United Nations General Assembly
Resolution – The Human Right to Water and Sanitation, 2010

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 28 July 2010

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/64/L.63/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

64/292. The human right to water and sanitation

The General Assembly,


Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the

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5 Resolution 217 A (III).
6 See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
8 Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
9 Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities\textsuperscript{10} and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,\textsuperscript{11}

Recalling further all previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council on human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including Council resolutions 7/22 of 28 March 2008\textsuperscript{12} and 12/8 of 1 October 2009,\textsuperscript{13} related to the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)\textsuperscript{14} and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the scope and content of the relevant human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation under international human rights instruments,\textsuperscript{15} as well as the report of the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation,\textsuperscript{16}

Deeply concerned that approximately 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water and that more than 2.6 billion do not have access to basic sanitation, and alarmed that approximately 1.5 million children under 5 years of age die and 443 million school days are lost each year as a result of water- and sanitation-related diseases,

Acknowledging the importance of equitable access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming the responsibility of States for the promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Bearing in mind the commitment made by the international community to fully achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing, in that context, the resolve of Heads of State and Government, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,\textsuperscript{17} to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and, as agreed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),\textsuperscript{18} to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,

1. Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;

\textsuperscript{10} Resolution 61/106, annex I.
\textsuperscript{13} See A/HRC/12/50 and Corr.1, part one, chap. I.
\textsuperscript{14} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 2 (E/2003/22), annex IV.
\textsuperscript{15} A/HRC/6/3.
\textsuperscript{16} A/HRC/12/24.
\textsuperscript{17} See resolution 55/2.
2. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance and cooperation, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all;

3. *Welcomes* the decision by the Human Rights Council to request that the independent expert on human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation submit an annual report to the General Assembly, and encourages her to continue working on all aspects of her mandate and, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to include in her report to the Assembly, at its sixty-sixth session, the principal challenges related to the realization of the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and their impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

*108th plenary meeting*

*28 July 2010*