

## Position Paper

Committee: Environmental Programme

Topic: Securing water

Country: Finland

Name: Coco Kwok

University: City University of Hong Kong

### I. General statement

The United Nations has set a goal to halve the percentage of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015 in the Millennium Development Goals. However, the current situation is disappointing that more than 3.4 million people die each year because of unclean water and other hygiene-related reasons. More than 99% of these deaths attribute to developing countries. It is high time for the delegates to focus on water management issues to reduce the number of deaths due to unclean water.

As water flow can cross around boundaries between countries, Finland has various international cooperation projects with the other countries to protect water resource. The earliest project is the one with Russia on utilising frontier waters started in the 1960s. The Finnish-Russian commission has been working on controlling the source of pollution to ensure that the water discharged from different industries to the rivers is not polluting when it is flown to the sea.

### II. Particulars

Finland believes that the use of water is a sensitive issue that it can lead to political conflicts easily, especially in less developed countries. Finland urges the countries with experience and technologies in water management issues to help the other countries to improve water management so that the more countries can management water resources more effectively. Finland would like the neighbouring countries to have more regional cooperation in transboundary water management in order to resolve the political conflicts more easily.

References:

Saarinen, R. (2011). *Finland's water management programme in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan promotes security in the region - Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland: Current Affairs*. Retrieved December 22, 2013 from Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Web site: <http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=291236&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

UN. (2013). The Millennium Development Goals

UNDESA (2013). *Agreement between Russia and Finland on the utilisation of the frontier waters*. Retrieved December 22, 2013 from UNDESA: [http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water\\_cooperation\\_2013/russia\\_and\\_finland.shtml](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cooperation_2013/russia_and_finland.shtml)

World Health Organization (WHO). (2008). Safer Water, Better Health: Costs, benefits, and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health.

## Position Paper

Committee: Environmental Programme

Topic: Precaution and response to oil spills

Country: Finland

Name: Coco Kwok

University: City University of Hong Kong

### I. General statement

Even though not many countries are oil producing countries, the issue of oil spill should be concerned by every country as oil spill can cause pollution across the national borders. In 2010, Mexican government sued BP for cross-border pollution to Mexico based on the Law of the Sea Convention that BP failed to prevent cross-border pollution.

There are around 2000 oil spills in Finland each year. The reports will go to the emergency response centre and the Finnish Environment Institute is responsible for preventing and responding to oil spills. Finland implements the “Polluter-pays Principle” in covering the costs of response work. If the pollution source is unknown or the polluter cannot pay to the Finnish government, the cost of response work will be paid out of the Finnish Oil Pollution Fund.

Finland has been cooperating with the other countries in order to speed up the oil spill response work at the Baltic Sea. Oil spill response exercise is held under Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Area annually.

### II. Particulars

Finland believes that oil exploration can be sustainable that the need for economic development and environmental protection can be balanced. Finland would like to point out that there is a need to establish international standards from prevention to response to oil spillage. The existence of international standards can ensure the oil drilling industry is running no matter the place of carrying out business.

References:

Olawuyi, D. S. (2012). Legal and Sustainable Development Impacts of Major Oil Spills . *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*, 9(1), 1-15.

Environment > Environment emergency response in Finland (2013). Retrieved December 22, 2013 from Finnish government, Web site: [http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-us/Waters\\_and\\_sea/Environmental\\_emergency\\_response\\_in\\_Finland](http://www.ymparisto.fi/en-us/Waters_and_sea/Environmental_emergency_response_in_Finland)