FORUM**:** Environment Commission

QUESTION OF**:** Measures to Resolve Damage and Mitigate Risk Factors of Increasingly Frequent Droughts

MAIN SUBMITTER**:** India

CO-SUBMITTERS**:** Afghanistan, Republic of Korea, China, Egypt, Russia

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Bearing in mind* the 2 billion people who have been adversely affected by and the 11 million that have died from the effects of droughts from 1900 to 2013,

*Recognizing* the devastating consequences of a lack of sufficient water, namely an insufficiency of clean water, famine, forest fires, and migrants who need to move if the land can’t sustain them,

*Noting with alarm* the increase in the number and severity of droughts due to increased global warming,

*Reaffirming* the process provided by UNESCO’s Flood and Drought Policy with the goal of strengthening national drought and flood risk management strategies and policies,

*Acknowledging* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification’s (UNCCD) Great Green Wall Initiative, which aims to restore 100 million ha of African soil and was launched in 2007,

*Viewing with appreciation* United Nations Water (UN-Water) and its efforts to alleviate water-related challenges through the combined efforts of over 30 UN organizations,

*Aware that* breathing unhealthy air, such as air with a high particle concentration after droughts, contributes to or causes most respiratory diseases,

* 1. Suggests the development of water purifying, conserving, or producing facilities and methods, with intentions including but not limited to:
		1. implementing simple, local-run water purifying or conserving fixes or apparatuses, such as but not limited to:
			1. basic rainwater harvesters, such as barrels or cement blocks, or rain water collection systems,
			2. fixing pipes that may leak water
			3. community-run water treatment systems, such as the AguaClara Water Treatment system, which can be built with locally available materials,
			4. bio-sand filters,
		2. further researching and developing large-scale water producing or purifying methods, with an emphasis on economy, sustainability, and health, such as but not limited to:
			1. distillation,
			2. atmospheric water generators,
			3. cloud seeding,
			4. desalination,
			5. reverse-osmosis,
		3. building any facilities as close as possible to the people they help, with hopes of employing the local population in order to improve their economies,
		4. working with already-existing organizations that labor to improve the water quality and supply through means such as but not limited to:
			1. sending groups of experts to stay for prolonged periods of time to directly advise the communities and send yearly check-ups to the local governments and/or the United Nations via UN-Water in order to help the government make informed decisions about the advancement of water purification in their communities,
			2. sharing any knowledge or advancement of technology in order to reach maximum benefits on both sides,
		5. targeting the most severely affected areas by the severity of their droughts on the Palmer Drought Severity Index;
	2. Calls for the sending of medical staff to LEDCs with high particle concentration in the air as a result of forest fires and dust storms caused by drought with the intentions of:
		1. relying on funds provided by the UNCCD or donations, which include but are not limited to:
			1. monetary gifts,
			2. medical equipment, such as masks, which can be used to prevent particle inhalation, or ventilators,
			3. antibiotics to treat infections, anti-inflammatory drugs, such as corticosteroids, to reduce inflammation in the lungs, diuretics to eliminate fluid from lungs,
		2. creating a website in order to connect participants, patients, and donors and organize events or trips, with management of the website given to the UNCCD,
		3. accepting any eligible volunteers with a history in medical training, whether part or full time, such as medical students or nurses, with an emphasis on willingness to make regular trips to see patients, with a preferred minimum time commitment of two weeks per trip,
		4. deciding which cities to send staff to by using the Air Quality Index (AQI), with cities with a higher AQI being prioritized,
		5. targeting people with chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma, or any patients with a higher risk of danger from acute respiratory diseases, such as those above the age of sixty or below the age of thirteen,
		6. working with local hospitals and doctors with the intentions of:
			1. establishing good partnerships with them,
			2. coordinating events between parties in order to reach the largest number of patients,
			3. sharing information and equipment between the parties in order for mutual learning and benefits;
	3. Asks member states to raise awareness on the problems of droughts and how to alleviate them, which are already in progress, causing serious effects on the environment through means such as but not limited to:
	4. all forms of media, such as but not limited to:
		+ - 1. television, collaborating with massive broadcasts to produce more series about the problems of droughts,
				2. publishing magazines that include pictures showing the devastating results of droughts,
				3. publishing newspaper with first page showing the devastating result of droughts and the relief groups which work to mitigate such results,
				4. advertisements showing the seriousness of droughts and measures to alleviate them in everyday life,
				5. radio, announcing information about severe droughts and its results,
	5. creating educational improvements to inform more teenagers and kids about the causes and effects of severe droughts and how to take action in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. watching documentaries or videos about how different factors affect severe droughts,
		2. establishing environment classes for school to educate students and raise awareness on how to solve this issue, stressing the seriousness of droughts,
		3. researching the effects of droughts and measures to alleviate them for academic work,
	6. making social media accounts in order to spread awareness about the effects of the droughts and how to alleviate them, through ways such as but not limited to:
		+ 1. Facebook, through the start of a new hashtag campaign which is posting about effects of frequent droughts and its seriousness,
			2. Instagram, post photos of results of frequent droughts, or creating accounts on multiple social media platforms with posting videos about the effects of the droughts,
			3. YouTube, through making a video that raises the awareness on this issue of droughts;
	7. Requests the sending of doctors and experts in sanitation to the rural areas of LEDCs affected by drought in order to aid with lowered sanitation due to polluted water through means such as but not limited to:
	8. holding public talks in the native language stressing simple ways to avoid using polluted bodies of water, the adverse effects of using them, and ways to wash hands in the absence of running water, with the possible distribution of sanitizer or implementation of “tippy-taps,” with meetings held in places such as schools or town squares,
	9. administering vaccines targeted to help combat the diseases which people may be more vulnerable to as a result of decreased hygiene at the local hospitals,
	10. dispensing simple water-purifying resources, such as water purification tablets or bottles with filters, in order to help provide clean water,
	11. having teams of experts and doctors stay for at least two weeks before leaving or traveling to another place where they are needed in order to help the communities around them most effectively;
	12. Encourages the more careful production or direct provision of food to alleviate the effects of drought on agriculture and supply chains through means such as but not limited to:
		1. teaching farmers how to better manage their farms during a water shortage through monthly meetings and check-ups with experts, either through online or in-person meetings coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through means such as but not limited to:
			1. implementing water-conserving farming methods, such as drip irrigation,
			2. rotating crops in a way that increases the amount of water entering the soil and minding soil health, possibly through the increased use of fertilizers, which could be obtained through simple recycling,
			3. taking care to reduce the presence of weeds, which consumed large quantities of water,
		2. asking local governments to subsidize private farms in order for them to build equipment that will allow them to farm more sustainably and effectively,
		3. sending food to countries whose supply chains or agricultural economies have been severely disrupted by drought, with intentions including but not limited to:
			1. shipping protein bars, and other efficient, protein-rich substances, to food-insecure communities,
			2. creating volunteer-run supply depots to distribute such food,
			3. giving management of all shipments to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP),
		4. communicating with local governments in order to most effectively implement or provide resources and to reach communities with the severest food insecurity;

