

Committee Guide

ECOSOC 2023

Our World at a Turning Point

2 0  2 3

BREAKING OLD PATTERNS

***Ensuring Safe
Drinking Water
for All***



Contents

1. Personal Introductions	3
1.1. Ana Isabel Chiner	3
1.2. Franziska Schwanken	3
2. About the Usage of This Guide	4
3. About ECOSOC	5
4. About the Topic	6
4.1. Safe Drinking Water	6
4.2. Access to Safe Drinking Water	6
4.3. Countries with Access to Safe Drinking Water	7
4.4. The Problem	7
4.5. What Happens if you Drink Contaminated Water?	7
5. Possible Solutions	7
6. What's Next?	8
7. Helpful Links	9

1. Personal Introductions

1.1. Ana Isabel Chiner

Dear Delegates,

My name is Anabel and I would like to welcome you to the Economic and Social Council of OLMUN 2023. I am 16 years old and Spanish. In my free time, I like to meet up with my friends, cook, and, if there is time left, do karaoke (this would be a good punishment for me:).

My MUN journey started a few years ago when I participated several times as a delegate in a MUN at my school. This year will be my first year participating at OLMUN. Franziska and I will do our best for you to have an unforgettable OLMUN experience.

I look forward to meeting all of you very soon. Have fun with your research!

1.2. Franziska Schwanken

Esteemed Delegates,

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to OLMUN 2023.

My name is Franziska Schwanken. I am 19 years old and from Germany. I am currently in my last year of school and preparing for my upcoming Abitur. In my free time I like to read or play tennis. I have participated in two OLMUN's so far and this is my first time as chair. Anabel and I will take good care of you and are very excited to meet you.

See you soon :)

2. About the Usage of This Guide

Reading and understanding the Committee Guide is crucial, however you also need to do your own research and inform yourself about factors that concern the nation that you are representing in order to be fully prepared for this year's conference.

This Committee Guide is aimed to help you with some general and superficial information to start off (information for any nation in specific will not be provided), furthermore you need to research several aspects such as culture, history, status, geography, relationships with nations etc. of your country. More information on details needed can be found in the **OLMUN Handbook 2023**.

Later on, you will write a resolution with other nations in which possible solutions for the topic will be presented. The following information in this Committee Guide will provide you with basic knowledge about ECOSOC and the topic of "Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for All".

3. About ECOSOC



The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the UN established by the UN Charter in 1945. Its first president was Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar in 1946.

Involving 54 voting member states in the promotion of sustainable development, ECOSOC links across the economic, social, and environmental concerns, having the main responsibility for following up on all major international conferences linked to any of the 3 pillars of sustainable development mentioned above along with the implementation of the sustainable development goals. ECOSOC is keen on reaching the 17 Goals for the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

“ECOSOC brings people and issues together to promote collective action for a sustainable world.”

4. About the Topic

4.1. Safe Drinking Water

First of all, what is safe drinking water? What are the essential characteristics that water must have to be considered drinking water? Safe drinking water is any water that meets these three requirements: water must be colourless, odourless, and tasteless. Safe water must be free from microorganisms, chemical substances and radiological hazards that are a threat to a person's health.

