



WEDNESDAY  
**11** SEPT  
2019

13:00 - 14:30

Palais des Nations, The United Nations Office at Geneva, Room XVI

42<sup>nd</sup> Session | Human Rights Council side-event

## The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in Spheres of Life Beyond the Household.

Organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr. Léo Heller.

National policy and practice regarding the progressive realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation has a tendency to be limited to improving access within homes. In most societies, however, many groups and individuals rely on places beyond the scope of the household to enjoy their human rights, including their rights to water and sanitation. Access to water and sanitation in many spheres of life beyond the household is an essential element of the enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation. However, there is often an evident neglect of the provision and promotion of these vital services in such places.

In his report to the 42th session of the HRC, see also separately attached “friendly version of the report”), the Special Rapporteur addresses access to water and sanitation services in spheres of life beyond the household, with an emphasis on public spaces, considering how States should ensure access to water and sanitation in those spheres of life in line with the framework of the human rights to water and sanitation.

In his report to the 39th session of the HRC, the Special Rapporteur focused on the human rights to water and sanitation of forcibly displaced persons, in particular internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in vulnerable situations, while en route, at borders, at reception, and at the destination. Altogether, the two reports highlight groups and spaces that, in most situations, are out of the radar of governments, service providers and regulators.

### OBJECTIVES

- To discuss how providing access to water and sanitation services in public spaces and other spheres of life beyond the household can ensure comprehensive, inclusive coverage of water and sanitation in a way that fully respects human right and dignity, and, crucially, that leaves no one and no spheres of life behind.
- To raise awareness that the tendency to limit national policy and practice to improving access within homes is not sufficient to “leave no one behind” and to fully comply with human rights and SDGs.
- To discuss human rights gaps related to the access to water and sanitation in public spaces and identify roles that stakeholders can play to bridge the gaps and to ensure that those spaces are addressed in the SDG agenda and post-SDG agenda.

### PROGRAMME

#### WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS:

Permanent Mission of Germany

#### MODERATOR:

Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr. Léo Heller

#### PANELIST:

- ▶ Asniya Mohammed, winner of 1st Human Rights Youth Challenge
- ▶ Ryan Schweitzer, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Officer, UNHCR
- ▶ Juliana Muller, winner of the 2nd Human Rights Youth Challenge
- ▶ Carlos Lopez, International Commission of Jurist
- ▶ Christian Wiebe, WASH-Project Manager, Viva con Agua

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS