

14-19 April 2019

Documentation of the Work of the Human Rights Council



Conference B

# Human Rights Council

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Gabrielle Sferra
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Gamaliel Perez
<b>Chair</b>	Malak El Alawy
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Roi Mase

## Agenda

- I. Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right
- II. The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
- III. Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
HRC/1/1	Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right	28 votes in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention
HRC/1/2	Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right	24 votes in favor, 2 against, 3 abstentions
HRC/1/3	Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right	27 votes in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions
HRC/1/4	Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right	29 votes in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions

## **Summary Report for the Human Rights Council**

The Human Rights Council held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right
- II. Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents
- III. The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The session was attended by representatives of 31 Member States with no Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of five proposals covering a variety of sub-topics such as the sustainable management of water usage, accessibility of water for marginalized populations, and sustainable sanitation methods used by Member States. The atmosphere of the committee was focused around cooperation and communication, and by the conclusion of Tuesday, delegates had merged into four individual proposals.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, one which received unanimous support by the body. The adopted resolutions represented a diverse set of ideas, some of which tackled improved access to funding for sustainable water usage, ensuring inclusive water accessibility for marginalized populations, and protecting the inalienable right to water for all people. Following voting procedure, the body began discussion on the topic of “The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” and received three working papers by the end of the session. The body emulated the spirit of collaboration as they discussed how human rights must be protected and promoted for all people regardless of circumstance.



**Code:** HRC/1/1

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right

---

1 *The Human Rights Council,*  
2  
3 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/222 (2016), by which the Assembly proclaimed the period from  
4 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” to help inspire  
5 concrete action to achieve SDG6 by raising awareness of water crises and exerting public pressure for  
6 communal change with UN-Water,  
7  
8 *Emphasizing* the importance of achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6,  
9 especially 6.4, which encourages increased global water efficiency, as well as the sustainable withdrawal  
10 and supply of freshwater to all people, and the necessity of ensuring the sustainable and fair use of  
11 hydroelectricity so as not to damage sources of drinking water,  
12  
13 *Taking note* with appreciation of International Water Association (IWA) Strategic Plan 2019-2024, which  
14 focuses on providing technologies for especially developing countries to improve water resources system,  
15  
16 *Observing* Article 2 of General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) on “The human right to water and  
17 sanitation,” which expresses support for multilateral organizations to provide funding and technological  
18 support,  
19  
20 *Recognizing* the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, regional approaches such as the  
21 South-South Cooperation fund, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and African Development Bank  
22 Group and loan programs to support infrastructure building such as the Belt and Road initiative are  
23 necessary to provide safe drinking water,  
24  
25 *Fully aware* of the obstacles preventing direct access to water, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where,  
26 according to the World Health Organization (WHO), 58% of the total 159 million people are affected,  
27  
28 *Having considered* that implementation of projects such as *The Second Water Sector Institutional*  
29 *Development Project* function as a model to protect human rights,  
30  
31 *Noting with deep concern* the alarming health conditions and risks caused by the lack of effective and  
32 efficient distribution of safe and clean drinking water, stressing the need for better water research that  
33 exemplifies international standards,  
34  
35 *Affirming* the use of sustainable technologies including but not limited to injection wells and infiltrations  
36 pits and basins provided by partnerships with organizations such as the Safe Drinking Water Foundation  
37 to retrieve resources from aquifers and underground fresh water reserves, in order to supply safe drinking  
38 water for communities in order to achieve this human right universally,  
39  
40 *Taking into consideration* the success of programs like the Groundwater Management Regulation, which  
41 monitors insufficient regulation groundwater management and pollution and exploitation of groundwater,  
42  
43 *Noting with gratification* the success of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s Strategy for Water,  
44 Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) (2016-2030), which develops easily accessible wells and sanitation  
45 stations in areas that do not have access to clean water such as refugee camps and rural areas,  
46  
47 *Welcoming* data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) AQUASTAT  
48 Database which identifies that agriculture leads to large water consumption globally, and accounts for  
49 69% of worldwide annual water withdrawals,

50  
51 *Further noting* the success of the Brazilian No-Till Federation, which encourages sustainable and clean  
52 farming practices that eliminate pesticides and runoff waste, substances that have been linked to  
53 behavioral and developmental disorders in children,  
54

55 *Expressing support* for Cultivando Água Boa, a South-South Cooperation program with Small Island  
56 Development Countries who are especially affected by water scarcity, in maintaining the sanitation of  
57 freshwater sources affected by agriculture,  
58

59 *Recognizing* that natural disasters like flooding, droughts, and monsoons not only displace populations  
60 but also damage water management systems and *further recognizing* that initiatives like Sponge Cities, in  
61 response to natural disasters, can collect excessive rainwater to then be filtered sustainably,  
62

63 *Acknowledging* multilateral mentorship programs such as Lighting Africa, which consists of engineering  
64 experts from 26 African countries working with local communities by providing material support for the  
65 development of hydroelectric dams in rural areas,  
66