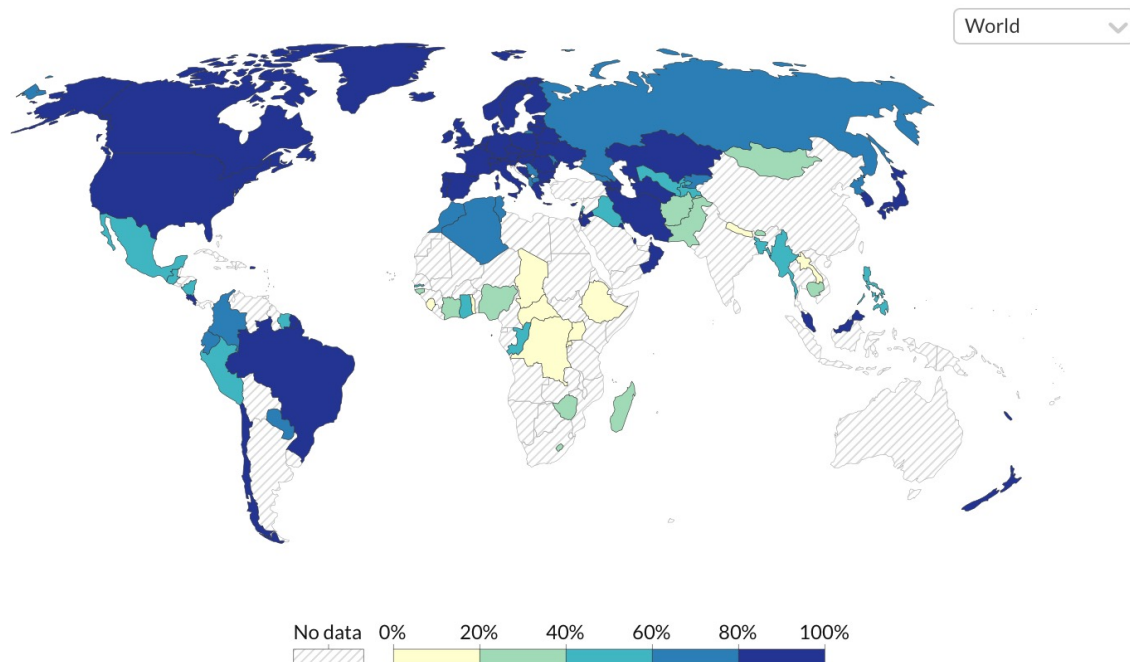
4.2. Access to Safe Drinking Water

In 2020 over 74% of the world population had access to safe drinking water, indicating that over one quarter of the world population do not have access to it. As seen in the map below (point 3.3) there is a lack of access to safe drinking water mainly in lower-income countries. There are high death rates in those countries as consuming non-safe drinking water can lead to infectious diseases such as cholera, hepatitis A, diarrhoea...

Share of the population with access to safely managed drinking water, 2020

Our World in Data

Safely managed drinking water is water from an improved water source which is located on premises, available when needed and free from contamination.



Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation

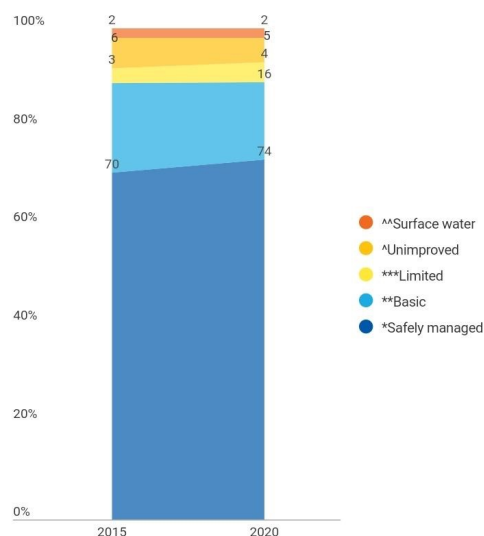
CC BY

4.3. Countries with Access to Safe Drinking Water

In the map shown below, the share of people across the world that have access to safe drinking water is shown.

4.4. The Problem

UNICEF classifies the access to safe drinking water in five categories: from safely managed over Basic to limited than Unimproved and at the end of the spectrum is surface water. Access to safely managed drinking water is described as: an improved source accessible on premises, available when needed and free of contamination. Basic is described as an improved source within 30 minutes round trip collection time. Access is limited if the improved source is over 30 minutes round trip collection time. The access is unimproved if it is an unprotected dug or an unprotected spring. And lastly surface water is water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal. About 771 million people around the world have no access to a Basic level of safe drinking water. The access for 282 million of them is limited, for 367 million the source is unimproved and 122 million use surface water.



4.5. What Happens if you Drink Contaminated Water?

Unsafe drinking water can be contaminated with faeces. The microbial contamination of water can transmit diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, or polio which causes an estimated 485.000 diarrheal deaths annually. Contaminated water can be especially dangerous for children.

5. Possible Solutions

There are many ways to purify water. You can clean dirty water by mixing it with chemicals like chlorine or iodine. Chemicals however must be used very carefully because an excessive amount can contaminate the water again. Some chemicals can be very dangerous for a specific group of people, for example pregnant women. Chemicals are also not always effective. The most effective way of cleaning water would be to use one of the industrial filter systems like whole-home filters, Point-of-use filters, countertop filters, (...). In times

6 What's Next?

when people did not have access to industrial filter systems they used heat which is still an effective method to kill bacteria, however it can not clean the water from heavy metals. The methods presented are only a few possible solutions.

Through technology and collaboration we would ensure that non developed countries would have just as much access and similar measures to safe drinking water as developed countries do.

6. What's Next?

This Committee Guide provides a basis for this years' topic that will be debated and discussed in the Economic and Social Council.

We highlight that the Committee Guide should not be the only foundation for a delegates' research on this topic and is not meant to be used as an all-inclusive analysis.

Accordingly, this guide serves as a thought provoking impulse to introduce every delegate to the topic. Indeed, the delegates will acquaint themselves with further information to be well prepared for the discussions and for the debates. This can be done by consulting scholarly materials, international news and more detailed proved background knowledge. Find out how that country is currently progressing in ensuring that all the citizens have safe drinking water. What goals did your country set? What difficulties might your country be facing? Are there any measures?

All these questions and many more may guide you through your research. However, in order to keep guiding you through this process, we included some links down below to make your research easier.

7. Helpful Links

- <https://ourworldindata.org/water-access>
- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>
- <https://data.unicef.org/topic/water-and-sanitation/drinking-water/#>
- <https://www.wikihow.com/Purify-Water>
- https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/drinking-water_en
- <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/27-03-2023-protocol-on-water-and-health-is-a-global-example-of-ensuring-climate-resilient-water-and-sanitation-for-all>
- [HandbookOLMUN2023](#)

Please check out the **Rules of Procedure** and the **OLMUN Handbook** too.



OLMUN 2023

**22nd International
Session**