



## UN POLICY BRIEF CHALLENGE

You are a team working for a diplomat who will represent a nation at the UN Summit on Water Resources.

This diplomat does not usually deal with issues related to water but has been required to stand in after the arranged diplomat was called away on more urgent business at the Embassy. You have a meeting with your diplomat in **1 hour** to brief them on water resources issues in your country, potential water management strategies, potential impacts of climate change and recommendations for actions to be taken. You will also need to brief the diplomat on the relative development of your country compared to others that will be present (e.g. GDP, HDI etc).

Remember to be aware of issues that may affect both your own nation and other countries. The countries which will be present at the Summit are likely to include:

- Zimbabwe
- China
- Sudan
- USA
- India
- Chad
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- UK
- Israel/Palestine
- Niger
- Kenya

You need to effectively summarise the information into **no more than 1 page of A4** and be prepared to brief the diplomat including answering any questions they may have.

### Sources of Information

Your first source of information is likely to be the most recent UN World Water Development Report (2014):

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002257/225741E.pdf>

- \* You may also find the data on the FAO website useful:
  - \* FAO Aquastat: <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm>
  - \* FAO online data base <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/data/query/index.html?lang=en>

You may also want to search through some previous reports in this series.

In addition, the following may be good starting points:

- The World Resource Institute (WRI) <http://www.wri.org/>
- WRI Earth Trends site <http://earthtrends.wri.org/>
- The International Water Management Institute: <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>
- World Water Council: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1>

**Note:** This task is testing both your ability to synthesise information quickly but also effectively. It is important that you delegate tasks within your team in order to complete this challenge on time and to an appropriate standard.

**Things to consider:**

- What is the essential information the diplomat needs to know – there is no point including a lots of numbers as it is likely they will be forgotten. What are the most important figures which should be remembered?
- What recommendations would you make for actions for development in your country? Remember there may be other countries which share access to some of your water resources, you do not want to jeopardize foreign relations with these countries.
- The diplomat will want to know the justification for any decisions made regarding management strategies.