



## Economic and Social Council

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### Resolution 1 (2013)

**Adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1st meeting, on 11 April 2013**

*Affirming* that today many African countries are drawn into the fight for one of the most precious resources of the continent, water;

*Declaring* that The United Nations officially recognized water as a fundamental human right in 2010;

*Realising* that countries upstream on both the Blue and White Niles are increasingly demanding a greater share;

*Alarmed* by the fact that Africa loses an estimated \$28 billion every year through lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation;

*Expressing* the hope that international organizations, such as the World Bank, would mediate to ensure a peaceful outcome;

*Noting* with deep concern that the scarcity in water has triggered desperation in countries that already have little access to water, let alone reliable water supplies;

*Having* studied that a doubling of the continent's population in the first quarter of this century significantly increases the demand for Africa's water, risking groundwater depletion and a gradual destruction of precious ecosystems;

*Emphasizing* that governments must build relationships with each other to prevent water stress from turning into conflicts;

*Recommends* countries to come together to manage their shared water resources jointly;

*Invites* to spend money on building reservoirs in Africa;

*Proposes* for the countries to develop and build a system of desalinating stations along the coastline and purification stations throughout the continent to improve the quality of drinking water used in the households with some further delivery of fresh water to the countries, suffering from water lack;

*Recommends* working out short-term projects that will protect investments in order to build both the infrastructure and ensure the suitable, sustainable, long-term hand-over to management within Africa;

*Requests* to set up national, regional and global database and information system which will carry out independent research and enable modelling and planning on water use;

*Encourages* the importation of grain which will be sold according to the local prices;

*Calls for* cooperation of all countries to change the installation of hand-dug wells and working out more effective way of extraction of water;

*Urges* to reduce the usage of drinkable water in the sphere of industry by developing water recycling and reworking salt water technologies,

*Decides* to remain seized of the matter.