67 *Keeping in mind* the success of Société de Distribution d'Eau de Côte D'Ivoire (SODECI) in establishing a  
68 water system which serves 2.7 million people and cooperating with the government on enhancing the  
69 infrastructure and increasing the accessibility to safe drinking water,  
70

71 1. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider sustainable equitable distribution of safe drinking water by  
72 suggesting the development of a water resource strategy with the assistance of the IWA Strategic  
73 Plan 2019-2024, supported by UN-Water, which develops membership services and engagement  
74 opportunities through a more people-oriented service culture to better meet developing countries'  
75 needs and expectations, therefore improving the social insurance and welfare to ensuring affordable  
76 drinking water for all;  
77

78 2. *Recommends* Member States model national programs after *The Second Water Sector Institutional*  
79 *Development Project*, supported and funded by World Bank loans, which provides \$150 million USD  
80 to water and sanitation service delivery initiatives, particularly focusing on:  
81

82 a. Strengthening water service coverage in target cities, which are identified by lack of proper  
83 sanitation utilities and water infrastructure, through the financing of water resources  
84 management and rehabilitation and expansion of water supply production and distribution,  
85 particularly benefiting in-house and in-yard connection to public water services;  
86

87 b. Contributing to making water facilities environmentally safe and sustainable, further creating  
88 new ones as patterned from the programs stated above in drought-stricken communities;  
89

90 3. *Emphasizes* the strengthening of local and international research institutions to develop innovative  
91 strategies towards the transformation and enhancement of water filtration systems aiding inaccessible  
92 areas to convert into safe and clean drinking water which focuses on groundwater management,  
93 sewers and surface water protection, and wastewater treatment technology;  
94

95 4. *Invites* partnerships with organizations such as Safe Drinking Water Foundation to locate aquifers in  
96 regions, and further use the resources located in nearby areas to vulnerable communities to provide  
97 safe drinking water to those who do not have access to clean reservoir, through the funding of  
98 technologies such as injection wells to extract clean water from aquifer reserves which will make safe  
99 drinking water more accessible to all citizens therefore diminishing the number of polluted water  
100 sources that individuals use as drinking water, eradicate the susceptibility to diseases caused by  
101 contaminated waters;  
102

103 5. *Further invites* the utilization of systems that monitor the usage of groundwater and prevent  
104 overexploitation and pollution, through activities such as:  
105

- 106 a. Providing monetary incentives for utilizing alternate sources to groundwater and developing  
107 an emergency management plan in the case of depleted and/or contaminated groundwater  
108 by communities;  
109
- 110 b. Ensuring information of emergency groundwater management and alternative water sources  
111 are distributed by to marginalized populations such as women, indigenous groups, and  
112 refugees in order to be autonomous in their accessibility to clean groundwater;  
113
- 114 6. *Endorses* inter-governmental agencies and local communities to collaborate in the development of  
115 wells to provide equitable access to safe drinking for marginalized populations such as those living in  
116 refugee camps, drought-stricken areas, and remote zones that do not have the sufficient accessibility  
117 to water;  
118
- 119 7. *Further recommends* the use of sustainable hydroelectricity achieved through improved landscape  
120 management and farming practices, which both conserves water to provide to citizens living in rural  
121 areas who rely upon surface water sources for drinking water, reduces sediment in the reservoir to  
122 maintain the cleanliness and safety of water being consumed by those citizens living in the  
123 surrounding areas, and improves farm productivity;  
124
- 125 8. *Suggests* the use of conservation agriculture, which can reduce the risk of lost water to rainfall runoff  
126 as well as reduce the pollution with pesticides of surface waters commonly used as drinking water by  
127 up to 100%, making freshwater surface water sources commonly used as drinking water significantly  
128 safer and free of chemicals for those people drinking from them;  
129
- 130 9. *Expresses* its hope that regions experiencing excessive flooding and displacement follow the Sponge  
131 City initiative launched in East and South Asia, which successfully mitigates water-related  
132 infrastructure damage through:  
133
- 134 a. Utilizing funding from loans and Public-Private Partnerships to provide rooftop greenery that  
135 will absorb the excess water to then be filtered and stored in frequently flooded and often  
136 impoverished areas;  
137
- 138 b. Establishing monitoring systems that measure the pressure and volume of water in storm  
139 water systems, supporting the development of permeable roads to further prevent severe  
140 flooding and increase clean water supplies, providing a sustainable alternative to energy-  
141 intensive grey infrastructure;  
142
- 143 10. *Draws attention* to initiatives that develop regionally adapted training and education to localized  
144 engineers and city planners, so that the community is better equipped to handle insufficient water  
145 infrastructure, modeled after the Lightning Africa which has seen success in Northern Africa and  
146 Middle Asia by:  
147
- 148 a. Ensuring that engineers who are part of marginalized groups are included in the decision-  
149 making process and mentoring;  
150
- 151 b. Utilizing multilateral grants and loans such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian  
152 Initiative Investment Bank to fund such inclusive assistance programs;  
153
- 154 11. *Encourages* the establishment of domestic agencies modeled after the SODECI, to ensure  
155 development of sustainable water systems for the provision of water within households through  
156 strengthening and expanding the infrastructure;  
157
- 158 12. *Supports* multilateral funding approaches that can fund the creation and management of sustainable  
159 and effective water management projects, through grants, loans, and inter-governmental funds.



