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## **To the Stakeholder Consultation on the preparation of the UN 2023 Water Conference, 24 October 2022:**

Chairs, ladies, and gentlemen. I am Matthew Oh from Singapore, and I am Ryan Cotzen from the United States, and we are high school students representing a global youth NGO called MUN Impact, a network of student leaders who promote the practice of Model United Nations and volunteerism for the SDGs every day.

As young people from MEDCs and industrialized nations, we grew up with the privilege of climate education and understanding the importance of preserving our precious water resources. Therefore, we have to soberly acknowledge that this privilege is not shared by many other youths from less-fortunate backgrounds. In many countries, the consequences of climate change and inadequate water access are up close and personal with young people, even if they cannot access education to help them understand this present predicament. Some of our fellow MUN Impact students grew up in such situations, for example, lacking consistent access to clean water which limited their ability to learn in school or volunteer with us.

As today's panel forges ahead with a global framework for water governance and financing, we ask on behalf of our young demographic that governments place an emphasis on climate and water issues within their education systems. Educate the public, and educate your school-age youth, on the civic necessity and scientific rationale behind each of these game-changing ideas. Connect these concepts to SDG education and discussion-based learning like Model United Nations debates, so that young people like us can be prepared to receive the baton and achieve equitable water access for all. Thank you.