II. FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE MOST APPROPRIATE LINK WORDS.

A. although	***B. however***	***C. in addition***	***D. instead***	***E. since***
F. so that	***G. therefore***	***H. unless***	***I. whenever***	***J. whether***

1. Worldwide, 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean water, and 2.6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation. **.....**, 2 million children die annually due to preventable water borne diseases.

2. **.....** we start to use water more efficiently, within two decades the world will face a 40% shortfall (=shortage) in fresh water supplies – a scenario that will be fatal to humankind and ecosystems alike.

3. Industries can recycle their process water or pre-treat their wastewater **.....** it is easier to purify for drinking water and other purposes.

4. The global water crisis is not just an issue in developing countries. It affects all corners of the world, even the United States. If action is not taken soon, then 20 years from now we will be faced with a serious water shortage with huge consequences. **.....**, the road to improvement will not be easy.

5. **.....** the proportion of people in sub-Saharan Africa using improved sources of drinking water increased by 14 per cent from 1990 to 2008, only 60 per cent of its population had such access by the end of that period.

6. By the year 2050, some 4 billion people (that's over half of the entire world's population) will be facing severe water shortages. In the United States, people living in states like Arizona could be facing severe freshwater shortages even sooner – by 2025. This is not a far-fetched scenario from a science fiction movie, as it may sound. **.....**, this information comes from NASA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies worldwide.

7. **.....** the U.S. is an exporter of wheat, soybeans, rice and corn ($80 billion worth in 2008), drought or additional consumption in the areas where these crops are grown would have worldwide implications.

8. In South Africa, rising temperatures and faster evaporation rates mean that farms require more water for irrigation, but also make rainfall more erratic. Water shortages have **.....** become a threat to the agricultural sector, which accounts for eight per cent of South Africa's economy.