**Code:** HRC/1/2

**Committee:** The Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Rights

---

1 *The Human Rights Council,*  
2  
3 *Recognizing* the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the important  
4 progress made since their establishment in 2015,  
5  
6 *Expressing grave concern* about the 844 million people who still lack access to safe drinking water,  
7 according to the Joint Monitoring Programme Progress Report on *Drinking water, Sanitation, and*  
8 *Hygiene: 2017 Update and Sustainable Development Goal baselines of 2017,*  
9  
10 *Deeply conscious* about the 263 million people worldwide who spend over 30 minutes collecting water  
11 from a safe drinking water source as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO),  
12  
13 *Calling attention to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*  
14 *(CEDAW) (1979) which includes the right to water for women,*  
15  
16 *Emphasizing* the importance of water source protection and conservation, as a third of the world's biggest  
17 groundwater systems are already in distress, as reported by UN Water,  
18  
19 *Recalling* Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948), which ensures that*  
20 *everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of all people,*  
21  
22 *Acknowledging* with deep gratitude the *Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*  
23 *(UNDRIP) (2007) which acknowledges the right to water as an inherent human right of indigenous*  
24 *peoples who are often underrepresented in legislation and policy focusing on water and sanitation,*  
25  
26 *Observing* the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Strategy for Water,  
27 Sanitation, and Hygiene (2016-2030) which focuses on the protection of the rights of children to water,  
28 sanitation and hygiene (WASH), contributing to international efforts to meet SDG6 and its targets,  
29  
30 *Alarmed by* the marginalization of women considering that women spend roughly three times as many  
31 hours in unpaid domestic care and work as men, according to the *SDG Report 2018,*  
32  
33 *Recalling* the UN General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) on "The human right to water and  
34 sanitation," which notes the unsustainable systems in place for the procurement of water and recognizes  
35 the human right to water and clean sanitation, and stresses the need for the development of sustainable  
36 infrastructure in order to further achieve the goal of realizing human rights,  
37  
38 *Noting with deep concern* Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who struggle with water equity considering  
39 there are still 159 million people still collect drinking water from surface sources according to the World  
40 Health Organization report on *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (2017),*  
41  
42 *Emphasizing* General Comment No. 15: The Right to Water adopted by the Committee on Economic,  
43 Social and Cultural Rights, which set forth that the right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe,  
44 acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use,  
45  
46 *Calling attention to* the General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) on "The Human Right to Water and  
47 Sanitation", recognizing the right to safe, clean drinking water as essential for life and the access to safe  
48 drinking water and sanitation, declaring water a human right because it is necessary for achieving  
49 adequate standards of living, the highest level of mental and physical health, and dignity,

50  
51 *Recognizing* the importance of partnerships with organizations that invest in projects that expand the  
52 access to safe drinking water such as WaterEquity, IRCWash, and UNICEF, among others, which provide  
53 resources to people in need in order to provide short term solutions through the implementation of  
54 existing tools such as LifeStraws and SlightShot Water Purifiers which supply immediate safe drinking  
55 water for affected populations but do not provide sustainable solutions,

56  
57 *Considering* the important role of Regional Cooperative Organizations (RCOs) as a means to promote  
58 collaboration, share resources and exchange knowledge, as to provide access to the funds and strategies  
59 for sustainable water use,

60  
61 *Acknowledging* the work of existing RCOs focused on water and sanitation such as the South Asian  
62 Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), and la  
63 Asociación de Entes Reguladores de Agua Potable y Saneamiento de las Américas (ADERASA) for the  
64 work they have achieved in their respective regions,

65  
66 *Keeping in mind* the importance of affordable access to water and water facilities and the role  
67 international collaboration plays in providing more accessible water to LDCs to generate the right to safe  
68 drinking water for all,

69  
70 *Stressing* that water facilities built next to agricultural areas may lead to the contamination of the water  
71 because of the chemical products used on the lands in these areas as stated by Food and Agricultural  
72 Organization in the report *Water Pollution from Agriculture: A Global Review* (2017),

73  
74 *Deeply concerned* with the stark difference in water filtration and conservation technology between  
75 developed countries and LDCs in order to create equitable access to this technology across the world,

76  
77 *Observing* the success of the Sanitation and Water for All initiative, which partners developing countries  
78 with civil society with the aim of promoting sustainable sanitation and universal access to drinking water  
79 for all, and achieving progress toward the water-related targets of the SDGs,

80  
81 *Noting the work* of the EU Water Framework and World Water Council's Water Framework in addressing  
82 water scarcity and equity which has been proven to strengthen international cooperation in the access to  
83 safe, affordable water and can be applied in multiple Member States,

84  
85 *Taking into consideration* the work of Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank's Water Global  
86 Practice to fund water infrastructure in LDCs,

87  
88 *Bearing in mind* Human Rights Council resolution 39/16 (2018) that recognizes the rights of the rural poor  
89 to safe clean drinking water and sanitation,

