



Special Political

*Chairs:*

*Hiba Gacimi and Rim Akram*

## **Introduction:**

Dear Delegates,

We, Hiba Gacimi ([hgacimi@gwacasablanca.com](mailto:hgacimi@gwacasablanca.com)) and Rim Akram([rim.akram@ast.ma](mailto:rim.akram@ast.ma)) are pleased to welcome you to the Tangier MUN Conference 2022, and are distinctive to the Special Political Committee. We look forward more to meeting and collaborating with you all, as well as discussing Iraq's water crisis and the Iran-Iraq water dispute.

## **General Overview:**

Iran and Iraq frequently disagree on water issues. Iraq gets nearly all of its water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. However, Iran is building dams to redirect some of that water, causing concern and causing severe water shortages in Iraq.

Tehran prefers not to collaborate with Baghdad on water projects, preferring instead to address its own water issues quickly. Two-thirds of Iran's 10.2 billion cubic meters of water that exits the country flows across its borders into Iraq, potentially resulting in a major water shortage within Iran by 2036.

To address the problem, Iran announced plans in 2019 to build 109 dams over the course of about two years, with the extra water in dam reservoirs being diverted to other drought-prone provinces across the country.

The Iraqi government, for its part, claims that its own water security is critical and that Iran should end the water blockages. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and an official from Iraq's Ministry of Water Resources have accused Iran of diverting the Tigris River in the north and violating international law, which prohibits harmful disruptions in natural river flows.

But, according to Tehran, its actions are legal because the Little Zab and Sirwan rivers in the KRG originate in Iran's northwestern Zagros Mountains. To address the issue, the KRG took unilateral action last year by launching an aggressive dam-building project in the north, despite the fact that Tigris and Euphrates river flows are expected to fall by 50% by 2030. The KRG claims that these new dams, along with its existing 17 dams, are necessary to generate power and provide water for irrigation, fisheries, and tourism, despite the fact that they impede water supply to other parts of Iraq. This is despite the fact that the region has abundant water resources of its own, albeit poorly managed.

Local officials in Iraqi Kurdistan have warned that Iran's dam projects and water diversions could cause a major disaster in the coming years and precipitate mass human migration. It will also have a negative impact on farmland, wildlife, and tourism. The Nawsud water tunnel, which opened in Iran last year, has the potential to deprive parts of Iraqi Kurdistan of all drinking water and deplete its agricultural and fishing resources.

It is too early to predict whether Iran will face a major conflict with Iraq over water. However, given the increasing scarcity of water, it is possible. For the time being, Iraq's water disputes with Iran appear to have reached a standstill. However, the prospects for bilateral transboundary water cooperation are bleak.

**Questions to consider :**

1. How does Iraq provide water for its citizens? Do you believe that the way Iraq is providing water for its citizens will help the nation in the long-run defeat the water crises?
2. What are the causes of water shortage in Iran?

3. Could this problem escalate if it is not resolved?
4. How has your country handled water scarcity? What effect has this had on its political standing with other countries?
5. Who is at fault here? Is it wrong to put one's country first?
6. Will the UN allow individuals to die of thirst as a result of a country's actions?
7. What should each country do to improve relations regarding the dispute due to water scarcity ?

**Key words:**

- **KRG:** The Kurdistan Regional Government is the official executive body of the autonomous Kurdistan Region of northern Iraq.
- **Tigris and Euphrates rivers:** The Tigris is the easternmost of the two great rivers that define Mesopotamia, the other being the Euphrates.
- **Salinity:** The concentrations of salts in water or soils.
- **Dams:** A dam is a structure built across a stream or river to hold water back.
- **The Karkheh river:** originates in the central zone of the Zagros mountain range, which is the boundary between the Iranian platform and the large alluvial plain of Iraq.
- **The Karun river:** The Karun is the Iranian river with the highest water flow, and it's the only navigable river.
- **The Mesopotamian Marshes:** The Mesopotamian Marshes, also known as the Iraqi Marshes, are a wetland area located in Southern Iraq and in southwestern Iran.
- **Kurdistan:** Broadly defined geographic region traditionally inhabited mainly by Kurds.

**UN enrollment :**

In response to the United Nations World Water Development report, which states that by 2050, approximately 5 billion people may be living in water-scarce areas. Currently, 844 million people – one in every nine people on the planet – lack access to safe drinking water. Others face an unreliable supply of water because agriculture, industry, and the wealthier segments of society can take more than their fair share. Climate change is likely to make future water supply much less predictable, making it critical that water is carefully managed and distribution prioritizes household use, ensuring that everyone has what they need to live a healthy and dignified life.

**Requirements:**

- A. Significant research on the subject.
- B. A viewpoint paper on the subject.
- C. Potential solutions to the problem.
- D. A Smile :))

(position papers and resolution papers are due November 29th)

Please send us your numbers as we will be creating a whatsapp group chat!

**Bibliography/Useful Sources:**

- [Iraq-Iran: from Water Dispute to War | Climate-Diplomacy](https://climate-diplomacy.org/case-studies/iraq-iran-...)<https://climate-diplomacy.org/case-studies/iraq-iran-...>
- <https://www.mei.edu/publications/water-scarcity-cou...>
- [IRAN-IRAQ TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RELATIONS AND ...](https://orsam.org.tr/iran-iraq-trans...)<https://orsam.org.tr/iran-iraq-trans...>

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- [IRAN-IRAQ TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RELATIONS AND ...](https://orsam.org.tr/iran-iraq-trans...)<https://orsam.org.tr/iran-iraq-trans...>
- <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/media/un-warns-around-5-billion-people-could-face-water-shortages-by-2050-wateraid-response>

**MUN Procedure/Protocol:**

- <https://teimun.org/mun-101-the-rules-of-procedure/>
- [https://www.tangiermun.org/uploads/3/9/9/5/39954039/points\\_and\\_motions\\_tmun.pdf](https://www.tangiermun.org/uploads/3/9/9/5/39954039/points_and_motions_tmun.pdf)

**Writing a position paper:**

- <https://www.wisemee.com/how-to-write-a-mun-position-paper/>

**Writing a resolution paper:**

- <https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/>