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Priority Theme: “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”

Statement submitted by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.
Statement

Ensuring Access to Clean Water in Ghana A Call to Action for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. In Partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

I. Introduction

Access to clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, essential for the health, well-being, and economic development of communities. It is against this backdrop that we firmly believe that such access plays a vital contributing role in eradicating poverty. However, millions of people worldwide, including many penurious communities in Ghana, still lack access to this necessity. Inadequate supplies of regular clean water contribute to several diseases such as diarrhea which is the third largest killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa (CHERG, 2012).

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. recognizes the importance of clean water and the fraternity’s commitment to social justice and community upliftment, as well as its partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This awareness and its inherent call to action aligns Omega’s work with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which represent a global partnership that has grown from the commitments and targets established by civic and non-governmental organizations in the 1990s. The Fraternity’s work has provided pathways to respond to the world’s main development challenges and to the calls of civil society, as the MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aim at combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases. This position paper outlines the water crisis in Ghana, proposes initiatives for our fraternity, highlights our collaborative efforts with other NGOs and celebrates Omega Psi Phi’s investment in the construction of over 112 boreholes in Ghana as an example of its commitment to improving access to clean and safe drinking water.

II. The Water Crisis in Ghana

Ghana, located in West Africa, is a country that has been grappling with water-related challenges for many years. While some urban areas have access to improved water sources, the situation is dire in rural regions. Several key issues contribute to the water crisis in Ghana:

1. **Limited Access**: Nearly 5 million Ghanaians lack access to clean and safe drinking water sources, with rural areas being disproportionately affected.

2. **Quality and Contamination**: Existing water sources are often contaminated with pollutants, leading to health problems and waterborne diseases. This is especially harmful to children and vulnerable populations.

3. **Inequity**: Access to clean water in Ghana is uneven, with urban areas enjoying better access than rural regions. This creates social and economic disparities.

4. **Climate Change**: Climate change is causing erratic rainfall patterns and prolonged droughts, affecting the availability of water resources.
III. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity’s Commitment and ECOSOC Partnership

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., an organization with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has a unique platform to address global issues, including the water crisis in Ghana. Our partnership with ECOSOC enables us to collaborate with other NGOs, and international organizations to bring about positive change on a global scale.

IV. Proposed Initiatives

1. **Public Awareness and Education**: In partnership with ECOSOC and NGOs, raise awareness about the importance of clean water through seminars, workshops, and social media campaigns. Educate both fraternity members and the public about the global water crisis and its impact on Ghana.

2. **Fundraising Campaigns**: Collaborate with other international organizations to organize fundraising events and initiatives to support clean water projects in Ghana. Leverage the global network to maximize the impact of fundraising efforts.

3. **Advocacy**: Work with ECOSOC and other NGOs to lobby for policy changes at the local, national, and international levels to improve water infrastructure, sanitation, and hygiene practices in Ghana and other affected regions.

4. **Clean Water Projects**: Partner with ECOSOC and NGOs to implement clean water projects in Ghana, such as well construction, water purification systems, distribution of water filters as well as technical training and/or upskilling locals to ensure sustainability of established projects. Share best practices and lessons learned globally.

5. **Scholarships and Grants**: Collaborate with other NGOs to establish scholarship programs for Ghanaians pursuing studies in water-related fields, encouraging local experts to address water challenges. Promote knowledge exchange on a global scale.

6. **Community Engagement**: Engage Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members and members of other like-minded organizations in volunteer activities related to clean water initiatives. This collaborative effort ensures a broader reach and greater impact in Ghana.

7. **Long-Term Sustainability**: In partnership with other NGOs, focus on building sustainable solutions by involving local communities in project planning and implementation. Share expertise and support initiatives that empower communities to manage their water resources effectively on a global scale.

V. Celebrating Omega Psi Phi’s Investment in Ghana

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has exemplified its commitment to improving access to clean and safe drinking water in Ghana through its investment in the construction of over 112 boreholes. These boreholes serve as a tangible example of our dedication to the cause, providing a lifeline to numerous Ghanaian communities, particularly in rural areas. These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to
sustainable solutions and further underscore the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the global water crisis.

VI. Conclusion

Access to clean water is a fundamental human right and a critical component of improving public health and economic development in Ghana and beyond. As a fraternity committed to social justice, Omega Psi Phi, in partnership with ECOSOC, must actively engage in addressing the water crisis in Ghana and other affected regions. By raising awareness, fundraising, advocating for policy changes, implementing clean water projects, and collaborating with other ECOSOCs and international organizations, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals. Our commitment to this cause aligns with our fraternity’s core values and mission to uplift communities in need and exemplifies our role as an organization with special consultative status, affiliated with ECOSOC in contributing to global change. Omega’s work to increase access to safe water in Ghana is a complement to its holistic approach in aiding the whole person through mentorship, education and overall well-being. Together, we can make a lasting impact and contribute to a brighter and more sustainable future for Ghana and the world.