90  
91 *Guided by* the Human Rights Council resolutions 12/8 (2009) and 12/2 (2011), recognizing that Member  
92 States have an obligation to address and eliminate discrimination with regard to access to sanitation  
93 specifically targeting availability, quality, and affordability,

94  
95 1. *Encourages* communication between Member States through regional organizations including but  
96 not limited to the SACOSAN, The AMCOW, la ADERASA, and the European Council to:

97  
98 a. Find the similarities and differences between separate regions' unique challenges  
99 involving SDG 6.2: Achieve Access to Adequate and Equitable Sanitation, in order to  
100 better address water equity issues in regions where Member States can successfully  
101 exchange solutions because of their similar predicaments;

102  
103 b. Promote water equity through the implementation of internationally agreed-upon  
104 frameworks, including but not limited to the EU Water Framework and World Water  
105 Council's Water Framework, which simultaneously address water scarcity and equity by



- 106 cooperation on a regional level through continued resource assistance and cooperative  
107 planning initiatives;  
108
- 109 2. *Suggests* further development or establishment of RCOs modeled after regional organization in  
110 order to aid with national and local action plans to provide better and more equitable access to  
111 safe drinking water;  
112
- 113 3. *Encourages* RCOs to utilize funds from organization for fiscal deficits regarding water  
114 infrastructure as to provide monetary aid to initiatives determined to be feasible by regional  
115 cooperative organizations such as:  
116
- 117 a. The Global Water Partnership which works to achieve water security through the SDGs,  
118 supporting mandated actors and advancing water governance through monitored  
119 governance improvements and the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), a  
120 network of wide range of stakeholders who build partnerships among all relevant actors;  
121
- 122 b. International Monetary Fund which works to foster financial stability by promoting high  
123 employment and assisting the establishment of a multilateral system of payments and aid  
124 those with payment difficulties;  
125
- 126 c. The Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank's Water Global Practice which  
127 works through the World Bank to provide client governments on a local and national level  
128 with resources to directly support those in need;  
129
- 130 d. The Water Credit Initiative organized by Water.org which bridges the gap between  
131 governments and affordable financing, providing small loans for community projects  
132 helping communities increase water equity;  
133
- 134 4. *Encourages* developed countries to help fund LDCs water filtration and sanitation services and  
135 technologies through cooperating or utilizing organizations such as:  
136
- 137 a. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, which closely works with public and private  
138 insurance providers to ensure complementary services that aid countries eligible for  
139 assistance from the International Development Association or LDCs;  
140
- 141 b. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which helps developing  
142 countries reduce poverty, promote economic growth, and build prosperity by providing a  
143 combination of financial resources, knowledge and technical services, and strategic  
144 advice;  
145
- 146 5. *Recommends* the enhancement of RCOs' localized initiatives by:  
147
- 148 a. Ensuring that communities in need get the assistance which prior systems of reporting  
149 were unable to diagnose, meaning their full enjoyment of human rights was impeded;  
150
- 151 b. Allowing for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations  
152 (CSOs) to better implement their solutions for water scarcity in order for their efforts to  
153 more effectively target those with human right needs;  
154
- 155 c. Developing a better understanding of Member States' Progress indicators in the SDGs;  
156
- 157 6. *Requests* that the regionally appointed Office of the Special Adviser for Member States develop  
158 better interactions with CSOs by:  
159

- 160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215
- a. Holding monthly meetings with CSOs to develop communication between local government and international initiatives, in addition to their existing duties and thereby guaranteeing optimal cooperation;
  - b. Implementing frameworks including but not limited to the EU Water Framework and World Water Council's Water Framework;
  - c. From the international community on a localized level through CSOs which have already developed themselves on a local level;
7. *Recommends* the promotion of technologies such as LifeStraws and SlightShot Water Purifiers through RCOs to vulnerable communities where safe drinking water is a lacking resource through assistance from organizations such as WaterEquity and UNICEF to work alongside RCOs to provide the water purifying tools that will provide safe drinking water to those in need of this human right within the international community;
8. *Invites* Member States to provide technical and financial support to RCOs in order to:
- a. Advocate the increase of funding of NGOs such as IRCWash, the International Water Management Institute, and the International Office of Water with the particular goal of improving local water storage facilities and increasing their number by:
    - i. Improving water storage facilities to have adequate fire protection, flow equalization, and adequate contingencies for emergencies to ensure equitable access to clean water for all;
    - ii. Increasing water equity across affected regions through EU Water Framework and World Water Council's Water Framework;
  - b. Promote rainwater harvesting equipment and techniques within affected regions and supporting associated NGOs with their respective missions of teaching local communities on their usage with potential support and funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
  - c. Provide emphasis on groups that are underprivileged including but not limited to women and indigenous peoples, while also providing economic incentives to Member States to provide equal water for all;
  - d. Invest in simple irrigation technology and their implementation within targeted regions as a means to combat water scarcity in agriculture; local means through the creation of irrigation systems would ensure water scarcity does not become a critical issue in these regions as well as allowing river systems to replenish their water supplies;
9. *Insists* that RCOs with Member States that struggle with equitable, accessible, and affordable water, adopt sustainable strategic action plans in order to fulfil the right to water for vulnerable populations, which includes a:
- a. Focus on an integrated system based on management of demand, supply, production, and distribution;
  - b. Focus on desalination technologies for renewable energy which ensures sustainability and continuous access to water during normal and extreme emergency conditions emulating the economically viable and/or sustainable desalination projects in the United Arab Emirates focusing on the use of dams and rainfall as a matter of water resources;
  - c. Focus on four means of implementing, capacity building, national and legislative policies, research and development, and consumer awareness;

