all encompassing solution towards providing clean and accessible water sources for all nations.



## Research Questions

1. What international agreements, pledges, goals, etc. does your country belong to, and how do they affect your country's policies on providing water to its citizens?
2. Does your country have any domestic goals or plans for providing clean water or improving the sustainability of your implemented water infrastructure?
3. How does the state of your country's economy and poverty levels affect the amount of clean water that is accessible to your public?
4. What are some flaws, issues, or biases of international supply of clean water? If so, how can your country address these issues to be more applicable to more akin countries?
5. Is it realistic to develop a water supply and demand infrastructure that ensures all nations can achieve sustainability while also ensuring economic growth and decreasing poverty rates? If so, what are the necessary provisions needed to establish this? If not, what are some possible barriers to achieving progress?



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