* 1. Further suggests member states to rely less on fossil fuels and to turn to different energy sources to prevent further climate change and greenhouse emissions through ways such as but not limited to:
	2. finding which type of sustainable energy is most suitable for each different environment, such as but not limited to:
1. geothermal energy for places near volcanoes,
2. tidal or wind energy for coastal areas,
3. solar energy for deserts or places that receive large amounts of sunlight,
4. nuclear energy for the more developed nations,
	1. looking into possible methods that are not commonly implemented at present, such as but not limited to:
		* 1. hydrogen cell power,
			2. nuclear fusion,
	2. encouraging companies and factories to use different energies that are not fossil fuels by:
5. increasing the taxation posed upon fossil fuels,
6. providing government subsidies to firms using different energy forms;
	1. Proposes the reforestation of areas affected by forest fires by workers hired by the government in less economically developed countries, with the intentions of:
		1. increasing soil fertility and maintaining soil productivity through the decreasing of soil erosion, and thereby decreasing the chances of drought,
		2. providing full-time jobs, especially for local workers whose livelihoods depend on agricultural welfare and were destroyed by soil erosion as a result of droughts,
		3. creating various funds online and a website to organize donations, with management of funds being given to a minimum of five board members and donations including but not limited to:
			1. monetary gifts,
			2. equipment for the purpose of reforestation, such as planting hoes,
		4. restoring species of trees natural to the ecosystem in order to preserve biodiversity by using a mixture of artificial and natural regeneration methods, which include but are not limited to:
			1. root suckering,
			2. stump sprouting,
			3. aerial seeding,
			4. machine and hand planting;
	2. Endorses the development and research of genetically engineered crops, with goals including but not limited to:
		1. inviting a variety of scientists specialized in genetic engineering and crop diversity from around the world to gather annually and discuss possibilities and solutions, whether online or in-person, with an emphasis on cooperation and innovation,
		2. creating a knowledge hub where information regarding genetically engineered crop breeding could be shared freely between countries, in order to ensure that all countries might have an equal chance at aiding their people through such means,
		3. developing crops highly resistant to the effects of droughts, which include increased heat or dry, nutrient-poor soil, and which are easy to seed and harvest,
		4. using CRISPR-Cas editing and other forms of transgenic breeding to selectively modify development regulatory genes and increase crop yield,
		5. encouraging experts to publish essays promoting the usefulness of transgenic breeding in order to dissuade public fear from presumed “unnatural” consequences.