216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262

10. *Directs attention* to dams and rainwater harvesting projects, since they improve the quality and quantity of water in the aquifer by increasing the rates of groundwater;
11. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the inclusion of all groups of people in the national, regional, and international efforts with a focus on indigenous peoples by:
  - a. Ensuring the inclusion of representatives of indigenous peoples, elected from the indigenous community, within domestic, regional, and international discussions as participants aiming to develop inclusive frameworks;
  - b. Cooperating with indigenous people on water projects as urged by the UNDRIP, seeing as international recognition and support are vital for the attainment of the right to land and thus, the right to water in accordance with articles 25 and 32 of the UNDRIP;
  - c. Collaborating with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, which aims to endorse and promote the rights of indigenous peoples with regards to the provision of safe drinking water to indigenous peoples;
12. *Further recommends* that Member States address the environmental degradation practices which directly violate the rights of the people residing in such regions through the RCOs, specifically through:
  - a. A multi-barrier approach including actions to prevent contamination of sources of water, using adequate water treatment and distribution systems, water testing, and training of water managers;
  - b. The adoption of land use controls including targeted inspections and training in areas where source water protection activities are already regulated by state or local governments through actions such as, but not limited to:
    - i. Regulations to reduce population density or zoning on land uses that pose a risk to source water;
    - ii. Prohibitions on land uses that involve activities that use dangerous substances or on the substances themselves;
    - iii. Construction and operating standards;
    - iv. Requirements that owners and operators of facilities that pose a potential risk to water supplies obtain local permits;
  - c. Land acquisition to serve as a protection zone near drinking water sources, giving ownership of this land to those peoples directly affected by previously stated projects, such as construction;
13. *Urges* all Member States to abide by the Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 (2010) that ensures the right to water, which entitles everyone to safe, accessible, and affordable water, and calls upon Member States to promote and protect all human rights, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development.



**Code:** HRC/1/3

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right

---

1 The Human Rights Council,  
2  
3 *Reaffirming* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and especially SDG 6, which highlights that  
4 equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all is crucial to achieving the *2030 Agenda for*  
5 *Sustainable Development* (2015),  
6  
7 *Noting with urgency* that 2.5 billion individuals lack proper water sanitation, and 1 in 5 people perish every  
8 day because of water-related illnesses, as stated by Global Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH),  
9  
10 *Emphasizing* the importance of financial investments and their role in socio-economic improvements,  
11 such as water infrastructure, development, and education on equal access of water as a human right, and  
12 achieving access to water as a fundamental human right according to the United Nations (UN),  
13  
14 *Understanding* the important role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in developing water access  
15 initiatives,  
16  
17 *Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) on “The human right to water and sanitation,”  
18 which emphasizes the importance of accessibility to clean drinking water as a human right and requests  
19 Member States to report on their progress towards achieving this right annually,  
20  
21 *Noting with concern* the persistent issue of unequal access to safe drinking water and sanitation,  
22 particularly among vulnerable groups, and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 27/7 (2014), which  
23 reiterates that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is entitled to everyone without  
24 discrimination,  
25  
26 *Recalling* the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS)  
27 Report in 2017, which emphasizes the need for investing in water and sanitation-related activities and  
28 programs such as, water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling, and  
29 reuse technologies in order to achieve the 2030 SDGs, specifically SDG 6,  
30  
31 *Recognizing* the success of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) through the United Nations Economic  
32 Commission for Europe’s (UNECE) International PPPs Center of Excellence (ICoE) forums to create a  
33 dialogue for improving both infrastructure and public services for access to water as a human right  
34 through PPPs,  
35  
36 *Considering* the difficulties with increasing water equitability and accessibility in landlocked communities  
37 due to the issues surrounding availability of water sources, as well as the challenges involved with  
38 establishing inclusive distribution systems,  
39  
40 *Further recalling* the HRC resolution 33/10 (2016), which emphasizes that Member States have the  
41 primary responsibility pertaining to sustainability of water resources and accessibility to water for water-  
42 scarce communities,  
43  
44 *Appreciating* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water in providing  
45 Member States with guidelines for equitable water legislation,  
46  
47 *Noting with concern* the possible national legislation barriers within Member States that prevent equal  
48 access to water for all especially marginalized groups such as women and indigenous peoples who suffer  
49 from discrimination and lack of knowledge on their human right to drinking water,

