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“‘Blah Blah Blah’ feels like a copout. We’ve got to start building the kind of future we’d like to inhabit.”

Global Youth Inspire UN General Assembly to Endorse a Plan Helping Those Most Vulnerable to Pandemic

Young People from Around World Jointly Develop Plan to Ensure Clean Water, Basic Sanitation and Hygiene, and Essential Pandemic Protection for All by 2030

****INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE WITH YOUTH LEADERS & ONESHARED.WORLD FOUNDER JAMIE METZL****

New York – In a historic move, the United Nations General Assembly on December 16 passed [Resolution 76/153](#) with language inspired by the work of high school and college students as well as recent university graduates across the globe. These young people, hailing from over forty countries, had collectively drafted a Model United Nations resolution outlining a specific plan for ensuring Clean Water, Basic Sanitation and Hygiene, and Essential Pandemic Protection (WASHPOP) for all by 2030, a new direction embraced by the UN General Assembly resolution.

“Young people today are more educated, connected, and empowered than at any previous time in history,” said Jamie Metz, Founder and Chair of the global interdependence movement OneShared.World, which, along with the virtual model United Nations organization MUN Impact, the Aga Khan Global Encounters Program, and the India Sanitation Coalition, organized the youth leadership initiative. “Young people want to move beyond complaining that older generations aren’t doing enough to solve our world’s greatest problems – now they have the ability to develop and help realize specific action plans for making the world a better place.”

The foundation for the WASHPAP initiative was set in the July 2020.

OneShared.World's report [Rise or Fall Together: Addressing the Emergency Needs of the World's Most Vulnerable Populations](#) called for the development of specific plans to ensure WASHPAP for all by 2030. Based on a global advocacy effort, language provided by OneShared.World linking WASHPAP for all to pandemic response and global interdependence was [included in the November 2020 G20 leaders' Riyadh summit final communique](#).

In 2021, OneShared.World, along with Model United Nations (MUN) Impact, the Aga Khan Global Encounters Program, and the India Sanitation Coalition, held [on-line youth debates and consultations](#) across the globe in multiple languages for high school and college students as well as recent graduates. The young people involved in the process were asked to collectively develop a specific action plan for achieving #WASHPAP2030 in the format of a Model United Nations General Assembly Resolution. Based on this input, a youth drafting team continually refined the document according to input from some of the world's leading issue and legal experts. [This document](#) was officially released on September 23, 2021, during the [OneShared.World Global Interdependence Summit](#), which coincided with the opening of the United Nations General Assembly, and distributed to all states and territories represented in the United Nations.

Based on this work and outreach, leading negotiators within the UN General Assembly's Third Committee invited OneShared.World to provide condensed language representing the longer youth resolution, to give a new direction to the official draft resolution on water and sanitation as human rights. Youth leaders who had played key roles in the organizing of the consultations and the drafting of the resolution were also invited to speak and present their work at UNGA-related events and in the media.

In November, 2021, the UNGA's Third Committee debated and then passed this revised resolution, including the language derived from the youth-generated WASHPAP resolution, and on December 16, the full UN General Assembly approved it unanimously. This is the first time in history that language from a Model United Nations resolution, drafted collaboratively by young people across the globe, has inspired a real United Nations resolution passed by UN member states.

"One UNGA resolution alone is not enough to change the world, but it is a clear indication that young leaders can move beyond consciousness raising to become far more actively involved with problem solving," said Peter Ullrich, a project coordinator at OneShared.World, during a UN side event..

"Youth empowerment is not just having our voices heard or even having a seat at the table," said Zoey Fisher, the Global Secretary General at the Model United Nations

Impact and a Brown University freshman, “it’s about young people driving concrete solutions to real problems to build a better future.”

“We’re all fans of Greta Thunberg,” said Sandi Gendi, a Director of Global Leadership at OneShared.World, “but just accusing world leaders of ‘blah blah blah’ inaction feels like a copout. Consciousness raising and rock concerts are not enough. Our generation must start building the kind of future we’d like to inhabit.”

The highly articulate youth leaders described below, who played a leading role in the process of drafting and advocating for this resolution, are all available for interviews.

About OneShared.World:

[OneShared.World](#) is a broad and inclusive movement of people in 120 countries on five continents working collaboratively across diverse cultures, communities, ethnicities, generations, and nations to ensure a better future for humankind and the sustainability of our common home. The organization is building a fully inclusive, global social movement and political force representing the democratic expression of our common humanity. The organization’s [Declaration of Interdependence](#) has been translated into 20 languages.

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Youth leaders available for interview:

Zoey Fisher is a first-year student at Brown University. She also currently serves as the Global Secretary General of the University team at MUN Impact, an NGO in collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communications working to inspire action and impact for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. During the WASHPAP Campaign, Zoey and her colleagues at MUN Impact coordinated multiple debates and consultations on the topic. Zoey also coordinated the youth drafting team that worked on the WASHPAP Resolution.

Sandi Gendi serves as a Director for Global Leadership for OneShared.World. She’s currently a law student studying at Queen’s University, Faculty of Law. In her capacity working for OneShared.World, she helped co-author and edit the UN Resolution on WASHPAP2030.

Meenakshi Mariappan, originally from India, is a first-year law student at the University of Bristol in the UK. She is currently the Deputy Secretary General for South Asia in the University team at MUN Impact. In addition to facilitating WASHPAP consultations held with the Aga Khan Academies, she previously served as a student leader for the

WASHPAP India consultations held in August in collaboration with OneShared.World and the Indian Sanitation Coalition.

Shagun Sethi is the Programs and Operations Manager at Pontoka ESG Advisory. She has a master's degree in Global Affairs from Columbia University, where she studied on a merit fellowship. Shagun serves as a Director For Global Leadership for One Shared World: for her work on global leadership and development, she has been recognized on India's A list. She has been part of the ideation of the WASHPAP campaign and has co-authored the 'Global Youth Advocacy Toolkit', which empowers young people across the world to advocate for WASHPAP and has organised advocacy training sessions for youth across the world on this agenda.

Peter Ullrich is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Chicago, USA, studying Global Health. He also works as a clinical researcher studying wound healing and scar recovery. Peter's passion for water and sanitation comes from a human healthcare perspective, and he currently helps lead the WASHPAP campaign at One Shared World as a program coordinator. In this role, he gathered inputs from youth team members to draft our United Nations-style resolution that was presented at OSW's annual summit and was received by the Vice Chair of UN Water. Peter also represented these efforts at a UN side event hosted by the Spanish and German foreign ministries, and he shared the panel with the UN Special Rapporteur for the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.