

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM
Position Paper (2012)
Adopted on: Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Position Paper created by the Science Committee
Regarding: The Control of Natural Resources Across Borders

Rough Draft Position Paper

(suggested key)

Bold means being considered

Italic means passed

~~Strike out means failed~~

Underlined means tabled

Background

B1: *Natural resources, as according to the World Bank, refers to “materials that occur in nature and are essential or useful to humans, such as water, air, land, forests, fish and wildlife, topsoil, and minerals.”*

B5: *These resources can be classified as renewable or nonrenewable.*

B2: *The UN should respect sovereignty of a nation through a reserved approach by not forcing nations into actions unless repercussions are too severe.*

B4: ~~Military action from the UN should be eliminated to a last resort action only in cases where human rights are violated by violence or the deprivation of human needs for survival.~~

B3: *These resources are key not only to living standards, but industry and governments as well because of the scarcity and/or monopolization of resources in areas around the world.*

B6: *In most cases, renewable resources such as cropland, forests, and water can be replenished overtime by natural processes and – if not overused – are indefinitely sustainable.*

B7: *Nonrenewable resources such as diamonds, minerals, and oil are found in finite quantities, and their value increases as supplies dwindle.*

B8: *Undefined borders of two countries can cause conflicts over the control of natural resources.*

B10: The UN recognizes that Independent States have borders that are agreed upon by the International Community; these borders can be disputed by other Independent States.

B11: An example of disputed undefined borders of two countries is the Kashmir Province between the countries of India and Pakistan. The conflict is over, natural resources including: forest, oil, and various minerals.

B12: In the conflicts between states regarding natural resources, basic rights and needs, are often violated.

B13: The United States recognizes that the Falkland Oil controversy involving Argentina, United Kingdom, and the United States is an example of need for further regulations of trans-boundary resources.

B9: Example of undefined borders is the Kashmir Providence in between India and Pakistan.

U.S. Position

P1: Regarding cross-border resources, the US is advocating for the Doctrine of Limited Sovereignty. To implement this, the US suggests the co-management approach. Successful co-management involves participatory democracy, flexibility, accountability, and planning on both the local and regional scale.

P2: Co-management of cross-border resources is a type of conflict-management where a bipartisan committee of all parties/countries involved would co-manage through fair sharing of management positions and responsibilities of a given set of natural resources, work to resolve the conflict, and eventually diminish their involvement.

P6: The US suggests that the UN sets deadlines for the co-management committees based on the conflict and determine repercussions if these deadlines are not met.

P7: The UN should establish a committee that regulates the use of renewable resources, to prevent abuse and the continuation of the supply, without infringing upon the sovereignty of another nation such as the depletion of a fish supply in a river.

P3: The US suggests that the UN consider that a committee is established which decides whether military action is needed after serious human rights violations or after previous measures to prevent conflict, such as economic sanctions, have failed.

P8: This previous committee discussed would be considered the Natural Resource Crisis Committee (N.R.C.C.), as previously outlined by its abilities, to be a non-partisan council.

P9: *The N.R.C.C. would super cede the co-management committee in that if the co-management committee fails to resolve the conflict in its allotted time, the N.R.C.C. would determine repercussions to be enacted.*

P11: *The United States believes that member nations should have one representative on the NRCC (Natural Resources Crisis Committee); feuding countries can participate in discussion but don't have voting privileges due to conflicts of interest.*

P10: *The UN should identify possible spots of conflict where resources cross borders and recommend discussion, agreements, or regulations between the nations where this conflict could develop.*

P12: *In cases of natural resources on or under borders in which both countries contain part of the resource, the countries' equal proportion of the resource is what they are entitled to, but the discretion is left to the Co-management committee.*

~~P4: The co-management committee should observe the conflict, and deem if human rights are being infringed upon and if actions such as military or economic sanctions, are needed; these decision will then be taken to the general assembly for approval.~~

P5: *The UN would set deadlines for the co-management committee and determine repercussions if a solution is not reached by the deadline.*

Justification

J1: *Natural resources are valuable and required by all nations; therefore, demand is incredibly high.*

J2: *Co-management embodies cooperation, freedom and democracy all values that the U.S. promotes.*

J3: *Committees like the Co-management committee and N.R.C.C facilitate cooperation and discussions, factors that are supported by the UN and U.S.*