50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105

*Highlighting* the success of the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply (JMP) in providing consistent global reports regarding drinking water and sanitation coverage to facilitate sector planning and management, support countries in their efforts to improve their monitoring systems, and provide information for advocacy purposes,

1. *Recommends* greater cooperation between the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the UN-Water Global Environmental Monitoring Initiative (GEMI) framework by utilizing existing mechanisms and networks for the purpose of centralizing the monitoring systems for financial progress of water accessibility sustainment and infrastructural, educational, and developmental programs made by CSOs through:
  - a. Developing a specific plan for each Member State to ensure adequate progress towards the fulfillment of the community-specific goals that will establish and sustain equitable access to water as a human right;
  - b. Establishing a yearly review of the Member States by GEMI officials to ensure that the sustainable development plan is enacted;
2. *Suggests* the collaboration between the GWP and IRC WASH to use incentivization mechanisms to encourage affected communities to address water access and equity with programs, such as a 5-year loan which CSOs' can apply for in order to fund water projects that improve access for vulnerable populations in water-stressed communities;
3. *Calls upon* the designation of any other funding needs to be directed to the General Assembly of the UN's Administrative and Budgetary Committee;
4. *Encourages* the international expansion of the UNECE's ICoE's PPP forums by promoting annual PPP forums on water infrastructure projects through the UN's regional economic commissions for:
  - a. Promoting best practice sharing through forum discussions among Member States on engaging in PPPs related to water infrastructure;
  - b. Encouraging Member States and private companies to develop partnerships in order to create more water infrastructure;
  - c. Suggesting for Member States and private companies to collaborate on promoting safe drinking water as a human right by supporting water infrastructure projects that advocate for equitable water access for all;
5. *Further recommends* the improvement of identification of water-scarce communities and renewable groundwater sources to ensure the inclusivity and adequate accessibility of water through the development of social and geological mapping systems to:
  - a. Carry out social and geological research on the ground to comprehend the needs of the communities, identify regionally specific problems, and acquire more data about groundwater sources;
  - b. Share technical knowledge acquired from the research in order to help construct groundwater extraction, purification, and treatment systems and therefore promote water quality control and sustainability;
  - c. Determine where water needs to be distributed;
  - d. Build strategic comprehensive plans to sustainable extract, treat, and distribute clean water to urgently tackle areas deemed high-priority;

106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126

6. *Further encourages* Member States to utilize data from the JMP to share and clarify the obligation of Member States during times of conflict, migration, and displacement of people in order to ensure access to clean water and other WASH services are protected by:
  - a. Recommending Member States increase collaboration with the JMP to ensure transparency and accuracy of data sharing;
  - b. Further recommending Member States to collaborate with each other on sharing water data in order to develop future water access plans;
  - c. Inviting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and CSOs to collect and provide data to Member States regarding water access needs to streamline the efforts of NGOs;
7. *Invites* Member States to address the needs of marginalized groups in national legislation by:
  - a. Including specific policies that entitle and center vulnerable groups to encourage their participation in the discussions regarding water accessibility;
  - b. Adopting nondiscriminatory legislation that supports the distribution of water to all, utilizing reports from the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to safe drinking water.



**Code:** HRC/1/4

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right

---

1 *The Human Rights Council,*  
2  
3 *Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which stipulates that everyone has the*  
4 *right to life, which conveys the right to safe drinking water as a human right and further safeguards*  
5 *education as a human right regardless of region, social status, religion, race and gender,*  
6  
7 *Alarmed by the World Health Organizations statement that 844 million people in the world remain unable*  
8 *to gain access to safe drinking water, including but not limited to the contamination of water alongside the*  
9 *problems of distance in retrieval,*  
10  
11 *Observing the need to increase sensitization around the lives of those denied their basic human right to*  
12 *equitable access to safe drinking water,*  
13  
14 *Emphasizing the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who stated, “we cannot continue to*  
15 *take water for granted and expect to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” (2018),*  
16  
17 *Affirming Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, clean water and sanitation, particularly targets 6.1 and*  
18 *6.B, equitable access to water and local community involvement, respectively, in order to ensure*  
19 *availability and sustainable management of water in sanitation for all,*  
20  
21 *Congratulating all efforts from relevant International Organizations and Civil Society Groups, such as*  
22 *WaterAid, whom investigates and produces timely reports to be presented to the international community*  
23 *to provide necessary data to help improve people’s livelihood in regard to access to water,*  
24  
25 *Applauding the advancements made by the 2019 First World Summit on Leaving No One Behind, which*  
26 *focuses on rights-based approaches to accessing water, while still concerned that the motive is to*  
27 *discover projects to put into motion, without also, placing a greater emphasis on raising awareness for*  
28 *equitable access to safe drinking water as a human right,*  
29  
30 *Emphasizing General Assembly resolution 64/292 of 2010 on “The human right to water and sanitation,”*  
31 *which recognizes the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, protecting*  
32 *all individuals from disease, poverty, and discrimination, and ensuring good health and well-being for all,*  
33  
34 *Recalling the 2015 Annual International Zaragoza Conference on Water and Sustainable Development,*  
35 *which takes into consideration the importance of the achievement of the basic human right of equitable*  
36 *access to safe drinking water in SDGs 3, 6 and 11,*  
37  
38 *Bearing in mind target goal 4.3, equitable access to vocational, technical, and tertiary education by 2030,*  
39 *as education on safe water measures is crucial to the *United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan: Water**  
40 *Action Decade 2018-2028, which emphasizes the important relationship between development education*  
41 *and water resource management,*  
42  
43 *Underlining the importance of international and regional cooperation in taking innovative steps towards*  
44 *creating sustainable solutions to address the lack of knowledge for efficient water management systems*  
45 *to strengthen response coordination on having safe and clean drinking water,*  
46  
47 *Noting United Nations International Children’s Emergency Funds (UNICEF) plans to keep track of*  
48 *inequalities within and between countries to monitor the services and accessibility in school settings and*  
49 *making that a priority to better enhance children’s quality of life,*

