

UNITED STATES DELEGATION
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM Secretary Carla A. Hills, Head of Delegation, USA
Thursday, June 10, 1976

The United States today expressed its strong support for a world-wide effort to make potable water available to people everywhere.

"We share the deep concern of many nations at this Conference that an adequate supply of clean drinking water is of the highest priority for human settlements," said Secretary Carla A. Hills, head of the U.S. delegation to the U.S. Conference on Human Settlements.

"Millions of persons still lack water essential for health and life."

Mrs. Hills proposed that an international task force be created under UN auspices to take to the March, 1977, water conference in Argentina a practical plan for assuring safe and usable water.

The task force would be established to help preparation committees define global needs for potable water, methods and costs of producing it and ways of applying the world's resources to assure its continued supply.

"By promptly establishing a task force, we would have nine months in which to prepare an achievable plan of action," she said.

Such a plan could include practical steps and interim objectives.

Alternatives should be designed to take into account conditions in different parts of the world, she noted.

People who carry water from streams to nearby homes in the tropics have different needs, for example, than farmers who must truck it into desert areas. Throughout the world, the steps to be taken and the amount and sequence of necessary investment will differ.

"Dimensions of the problem vary markedly," the Secretary said. "Shared universally, however, is the need of all human beings for potable water."

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