

Committee: United Nations Environmental Programme

Country: Canada

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Topic I: Securing Water

It is no doubt that securing water health becomes a global concern in recent years. According to the survey of WHO, more than 3.4 million people die each year attributing to unclean water, sanitation and other hygiene-related causes. Among the deaths, developing countries take up over 99% (World Health Organization (WHO), 2008). Therefore, access to clean water is an urgent global problem that calls for solutions.

To unravel the problem, the United Nations (UN) has laid down the Millennium Development Goals which aims at raising the proportion of population gaining access to improved water supply and sanitation by 2015.

Canada, situated along the coast, is one of the world's water wealthy countries which has 20% of the world's fresh water according to the WWF. Therefore, Canada is keen on putting efforts in fresh water conservation and safeguard the water supply as we believe that the well-being of citizens are tied to the adequate quantity and quality of water and Canada does not have limitless supply of water.

The federal government passed the Canada Water Act in 1970 and established the Department of the Environment Act in 1971 to provide national leadership to ensure freshwater management is in the national interest. The Federal Water Policy has been formulated in 1987 which stressed the importance of wise and efficient water management and use of water and enhancing the awareness of the citizens towards the true value of water.

In the future, Canada will continue to play a leading role in the global environmental sustainable development.

Topic II: Precaution and Response to Oil Spills

Oil spills undoubtedly cause adverse impact on the marine environment and ecosystem. Clean up and recovery from an oil spill is difficult and time-consuming.

Canada has long supported that high environmental and technical standards should be applied to the Arctic for offshore oil and gas operations.

The National Energy Board in Canada has put forward Same Season Relief Well policy to minimize the risk of a spill in the Arctic ocean. The policy requires that a relief well intended to stanch the flow of oil in the event of blowout must be drilled in the same season that drilling begins. Moreover, oil and gas companies are stipulated to make their safety, emergency and contingency plans and safety measures such as operational timeouts and safety stand downs under the policy.