50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104

*Acknowledging* World Health Assembly resolution 64/24 (2011) which recognizes the important role national governments play in sanitation-related sustainable development goals for the realization of equitable access to clean water, through the consideration, creating and implementation of relevant local programs,

*Taking note* of the youth movement for water, led by UN Water, which works to involve youths in worldwide water issues, connects these groups with necessary resources and contributes to worldwide mobilization of sustainable water,

*Observing* Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 39/L.11 (2018) which highlights the importance of coordination between local communities, the private sector, and civil society on the issue of water sustainability,

*Taking note* with appreciation the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life,” 2005-2015, and General Assembly resolution (2015), which highlights the importance of the involvement of women and other marginalized groups to achieve sustainable development of water resources,

*Stressing* General Assembly resolution 15/9 (2010), the right to water entitles everyone to safe, accessible and affordable water that must be free of any contaminants and accessible within 30 minutes, to ensure safety of women and children that must travel for safe drinking water,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue the implementation of SDG 6, which refers to Clean Water and Sanitation, while bearing in mind the importance of partnerships in accordance with SDG 17 that aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development;
2. *Encourages* Member States, particularly more developed countries, to raise awareness on the issue of equitable access to water through water-consciousness movements, such as but not limited to the youth movement for water, which educates citizens on the benefits of reducing water waste and the overall effects of excessive water usage throughout the developing world while connecting concerned parties in a forum to better manage water-related issues;
3. *Recognizes* the success of the UN Leaving No One Behind Summit, which took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2019, but encourages the summit to encompass a more universal and inclusive approach, while still tackling equitable access to safe drinking water with a greater emphasis on human rights through expanding their pool of attendees to include a more diverse group by inviting Member States, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community leaders’, local citizens, local scientists and engineers in impacted communities in order to:
  - a. Recognize that dialogue on this human rights issues must be holistic and aggregate in nature to target all burdened populations regarding the violations of their human right to water;
  - b. Ensure local community participation by having Member States attend to obtain knowledge and human right perspectives from community experts on technological advancements and engaging in dialogue on creating more accessible means of access to water;
  - c. Keep the current application process for the two competitions at the Summit, which requires applicants to provide an abstract of their innovation, and establish a universal invitation to all groups mentioned above;
  - d. Express hope to attract more sponsorships with worldwide NGOs and other public organizations, like the World Water Council, to coexist with sponsors such as World Intellectual Property Organization which, cooperate at the summit;



- 105 4. *Encouraging* the annual summit to be hosted in a different regional bloc each year, which would  
106 ensure that marginalized communities are able to attend due to the recognized economic disparities  
107 within the international community by:  
108
- 109 a. Recommending the regional bloc prioritize the order into having summits hosted by less  
110 developed countries first;  
111
  - 112 b. Highlighting crises in said regional bloc that pertain to water, and how the human right to  
113 water is currently violated through this water crisis, as well as how water inaccessibility is  
114 connected to the violation of other human rights, such as education;  
115
  - 116 c. Emboldening sponsorships with NGOs and other public organizations that work with local  
117 communities in said regional bloc to highlight human right violations in regard to water  
118 accessibility;  
119
- 120 5. *Suggests* Member States seek funding for the proposed programs from regional multilateral  
121 associations such as, but not limited to, the European Central Bank, African Union, and the Arab  
122 League, to financially aid programs and projects targeted to alleviate the lack of access to safe and  
123 clean drinking water of various communities;  
124
- 125 6. *Suggests* the creation of a voluntary fund solely for the annual Leaving No One Behind Summit,  
126 which would be used to support the summit in reaching its goal of fostering universal inclusivity:  
127
- 128 a. Which will be sustained by voluntary donations from willing and able Member States, NGOs,  
129 CSOs, community leaders and other donors, to ensure continuous funding for a diverse  
130 presence at the Summit on accessibility to the human right to water;  
131
  - 132 b. The creation of this voluntary fund would enhance the advancement of global initiatives that  
133 focus on access to safe water as a human right and thus, donations would create fair access  
134 to emerging theories and innovations;  
135
  - 136 c. The disbursement of the funds will be divided out evenly to each applicant for research  
137 purposes and in accordance to the generated amount of money donated;  
138
- 139 7. *Encouraging* the current group of experts for the Leaving No One Left Behind Summit to consult with  
140 the Arctic Council to maintain and uphold the basic human right to water, and to produce  
141 comprehensive, cutting-edge environmental, ecological, and social assessments to be published in  
142 an annual report submitted for discussion and review to the summit as to work towards decreasing  
143 water pollution, and ensuring the equitability and accessibility of clean water as a basic human right  
144 while implementing the goals of SDG 6 by:  
145
- 146 a. Encouraging all Member States to understand the importance of climate and its influence on  
147 equitable access to safe drinking water as a human right;  
148
  - 149 b. Understanding that air pollution and other factors contribute to not having access to safe  
150 drinking water;  
151
  - 152 c. Upholding the procedure already in place by the Arctic Council for producing reports;  
153
- 154 8. *Endorses* the creation of a training scheme at the summit, which would provide knowledge, tools, and  
155 advancements through educational workshops:  
156
- 157 a. Invites the communities of Member States to attend the training workshops that will be taught  
158 by UN scientists associated with the No One Left Behind Summit;  
159

- 160 b. The scheme expresses its hope that local politicians and governments would engage with the  
161 workshops in order to facilitate influence of legislation regarding water standards and water  
162 access for their nations;  
163
- 164 c. In order to empower attendees to advocate for the fundamental right to water for both  
165 themselves and their communities;  
166
- 167 d. Encouraging those in attendance at trainings to host similar training schemes in their host  
168 countries to widely disseminate information and raise awareness on water as a human right;  
169
- 170 e. Disseminating information on how attendees can share knowledge with local governments  
171 and authority to influence water legislation and to begin change in infrastructure through  
172 community engagement and activism;  
173
- 174 9. *Expresses* its hope in promotion of local educational programs by enlightening developing countries  
175 on sustainable water management by teaching collection, filtration, and storage to aid communities in  
176 utilizing existing water sources in more efficient ways to increase access and improve overall quality  
177 of life;  
178
- 179 10. *Calls upon* Member States to be transparent in reporting statistics on scarcity, depletion, and wastage  
180 of water in order to adequately address the need in question and the status of the target population  
181 by:  
182
- 183 a. Increasing collaborations with the HRC and UN Water to provide an accountability  
184 mechanism for the documentation of these statistics;  
185
- 186 b. Enhancing the local communication for the efficient use of water supply targeted directly to  
187 communities lacking the human right of equitable access to safe drinking water;  
188
- 189 11. *Emphasizes* the importance of citizen participation, particularly from marginalize groups, in  
190 addressing equitable access to water through programs such as but not limited to representative  
191 boards and local voting where the population can:  
192
- 193 a. Participate in decision making and influence budgetary allotment in the water sector;  
194
- 195 b. Utilize knowledge gained from sustainable water education programs;  
196
- 197 c. Voice its most pressing water concerns, and translate these needs into the relevant practical  
198 actions;  
199
- 200 d. Secure the effectiveness and continuity of sustainable drinking water projects;  
201
- 202 e. Assist the HRC in better understanding the water needs and obstacles of each Member  
203 State;  
204
- 205 12. *Further invites* national subsidiaries of UNICEF to support existing non-profit and NGOs within urban  
206 and rural communities such as Water for People, World Water Corps, Waterlex, Lifewater, and Global  
207 H<sub>2</sub>O through:  
208
- 209 a. Providing financial assistance and deploying resources to expedite the process of  
210 coordination to address the urgency of providing equitable access to safe drinking water;  
211
- 212 b. Expanding volunteer programs to increase manpower in the provision, collection, storage,  
213 filtration and maintenance of sanitary water;  
214

- 215 13. *Recommends* the reinforcement of the right to equitable access to safe drinking water at the national  
216 level through strategies such as but not limited to, testing well water annually to ensure that it is not  
217 contaminated and promoting environmental protection by encouraging the proper and prompt  
218 collection or disposal of waste;  
219
- 220 14. *Fully supports* the need to ensure that not only developed countries but also developing countries  
221 have adequate infrastructure that can continuously supply contamination free accessible water to all  
222 countries as a basic human right, to ensure that marginalized groups do not risk being targeted while  
223 looking for free safe drinking water by having developed countries assist less developed countries  
224 with gaining access to clean drinking water;  
225
- 226 15. *Encourages* Member States to share information on the basis of efficient water management systems  
227 by creating projects involving investments in water management structures and create preventive  
228 developmental cooperation for long-term evaluation of established sustainable water resource  
229 management frameworks by:  
230
- 231 a. Reiterating the commitments and obligations of both developed and developing nations who  
232 have affirmed the right of water accessibility to ensure the promotion and protection of human  
233 rights of women and other marginalized groups who face issues of public safety for those  
234 who live in marginalized areas that have insufficiently regulated water systems;  
235
  - 236 b. Calling for stronger local and regional research cooperation to produce innovative steps for  
237 the coordination of transportation, and enhancement of water filtration systems and initiatives  
238 in aiding inaccessible areas to convert to clean and safe drinking water.  
239